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City’s red-light cameras nixed
August Reader story on Sanders’s secretive bid solicitation preceded dumping of cameras
San Diego — Back on August 22, 2012, we reported here on a plan by Republican then-mayor Jerry Sanders to extend the city’s controversial red-light camera program.

There was no notice to the public, other than a request for proposal quietly posted by the Sanders crew on the city’s procurement website.

“Currently there are fifteen intersections equipped with an automated red light photo system and photograph over 4,000 potential violation events each month,” according to the document. “Based upon the analyzed benefits of the current [red light camera] program, the City has determined that the program be continued, [and the] City desires to operate [the red light cameras] at a minimum of 15 sites.”

Then in September, the Sanders administration quietly amended the plan to include the possibility of more cameras.

The items here triggered an outpouring of comments, most of them opposing the automated traffic ticketing.

After U-T San Diego picked up on the story on September 7, Sanders backed away from the plan and mayoral campaign rivals Bob Filner and Carl DeMaio both expressed opposition to it.

Today, Democratic mayor Bob Filner finally made it official: he is turning off the cameras for good: “These cameras are history on San Diego streets.”

Matt Potter, February 1

Still peddling Plaza de Panama
Irwin Jacobs–backed committee continues to send lobbyists to city hall
Balboa Park — The Plaza de Panama committee, the group heading up the controversial project to remove traffic from Balboa Park’s hub, hasn’t halted their efforts to gain approval for their project even as the project is hung up in court.

Instead, the committee has done its best to chip away at the city during the past several months, lobbying mayoral aides and staff members from the City Attorney’s Office, Development Services, and the Park and Recreation Department.

From July to December 31 of last year, the committee paid lobbying firm Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek $7000 to meet with former Sanders aide Gerry Braun, deputy city attorneys Brant Will and Andrea Contreras, debt management employee Lakshmi Kommi, and members from the Development Services and Park and Recreation to gain “approval of the Plaza de Panama restoration project; authorization to issue bonds,” reads the past two lobbying disclosures.

It appeared as if their work paid off. On October 2, city councilmembers approved issuing bonds through the Public Financing Authority, an arm of the former, and now defunct, redevelopment agency.

But now, just days after a superior-court judge indicated that he may rule against the city in a lawsuit filed by preservationist group Save Our Heritage Organization, one would think that would be the end of the lobbying efforts.

That doesn’t appear to be the case. Just after the new year, the Plaza de Panama Committee once again hired the lobbying outfit to win support at city hall. According to the January 24 disclosure, Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek was hired by the “non-profit charitable corporation to restore the Plaza de Panama in Balboa Park.”

Dorian Hargrove, January 31

Filner ok’d on lobbyist firing
City attorney opines that mayor did not need approval from council before firing state and federal lobbyists
San Diego — Mayor Bob Filner was fully in line with the law when he fired the city’s longtime state and federal lobbying firms, writes the City Attorney’s Office.

In a January 29 memo, deputy city attorney Carrie Gleeson determined that Filner didn’t have to gain council approval before firing state lobbyist Sloat Higgins Jensen & Associates and federal firm Patton Boggs on January 2.

The issue caused quite the stir, mainly from the U-T San Diego’s editorial board, which accused Filner in a January 5 editorial of “threatening to further strain an already tense relationship between his office and the City Council.”

What the U-T’s editorial board failed to mention, though, was Patton Boggs continued on page 42

San Diego, haven for pyramids
Former San Diegan Herb Greenberg, a senior stocks marketer selling mainly weight-loss products, would go down. In Wall Street parlance, that’s going short. In a highly detailed study, Ackman said Herbalife is a pyramid scheme. But then another hedge fund speculator, Dan Loeb (joined by corporate raider Carl Icahn), tried to thwart Ackman by buying Herbalife stock. That’s going long. On January 25, Icahn and Ackman had a proficiency-laced TV shouting match that riveted traders’ attention.


If that’s true in the United States, does the government have the guts to close down a company that has 3.2 million salespeople in 87 countries? The company’s sales are largely in foreign countries: South and Central America, 16 percent; Mexico, 12.7 percent; and North America, only 20.2 percent. Herbalife told Greenberg that the Latin market accounts for 63.7 percent of business.

In several CNBC shows, Greenberg interviewed economically pinched people who had listened to the Herbalife get-rich-quick pitch, plunked down money, then lost a bundle. Greenberg interviewed an expert in multilevel marketing who says that most participants lose money and the annual turnover rate exceeds 90 percent. Greenberg summed up, “Multi-level marketing, which has been dogged by the same legal questions and controversies for 65 years, needs to be cleaned up.”

Indeed, Greenberg believes that congressional staffers, looking for the next financial scandal, “are likely to see multi-level marketing as red meat in predatory business practices.”

If there is such a probe, San Diego should be a target. That’s because San Diego isn’t just a haven for telemarketing, hard money lending, penny stock, and Ponzi schemes. It’s also a multilevel marketing trap: through the years, San Diegans by the thousands have plunged into multilevel marketing scams — many homegrown — and been wiped out.

The most infamous local one was Metabolife, which peddled an ephedra-based diet supplement. Metabolife was not, however, a pyramid...
Parking police privatized

By Dorian Hargrove

Duuy Nguyen stared at the parking ticket that had been placed under his wind-shield wiper. Something didn’t seem right about it. The $37.50 ticket (for parking at an expired meter) listed a post office box number in Inglewood, California. The officer’s identification number was 12345. The citation was from “Ace Enforcement Center.”

“I thought it was a scam at first,” says Nguyen in a January 11 email. “I called the Chula Vista Police Department, and the officer that I talked to said that the ticket was legitimate, and that the registration could be withheld by the DMV if I didn’t pay. I asked about the legality of the ticket and got an annoyed response from the officer.”

Nguyen now wonders if he should even pay the ticket. “A lawyer friend of mine said that there probably wouldn’t be any repercussions if I don’t pay it, since the payment would go to Ace Parking, not the city.”

But the ticket wasn’t a scam, at least not within Chula Vista city limits. Since 2009, the city has contracted with Ace Parking “to provide enforcement and maintenance in the City of Chula Vista Downtown Parking District,” says a city spokesperson.

According to their agreement, Ace employees are responsible for enforcing the following violations: “non-payment of parking meters, parking at an expired meter, improper parking in a parking stall, backing into a stall, and parking over the time limit (for signed parking).”

To do so, the company employs one full-time enforcement officer, one part-time collections and maintenance person, and a supervisor. All are based in a storefront on Third Avenue, where appeals and payments can be made.

Ace Parking is no stranger to government contracts. The San Diego–based parking outfit manages 450 public and private parking applications in nine states and employs more than 4500 people.

The company’s owner is Scott Jones, who took over the business from his father, Evan Jones. Scott’s son, Keith Burnham Jones, is the company’s top executive. During their 70 years in business, the Jones family has been awarded multimillion-dollar contracts from public agencies throughout San Diego County.

A few of the current contracts include: five contracts with the County of San Diego for $1,613,580, four contracts with the City of San Diego worth $7.6 million, and the mother of all public parking–lot agreements; Ace’s $58.5 million contract to manage parking and shuttle services at Lindbergh Field.

The contract calls for White’s firm to be paid $12,000 a month for the life of the contract. Though the airport’s document doesn’t go into details about the specific role of White’s firm in advancing the authority’s agenda, California Strategies’ lobbyist disclosure filing this month with the City of San Diego says its job is to “inform and update city council and mayor on long-term and short-term improvements to Lindbergh Field.” The document lists “outcomes sought” as “Consensus on Green Build Plan; support for airport improvements and operations as appropriate.”

Ben Haddad, who was sometime head of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce and former top aide to Republican mayor Susan Golding, among other gigs, is one of the firm’s lobbyists on the job, along with Craig Benedetto and James Lawson. California Strategies employees have given money and held fundraising parties...
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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.

In Honor of Glen
I found the Desert View Trail Roam-O-Rama hike description by the Canyoneers (January 31) to be somewhat bittersweet. Although the description of the hike to Glen's View is accurate in all aspects, and the article even includes a photograph of Glen’s Memorial, I was saddened that there was no mention at all of Glen.

Glen was a park ranger at William Heise Park when he cut the Desert View Trail to the viewpoint. He did this so others could also enjoy the view of both the Salton Sea and Pacific Ocean from that one special place, which is why his memorial is located there.

Glen was a Sierra Club member, an accomplished climber, Eagle Scout, and much more. The memorial was placed there as an Eagle Scout project. Glen is survived by his mother, Edith, who at 98 years of age is still active with the Boy Scouts, his widow Darlene, and brother David.

Steven Tatreau via voicemail

Wasabi Memories
I’m reading your January 24 issue of the Reader. I was reading about all these restaurants and my mouth was watering — some of them sound so terrific! There’s an article on page 60 by Ian Pike (“Fresh Wasabi at Ikiru”) that brought back a bittersweet memory.

Many years ago, my now-deceased, much-adored husband of 40 years and I were on our way home. I hadn’t thought of anything for dinner and we didn’t feel like eating out. So we stopped by the supermarket in Hillcrest. I ran in to pick up some steaks so we could grill them really quickly when we got home.

While at the meat counter, I was perusing all the adorable-looking sushi rolls. They were so cute — they make them look like animals and things. My husband would try anything once. And there was one that looked like a centipede or something. So, I bought that, along with the steaks.

We were driving home and my husband was so hungry, I started feeding him the pieces of sushi as he drove. I’d put a bite in his mouth, and he’d chew it up. He thought it was really good. After he’d eaten all the pieces, there was a blob of dark green left on the plate. Being a California girl, I thought it was guacamole. So, I picked up the plastic spoon and scooped up the entire amount and put it in his mouth. Well, we nearly ran off the road. It was wasabi! I had never heard of such a thing before!

My husband was a Cajun, so he really liked spicy food, but I don’t know that he’d ever had wasabi before either. Ian Pike said he had fresh wasabi. Whether this was fresh or not, I have no idea! But this article really brought me back to that day, and how much I miss that terrific guy. Thank you so much.

Veronica via voicemail

In Quotes
I enjoyed Richard V. Lawhead’s letter to the Reader (January 24) along with others you publish weekly.

Here is how I took his letter, and I quote, “Your policies concerning the voices you print in the letters section are very...right and your right to print them...That includes e-mail, as well....You’re allowing some real...responsible journalism.”

Thanks, Rich! I couldn’t have said it better.

Jason Robinson via email

Don’t Go into Engineering
Concerning Don Bauder’s article in the January 10 Reader, “Engineers Dislike continued on page 48
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MIDWAY DISTRICT

Pot-lab explosion: “It felt like an earthquake”

Burn victims processing marijuana, not meth, in room at Heritage Inn

What was first thought to be a meth-lab explosion at the Heritage Inn in the Midway District on the morning of January 30 is now being reported as a different sort of drug-related disaster that left three people badly burned.

NBC News San Diego reported that the

Heritage Inn rents out certain hotel rooms on a weekly basis and that room 227 was one of those. Several tenants told NBC News that they suspected illegal activity in room 227, as people were continually visiting the room at all hours of the day and night.

“The explosion was caused by ignited butane gas to make a certain type of marijuana oil,” SDPD Cpt. Brian Goldberg told NBC News on January 31. “The man inside the hotel room lit a cigarette while he was dealing with a flammable substance.”

The explosion was so powerful that several walls were blown out. Haz-mat crews and the DEA were at the Heritage Inn all afternoon conducting investigations, while Channel Way was blocked off in both directions by police officers.

A neighbor said, “It felt like an earthquake.” Another neighbor, walking by with her dog, heard screams and noticed white smoke pouring out of the motel.

The three victims had burns “all over their bodies,” said San Diego Fire Department spokesperson Maurice Luque. “The male victim has life-threatening injuries, while the woman has severe burns.”

NORMAL HEIGHTS

Hot prowl

Neighborhood burglaries all happened while victims were home asleep

Police are warning Normal Heights residents about a series of middle-of-the-night burglaries that occurred with the victims at home asleep. The “hot prows” all occurred in a small area of the neighborhood.

“Hot-prowl burglaries are bold and dangerous, but pretty rare,” said Lt. Mark Bennett of the Mid City Division. “The three cases on ‘beat 811’ are certainly cause for concern.”

The burglaries happened on January 21 and 22 during nighttime hours. In one case, someone entered an apartment in the 4500 block of 34th Street by removing the victim’s living-room window screen while she was asleep. The suspect (or suspects) took her 42˝ Sony flat-screen TV, police said.

Another hot prow, at an apartment in the 4400 block of Cherokee Avenue, was interrupted when the male resident woke up and found two suspects in his home, trying to carry off his TV.

“While state law allows qualified patients to possess up to eight ounces (a half pound) of medical marijuana, enforcement can be unpredictable. The largest law-enforcement agency in San Diego County, the U.S. Border Patrol, with 2600 agents, will seize the cannabis, according to agent Jerry Conlin.

“We’re federal, and under federal law, marijuana is a narcotic,” Conlin says. “In the least, our agents will seize it and it will be destroyed.”

The San Diego County Sheriff’s Department, with 2328 badge-wearing deputies, will let you keep your medicine, according to department spokeswoman Susan Jankola, as long as you’re not driving while medicated and can prove you’ve allowed to have it. They provide police services in Imperial Beach, Del Mar, San Marcos, and other cities.

Likewise, the San Diego Police Department will let you keep your cannabis as long as you have a legal amount and can prove you’ve gotten the necessary prescription, according to Lt. Andrea Brown.
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Bedtime Proposals

Whoa, what is that on your finger?” Shawn reached out to grab Jordan’s hand. “Did you guys get married? What is that, titanium?”

Jordan smiled sheepishly and then removed his ring and handed it over so his friend could inspect it. “It’s actually tungsten carbide,” he said. “And we’re not actually married, we’re just fake-married.”

“I wasn’t going to say anything, but I noticed Katie’s ring earlier,” Kimberly said. “Girl, that is some ring,” she added as Katie held it up for inspection.

“Jordan’s grandmother’s,” Katie said. “It’s not an engagement ring; an engagement ring implies that a wedding is going to happen, and I don’t want to have a wedding. So, instead of being engaged, we’re fake-married—that’s why I wanted him to wear a ring now, too. And when he’s out of school, we’ll be real-married.”

“So, you proposed?” I asked Jordan. “You can’t just leave us hanging. We need details.”

“Come on. It can’t be any less romantic than mine,” I said. “Or ours,” Shawn offered. “I didn’t even have a real ring.”

“We still don’t have a ring,” I countered. “Let’s hear the fake newlyweds’ story, then yours, and then mine, and we can decide whose proposal is the most pathetic.” Kimberly, the most enthusiastic among us, couldn’t lean in farther without out climbing onto the dining table.

David made the rounds, refilling everyone’s glass with their preferred beverage (white wine for Kimberly, rose champagne for me, scotch for Jordan, bourbon for Katie, beer for Shawn) as Jordan began. The couple, both in their mid-20s, had developed a routine in their eight and a half years together. Jordan always wakes up first and then returns to make sure Katie gets up.

“I got up and did my morning stuff and, 40 minutes later, Katie was still groggy and trying to wake up. I went back in the room and, while she was still lying there, I tried to ask her to marry me. But when I get nervous I get giggly and I stop breathing. I couldn’t say anything without stammering. So, it took a good couple of minutes to come out and, and Katie had to translate what I was saying.”

Finally, Jordan explained that even when he got the “Will you marry me?” part out, Katie said, “I thought we were waiting for you to wake up and then return to make sure Katie gets up.

“Shawn smiled at her and continued. “I set the alarm so that I would wake up just before midnight, because I knew I was going to fall asleep. When the alarm went off, I got up and got the duck ring and then woke Kimberly up and said, ‘I love you deeply and want to share the rest of my life with you. Will you marry me?’”

Kimberly cut in: “I had been totally half asleep when I asked her. ‘You want to feel a lot better?’ I asked. Kimberly interjected. ‘I love that duck,’ she added under her breath.

Shawn smiled at her and continued. “I set the alarm so that I would wake up just before midnight, because I knew I was going to fall asleep. When the alarm went off, I got up and got the duck ring and then woke Kimberly up and said, ‘I love you deeply and want to share the rest of my life with you. Will you marry me?’”

Kimberly cut in: “I had been totally out of it, so it took me about 15 seconds to respond, but when I realized what he was saying, I woke up, looked at him, and said, ‘Of course I will.’ And then I fell back to sleep.”

“ ‘You know what’s weird? We were all in bed when we got engaged,’” I said.

“Okay, it wasn’t so bad.”

“You want to feel a lot better?” I asked. David gave me an encouraging smile. “Well, we just got into bed one night after a month of meeting with lawyers to find out how much it would cost to draw up legal documents that would give us ‘pull the plug’ rights. We discovered it would take months and cost thousands of dollars.”

“ ‘So, we’re laying there, adjusting our pillows in the sleep position, and David asks, ‘How much does it cost to get married?’ And I was, like, ‘I think it’s 100 bucks; 50 for the certificate, 50 for the license.’”

“ ‘So, I said, ‘Why cut off our nose to spite our face?’’’ David explained. “Maybe we should just get married.”

“ ‘Oh, and in terms of not having a wedding,’” I said to Katie, “ ‘We went to the county offices on Wednesday, between errands. In jeans. We didn’t tell anyone. They had to pull a file clerk from the office to be our witness.” Kimberly held up her glass. “ ‘Here’s to you guys getting fake-married,’” she said. “ ‘And here’s to all of us getting engaged while in bed,’” I added, raising mine. “ ‘Also, David, we seriously need to look into getting rings,’” David smiled his Sure, but probably not look and raised his glass to clink with all of the others.

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Almost factual news

Filner Takes on Mickelson!
The stand-up mayor on the famous golfer

HANGING OUR HEADS IN SHAME DOWN AT THE VFW HALL — Fallout continues following the Navy’s astonishing decision to not only relieve commander Joseph Darlak of his post following his frigate’s rather liquid stopover in the Russian port city of Vladivostok last September, but also to release a report detailing their investigation into the matter.

Whiny people are bemoaning the report’s accounts of excessive drinking, strip-clubbing in dress blues, and loud music onboard ship. But the real horror, according to the grizzled veterans who spend their days within the dim confines of the VFW Post 1392 Canteen in Point Loma, is the revelation of the Vladivostok Directive, or, as it has come to be known ‘round here, “the pussy protocol.”

“Dammit, what is this country coming to?” asks Joe Smith, an ex-infantryman who, at 87, can still drink stout from noon until closing time. “In my day, news about the strength of local vodka would have been met with shouts of ‘Hallelujah!’ Now, it comes as a dad-blamed warning.” Smith is referring to paragraph nine of the report, which reads:

“No bottoms up?” asks ex-Marine Rock Manley. “NO BOTTOMS UP? You’re supposed to look a Russkie in the eye when he hands you a shot of his country’s single greatest achievement, raise your glass in soldierly solidarity, and then take a polite sip when he knocks it back? Why don’t you just hand him your weapon and your United States government–issued condoms while you’re at it? Because, congratulations, you’ve just declared that you won’t be needing them, on account of how you’re a pretty little princess.”

The second part of the Directive came in for equal scorn:

“No bottoms up?” asks ex-Marine Rock Manley. “NO BOTTOMS UP? You’re supposed to look a Russkie in the eye when he hands you a shot of his country’s single greatest achievement, raise your glass in soldierly solidarity, and then take a polite sip when he knocks it back? Why don’t you just hand him your weapon and your United States government–issued condoms while you’re at it? Because, congratulations, you’ve just declared that you won’t be needing them, on account of how you’re a pretty little princess.”
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San Diego Reader February 7, 2013
Heymatt:  
My brother-in-law used to tell me this riddle all the time, but he passed away a few years ago and now none of my family can remember the answer, if ever there was one: “Three guys check into a hotel and each pay $10 to share a $30 room. Later, the clerk realizes the room was supposed to be $25 and he takes five $1 bills to the guys in the room. Each guy takes $1 back and they give the clerk a $2 tip. Since the guys got one dollar back, they each paid $9 for the room. 3 x $9 = $27. Add the $2 tip and you have $29. Where did the other dollar go?”
— Ken, Cardiff

More than a riddle, this is a classic example of deceit via misdirection and logical fallacy. The exercise describes a bogus sort of “cash reconciliation” that sets up some false premises and makes you assume some things that aren’t true. “The guys each paid $9” is the biggest lie. Just look at it this way, if they each paid nine dollars for the room, they would have paid $27 for a $25 hotel room! We know the room was $25, because the guests shelled out $30 at the beginning and then $5 comes back. It’s easy to lose track of the real monies when following a series of dubious facts and misdirected assumptions. The classic change-raising con works in much the same way. A grifter can convince a hapless store clerk to miscount cash by setting up bogus math that works out in the con-man’s favor.

Heymatt:  
About 30 years ago I heard about some concrete stairs leading from the area around UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest down to Mission Valley. I went exploring and found them, but I only went part way down because it was overgrown and creepy. I think they were around Bachman Place, so maybe the street has replaced the stairs? If you know anything about their history or construction, I’d love to know.
— Terri

Rumors and tales of the lost staircase are plentiful, but actual evidence is hard to come by. I asked a series of friends, many of whom would have been young troublemakers during the age of the steps, if they had any memory of the fabled stairway, but nobody could do any better than, “Oh, I remember hearing about them, but I never used them.” I’d been scratching my head and trying to put together half-remembered facts until it hit me that the U-T had actually published a kind of obituary for the stairway during the ’80s. A little bit of rifling through the dusty Alice archives later, and I can confidently report that the 344-step stairway stood for almost 75 years until old age brought it into disrepair and forced its removal. It was 1984, to be exact, that the post office generates enormous traffic all on its own. Minimizing the potential for free-for-all driving probably cuts down on postal parking-lot fender benders come Christmas time and the mad dash to rush that box of trotchkes to great-aunt Alice (who always sends me cinnamon buns) in Walla Walla. Another sensible reason to have one-way trips through the post office-lot concerns mailboxes; you know, the outside ones that you can drop the mail in from the comfort of your bucket seats. You’d have a hard time reaching them while driving in the wrong direction.

Heymatt:  
I heard about some concrete stairs leading from the area around UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest down to Mission Valley. I went exploring and found them, but I only went part way down because it was overgrown and creepy. I think they were around Bachman Place, so maybe the street has replaced the stairs? If you know anything about their history or construction, I’d love to know.
— Terri

Heymatt:

— Joe, El Cajon

Well, it’s not because the post office designed them that way. A lot of San Diego’s post offices (including the one in Tierrasanta) are in leased buildings, so it’s really up to the buildings’ owners, not the USPS, to determine the direction of traffic flow.

It makes some degree of sense to have directed traffic around the post office. Postal buildings tend to locate in high-traffic areas and, especially during certain times of the year, the post office generates enormous traffic all on its own. Minimizing the potential for free-for-all driving probably cuts down on postal parking-lot fender benders come Christmas time and the mad dash to rush that box of tchotchkes to great-aunt Alice (who always sends me cinnamon buns) in Walla Walla. Another sensible reason to have one-way trips through the post office-lot concerns mailboxes; you know, the outside ones that you can drop the mail in from the comfort of your bucket seats. You’d have a hard time reaching them while driving in the wrong direction.
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E. Patterson

“The Still Small Voice”}

San Diego Reader February 7, 2013 15
Leather jackets on Adams Ave.

My friend Becca refers to Normal Heights as a North Park wannabe. I couldn’t disagree more. Normal Heights is effortlessly cool. It doesn’t have to try. Take Adams Ave. — it’s bustling with unique businesses. There’s Viva Pops, Dark Horse Coffee, Blind Lady Ale House, the grungy old weirdos of Lestat’s, that dollar store with the mural across the street from the 7-Eleven, the Wiccan shop, Botanica Mama Roots, and the iconic Adams Avenue Book Store.

This week I headed out to Normal Heights for Tasty Tuesday at Smitty’s Auto on 3441 Adams Avenue for their weekly food-truck gathering. I found parking a few blocks away. On the brisk walk, I ran into Stacey Dent leaving Lestat’s. Dent is a 33-year-old Chicagoan visiting San Diego. "I’m disappointed that it’s cold," she said of the cold snap we’ve been having. Dent’s favorite things about San Diego are the fish tacos and all the outdoor activities.

Stacey is a self-proclaimed bargain shopper. She says, “I think it’s unfortunate when people spend too much on fashion.” Stacey wore a Forever 21 faux leather jacket that cost $20, Gap Jeans bought on sale for $12.99, a $20 H&M shirt, and $7 beanie. Her canvas cat tote was scored in the lost-and-found at her work, Hubbard Street Dance, where she works as an accounting director. Stacey wore $50 boots by Blowfish from DSW.

Thirty minutes later, after I scarfed down a smores sandwich from the Devilicious food truck, I found Chris Lalas, also sporting a leather jacket. His is by Marc Ecko and was purchased at Macy’s. The 30-year-old works in loss prevention. “I catch shoplifters for a living,” he said. Both his sweatshirt and button-down are from H&M. He purchased his hat in San Francisco.

“Trendy Tuesday with Stacey Dent” reprinted with permission from San Diego Reader. ©2013, I-Town Publishing.

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I began to take more pictures, I started to crave better and better equipment, things that could increase my range.

I always thought that the better the camera, the better the pictures I would take. I soon realized that I was sorely mistaken. Sure, the cameras helped to a certain extent, but even after I upgraded a camera, my images almost always looked the same as before. Maybe photography was less about the camera and more about me? Could that be the case?

THE GREAT IONY — PHOTOGRAPHY ISN’T ALWAYS ABOUT WHAT YOU SHARE, BUT ABOUT WHAT YOU DON’T. My photography really changed when I took a significant step in sharing it. I stopped posting thousands of marginal-looking pictures on Facebook every month and focused on building my own website and a photography blog. I learned something from my friend Aryo (another brilliant photographer that I always try to emulate): good photographers know that it is more important to learn what not to share than what to share. In this day and age of Instagram, Facebook, Google Plus, and Twitter, people are inundated with pictures.

In short, less is more, and how you present your photographs is just as important as the photography itself. Don’t show everything. Show only your best work. Put your work into a larger context that tells a story. Keep your work interesting.

I began to live by the motto, PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE! My blog was a huge help. I started posting photos and stories behind them three times a week. The blog taught me to take photos with a purpose and to make sure that the photos were able to support a story or, better still, to tell the story in and of themselves.

The blog helped me add context to my pictures and it helped me practice. And that was the key — Practice, Practice, Practice. I began shooting every day. I began to read the camera manual to figure out how to control the aperture, the shutter speed, and the ISO. I slowed down and put the camera into full manual mode.

As I slowed down and became more thoughtful, I took fewer pictures. Surprisingly, though, as I took fewer pictures on each outing, I began to take more good pictures. I was shooting more often, taking fewer pictures each time, but keeping more good pictures. I was learning, and I was happier with the result.

I AS THE QUESTION, TO PHOTOSHOP OR NOT TO PHOTOSHOP? THERE WAS NEVER A QUESTION. There is no question that Photoshop can change your photography and skills. Photoshop and editing became 50 percent of each picture I took. I started to practice every night for at least two hours. I started learning and using techniques to make my pictures look better and more interesting. I found plug-ins like Color Efex Pro and Viveza, which I could use to make my photos look more professional and vivid. I learned that Photoshop was an absolute must if I wanted my pictures to become more interesting.

LEARNING A LESSON. POINTING THE CAMERA AT THE WORLD, TO REVEAL PICTURES OF ME. Gradually over the past year, I have found myself becoming more accepting of my photography — of what it is and what it is not. I have learned to accept what I am good at and what I am terrible at. Through all this, I like where photography has taken me. It has pushed me to live more, to see more of the world, and to become more understanding of what is important to me.

I am not a fashion photographer. I am not a landscape photographer. I am not a photojournalist. I am not a street photographer. I am a Frank Photographer. I take pictures of the way that I see the world and of the way I see people and who they are. When I take pictures of others, I am really just revealing small pictures of myself for others to see.

[Post edited for length]
Heart Pounding

Border born

A reporter from our border brings a bicultural sensibility — and Xolos — to his journalism.

This column came about because of an article written by Jorge Aranguré. The piece interweaves the stories of a Tijuana professional soccer club, Xolos, defending champion of Liga MX, Mexico’s first-rank professional soccer league, and being a kid living on both sides of the border. It’s a beautifully written, wonderfully layered article worth your time to read (shanation.com/longform/2013/1/24/3904180/tijuana-xolos-profile-mexico-soccer). One wants more.

I have Aranguré, born in Tijuana 37 years ago, on the phone. “When did you move to the United States?”

Aranguré says, “Moved when I was five. My dad was born near Los Mochis but moved to Tijuana when he was young. My mom was born and raised in Tijuana.

“It’s funny when you grow up on the border and then go away and encounter people who have no conception of what life is like there. The border is such a unique place. It seems natural for me to be living in two different countries.

“We would go back and forth [across the border] regularly, especially when we were young. I remember it was easy to cross. We would go up to Bonita, and it felt like we were in a different world even going to Bonita. As kids we didn’t go into downtown; we stayed in the South Bay. When I left and went to college, the first week of school...a very different racial makeup.”

I ask, “Did you write for the student paper in high school?”

Aranguré says, “We didn’t have a school paper. We were the type of school that didn’t have a lot of special programs like that. It wasn’t a very high level educational school. I can’t say that when I was in elementary or even in junior high, writing was something I felt was my strength. I did read a lot. It wasn’t like my parents, not that they didn’t encourage me to read books in English, but my parents, when I’m home, we spoke Spanish. It wasn’t like they were saying, ‘You should pick up Steinbeck.’

Circling back, I ask, “Going to college must have been like being in the United States for the first time?”

Aranguré says, “Yeah. Yeah. Exactly. It did feel that way. I encountered many more white people than I’d ever encountered in my life. I did feel like, for the first time, I was a minority,” Aranguré laughs. “Where I grew up I didn’t feel like a minority.”

Jorge Aranguré Jr. attended University of Southern California, graduated with a degree in history, then went to graduate school at Syracuse University on a full scholarship; earned a degree in journalism and went to work for the Bergen Record of Hackensack, New Jersey. Since then, he’s been a staff writer for the Washington Post, senior writer for ESPN the Magazine, contributing writer for the New York Times, SB Nation, Sports on Earth, and more. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Find more Sporting Box columns online at SDReader.com/box
‘Didn’t you used to want to be an artist?’ I asked Patrick as I dragged him out the door.

“At least I’ll get a drink,” he grumbled.

We were on our way to a Painting and Vino event in Little Italy (619-246-3448; paintingandvino.com). “It’s a fun painting class where you can have some food and drinks and socialize and walk away with a piece of art,” explained owner Chris Muyllle. “You just go to our website and look at the events calendar. Peruse the paintings, pick the one you want to paint, and attend that class. When you show up, you’ll check in, and everything will be set up for you — the 16’x20’ wrapped canvas, table-top easel, paints, brushes, protective clothing. An instructor will then offer step-by-step instruction. And besides the instructor, we also have artists’ assistants available to help those who are having issues. We get people from 21 to 70, but most folks are in their 20s or early 30s. Some mothers come with their daughters. And it makes a great date night.”

Muyllle explained how Painting and Vino chooses particular paintings to teach: “We try to choose paintings that will transcribe well to being taught. We do a lot of paintings that people will recognize — famous masterpieces by Van Gogh or Picasso. And we choose things with a fair amount of detail, works like Gustav Klimt’s The Kiss or Matisse’s The Goldfish. But our instructors are all trained professionals and local artists, and sometimes they’ll create their own material for class. That helps to keep it fresh.”

The setting, of course, is key. “We reserve three hours at whatever venue we’re in; two and a half hours are for instruction, and the rest is for short breaks. We tried to avoid paintings that keep you glued to the canvas — we want socializing and fun. We have classes in 98 Bottles, off Kettner in Little Italy. They have a great staff, jazz, and a big open space. We can fit 50 people in there comfortably. Plus, they do food and drink specials. We also use Village 631 in East Village. It’s a coffeehouse/wine bar with high, vaulted ceilings, and the front opens up so you get a nice breeze. And if you can’t come out at night, we have Saturday-afternoon events at Roppongi in La Jolla.”

You can get a mimosa or a bloody Mary or just enjoy the sushi.”

Painting and Vino “offers enough support to make it worry-free, so that people can enjoy themselves. The instructor is there to guide you, but we also realize that what you are doing is creating your own interpretation, your version of whatever we’re painting.” They charge $45 per class, but clients who use code READER2013 when signing up during the month of February can get a class for $25.

Jeff Remmer of Paint and Vineyard in Scripps Ranch (858-504-7128; paintnweb.com) offers a similar deal in a set location. “We do different themes — landscapes, cubists, flowers, etc. We can fit 47 people in our studio. We have good lighting and music playing. Our instructor is up on a stage with a PA system, so everyone can hear and see. The atmosphere is fun — people relaxed and laughing. People enjoy seeing what the other folks are doing. Most of our clients are beginners, and we take the guesswork out of it by showing you how to mix colors, what brushes to use.” Cost for a two-hour class is $35.

Bonnie Stoner of Xpressive Arts Center in Poway (858-679-2787; xpressivearts.com) offers a BYOB painting class on Tuesdays. “It’s very intimate, only about five or six in the class. It’s held in a little stone cottage. People bring their favorite wine or beer or nonalcoholic beverage. It’s very relaxed. You bring in the picture you want to paint or sketch it out ahead of time. We have the canvases and all the supplies, and you get step-by-step individual instruction. Even people who have never painted before can leave with a picture to put on the wall.” Cost is $50; mention this article for a discount.

Other places around town offering painting and an evening out: Wine & Canvas, various locations (619-207-9431; wineandcanvas.com), $35; Paint and Palette, various locations (760-300-0383; paintandpalette.com), $35.
‘I don’t know what you know about big cats,’ Emilio says as he reclines in his chair and draws from a glass of whiskey, “but one thing you have to know is to always look them in the eyes and they will be tame. You can pet them and they will roll over. The moment you turn away, they will try to kill you.”

It’s a little past midnight at Emilio’s rancho along the Ruta del Vino in the hills of Tecate. Emilio’s vast patch of wine-country real estate was formerly the site of Centro Recreativo la Sirena, his own private zoo (one of three in all of Mexico) and home to over 470 animals. His villa served as a work-trade hostel for about a decade. Travelers from around the world would show up at his door, eager to push a broom in exchange for lodging.

“Then someone got drunk and let the tiger out,” Emilio continues. “The tiger bit them on the leg” — Emilio grasped a hand around one thigh — “and was shot.”

Emilio gestures to the orange-and-black-striped hide splayed across the wall behind him. Next to it stands a stuffed mountain lion (“some of the people out here paint eyes on the back of their hats to trick them”), a young alligator skin (“a guest brought it alive, all the way from Florida”), a boar, and some mounted deer.

At $10,000 a week in upkeep, Emilio Garnica — a CPA by trade — retired the zoo and now has many of his animals on display in a rustic saloon overlooking the swimming pool.

Outside, eight boxes pulse “The moment you turn away, they will try to kill you.” through various shades of neon at the DJ booth, where party organizer Jorge Castillo (SD/LA/TJ) plays minimal house beats to a crowd of maybe 12 partygoers. We all have theories as to why so few showed up. Most revolve around the smattering of rain the night before, the difficult location, and general borderphobia. Whatever the case, we make a night of it — chatting in amoebic circles, sipping whiskey and tequila, and dancing around to the sounds of Memo Rex (SD), Machino (TJ/SD), S-Chuy (TJ), JC Carmona (LA), and Chris Groove (LA).

“I was looking to get a special place and not just a random venue,” says Jorge, who established his business, Groovebeat, in 2007 as a San Diego–based recording and mastering service for DJs. “I really wanted to have a place that has history and has been a sacred spot for others [the Kumeyaay, in this case] throughout the years, and I wanted to transmit this to everyone who would come to the event. I was introduced to [Emilio’s] neighbors and I just fell in love with them.”

I, too, fell in love with the neighbors. Earlier that day, I poked in at the bistro across the street.

“Come in,” said Irma. “I make the best paninis in the world.”

Z and I drank local wine with Irma’s nephew Jorge and his wife Maria (who were visiting from Playas de Tijuana) as Irma prepared our lunch, all the while regaling us with stories, political convictions, and life philosophies. Hours later, we were getting on so well that Irma invited us up to her house on the hill overlooking the vineyards. We ate edamame and leftover shrimp pasta as the lasers and strobes began firing off at the party down below.

By common standards, the party should have been deemed a flop, but somehow it didn’t matter. We ended the night sitting around a small fire on the side of Highway 3, watching embers become indistinguishable from stars, forgetting to think about big cats.

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

Find more Crasher stories at SDReader.com/news/crasher/
The day was October 31, 2010. You might say I got into a car accident. My opinion is that my lifted SUV ate this very sad Acura. My car drove away with a broken headlight, and this other woman’s car was driven away on a tow truck. Fourteen-thousand dollars in damage.

“Are you okay?” Mom asked. She freaked out when I called her but wasn’t really mad. Even though she had to pay for my mistake. She still brings it up.

“Why are you asking me for money, when I’m still paying for your insurance premium?” she says.

“That’s not fair.”

“You’re in college now. Real life. You should be paying this.”

That Halloween night, I just wanted to get to the party, with people I didn’t even like — that was the extent of the relationships I had at the time.

Three weeks later, it was an elderly couple in a teal Camry.

I was blaring the latest and greatest Eminem song through my subs, so loud I didn’t even realize I’d hit anybody, until my car wouldn’t reverse.

My life has been tossed like a salad, mixed like a drink, and pushed off the cliffs into the ocean so many times I don’t even remember.

I have never lived in a house for more than three consecutive years. I might as well be a scrambled egg or a protein shake. All I have known my entire life is divorce and dealing with people I secretly loathe.
I am just a girl who could spend every day sitting in a cross-legged position facing the ocean. But when May hits, the kooks come out in full swing. By the time June is here, forget getting all the way up Garnet in under 25 minutes. You’ve got to scavenge for silence up the coastline.

Police officers clocking people left and right on Mission Boulevard. Hair extensions on sidewalks from last night’s bar fight. The shadows from late-night escapades linger on the morning streets.

This young gentleman was slung across the marble countertop at my retail job in Mission Bay. He purchased something simple: batteries. When tourists come in to a place where all the knick-knacks are plastered with San Diego, this is what they tend to buy.

“Hello,” I said, “is this afternoon?”

“Hello,” I thought, “is this all for you this afternoon?”

“Yes, ma’am.”

“Enjoy your stay in San Diego?”

“San Diego?”

Nothing out of the ordinary, but there was that pinched feeling you get in your cheeks when you try not to smile. He had some leftover corn-fed, cracked from both of us.

When he spoke, I pinpointed the accent: Texas.

I prefer pineapple to corn-fed.

He was not from around here, and I had to work my counter.

But coming up with a reason not to jump on a flight to Austin after my shift was harder than expected.

There are 12 letters in the Hawaiian language, near half the amount in the westernized English we hear in America today. The beauty of the Polynesian culture radiates from my brown eyes. Behind my curly brown hair, I have always felt that San Diego isn’t the place for me. I was born here, but my soul is Polynesian.

Ho’opio, Pilialoha, ‘ao ‘ao — the love I have for you, the friendship we acquire, and the way of life.

I get my height from the Swede half of the family, though I rack in at a whopping five-four. I have the ability not to use sunscreen, from my Swede half of the family, though I rack in at a whopping five-four. I have the ability not to use sunscreen, from my Chamorro mother by her biological father — the Chamorro father — the Chamorro bloodline.

There is a legend on the island of Guam. It tells of a woman and man who were madly in love. She refuses to marry her destined suitor and runs away with her native soulmate. When they reach Tumon Bay, they hear footsteps approaching. With the promise of eternal devotion upon their lips, they tie their long, beautiful hair together and throw themselves into the cruel waters below. Puntaan Dos Amantes, or Two Suitor and runs away with her native soulmate.

With the promise of eternal devotion upon their lips, they tie their long, beautiful hair together and throw themselves into the cruel waters below. Puntaan Dos Amantes, or Two
I have always felt that San Diego isn’t the place for me. I was born here, but my soul is Polynesian.

He lived in Yucaipa. It is beyond ironic that I drove the distance between San Bernardino and San Diego 12 times in a month that summer and I didn’t get into one accident. I found myself in this little town where family was key. If you didn’t have four dirt bikes or didn’t ride motorcycles at Glen Helen every other weekend — on top of not owning three Ford vehicles — you were dirt. This family was in love with. But the distance was too far. It got old, and my mentality thrust me back into reality when I realized this wasn’t what I wanted.

It was the last time I would be making a trip back down to San Diego from the 909. Later, I was struck by the irony. I was in the number-two lane, passing by Auto Park Way, going 70 miles per hour, and a car accident happened. It wasn’t even me — I got lucky. A Mustang spun across my path and hit an SUV. I drove right through where they had collided. It was crazy. Irony saying to me: get the hell out while you can.

“Blue Slide Park. Mac Miller.”

We’d argue about the music driving to and from Los Angeles or Long Beach.

“Is that even music?” I’d say. “Let’s listen to Nesian N.I.N.E. or one of the Marleys.”

There was always that one flaw in the relationship: he wasn’t a reggae fan. It might as well have been over before we even started.

Mom would say, “Honey, you can’t force things. Just let them happen. Hawaii might happen, but if you are happy, don’t end things because of your future plans.”

That was the usual mother-spillage I’d hear between my failed relationships or when they were in the process of failing.

My mom makes up these crazy thoughts in her cranium about young Filipino men that are in her Spanish class, men I should be betrothed to in future years. Not that I’m objecting.

“See, isn’t he cute? He’s the sweetest thing. He loves his mom and sisters and cousins, that’s how I know he’s great.”

Little does she know that one day I’ll run away and get married in Tahiti and no one will know.

* * *

My first car accident happened when I was four.

A sunny day in Pacific Beach. My eyes were as big as marbles. I clung to my SeaWorld cup while my mom clung to me. Half of my face was bubbly and charred, which would surely be a scarring burn. Now, I can’t even see it.

It was the year Notorious B.I.G. was shot, the year Princess Diana was killed, the year Titanic won 11 Oscars. It was the year my parents had their irreconcilable differences. The start of mother’s and father’s single status.

Now this seems like an everyday commodity. Divorce. But when I was not even in my adolescence — still a baby, I didn’t even know the difference between Britney Spears and Bob Marley — it was all only noise in my brain, my life perspectives unconscious for years to come. From that day on, my relationships skills lagged and my future driving skills were destined for failure.

My dad or mom, depending on whether it was Wednesday or Sunday, would drive on Highway 67, through Scripps Poway Parkway, down Interstate 15 that merged into the 163, all
Do you or someone you know suffer from Schizophrenia?

- If you are 18 to 65 years of age and
- Taking Schizophrenia Medication for at least 2 months

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research trial for an investigational medication.

Participants will receive at no cost:
1. Study related exams
2. Investigational medication

Compensation for time and travel may also be available.

DEPRESSED?

Take action today.

You may qualify for a local research study for people aged 18 years or older with depression.

Some people may receive an approved medication, while others may receive an inactive placebo.

Compensation for your time and travel is available.

Health insurance is not required.

DO YOU HAVE TYPE 1 DIABETES?

CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR A CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY

You may qualify if you:
- Are at least 18 years of age
- Have lived with type 1 diabetes for at least 1 year
- Currently on an insulin medication

As a qualified participant, you will receive study-related care, study medication and diabetes supplies at no cost and may be compensated for time and travel.

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

Is your child aged 13 – 17 diagnosed with ADHD?

You may be eligible to participate in a research study of an investigational medication.

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

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

San Diego Reader February 7, 2013 25
the way through Sixth Avenue. Times like these made me feel like a nomad.

There’s a lot I don’t remember, but I do recall controversy over weekly visits, a routine I hated at such a young age. Dad’s new girlfriends. Mom’s new boyfriends. Constant new homes — five in Ramona alone by the time I was 11. My mother and I began life with a new family. We packed and moved down the hill to Santee. That was my introduction to the wild ways of East County.

Usually I was an observer in toxic situations, taking part in nothing but conversation.

Just two years ago, when I was living here, some kids found themselves in endless amounts of mischief, a place where accidents cause death. Manslaughter.

Families were split and cracked apart that night in April. A Volvo. A Passat that flipped multiple times, killing all the passengers in the car.

The 52 plus the landfill equals death-by-car-racing. Decisions that now reap regret.

The driver of the Volvo, Michael Johnson, was a boy I met in the sixth grade.

It’s been at least two years since we’ve spoken. Kindness and a good sense of humor are all I remember of him. Not the third-degree murderer. That’s what the cops busted him for, though he wasn’t even driving the car that crashed.

Throughout the ’90s I lived off Laurel, where today I spend a good amount of time. Ramona is where I used to play cowboys and Indians. I’ve seen San Diego in its multitude of diversity.

“I am that even music? Let’s listen to Nesian N.I.N.E. or one of the Marleys.”

I lie in bed during the week in Bankers Hill and let the sounds of Boeings put me to sleep, and on the weekends, the sound of my ceiling fan and the crickets out my bedroom window.

“Yeah, I live in Ramona and downtown: five minutes to the beach, twenty minutes to Julian,” I told a coworker.

“I wouldn’t mind that. You get it all.”

Many say I live the life. Downtown, in Ramona, working in Mission Bay, and taking naps on the beach. Most days I’d agree.

My grandparents live in a house on Bankers Hill that could legally be considered historical, built in 1916. The wood paneling in the upstairs bedroom is the epitome of old-school. Two blocks up, there’s a high-rise building that was built not too long ago. Block by block, you are never quite sure what you’ll find between Front Street and Sixth Avenue.

It’s a surprise, like Christmas morning: a homeless man wearing different shoes on his feet, then… look at that multimillion-dollar home.

The other morning, I ate at the Hash House for breakfast.

My unbending mind, which is set on college — that’s always a feisty topic, when someone tells me it’ll be too hard or too expensive. Don’t be surprised if I reach across the table and smack you at dinner. Because college is what I live for. My mentality stems from...
HAS THE SUN DAMAGED YOUR SKIN?

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

POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS:
1) Male or Female, 18 years of age or older
2) Diagnosed with AK and have at least 5 and no more than 10 patches on face or head

PARTICIPANTS MAY RECEIVE AT NO COST ALL STUDY-RELATED:
1) Exam and consultation with a board-certified dermatologist
2) All study-related drug or placebo at no cost
3) Compensation for time and travel

INTERESTED, CALL
619-521-2841
www.mccresearch.com

GOT PSORIASIS!!

NOTHING SEEMS TO REALLY WORK?

A medical research study of approximately 264 weeks duration is underway to evaluate a subcutaneously-injected, investigational medication for moderate to severe psoriasis. For those men and women with plaque-like psoriasis, who have not previously used etanercept (embrel), have at least 10% of body surface involvement, and are dissatisfied with their present treatment, or not being treated, may be candidates for participation in this study.

TO POSSIBLY PARTICIPATE:
1) MALE OR FEMALES, 18 YEARS OR OLDER
2) AT LEAST A 6-MONTH HISTORY OF PSORIASIS
3) HAVE NOT USED ETANERCEPT IN THE PAST
4) HAVE AT LEAST 10% BODY SURFACE INVOLVEMENT

PARTICIPANT MAY RECEIVE ALL STUDY-RELATED:
1) EXAM AND CONSULTATION WITH A BOARD-CERTIFIED PHYSICIAN
2) LABS, STUDY DRUG, EKG, CHEST X-RAY, AND SKIN EVALUATION AT NO COST
3) MAY BE COMPENSATED FOR YOUR TIME AND TRAVEL

INTERESTED, CALL
619-521-2841
www.mccresearch.com

AFTER A MEAL ....
...GOT TO RUN TO THE RESTROOM?

...DIARRHEA, BLOATING AND PAIN?

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

TO POSSIBLY PARTICIPATE MUST BE:
1) Men or Women, 18-75 years of age
2) Must have Infrequent, Hard Bowel Movements with Associated Pain and Bloating for at least 6 Months

PARTICIPANTS MAY RECEIVE AT NO COST:
1) Study-Related Exam and Consultation by a Board-Certified Physician
2) Labs, Ekg, Colonoscopy (Patients Over 50 Only, If not done In last 10 Years), & Study-Related Medication
3) Compensation to $525 for Time and Travel (No Insurance Required)

INTERESTED

619-521-2841 • www.mccresearch.com

CONSTIPATION...
LEAVES YOU BLOATED AND UNCOMFORTABLE

A 3-month medical research study is underway for patients with symptoms or diagnosis of irritable bowel with constipation which includes infrequent bowel movements, straining, bloating and discomfort. If you’ve taken everything under the sun and tried every dietary suggestion and still suffer these symptoms you might consider this study of a daily investigational oral medication.

TO POSSIBLY PARTICIPATE MUST BE:
1) Men or Women, 18-75 years of age
2) Must have Infrequent, Hard Bowel Movements with Associated Pain and Bloating for at least 6 Months

PARTICIPANTS MAY RECEIVE AT NO COST:
1) Study-Related Exam and Consultation by a Board-Certified Physician
2) Labs, Ekg, Colonoscopy (Patients Over 50 Only, If not done In last 10 Years), & Study-Related Medication
3) Compensation to $525 for Time and Travel (No Insurance Required)

INTERESTED

619-521-2841 • www.mccresearch.com

Compensation and Transportation may be available for those who qualify.
Chronic Low Back Pain and Constipation Study

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

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

In order to qualify, you must:
- Be 18 years or older
- Be experiencing moderate to severe chronic low back pain for 3 months
- Be taking a prescription pain medication for at least 4 weeks

Qualified participants may receive:
- Study-related medical care
- Study medication
- Compensation for time and travel

Health insurance is not needed to participate.

Precision Research Institute
Call (619) 573-4571 opt 6
for more information and to see if you qualify.

PLAQUE PSORIASIS

Are you suffering from chronic plaque-type psoriasis?
Red, inflamed, scaly skin can make you want to retreat from the world.

You could participate in a voluntary research study under way in your area.
Doctors are studying the safety, effectiveness and length of response of an investigational drug for chronic plaque-type psoriasis.

Doctors for this clinical trial seek participants who:
- Are 18 and older
- Have had plaque psoriasis for at least 6 months
- Are in good general health

Eligible participants will receive trial-related medication, monitoring and care at no cost.

Please call MedDerm:
(619) 243-7015
Clinicaltrials@medderm.net • www.medderm.net

MedDerm Associates, Inc.

GOT SOBRIETY?
WANT TO QUIT SMOKING TOO?

We are looking for men in early recovery from alcohol dependence.
You may be eligible to participate in our 36-week research trial.
This study involves taking a study drug or placebo.

for more info, call:
(858) 642-1026

HEAVY DRINKERS NOT SEEKING TREATMENT

Earn compensation for completing 5 study visits that take place over 6 weeks.
Investigators at The Scripps Research Institute are currently seeking volunteers who consider themselves to be heavy drinkers and do not have any desire to stop drinking.
The purpose of the research is to learn the most effective way of studying predictors of relapse or a return to drinking.

This study does involve taking a medication or placebo for one week.

To find out if you qualify for study participation, please call
858-784-7867
or visit our website at
pearsoncenter.org
for more info.
NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH INVOLUNTARY BODY MOVEMENTS.

We invite those 18 to 85 years old who are experiencing involuntary movements in their face or other parts of their body - and suffer from schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder - to see if they may qualify for the Kinect Study. The purpose of this clinical research study is to determine the safety and effectiveness of an investigational oral medication for tardive dyskinesia. Each individual will be evaluated to determine his or her eligibility. Those who qualify will receive study medication, study-related medical exams, and lab tests at no charge.

Compensation for time and travel may be available.

To learn more, visit www.citrials.com

866-4-STUDY-1
father’s eyes got larger and larger. As quickly as that Chrysler came, it was gone. My dog hit the dashboard. Coco was shaking, I was not. Lying back on the doctor’s table, my vision turned to orange. Shards of glass afflicted my retina. My eyeball was intact, my stability was not. I acknowledge the fact that my young years were far from perfect.

***

We knew we were in love when he stroked the guitar for me for the first time. He gave me a slight smile out of the side of his mouth. Right then and there, I was as good as gone. He left a week after we marveled about our infatuation. Standing on the Ocean Beach Pier, the ocean so green, the weather so pure, the love so bold. We were creative and in tune. All along the watchtower, I must wait for his return.

The military sure puts up a stiff fight for successful relationships. This wonderful grandmother of mine talks to me about how her loving husband’s personality is beginning to change. She asks if I have noticed, and I say, “Of course.” During our frequent dinners, he sits in his chair with nothing more than the scrapes from his silverware against the plate coming from his direction. I cannot help but let my heart break for my grandmother, over the man she loves.

Half of my face was bubbly and charred, which would surely be a scarring burn.

His memory is fading, quicker and quicker. We sit and play gin rummy. I find hope and love in his silent presence. I want to soak in his knowledge and remember everything he’s said in the past and cherish it. Love it. Remember it.

— Alyssa A’Bell
Do you or someone you know suffer from

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For more information, please contact
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www.excellresearch.com
On a warm Sunday afternoon in late September, the San Diego Public Market teems with socially responsible shoppers toting reusable bags.

A crowd of eight to ten people is in front of a booth marked with a canvas sign that reads “East African Cuisine.” Some browse the menu or reach for the small sample cups filled with a purple-hibiscus iced tea. Others peer through the glass in front of the steam table to get a look at the food. The rest wait for their turn to order.

“I just want you to make me a plate,” a woman in a fuchsia tank top says, leaning against the glass, “like you did for my husband.”

Hasno Ali, the round-faced, 46-year-old owner of East African Cuisine, grabs a large Styrofoam container from a stack on the table beside her and begins to fill it with rice, lentils, and cabbage.

The woman in fuchsia claps her hands in anticipation. “I want it all!” she says. “How much for the sambusas? I want a chicken and a beef.”

Ali’s face beams at the woman’s enthusiasm, and before she closes the container, she adds a chicken kebab.

“No charge,” she says, smiling.

A man in a faded denim cap that reads “Santa Barbara” bypasses the crowd in front of the booth, approaching from a side angle, and asks, “What’s a sambusa?”

Ali’s 25-year-old son Hamsa points to a pile of the triangular fried pastries (also known as samosa, sambosa, sambusak, sambusaj) on the steam table. He explains that the man has his choice of six flavors: chicken, beef, curry potato, lentil, spinach, and cream cheese.

“One dollar each,” Hamsa says.

“Cream cheese?” the man asks. “Sounds rich.”

“Yeah, they’re good,” Hamsa replies.

The man’s mouth turns down at the corners and he turns to leave, pausing to

Are diarrhea and abdominal discomfort changing the way you see the world?

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Diarrhea, abdominal discomfort, and bloating may be signs of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). If you have IBS, you may be eligible for a clinical research study testing an investigational medication for treatment of IBS.

To qualify you must:

• Have been experiencing diarrhea, abdominal discomfort, and bloating on and off in the last three months and/or have been previously diagnosed with IBS with diarrhea
• Have had trouble getting relief for your symptoms
• Be at least 18 years old

Call 877-213-3080
Avenue in Rolando. Once at the Minnehaha Somali in a commercial kitchen ($40 per day) to rent space plays overhead.

or organic vegetables. The noncommittally at vendors shoppers meander slowly for the first time. The and many visitors are here day market on National this new Wednesday/Sunday in the life of

Every week, Hasno Ali spends a total of $200 ($40 per day) to rent space in a commercial kitchen at the Minnehaha Somali supermarket on University Avenue in Rolando. Once a week, she and her oldest daughter spend a day in the kitchen making 500 sambusas to sell at this market on Wednesdays and Sundays, at Pacific Beach on Tuesdays, and in North Park on Thursdays. Ali rents the kitchen again each market day, getting up at 3:00 a.m. to make the lentils, cabbage, rice, and chicken.

This booth costs $65 a day. The cost is the same at Pacific Beach. At North Park, it’s $15 cheaper. At 2:00 p.m. today, after she pays the booth cost to the wiry, tan woman who comes to collect the rent, Ali will count up $155 in her steel cash box. Last Wednesday, she grossed $180 in sales here.

The next few people in line order two, three, four sambusas, which Ali drops into paper bags with a pair of tongs.

When the small rush is over, she turns a knob on her Camp Chef Expedition 3X triple-burner stove and begins to heat up a large pot of oil. She instructs her 12-year-old, hijab-clad daughter Amina to stand up from the cooler where she’s been sitting and to reach in for a bag of frozen lentil sambusas. The girl does so, and then she returns to her seat, to the coloring pages with which she’s occupying another, much smaller girl.

A middle-aged man in a contemporary Hawaiian-print shirt steps up to the

DIABETES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH STUDY

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Attention Men

Not feeling like your usual self?

It may be low testosterone - and you have options.

Tired? Low sex drive? Losing muscle tone? Maybe even a bit depressed?

It may be more than just age. It could be low testosterone or Low T. Although millions of men suffer from Low T, very few know they even have it - or that they can do something about it.

Right now, doctors at San Diego Sexual Medicine are conducting a research study of an investigational medication for low testosterone. If you join, you will receive the medication and all study-related care at no cost. You will also be compensated for your time.

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Ask NOW about a clinical research study that you may qualify for.

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If you would like to participate in this study, please contact us as soon as possible. Your first study visit must take place within 48 hours of the start of any of the following flu symptoms:

• Fever over 100.4°F
• Sweats or chills
• Sore throat
• Muscle aches
• Extreme tiredness or fatigue
• Runny or stuffy nose
• Headache
• Muscle aches
• Extreme tiredness or fatigue

To qualify, you must be 18 to 70 years of age and meet certain study requirements. You will receive all study-related medical care and the investigational study medication at no charge. Participants may be compensated for their time and reimbursement for study-related expenses may also be provided.

If you think you have the FLU, contact us today to see if you qualify:

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You can also visit www.FluGotYouBlue.com to learn more about this clinical research study.

The study doctor will explain the study requirements and the possible benefits and risks to you before you decide to participate. Contacting us does not mean you have to participate or that you will be eligible to participate. Participation in this clinical research study is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw at any time for any reason without penalty or loss of benefits and without effect on your future health care.
booth and asks, “What’s in them sambusas?” He speaks with what is apparently an ironic country accent. His companion, a woman in a black-and-white-striped maxi-dress and a lace shawl, laughs, peers over the top of the glass, and asks for a taste of the cabbage.

In the end, after much discussion, the couple orders three sambusas (chicken, lentil, and spinach) and a small plate of cabbage. The total is $7, but the man only has $6. Ali tells him it’s no problem.

“She didn’t pay me a penny. Even for the grocery. She can get away from me, but she can’t get away from God.”

In 1995, Ali tells me, she and her husband and six of their children arrived in San Diego by way of Fort Worth, Texas, where they’d lived for three months. For the two years prior, they’d lived in a refugee camp in Kenya, following their escape from Somalia during the country’s now decades-long civil war.

“I was having a new baby at that time,” she says. “My husband told us we got to go. We didn’t bring anything. We just picked up the kids and [left].” Three years after the family’s arrival in San Diego — they lived in City Heights — Ali’s husband died. He left her with three boys and three girls.

“She didn’t pay me a penny. Even for the grocery. She can get away from me, but she can’t get away from God.”

“I was sad for 11 years,” she says. “I stayed home and didn’t want to go anywhere.” During that time, she lived off public assistance ($700 per month in cash, $300 per month in food stamps). She and her chil-
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San Diego Reader February 7, 2013
A Caring Approach to Out of Control Eating

Finally! The program to help you break out of the diet/binge cycle and lose those painful pounds naturally and permanently. Learn to feel better about yourself, lose the insatiable appetite for food, and come to peace with your body.

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The Hungry Heart is a place for healing your relationship with food so you can live every day free of compulsive overeating. Learn to move past your preoccupation with eating and weight loss and move towards a more rewarding and satisfying life. Our 8 session systematic program combines behavioral and nutritional counseling with hypnosis to reinforce new behaviors and thought patterns. Weight loss is a natural by-product of changing our thinking patterns.

We work together as a team to create LIFE-LONG changes in your eating habits. This is a permanent approach to out of control eating. The program provides a guilt-free, safe, and discreet environment where... YOU WILL GET POSITIVE RESULTS!

“Food: My Best Friend and My Worst Enemy”

From the time I was a young child, food was never just food for me. It was my love, support; comfort it was my best friend. However, it was also the reason why I hated myself and did not treat my body healthily—it was my worst enemy.

It was my little secret. I used food for dealing with every situation of my life. As an adult, most people saw me as a very successful and happy woman. Behind closed doors, I was an entirely different person. You name it and I did it with food. My weight determined how I felt about myself instead of who I was as a person. Food consumed and spirit.

I didn’t want to stay home sad anymore,” she says. “I want to be outside, seeing the good people every day. Happy.”

The agreement was that Ali would be paid in sambusas to take home to her family. The gig lasted for three months, until the relationship between the two women deteriorated over a catering job that included an order for 2000 sambusas. For a week, Ali worked to fill the order. She claims that, although the other woman was paid $700 for the catering job, she never gave Ali a dime.

“I showed her how to make sambusas,” Ali says. “I showed her how to keep them fresh. If you make sambusa and put it in the refrigerator, and then take it back to the market, it will have bacteria. I taught her.”

She turns away, ending the conversation with a flick of her hand. But a half-second later, she turns back and adds, “She didn’t pay me a penny. Even for the grocery. She can get away from me, but she can’t get away from God.”

After the 2000-sambusa incident, Ali decided to venture out on her own.

For the next three years, she sold her own food out of booths at the Mission Valley (on Fridays) and Point Loma (on Sundays) markets. She eventually came off public assistance, save for the food stamps. In November 2011, however, she took a month off to travel to Kenya to visit her ailing mother, and when she returned to San Diego, her space at both markets had been filled. It took four months to get back into the market system. When she did, the booths were at unfamiliar markets.

“It’s hard to come back,” she says. “I have a good reputation, but people don’t know me [at the new markets] yet.”

Three people stand reading the canvas menu from a distance of a couple of feet. When Hamsa greets them, they smile and move on.

Ali assesses the iced tea. The lemonade, held in a jug half the size of that which holds the hibiscus tea, is almost gone. The tea jug is still half full.

“Next time,” she tells Hamsa, “we’ll put the lemonade in the big one.”

Hamsa laughs. “Yeah, I think so.”

Ali uses a large, flat spoon to remove a batch of lentil sambusas from the oil. Then she reaches into the bag of frozen sambusas with her tongs, grabs a few more, and drops them into the oil.

One of the three noncommittal browsers returns. He wears a Steel Pulse T-shirt and has patchy facial hair.

“What’s the most popular sambusa?” he asks Hamsa. Then to Ali, “How about you? What are your favorites?”

Hamsa says spinach. Ali leans in and says her favorite is the lentil.

“At what about the beef, and the curry potato?” Steel Pulse asks.

“They’re all good,” Hamsa says.

“Okay, give me that,” Ali says. “One each. Beef, and curry potato.”

At the back of Ali’s booth, the small girl (the daughter of a friend) demands that Amina teach her how to draw stars with the pink marker, not the blue one.

The man running the next booth offers a baby carrot to passersby. He encourages them to try his organic hummus and creamy-garlic spreads. Some smile, shake their heads, and keep walking. Others step in closer and accept the hummus-laden carrots.

The Spanish guitar music piped into the cavernous warehouse space echoes off concrete walls and cement floors.

Before Ali continues her story, she pushes Hamsa out of the booth with both hands.

“Two women are talking, and you want to stand between them,” she says. “Go on.”

He smiles mischievously at me, as if he knows he has pushed just the right buttons.

“Oh, okay, okay,” he says. “I’m going.”

He wanders off into the market.

Ali continues her story. In late 2011, one of her daughters bought an old food truck from a Chinese man. Ali planned to use it to sell her food, but it sat for a year before she took out a $1500 loan from the International Rescue Committee to outfit the truck with a sink and a water heater. It also needed beautification.

Last week, Ali took the truck to El Cajon to be painted. She was disappointed, however, to discover that $500 only afforded her the name of her business (East African Cuisine) and the menu...
San Diego Reader
February 7, 2013

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**Haven for pyramids**

mid scheme, because people actually bought the stuff — tragically. Some experienced serious side effects, such as strokes, and some died. A founder, Michael Ellis, went to prison for lying to the Food and Drug Administration about those adverse effects. The company went bankrupt in 2005.

Ackman is not the first short-seller to attack Herbalife. Back in 2008, a San Diego self-professed man of God (now in a high security prison) attacked Herbalife with the intention of driving its stock down. He is Barry Minkow. His charge was similar to Ackman’s: the company is a pyramid because it makes its money recruiting salespeople; product sales are not so important. Minkow compared Herbalife to Usana, another multilevel marketing organization. Both had something in common: entanglements with offshore tax havens. (Herbalife’s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission list its main office in the tax and secrecy haven of the Cayman Islands, although it primarily operates out of Los Angeles.)

Minkow’s Fraud Discovery Institute made money on its short position. The business press picked up the story, as did the Reader. Minkow’s research was almost always thorough. That’s why government agencies would take information from him and invite him to speak before employees.

Minkow could spot a scam because he had pulled an amazing one — San Fernando Valley–based ZZZZ Best. Whose sales, it turned out, were 90 percent fraudulent. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison but found religion and was sprung in 7 years. He became senior pastor of the Community Bible Church in Mira Mesa, splitting his time between saving souls and chasing crooks.

But he got in trouble when he took on the big builder Lennar. He denounced the company as “a financial crime in progress.” The stock plunged. Once again, Minkow cleaned up on his short position. Lennar sued. A judge found Minkow had repeatedly lied under oath and concealed evidence and witnesses. Criminal authorities investigated. Eventually, Minkow admitted that he had used nonpublic information to drive down Lennar stock. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit securities fraud. Admitting he was unworthy to be a pastor, he resigned from the Community Bible Church and was sentenced to prison. He is now in the Federal Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky, and is due to be released January 28, 2016. The facility is known for treatment of addicts; Minkow admitted to Fortune magazine that he became addicted to Oxycodone.

Digging through documents, Greenberg found that, after Minkow levied his charges, “Herbalife paid Minkow $300,000 to shut up.” Good sources also believe that Minkow got paid off by Usana and Nu Skin, another multilevel marketer.

Did Community Bible Church get a piece of those alleged payoffs? The church isn’t talking. Minkow admitted to Fortune that he commingled the church’s funds with his own. However, he claims he was the church’s biggest donor, so members came out ahead. Some parishioners lost bundles helping to finance an autobiographical film he was making, and a former church member took Minkow to court. A judge has ordered him to pay Lennar $584 million. Amen.

Contact Don Bauder at 619-546-8529

**CITY LIGHTS**

**Parking police**

bergh Field. That contract was awarded against the wishes of airport staff.

Ace’s presence at public parking lots, influence with local politicians, and its parking-enforcement activities have raised some concerns about privatization of governmental duties. “It feels wrong to get the ticket,” says Nguyen, “because I don’t like the idea of private companies handing out citations like they’re public authorities. I don’t think most people would.”

The debate over privatization isn’t the only issue. Program revenues have fallen short of initial projections. In its original proposal to the city, Ace estimated that by the third year of the contract the city would collect $623,745 in total revenue; in fiscal year 2012, the company fell $46,969 short of projections.

From July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012, Ace Parking collected $237,205 worth of parking citations, around $24,000 short.

Expenditures were also higher than expected. Last fiscal year, the city paid Ace $195,000 a year to run the parking operation in downtown; that amount is more than $61,000 higher than what the company promised.

Total revenues have come in $158,588 short of what was promised back in 2008.

Currently, state law prohibits private agencies to be responsible for law enforcement. In December of 2011, California’s attorney general, Kamala Harris, issued a statement on public agencies entering into contract with private companies for parking enforcement. The state’s top attorney reaffirmed a 2002 court opinion that outlawed the practice for general law cities.

“No specific authority,” Harris wrote, “has been given to cities to have the continued from page 3

continued on page 42
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Parking police
continued from page 40
employees of private companies issue parking citations.” She added, “We conclude that a general law city may not enter into a contract with a private security company authorizing the company’s employees to issue citations for Vehicle Code parking violations.”

But Chula Vista, like San Diego, is not a general law city. It’s a charter city responsible for drafting its own laws. In October 2009, Chula Vista did just that when it amended the municipal code to allow the arrangement.

“When the City Council approved the Ace contract in 2009, the City Attorney’s office advised them that while the law in this area was not clear, an argument could be made that because the City was a charter city, and it was enforcing its own municipal code, the city could lawfully contract with a third party vendor to issue parking citations,” reads a statement from city attorney Glenn Googins. “Chula Vista Municipal Code was modified at that time to expressly provide for this type of arrangement.”

The pertinent section of the code states: “The City Council may contract with the governing body of a city or county within this state, or with a state department or other public or private agency for the preparation or conducting of examinations for positions in the City service or for the performance of any other personnel administration service.”

To the concern that laws are being enforced by private employees, not sworn officers, a city spokesperson responds that all parking officers are fully vetted before being hired. “All Ace employees are required to go through both Ace's background checks and an extensive city background check through our Police Department.”

That doesn’t comfort opponents such as Nguyen, who contends, “We have police officers for a reason. I realize that cities are strapped for cash right now, but privatizing law enforcement seems like a stupid idea.”

Representatives from Ace Parking declined to comment for this story.

No more golden handshakes, say UC protesters
Students and workers to protest the school system’s bloated executive pay
UCSD — “They get golden handshakes when they retire, and we get cat food!” That will be the rallying cry tomorrow (January 31) as University of California workers and students stage protests at UC medical facilities and all ten UC campuses.

The demonstrations are sponsored by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Locally, the protests will be held at the University of California
continued on page 44
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San Diego Reader February 7, 2013 45

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San Diego —

The protesters point out that outgoing UC president Mark Yudof, after only five years of service, will retire with a $230,000 annual pension. Since 2002, in-state tuition in the UC system has more than tripled as the burden of supporting bloated pay and pensions shifts to students.

UC will spend $400 million in retirement benefits for 140 UC top executives after they retire, says the AFSCME. But a new employee hired after this year, making an average $30,000 a year, will face a 110 percent pay cut after retiring with 20 years of service, says the union.

Don Bauder, January 30

Mayor backtracks on medical marijuana

Filer and city attorney agree to draft new zoning law allowing med-pot, but city won’t drop lawsuits.

San Diego — It appears as if the city will, and the city attorney, says the AFSCME. But a new employee hired after this year, making an average $30,000 a year, will face a 110 percent pay cut after retiring with 20 years of service, says the union.

Don Bauder, January 30

Man shoots neighbor over petty theft

Twenty-year-old pleads not guilty to shooting man and his girlfriend in the middle of the street

Oceanside — A man was shot dead and his girlfriend was shot in the face because a neighbor got fed up with the man’s petty thieving, it was suggested in courthouse testimony today.

Dianora Hargrove, January 29

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Don Bauder, January 30

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Pricing good through 2/28/13
Detective Torino Valdivinos testified today that he spoke with Martinez the same day as the shooting, after the suspect was arrested, in an interview recorded at Oceanside police headquarters. The two men were speaking Spanish, the detective said, when Martinez told him he had caught Robbins stealing or siphoning gasoline from his family’s vehicle. The defendant also stated that he saw Robbins take a “black bag” from the Martinez’s garage, according to the detective.

Eva Knott, January 29

Bring your own fists and knives

Three men stabbed at North County party after huge brawl

Rainbow — Three men were stabbed at a house party in Rainbow earlier this month, and investigators have no suspects yet in the case, according to San Diego County sheriff’s detectives.

“All partygoers were gone by the time we arrived,” sheriff’s Sgt. Patrick Yates reported. “We saw a large number of cars driving in the opposite direction while responding to the call.”

It was 12:52 a.m. on Sunday, January 6, when deputies got a report that gunshots were heard. Neighbors reported hearing four to six shots in the 2600 block of Huffstatler Street in Rainbow. The rugged community is located at the northern edge of San Diego County.

When deputies responded they did not find any gunshot victims, but three men received at least two stab wounds each at the party. Those men were driven to local hospitals in private cars by friends, according to investigators. All three stabbing victims were interviewed, and they reported feeling “pokes” during a crowded fight but were not able to identify who might have stabbed them.

The investigation found that an adult male posted a notice on his Facebook page, advertising that he was hosting a bring-your-own-beer birthday party. This apparently got a better response than he anticipated, and when two cars full of strangers from Escondido arrived, a confrontation developed.

Detective Dan Laibach said that anyone who has information about the incident can phone him at the Fallbrook station or remain anonymous by visiting the San Diego County Crime Stoppers website.

Eva Knott, January 30

Manchester’s politickin’

New filing shows U-T mogul gave heavily to GOP supporting his litigation-beset Navy Broadway Complex project

Downtown — Combative U-T San Diego publisher Douglas Manchester, whose development company was sued last week by the California Coastal Commission over Manchester’s plans to turn the U.S. Navy’s waterfront real estate into a giant hotel, office, and retail complex, remained busy through the end of last year handing out political largesse to local Republican causes, according to a financial disclosure statement posted online by the California secretary of state’s office.

The document says that, among other contributions, the newspaper publisher’s Manchester Financial Group gave $50,000 to the GOP Lincoln Club of San Diego and $140,000 to the Republican Party of San Diego County. Both organizations were big cash backers of Carl DeMaio, the former Republican city councilman and pro-Navy Complex development ally, who lost his bid for mayor to Democrat Bob Filner. DeMaio and many of his allies in the local GOP are staunch supporters of Manchester’s plans to turn the U.S. Navy’s waterfront real estate into a giant hotel, office, and retail complex.
chester’s multibillion-dollar Navy Broadway Complex proposal, currently target-
ed by the coastal commission’s lawsuit.

As reported here previ-
ously, Patton Boggs, the city’s contract lobbyist in Washington, D.C., under GOP mayor Jerry Sanders, disclosed it had lobbied the Navy Broadway development issue throughout last year. Late Friday, the U-T’s Watchdog unit broke word that new mayor Bob Filner had fired the firm, playing the story as a clash between the Democrat and the city council.

Matt Potter, January 27

Comments

monaghan Jan. 28 @ 9:30 p.m.
The point is not that Doug Manchester is rich, but that he gave and gave and gave at the office to conserva-
tive candidate Carl DeMaio in his failed bid for Mayor. When new mayor Bob Filner up and fired the D.C. lobby-
list who had been getting paid to push Manchester’s huge Broadway/Navy rede-
development, Manchester’s newspaper played that bold act as if it were an example of shocking mayoral inci-
vility toward city council. Ridiculous, of course, and fortunate that Filner knows how to play hardball.

Under the radar

continued from page 3

for San Diego mayoral and city council races, meaning that some airport money may have at least indirectly found its way into local politics.

Haddad did not respond to a message left with his office.

In addition to White’s firm, according to the contract, another local lobbyist work-
ing for the airport authority is Peter MacCracken, proprietor of Strategic Communications, which is being paid $211.50 per hour; no accounting of Mac-
Cracken’s time is provided in the document furnished by the authority.

Ironically, one of the most influential members of the airport authority’s board is the city’s dean of lobbyists: attorney Paul Robinson, who repre-
sents such high-dollar clients as U-T San Diego owner and GOP hotel magnate Douglas Man-
chester and Las Vegas developer Irwin Molasky, one time associate of the late mobster Moe Dalitz.

Sodium-free milk of politics: Poseidon Resources, the desalination outfit that finally got a con-
tract from the San Diego County Water Authority last year, spent heavily on local political campaigns, accord-
ing to its recent disclosure filing. Enjoying the staunch support of ex-GOP mayor Jerry Sanders and employing Tom Shepard’s Public Policy Strat-
egies and his close friend and associate Nancy Chase’s Public Policy Partners, Poseidon spent a total of $84,799 on an array of local politicos and water officials. On November 2, just four days in advance of election day, $10,000 went to A Better San Diego Issues Committee, “a sponsored committee of the San Diego and Imperial Coun-
ties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.” Big labor here backed Demo-

crat Bob Filner’s successful run for mayor over GOP city council-
man Carl DeMaio. Posei-
don also kicked in $10,000 for the San Diego Jobs PAC, which distributed its campaign cash to Republicans, including DeMaio. Then there was Demo-

cratic state-assembly speaker John Perez, who got $3900 from Poseidon in September; Orange County water-board candidate Jeff Thomas ($1000); Denis Bilodeau, another water-board candidate ($500); Ana-
heim city councilman Jordan Brandman ($1000); Hunting-
ton Beach City Council candi-
date Barbara Delgize ($500); and OCTaxPAC, the political action committee of the largely GOP Orange County Taxpayers association ($30,000).

— Matt Potter

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

Yet so pleasing the Pain, so soft is the Dart

The annual marking of St. Valentine’s Day brings to mind tales of love gained, love lost, and tears shed. A program on the subject of love.

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Monteverdi
Putti mini

Monteverdi
Lamento della Ninfa

Purcell
If music be the food of love

Purcell
If love’s a sweet passion

Handel
Love in her eyes sits playing

Handel
As when the dove laments

Pre concert discussion begins at 8:45 pm

8 February 2013 - 7:30 PM
San Diego history center
casa de balboa, balboa park

9 February 2013 - 7:30 PM
Performing arts center at rancho santa fe
9927 la granada, rancho santa fe

Tickets $10-$40
(619) 341-1726
bachcollegiumsd.org

LETTERS

continued from page 4

H-1B; Bosses Gloat” (City Lights). That’s been going on in San Diego for at least 40 years, probably longer.

I have three master’s degrees in engineering, and I’ve been laid off many times from San Diego-area defense contractors, along with a lot of other engineers. At the same time, these companies kept a lot of low-paid, foreign engineers on the payroll that were here on H-1B visas. I’ve also found myself competing when applying for jobs with foreigners who could barely speak English. It’s nothing new, and I don’t think it’ll ever stop.

It should be no surprise that none of my children went into engineering. They had better sense after they saw what happened to Pa.

Name Withheld via voicemail

Kudos, Don
Really good investigation, research, and reporting by Don Bauder on the H1-B visa program (City Lights: "Engineers Dislike H-1B; Bosses Gloat," January 10). It’s bad enough that our large corporations, such as Microsoft, Intel, IBM, and Oracle outsource plants and jobs from the U.S. But it’s salt in the wound to deny 85,000+ yearly. Shame on the San Diego Chamber of Commerce for promoting more job losses so that corporate profits can increase. Kudos to the Reader for courageously supporting investigative reporting.

Margaret Carlson
El Cajon

@exception.com
When the author of “Yellow Deli People” (January 3 cover story) asked about reviewing IRS Form 1065, Mr. Mevaser responded by email. I didn’t know that there was email in biblical days.

Terry Powers
La Mesa

Picking on the Decent
Your article, “Yellow Deli People,” (January 3 cover story) was interesting, and a bit devious in nature. I will tell you from the outset that I was raised in the Twelve Tribes communities and have been gone for six or seven years now. If anyone should know of the goings-on there I certainly would, as I remain personal friends of many of the members, some of whom you mentioned by name in the story. I also have family still residing in the community.

The Yellow Deli People, as you referred to them, are a small group of individuals seeking to live a wholesome lifestyle and serve God in sincerity. No one is forced to do anything while residing there, and no one is forced to be there. If people have negative experiences, they have themselves to blame. When I decided that I didn’t have the level of commitment needed to remain, I left. I’ve become quite successful in the meantime and I owe a lot of that to the good value system I was raised with. I visit on occasion and I’m always welcomed and treated with respect.

Using big words like “cult” often conjures horrible images in many people’s minds. They are different, I’ll admit, but since when has that been a bad thing? And since when do we, as a society, have the moral high ground to start dishing out judgements on people who are actually trying to make a difference in the world and live a sustainable lifestyle?

Perhaps we should spend a little more time trying to figure out how to keep our teenagers from going on murderous rampages. Or maybe how to stop the massive flow of illegal substances across the border, or really anything besides picking on a small, decent group of people who have never harmed anyone. And since when have religious organizations’ finances been anyone’s business? Just saying.

Gidon Carlin via email

Size Gripe
I am an avid reader of the San Diego Reader; however I have one major gripe. Why did you change the font size of the weekly crossword puzzle? I am a huge fan of the puzzle, but with my failing eyesight and vision, the new format is much too small for me to complete. Please do your best to return to the old, larger-size font format.

Melanie Wilner via email
Thursday | 7

**ARTSHOW NUDES**

Nudes is presented by Point Loma artist Michael Gunderson, with live music by Ken Stokes. Beer, wine, drink specials, and Cajun food.

**WHEN:** 4:00 to 10:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Red’s Espresso and Wine Gallery, 1017 Rosecrans Street, Point Loma; 619-523-5540.

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Friday | 8

**DERBY DOLLS: WILDFIRES VS. STEEL CITY**

Steel Hurtin’ of Steel City Roller Derby comes into town from Pittsburgh, PA, to show the Wildfires what they’ve got on the banked track. Full bar for ages 21+. $13–$20.

**WHEN:** 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar; sd.derbydolls.com

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Saturday | 9

**CARNEVALE 2013**

A family-friendly experience based on Italian traditions, Carnevale features live music and dancing, stilt-walkers, shopping, dining, art, mask-making for kids, and more. People of all ages are encouraged to participate in the festivities, including the spontaneous performances on street corners and Little Italy piazzas designed to evoke the playful vibe of the event. Valet parking available ($7 per car).

**WHEN:** 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** West Date and India Streets, Little Italy; 619-233-3898.

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Sunday | 10

**FLIXMIX: DORFMAN**

Deb Dorfman is a young lady living out her dreams...sort of. Nebbish, incidentally complacent, and prone to more than a little magical thinking, Deb gets a chance to leave her parents’ home in the San Fernando Valley — where she cares for her ailing, widower father, played by Elliott Gould — to spend a week housesitting in Los Angeles for the man of her daydreams. 3:00 p.m. mixer in the Underwriter Lounge; 5:00 p.m. film screening. 21+. $20–$25.

**WHEN:** 3:00 to 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Reading Town Square, 4665 Clairemont Drive, Clairemont; 858-362-1348.

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Monday | 11

**MONDAY NIGHT SWING**

Swing classes include jump swing (7:30), sultry swing (8:30), practice time with DJ Meeshi (9:30), and music for dancing by Lady Dottie and the Diamonds (10 p.m.–1:30 a.m.). Cover charge of $10 includes one or both classes and admission to see Lady Dottie. After 10 p.m., cover is $3. 21+.

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** U-31, 3112 University Avenue, North Park; 858-395-6060.

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Tuesday | 12

**MARDI GRAS TEN-COURSE PAIRING MENU**

A twist on an authentic New Orleans–style feast paired with five different drinks, starting with an IPA from Abita (the only brewery in New Orleans), followed by three wines that can stand up to the intense flavors of Creole and Cajun cooking, and finish with Cafe Brûlot Diabolique, the classic coffee night-cap created at Antoine’s, the oldest restaurant in New Orleans...and the United States. 21+. $42.50.

**WHEN:** 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Wine Vault Bistro, 3731-A India Street, 619-295-3939; winevaultbistro.com

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Wednesday | 13

**BOB PERELMAN**

The University of California San Diego’s New Writing Series for contemporary creative writing presents Bob Perelman, the former editor of Hills magazine and the author of *Braille, Face Value, Virtual Reality*, and other books of poetry.

**WHEN:** 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** UCSD: Visual Arts Facility Performance Space, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla; 858-534-2230
Gather No Moss
TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS

Must-See Colombia
By Jim Eliason

There are still a few places in the Caribbean where you can find pristine beaches and authentic, unique culture. One of these is the Caribbean coast of Colombia.

Avianca, the national airline of Colombia, offers direct flights to Cartagena from Miami and connecting flights from other major East and West Coast cities. No visa is required for U.S. citizens for stays up to 60 days.

If you have not been to Cartagena, go! There’s no more beautiful colonial city in the Americas. Add cheap prices and beautiful beaches, and you have an excellent vacation destination.

The Old City of Cartagena is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and you should set aside at least two days to roam its streets. Be sure not to miss the cathedral, the Convent of San Pedro, and the Iglesia Santo Domingo.

The major beaches and resort hotels in town are on a peninsula known as the Boca Grande. Here you’ll find modern resort hotels, restaurants, and nightclubs.

Once you have soaked in the culture in Cartagena and are ready for some serious nature and beach time, head east to Santa Marta.

You can get there by local collective taxi (which takes about four hours) or by plane. If flying, however, you’ll need to connect in Bogotá — so it will only save hassle, not necessarily time.

Santa Marta is every bit as old as Cartagena but not nearly as well preserved. Still, there are a few historic sites worth seeing. But, the name of the game in Santa Marta is the beach. Most resorts have their own beaches, but for the best beach experience, a trip to Tayrona National Park, just 30 minutes east of town, is in order.

Tayrona features some of the best beach snorkeling in the Caribbean, but facilities are limited, so bring your own gear.

Despite the colonial architecture and pristine beaches, the best parts of any visit to Colombia are the friendliness of its people and vibrancy of its culture. You can feel the pent-up passion and pride of these people — free of the dark years of violence — in their music, their cuisine and their inviting smiles.

Timbuktu, Mali
By James Michael Dorsey
Photographing in Mali, West Africa, I spent two weeks traveling with Tuareg nomads, the famed “blue men” of the Sahara.

The Tuaregs of Mali dye their blue robes with a pigment derived from sea urchins. Eventually, their skin takes on the blue hue.

The Tuaregs are known not only for their brilliant blue robes and turbans but because they dye them with ink purloined from sea urchins that over time permeates human skin — so they really are blue.

continued on page 52
Leo Carrillo, a well-known film and television actor during the middle of the last century, had deep roots in Alta California. He was the great-great grandson of José Raimundo Carrillo, one of the original Spanish settlers of San Diego and a member of the 1769 Portolá Expedition. In 1937, Carrillo purchased 1700 acres that had been part of the original Spanish land grant given to Juan Marron, known as Rancho Agua Hedionda, and now a major part of the City of Carlsbad. Between 1937 and 1939, Carrillo built a large hacienda, carriage house, and barn, as well as a deep pool with a white sand beach and a cantina on his newly acquired property. Eventually Carrillo’s Rancho de los Quiotes, as it was called, became a mecca for Hollywood actors and other notables, but it was also a working cattle ranch that ultimately included over 2500 acres. Carrillo died in 1961 and over the years much of the ranch land was sold off for development. However, 27 acres, containing most of the historic buildings, were acquired by the City of Carlsbad and are now the Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park. The ranch is a designated Historic National Landmark that was opened to the public in August 2003. The buildings and grounds have been or are being beautifully restored or preserved. The roads and trails connecting the historic buildings and parts of the ranchlands are now incorporated into the Carlsbad trail system. It has become a great place to learn about the area history and to get some exercise on the trails.

Approximately four miles of trails are available for easy hiking through the open space around the historic park. The city hiking trails are connected to those within the park and are open for hiking even when the park is closed. A high wall surrounds the 27-acre historic park. Peacocks patrol the grounds while its roads and trails are lined with blue agave, Pyracantha, eucalyptus, and Peruvian pepper trees. The city trails leading from and around the historic park are on both sides of an intermittent stream containing an abundance of native sycamores, willows, and a few oaks, and also many non-native, invasive species such as the giant reed, Arundo, and the pampas grass, Cortaderia. Clearly, this is not pristine native California habitat, but it is a pleasant place to walk, particularly if you can incorporate your hike on the city trails with a visit to the historic park.

The park is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed on Mondays). Guided tours are given on weekends at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., but to make sure, call 760-476-1042 to verify these times before your visit if you want to take a tour.

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
Timbuktu continued from page 50

men. For more than 2000 years they have operated the trans-Saharan caravan routes, hauling salt from the mines in Mauritania down to Timbuktu, where it is shipped across Africa and into Europe.

I was traveling with them, by camel, dressed in blue robes to facilitate my entry to nomad camps along the way, and simply because these are the most practical clothes to wear in the blowing sand and heat of the southern Sahara.

We had ridden for five days, making a wide sweeping arc north of Timbuktu, and were on our final day in the saddle, about to return to the ancient city that many people are surprised to learn actually exists. The trip had been a great success and I had thousands of photos documenting the harsh nomadic life in the desert.

As we neared the mud battlements that surround this oasis town, I noticed a man standing on a wall. Dressed like an ad for REI with three cameras hanging from his neck, he was clearly a tourist.

As we rode near, he raised his telephoto lens to take our picture.

Without thinking I raised my hand and called out, “Cadoul!”

In this part of French-speaking Africa, that translates loosely into “Give me money,” a common practice of the locals whenever they spot a camera aimed in their direction. My Tuareg guide began to giggle, knowing full well what I was doing.

The unsuspecting photographer hopped off his wall and walked toward us, digging into his pockets, and produced a bill, which he handed up to me.

I made a great show of holding it up to the light and examining it. I tipped on it, turning it over and over. I finally tucked it into my robes, raising myself in the saddle like a noble warlord, and said, “Okay, take photo.”

With that, the man backed up and took what he thought was a National Geographic shot of us Lord’s of the Desert astride our camel mounts.

My Tuareg guide and I continued on into Timbuktu, laughing to ourselves, and that poor photographer may never know he has a photo of a middle-aged white guy from Los Angeles.

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

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San Diego Reader, February 7, 2013 - 53
Rhyme & Verse
Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight
A poem by Vachel Lindsay

It is portentous, and a thing of state
That here at midnight, in our little town
A morining figure walks, and will not rest,
Near the old court-house pacing up and down,

Or by his homestead, or in shadowed yards
He lingers where his children used to play,
Or through the market, on the well-worn stones
He stalks until the dawn-stars burn away.

A bronzed, lank man! His suit of ancient black,
A famous high top-hat and plain worn shawl
Make him the quaint great figure that men love,
The prairie-lawyer, master of us all.

He cannot sleep upon his hillside now.
He is among us — as in times before!
And we who toss and lie awake for long
Breathe deep, and start, to see him pass the door.

He head is bowed. He thinks on men and kings.
Yea, when the sick world cries, how can he sleep?
Too many peasants fight, they know not why,
Too many homesteads in black terror weep.

The sins of all the war-lords burn his heart.
He sees the dreadnaughts scouring every main.
He carries on his shawl-wrapped shoulders now
The bitterness, the folly and the pain.

He cannot rest until a spirit-dawn
Shall come; — the shining hope of Europe free:
The league of sober folk, the Workers’ Earth,
Bringing long peace to Cornland, Alp and Sea.

It breaks his heart that kings must murder still,
That all his hours of travail here for men
Seem yet in vain. And who will bring white peace
That he may sleep upon his hill again?

Vachel Lindsay (1879–1931) studied art in Chicago and New York but, unable to find suit-able employment and encouraged to concentrate on his poetry and public readings by a teacher at the New York art school he was attending, became instead a troubadour poet, touring the country by walking from town to town and reciting his poems and prose. Carrying little money on those early excursions, he exchanged his poetry for food and shelter along the way. By 1920 he was famous and greatly loved.

“Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight,” written in 1914, depicts the ghost of Lincoln pacing the streets of Springfield, Illinois (the city of Lindsay’s own birth), tormented by the dreadful slaughter of war.

Find more poetry online at 3Reader.com/poetry
LECTURES

Chocolate: Food of the Gods
Instructor Rose Stanfill Thomas shares the long and storied history of chocolate as well as its medical benefits, particularly concerning cardiovascular health. 619-692-4910. Thursday, February 7, 7pm; free. Mission Hills Library, 925 West Washington Street. (MISSION HILLS)

The Five Levels of Attachment. Live in San Diego for one Night Only! Coming together to teach the Toltec Wisdom found in Miguel Ruiz Jr’s forthcoming book, The Five Levels of Attachment. Toltec Wisdom for the Modern World, Don Miguel Jr. and Don Miguel Ruiz will spend the evening uncovering and clearing attachments that no longer serve your highest good. For tickets and more information please visit TheUnity-Center.net. Saturday, February 23, 7pm to 9pm. Unity Center, 8999 Activity Road (MIRA MESA)

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association is dedicated to protecting the earned benefits of current and retired federal employees. Free meeting featuring Ed Jahn, our Chapter 4 Treasurer, speaking on retirement issues for 2012. All are welcome to this free meeting. Refreshments will be served. For more information see nafrel-sandiego.org or call 619-226-4108. Monday, February 11, 2013 at 1:00 to 2:30pm. War Memorial Building, 3235 Zoo Dr. (BALBOA PARK)

OUTDOORS

Cactus and Succulent Society
This annual winter show features winter-growing cactus and succulents from around the world. Exhibitors will be on hand to answer questions concerning culture of these plants. Room 101. Saturday, February 9, 10am; free. Casa del Prado, 1800 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Gaslamp Quarter Historical Walking Tour
Tour includes walking past many of the architecturally significant structures of the period from Old City Hall (1874) to the Romanesque style Keating Building (1890) to the Baroque Revival Louis Bank of Commerce (1888), along with stories of the people that shaped the destiny of San Diego. The tour takes under two hours. 619-233-4692. Saturdays, 11am; through Saturday, January 4, $12-$15. William Heath Davis House Museum, 410 Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Winter Waters/Nature’s Valentines
View flower bouquets emerging near the waters of Kumeyaay Lake and historic Old Mission Dam on a trail guide-led nature walk. Meet at entry station. Saturday, February 9, 8:30am; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

Owl Pellet Science
Dissect an owl pellet and discover what scientists learn about the night flyers. Inside visitor center. Saturday, February 9, 10am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

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Pastor: Jim Garlow
Age: 65
Born: Concordia, KS
Formation: Oklahoma Wesleyan University,
Bartlettville, OK; Southern Nazarene University,
Oklahoma City, OK; Asbury Theological Seminary,
Wilmore, KY; Princeton Theological Seminary, NJ;
Drew University, Madison, NJ
Years Ordained: 39
San Diego Reader: What is your favorite subject on which to preach?
Pastor Jim Garlow: My passion for Christ — the excitement and joy of serving Him, the desire to see other people come to Him, the sheer delight in people when they come to an understanding of how incredibly great it is to have a walk with our Savior. I am deeply concerned that many people go to church and don’t understand the excitement, joy, and delight of being a follower of Jesus Christ.

SDR: What is your main concern as a member of the clergy?
PG: As it relates to the American scene, if I can nationalize it, my concern is the failure to see how biblical truths apply to community and national life. It is easy for people to understand the application of biblical truth to personal life; it is reasonably easy for most people to understand how the Bible speaks to family life; most people get it that the Bible speaks to well-ordered church life. There is often times a break at that point — a failure to grasp that God is the nations of as well. He has an understanding of how a nation’s life is to be ordered to bring peace to the people.

“Blessed is the nation whose God is Lord” (Psalm 33:12), says the Scriptures.
SDR: Where is the strangest place you found God?
PG: A few days after my wife was diagnosed with cancer in June 2007, on a late Thursday night or early Friday morning, we knew we were in for a tough journey. She’s been battling now for five and a half years and she has stage-4 cancer. She’s miraculously survived — she’s in the 99.99 percentile — only 1/100 of the people diagnosed with this form of cancer are still alive after this length of time. It’s been tough. When she was first diagnosed, we realized how serious things were, and we resolved an issue that night. The pains and heartaches of life do not mitigate God’s grace and God’s love. He is most present when he feels most absent.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?
PG: I’ve written two books on heaven — I coauthored one book called Heaven and the Afterlife and a second book titled Encountering Heaven and the Afterlife. We interviewed people for our book, people who experienced both heaven and hell and were brought back to life. No one who experienced hell has any desire to have any touch with that place again; and yet those who experienced heaven in near-death experiences lost all fear of death and were so eager to go back to that place they experienced…. It is a breathtaking place of perfection and permanence. We know we’re made for these things and we know we’re not experiencing either of those.

God created the Earth this way, but we lost it because of Lucifer’s fall and humanity’s sin. Still, God is going to restore a new heaven and Earth someday. God desires all to be there; hell was never designed for humanity. If humans go to hell, they go by their own choosing and not because God ever wanted it.

— Joseph O’Brien

Find more Sheep and Goats columns at SDRReader.com/worship/
Merrill Lynch Cordially Invites You To An Exclusive Speaking Engagement “Not All Bonds Are Created Equal” Hosted by: David Reicks & Tara Benedict & Jake Bridgland of John Hancock Funds. Wine & Hors D’Oeuvres will be served. RSVP to (619) 699-3759 or (619) 699-3709. david.reicks@ml.com. In Between K and 1. Street. Across from Hard Rock Hotel in The Gaslamp. Friday, February 8, 6pm; Chuck Jones Gallery, 232 5th Ave. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)


SPOKEN WORD

The Gelato Poetry Series Featuring Terry Spohn. An open mike will follow. 780-434-1240. Friday, February 8, 7pm; free. Korky’s Ice Cream and Coffee, 2375 San Diego Avenue. (OLD TOWN)

One Night Only! Madcap Musical Mime. “An amazing show of melismatic music with delightful choreography,” - John Collins, The Weird Review. Steam Powered Giraffe was the 2012 Steampunk Chronicle Reader’s Choice winner for Best Album/Best Song. San Diego A-List voted Best Live Comedy. All ages. Tickets are only $20/each. Visit steampoweredgiraffe.com for more information and to purchase tickets. Saturday, February 16, 7pm. Four Points by Sheraton, 8110 Aero Drive (Kearny Mesa)

Carnevale 2013 A family-friendly experience based on Italian traditions. Carnevale features various vignettes of entertainment including live music and dancing, stilt walkers, shopping, dining, art, mask-making for kids, and more. People of all ages, from two to 92 are encouraged to participate in the festivities, including the spontaneous performances on street corners and Little Italy piazzas designed to evoke the playful vibe of the event. Parking is available and Little Italy Valet will be available at a cost of $7 per car. West Date and India Streets. 619-233-3898. Saturday, February 9, 5pm; free. Little Italy

Valentine’s Day Pet Fair Meet five local animal welfare organizations, browse merchandise, mingle with other pet parents and animal lovers. Enter to win a prize on the half-hour, enjoy treats for two-legged and four-legged guests (white supplies last), and visit the kids’ corner for face painting. Please note that pets are welcome with proper restraints or in carriers. Pet parents bear responsibility for pet behavior. Contact: animalblogger@cox.net. Saturday, February 9, 12pm. free. Images of Nature Gallery, 7916 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Palm Springs Modernism Week 2013! An amazing 11-day celebration of mid-century modern and contemporary design, architecture and lifestyle. Attendance beyond last year’s estimated 35,000 is expected. Will feature more than 100 events including, our ever-popular architectural bus, cocktail parties, home tours, lectures, films, and much more. If you haven’t yet purchased tickets, it’s not too late to plan to be a part of it all in beautiful Palm Springs. If you have purchased tickets don’t forget to check out the recently added events. For all the latest information and update on ticket sales please visit modernismweek.com. February 14-24, 2013. (PALM SPRINGS)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Derby Dolls: Wildfires vs Steel City Steel City Roller Derby comes into town from Pittsburgh, PA to show the Wildfires what they’ve got on the banked track. Full bar for ages 21+ with i.d. Friday, February 8, 8pm; $13-$20. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Bowing Bash Athletes for Education and Southwest Sports Wellness Foundation will co-host the third annual Celebrity Bowling Bash. All proceeds benefit the youth outreach programs administered by both nonprofit organizations. Personal appearance by NFL players include: Kassim Osgood, Luis Castillo, Greg Camarillo, Pete Shaw, Lonny Mitchell, and Leon White. San Diego Stormers team members Aaron Susi, Michael Mercuriali, Anthony Medina, and Diego Rovira will also attend, along with special guest athletes from the San Diego Olympic Training Center. Saturday, February 9, 6pm; $50-$100. Kearny Mesa Bowl, 7585 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

Cribbage League and Pick Up Games Saturday afternoon Cribbage league open to players of all levels. “Pick-up game” period begins after league play. Saturdays, 1pm; through Saturday, March 30, free. 18 and up. Phileas Fogg’s Bar & Restaurant, Sabre Springs Plaza, 11385 Poway Road #100 (POWAY)

Jump Start Your Heart 5K Participants start at Crown Point Shores Park and finish at Santa Clara Point. Optional challenging fitness stations set up along the course by Performance360. All proceeds benefit the Children’s Heart Foundation. Free parking and bus transportation back to the starting line. JumpStartYourHeartSD@gmail.com or 858-336-4524. Saturday, February 9, 8am; $35. Crown Point Park 1759 Moorland Dr San Diego, CA 92109

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The following are classical music entries from the Reader’s “Jam Session” music blog. Click to Sandiegoreader.com/weblogs/jam-session for more.

Yves Abel appears to have been almost everywhere: Berlin, London, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Rome, Palermo, Paris, Nice, Lisbon, Naples, Dallas, Calgary, Santa Fe, Seattle, Leeds, San Diego — and on and on and on. In these cities he has influenced thousands of people with a mere wave of his hands.

Abel is in his ascendancy as one of the world’s great conductors, and he was here, in San Diego, to conduct four performances of Donizetti’s La fille du regiment (The Daughter of the Regiment) for San Diego Opera.

San Diego Reader: What’s the difference between working with San Diego Opera and, say, Covent Garden or La Scala?

Yves Abel: Absolutely nothing, to be perfectly frank, in the sense that you are given a cast, you are given a chorus, and you’re given an orchestra.

You hope that in these different places the chemistry is going to be right between you and the cast, and that your ideas are going to be similar with what the singers come up with. You hope that you’re going to connect with the chorus and with the orchestra. A conductor can succeed in one place and then bomb in another place on the very same piece.

It depends on so many factors, such as the tradition of the orchestra — if they’re used to playing in a certain style they might be looking at the conductor as if he’s from planet Zepton.

Another factor is how the orchestra is feeling. For instance, they may be going through contract negotiations. I’ve had to conduct rehearsals while the orchestra was in the midst of horrible managerial problems. It’s very difficult to do a comic opera with lots of energy when that’s the case.

San Diego Reader: How does a conductor get there musically?

Yves Abel: I have to say that it totally depends on the conductor’s personality. For example, we all heard incredibly riveting productions from tyrants like von Karajan or Toscanini.

We’ve also heard incredibly moving productions from Giulini and Carlos Kleiber and from James Levine, who are the complete opposite of those dictator-type conductors. These conductors are interested in drawing the music out of people in a way in which we share community.

However, that doesn’t mean that one way is better than the other. What is important to everybody is getting the results.

It’s a tricky thing. What is great creation? What is a great creator? Is it a more communal creation, or is it the Ayn Randian egoist — the person who has a vision and sticks to that vision with their fingers clenched? I think the world is big enough for both views.

San Diego Reader: I’m guessing you’re not on the autocratic side...

Yves Abel: Uh, no.

San Diego Reader: We’ve seen conductors who have been very positive but haven’t always maintained a high standard. You appear to be able to stay positive and keep a high standard.

Yves Abel: I’m not going to say that the relationship between conductor and musicians is like that between parent and child, but hear me out. I have a child. Rearing children is a difficult balance, because on one hand you want them to discover things on their own, but you have to be the guide, and you have to be strong in helping them make good choices.

Orchestras are obviously on an adult-to-adult level, but essentially it’s the same thing. Somebody has to lead, and you can’t be afraid to lead and insist [on high standards] for the good of the piece. You have to show people that you care deeply about this music and let them understand that this is the real motivation behind, “Let’s do it again” or “Let’s do it better.”

San Diego Reader: The thing that draws us to athletics is watching people exceed the perceived limits of human ability. I think it’s kind of the same with opera. We want to hear the loudest, longest, fastest singing. However, that seems to be going away to some extent and is being replaced by more refined artistry and musicality. I want to hear both. I want to hear the tenor hold a high C for as long as he can and I don’t think it is artistically bad for a singer to do that. I think it adds to the opera experience.

Yves Abel: Yes, you want the added thrill of it. I think music is a real balancing act... Old-time singers and pianists... may not have been as technically polished as we are now. You can’t make a mistake on the piano anymore. You really have to be perfect or as close as you can be. In the old days they used to make fistfuls of mistakes.

But, why? Because they weren’t afraid to take chances. They weren’t afraid, for the sake of the music, to go for it. Now we’re petrified to do that. I always have to tell singers, “Take chances, take chances” because that’s how you truly move people.

Because of CDs and recordings... we try to measure everybody up to this artificial standard. The falsification that goes on in recording, that’s an art form in itself. So many singers have become the imitators of that kind of artificial experience.
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in F major, “Rasumovsky No. 1,”
Hoffmeister,” K. 499; Ludwig van
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart:
27 in D major, Op. 20/4, H. 3/34;
Josef Haydn: String Quartet No.
Finckel, cello. PROGRAM: Franz
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2013

San Diego Reader February 7, 2013 59
Bek, the exotic-drink mixer. Bek Allen, floating like a butterfly, mixing stingers like a bee, heh-heh. You can see she knows her stuff. Says the big red Japanese symbol erected on some scaffolding in the middle of the bar means sora, which means “sky.” Also here: Nicolae, the wine guy. Oh, I recognize him. Nicolae Stefan. Used to be at Cafe Chloe in East Village. What he didn’t know about wine wasn’t worth knowing.

“Good choice,” he says when I randomly stab my finger on a red wine called Nero d’Avola ($8). “It’s from Sicily. A very ancient vine. Oldest in Italy. The grapes are so dark they look black. That’s why they call it ‘Nero.’”

I take a slurp of the inky-black stuff. Ooh… Yes. Kinda rough, earthy, but fruity. I like it. Then I head off for the food, grab a couple of slices of that chestnut-and-broccoli pie, two more of the gorgonzola. I add some pasta and a clutch of edamame, and, hey, I’ve got myself a meal.

The pizza has a nice crust that’s thin but not too thin. Not cracker-hard, but not doughy, either. That chestnut-broccoli combo is good, too. There’s no spectacular flavor-burst, but it is nice and savory.

“You might say I’m a classicist,” says Bek, as I chew. “We’re talking about cocktails. I believe in learning the classics in the cocktail world. Why ruin something that’s been perfected?”

She reckons San Diego is two years behind New York on this stuff. The difference? “New York’s cocktail world has technique, discipline.”

Bek knows of what she speaks. I mean, OMG. She’s learned from, and served up cocktails to, Audrey Saunders and Dale DeGroff. Had I heard of them? No. Do they turn out to be gods of the hot-hot-cocktail cult? You betcha. (I googled them on the spot.) Bek worked for Audrey Saunders at Pegu Club for seven years, serving up such cocktail “classics” as the Gin-Gin Mule and Old Cuban.

As I chew

“**Oh, you don’t have to stay here. You can sit at the bar if you like.**”

Hand in hand, we head to the bar. They don’t even ask you where I am on the totem pole of cocktail aficionados.

Whatever, I’m happy. And spinning a little. I come out of Sora feeling full, and glad I don’t have to drive anywhere. That green stuff…20 percent alcohol (and isn’t that low for a liqueur?). Or maybe it was just chowing free chow in that heady atmosphere. Either way, I float up Broadway to the stretch-limo stop on at least Cloud Eight.
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San Diego Reader, February 7, 2013
Tomatillo tang

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

This Burro blind, not dumb

I didn’t sob when the Fleetwood closed its doors. Despite its sleek appeal, it always came across as another style-over-substance downtown blemish. I was glad to see the space boarded up for installation of a new concept. Now when I heard the name of the new venue it would become, that made me feel like shedding a tear: the Blind Burro (639 J Street, downtown). Not exactly a handle that inspires much faith in an eatery, but if names dictated the worth of a restaurant, we could just write off places called Bo-Beau, Buralq, Crab Catcher, and The Smoking Goat. That would be (75 percent) criminal! So, rather than be an ass and hold nomenclature against the new Mexican-inspired eatery on the corner of Seventh and J, I went in with both eyes and my taste buds open.

I arrived during the Blind Burro’s soft-open period. Checking a place out so early in its existence often yields service problems, inconsistent seasoning, and problem dishes, all of which have the potential to work themselves out later. A writer in my position has to take that sort of thing into account and, often, return later for a follow-up to make sure what appear to be soft-open kinks are just that, versus long-term problems. I will certainly dine at the Blind Burro again, but not to see if they showed up short-comings. Over the course of my hour-and-a-half-long meal, there really weren’t any. Service is smart and winning a place out so early for a follow-up to make sure what appear to be soft-open kinks are just that, versus long-term problems. I will certainly dine at the Blind Burro again, but not to see if they showed up shortcomings. Over the course of my hour-and-a-half-long meal, there really weren’t any. Service is smart and unwavering.

I was glad to see the space boarded up to the off-Broadway site. “This is Michoacán-style. Peppery, ” he says. “The peppers are guajillo. They give the flavor, and the heat?” I mean, tourist trap? Of course. But I like the flavor. Right down to their molcajetes and beautiful wood-plank tables.

The thing about this place for me is it feels Mexican, even more than the frontline places in the plaza. Maybe because we’re talking dirt drive-way, adobe walls, and beautiful timbers in this off-Broadway site. Okay, maybe it’s easier to pretend that this is the real thing when you’re left to your solitary dreams.

In addition to a variety of flavorful food, the Blind Burro sports an extensive array of tequilas with plenty of interesting selections to appeal to aficionados. Their margaritas make for easy hits and something for the bar to hang its sombrero on, and there’s also plenty of beer — especially by downtown standards (though the East Village has really upped urbanites’ options over the past few years). Most notable on that front is the presence of beers from Cucapá, a Mexicali-based craft brewery. Cucapá’s Chupacabras American (ironic) Pale Ale and Runaway IPA (which sports artwork that is so wrong...but kinda hilarious) were on tap. I tried them both and was impressed by their hop-forwardness. The IPA left an especially good impression on my taste buds, thanks mostly to a hop earthiness that’s rare in an India pale ale.

All in all, I found the Blind Burro to be a hit and will be looking forward to coming back when baseball season starts. Provided, of course, the Padres can field a squad worth driving downtown for. On second thought, probably better hedge my bets on something more reliable — like salsa verde and yellowtail collars! by Brandon Hernández

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It took months for them both to get back on their feet, so I’ve been giving them a miss.

But tonight (and ever since July, turns out), they’re back.

El Patio has everything but crowds. The whole of Old Town’s suffering from the cold snap. A few forlorn figures wandering around, huddled, trying to be interested in the history when you know they’re just dreaming of home or the warm hotel lounge. For sure, not shivering outside sipping soup.

Their problem, my luck. Get the best table in the patio, right next to the best fire.

And the best service: Jesús waits patiently while I look for the cheapest, best option on the menu. He says the most popular are the molcajetes, those volcanic rock bowls loaded with choices of meats, cactus, grilled onions, and cheese. Not cheap. Carne asada is $17.95. The trio of steak, chicken, and shrimp costs $32.95, but that’s for two.

I go for the tortilla soup. Uh, $6.95. Jesús approves.

“Just right for the night,” he says, “and it’s not only hot, it’s hot, too.”

One slurp and I know what he means. Hot and picante.


Actually, fire is why I’m back here. Fire just about destroyed this place last spring. Here and Gum Saan the Chinese curio emporium named after what the Chinese used to call California: “The Land of the Golden Mountain.”
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FOOD:
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I've been in Korky's (2371 San Diego Avenue) before, but I didn’t remember the postal outlet. For the sake of accuracy, I don’t think it’s an actual post office per se, but it might as well be. You could buy stamps, mail mail, send a package, and probably even wait in an endless line while the overwhelmed employee(s) scrawl hopelessly against the tide of improperly stamped envelopes and questions such as, “Can I send this with one stamp even though it weighs too much?”

Yup. Going to the post office can be a real hassle.

It’s really a shame that the ice cream isn’t better. I paid almost $4 for a single scoop of Butterfinger that had an imperfect, icy texture. It was a generous scoop, but still only one scoop. At that price, Ben and Jerry’s is cheaper. I’m unsure of Korky’s ice cream purchasing practices, but knowing the confection’s origins wouldn’t make it any tastier, so I didn’t bother to ask. Maybe their shakes and such would be a better bet. Even bad ice cream improves with blending and the addition of sugary syrups. For my money, I’d rather walk the single mile down San Diego Avenue to Washington Street to visit Gelato Vero.

by Ed Bedford

The Prado at Night
There are exactly 200 restaurants participating in San Diego Restaurant Week this year. So far, I’ve only been able to make it to one: the Prado at Balboa Park. It wasn’t until we were seated beside trees on the outdoor patio that it occurred to me I couldn’t remember how long ago it had been since I’d seen the Prado at night, and even on those occasions, I was seated in the lounge area, enjoying live music and the bar menu.

David and I think of the Prado as a location for special lunches. After all, that’s where we went directly from the courthouse the day we eloped. The trees, the fountain, the little birds, the bougainvillea... it all has a fairy-tale quality to it.

At night, string lights add a festive flare. We were in the park for an event at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center. It was the first warm night after a cold snap that lasted for weeks, but knowing the confection’s scoop, but still only one scoop.

I ordered a bottle of wine solely for the name. “It’s like me,” I said. But David disagreed. He laughed and shook his head. “You are not a pessimist,” he said. “You may think you are, but you’re not.”

David got the “Prado Caesar,” a simple salad with romaine lettuce, croutons, and poblano-chili Caesar dressing. Though he said he couldn’t really taste the flavor of the poblano, there was a little bit of heat on the finish.

My spicy calamari fries, a dish with which I was familiar, was as solid as ever. The tender slices of calamari were served hot — the high temperature combined with the serious kick of the Korean chili sauce warmed both my body and mood. The fresh, cool slaw beneath it was the ideal complement.

David’s been having a tough time finding duck he likes lately. Here, the duck was served with caramelized pineapple sauce. David thought the dish as a whole was overly sweet, overwhelming the flavor of the duck.

I got the red-wine-braised short ribs. I was pleased to find that a gentle hand had been used on the horseradish in the mashed potatoes. The saltiness of the spuds paired well with the tender beef.

We rarely get dessert when we’re there for lunch, but since it was part of the deal, we both opted for our favorite, the cream-cheese flan. Traditional flan is a little too gelatinous for me, but this version gives it a creaminess that is somewhere between cheesecake and flan. It’s served with an almond cookie and a light sugary sauce so tasty that David was sure not to leave any on the plate.

Unlike most of the other restaurants, the Prado (and all of the Cohn restaurants) extends restaurant week to two weeks. So, though “restaurant week” technically ends tonight, you can still sample this prix-fixe menu for lunch or dinner through next Friday.

by Barbara Fokos

Dick’s cleaning up (its patio, not its act)
Dick’s is all screwed up. You know Dick’s Last Resort (345 Fourth Avenue, downtown, 619-231-9100). It’s the place that’s famous for its shenanigans, where the waiters are digging trenches for gas lines for new, mo’better heaters on the patio.

While they’re at it, they’re repainting and — best part — adding new off-color jokes all over the walls.

But the food carries on. Those delectable tidbits like Crabby Balls, Mother-Cluckin’ Good Chicky Wings, and Love Me Tenders (chicken tenders). Me, I’d go for the Crawfordies or the Gator Bites. About eight bucks.

Actually, there may be better eateries, but if you’re in a party mood, there isn’t no funner place to go to in this town. Some of those waiters should have their own TV show. With you, the customer, as their victim, match.

And that new, warmer patio? They’re promising it’ll be ready.

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Sea & Smoke flowing into Flower Hill

Chef Matt Gordon was once the darling of North Park. A bearded, burly guy whose pork belly and brown liquor serve as dual calling cards, he’s perhaps the manliest guy to ever qualify as a “darling,” but when he opened his restaurant Urban Solace in the heart of hardly-as-grown-up-as-it-is-now North Park in 2007, the community glommed onto it and has yet to let go. Their fingers are probably glued by globs of sinful cinnamon-roll icing.

As dual calling cards, he’s per-bearded, burly guy whose pork and charred octopus with avocado, rice, and a red-wine reduction; in keeping with Gordon’s for Gordon to add to his repertoire, the Gordons, because they bear the same relationship to westernized Indian cuisine as McDonald’s to that effect. When you boil it down, Gordon’s kitchen will be serving up three squares a day, consisting of unique spins on traditional American dishes. Dishes being teased early include Elysian Farms leg of lamb with chimichurri; baked divel scallops with oil-cured black olive crust; a vegetarian entreé of carrot confit with multigrain risotto, pickled tangerine, and a red-wine reduction; and charred octopus with avocado, pepita, and guajillo chili salsa. That last one will utilize Sea Smoke’s wood-fired oven, a fun new piece of equipment for Gordon to add to his repertoire. In keeping with Gordon’s culinary and nutritional ideals, Sea Smoke’s offerings will be devoid of artificial ingredients.

Gordon’s kitchen will be flowing into Flower Sea & Smoke (2720 Villa de la Valle, Del Mar). It will go into the 7500-square-foot space formerly occupied by Paradise Grill.

Pacifica’s iWine

Last night, I journeyed up to Del Mar to check out a tasting menu from the new-ish chef at Pacifica. Since I got the invitation to visit the place, I can’t deliver a binding verdict considering that I usually dine on the sneaky-sneaky. I will say that most of the meal wasn’t up to the level I’d expected, though that’s probably because the restaurant had press dinners while they still had their Restaurant Week menu out.

The wahoo with tarragon remoulade was excellent. A melange of herbs, briny olives, and deep green sauce surrounded the tender fish, but the most exquisite touch was the inclusion of a few little raisins, nuggets of chewy sweetness hidden in the dish and adding a stroke of genius to an otherwise great plate. Kudos. More of this, please,

and less undercooked pork belly and overcooked scallops.

For now, it’s a “wait and see” situation for Stephanie O’Mary-Berwald wearing the big hat at Pacifica.

What I really want to talk about is the iPad wine menu. I’ve somehow missed out on the experience during the past two years.

My verdict? Wine as a video game isn’t all bad.

Because the data storage for an iPad is effectively limitless (as far as wine cellars are concerned), app developers can put a glut of information a mere finger-sweep away from diners. That’s huge for people who are intimidated by arcane paper wine lists and the arcane knowledge of estates and bottlings. Plus, it’s just fun to flip through the digital pages and pick a wine. It’s like, wine Pokémon or something: “California chardonnay, I choose you!” Maybe, in all that flipping, people will absorb a little knowledge. At the very least, it emboldens the timid and entertains the callous.

On the cynical side, I do wonder that the experience is cheaped somewhat, as if the cartoonish appearance of the wine list on an iPad encourages people to falsify their knowledge to the point that they’re ordering the simulacrum of the wine instead of the wine itself. Imagine, if you will, that the iPad claims a certain bottle of wine has “smoky tobacco over blackberry and vanilla flavors, great to pair with wild boar sausage,” or whatever. Something tells me that people risk embracing the sizzle, as it were, and forgetting the steak.

by Ian Pike
Humphreys could arrive. The talent buyer/manager of Humphreys Backstage Lounge, Jeremiah Smith, was arrested for felony drunk driving and vehicular manslaughter after Smith’s GMC truck reportedly struck and killed a man on Interstate 8 near Lakeside.

The accident, which occurred at 4:10 a.m. on Saturday, January 26, threw the man hundreds of feet. He died at the scene.

Smith was arrested and held on $100,000 bail. An insider close to Humphreys’ staff reported that there was an immediate reaction to the fatal accident from Humphreys management: two bartenders and one barback were fired. The insider says that the three employees were terminated because they engaged in after-hours drinking with Smith.

It wasn’t like these bartenders over-served him. He was their boss. One of these bartenders who got fired had been there for 28 years.

Sergio Davies, general manager of Humphreys, responded this way about Smith’s arrest: “This is not a story. It is too early, and the facts are not all in.” But what about the three fired employees? “What happens to employees on our property, we don’t divulge that information.”

Because Smith was so closely tied to booking bands at Humphreys, some local musicians wondered if Smith’s legal problems may impact Humphreys’ entertainment schedule.

Mike Blake, Humphreys food-and-beverage manager who oversaw Smith, says there are no changes afoot in their seven-night-a-week live-music commitment. “We are still going to have the same mix of blues, jazz, rock, and ‘80s that we have always had.”

The 160-capacity Humphreys Backstage Lounge has just undergone significant interior improvements, including upgrades to its sound system. “It’s too bad this happened right now,” says a local promoter. “Now that the 300-capacity Anthology has gone away, this means that Humphreys could arrive as the premier San Diego venue to host all the smaller national touring acts that aren’t big enough for the Belly Up or the House of Blues. But I guess they could still pull it off.”

In January, Humphreys presented blues players Robin Henkel, Chet Cannon, and Bill Magee; smooth-jazz musicians Jesse Davis and Steltta; and Beatles and Billy Joel tribute acts.

— Ken Leighton

Jam for Jesus. It is the rock music echoing off the concrete-and-glass storefronts of Mission Valley mall that draws a reporter to the front doors of the place that used to be Seau’s. There’s a band playing inside on a makeshift stage under the giant flat-screen TV. A couple of hundred people stand with their hands raised in the air. That old mural of Junior, surrounded by a corona of airbrushed lightning bolts, looks down on the assembled masses. But no more football Sunday — this is a sanctuary now, and it has been ever since Eastlake Church took over the venue last September.

Outside, pop-culture references abound: there’s an image of an electric guitar and the Hunter S. Thompson–esque slogan, “Weird, because normal isn’t working.” Later, I ask Kevin McPeak, who is the creative director for Eastlake Church, if the music and such are just a Trojan horse designed to bring young people into the fold.

“I wouldn’t say ‘Trojan horse.’ What we’re trying to do,” he says by phone, “is get the exact response I just heard from you: ‘I haven’t been to church in a long while, the people were nice, and I had a good time.’ He explains that rock and roll helps break down barriers stemming from negative church experiences people may have had in the past. “In all due respect to the tradition of church music, not a lot of people are interested in going to a pipe-organ concert.”

McPeak, 42, is a former music instructor at Southwestern College and plays guitar and bass. Eastlake Church simulcasts their morning sermon to three other satellite locations, including Seau’s. “We have one or two musicians on staff at each location who are pros. They coordinate schedules, make sure everybody has charts, and they lead rehearsals.” The remaining band members are volunteers. But McPeak says Eastlake is particular about who they choose to jam for Jesus. “There’s kind of a high bar to get on the [music] team.”

Junior Seau opened the 15,000-square-foot sports bar in 1996. It closed in May 2012, following the former Charger’s suicide. McPeak says that Eastlake contacted Seau’s family when they learned they would be granted the use of the property. “We didn’t want them to read about it in the newspaper,” McPeak says. “Junior’s brother came to our first service.” Otherwise, Seau’s remains the property of the mall. “Their interest is in finding a long-term restaurant tenant. In the meantime, we’re there as long as they want us.”

— Dave Good

A project full of projects. “With our original guitarist Jerry Flack out of commission last year due to back surgery, and too many family obligations to ignore, I found myself with a new decision crossroad,” says Jim Ryan of the oft-reunited punk band Cardiac Kids. “Do I sit on the shelf and continue on with my life minus the music performance, recording, and creations that came from the resurrection of the Cardiac Kids? Or do I get off my ass and go forward with my music and creative flow of things to say and stuff to play?”

Choosing the latter resulted in the Jim Ryan Project, which so far has included Billy Rath (Johnny Thunders and the Heartbreakers, the Street Pirates) and Joey Pitter (the Waldos), though the lineup (continued on page 70)
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“This is a project full of projects. I have to adapt songs from the Cardiac Kidz catalog to allow different genre musicians to play comfortably onstage with me — an exciting challenge — and it ensures that I get the right mix of growth and experience on- or offstage with me.”

With only a handful of performances so far, Ryan is hard pressed to describe the new band’s sound. “As an artist, you don’t want to limit descriptions to a parameter of measurement, but I can report how my fans have described it. It’s a cross between the Ramones and the Monkees, with a twist of power pop, a thrust of Black Flag, and a hint of Bowie.”

Ryan also works as a graphic designer specializing in marketing and display art, as well as occasionally authoring books such as The Revelation Handbook: Surviving the Great Tribulation, published in 2005. However, “All roads seem to lead to punk,” he says, tracing his muse all the way back to when he caught the Clash at downtown’s Golden Hall in the early 1980s.

“This was a great show, I jumped out of the mosh pit and climbed up onto the stage and sang ‘I fought the Law’ with Joe Strummer! I only got to the second line when I had to jump back into the pit because the bouncers were on their way across the stage. By the time I reached outside the mosh circle, I found that my jacket was literally ripped to shreds.

Pure punk rock.”

— Jay Allen Sanford

An earnest mess. “I went crazy writing this and it all came out,” says Jesse Eisner. “Esse Jeisner” says all the stuff that is hard to think about and all the shit we don’t like to acknowledge.”

Shit like leaving an infant brother in a high chair while you hide in the living room and all the shit we don’t like to acknowledge.”

As “Esse Jeisner,” Eisner retakes his states in all directions. It’s a mess, but it’s an earnest mess with just enough love to survive.

At his best, Eisner occupies the hypnotic drones of low-fi shoegaze and breaks lyrical repetition to deliver thoughtful lyrics: “I’ll follow you into the woods and we’ll drown out our moms and dads.”

The show vacillates between on-the-nose Christianity and artful use of Jesus as metaphor for a loved one. It bounces between uncanny Cat Stevens covers and distorted noise that leads to inexplicable in-jokes and spoken-word poetry.

At his worst, Eisner tries to do too much with a simple show. He struggles with cutting out and trying to wrestle abstruse metaphors into submission. That’s not without a little irony, as the story behind Retakes the States is a Bildungsroman in musical guise, and great opportunities for growth don’t always come out of successes.

States’ biggest novelty (and strength) is that it fights through all its own weirdness and ends up being a regular tale from a regular guy.

— Ian Pike

Read these and other daily breaking music stories at SDReader.com/jam-session
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**Sunday, March 17**

**Monday, March 18**

**Wednesday, March 20**

**Thursday, March 21**

**Friday, March 22**

**Saturday, March 23**

**Sunday, March 24**

**Monday, March 25**

**Wednesday, March 27**

**Thursday, March 28**

**Friday, March 29**

**Saturday, March 30**

**Sunday, March 31**

**Monday, April 1**

**Wednesday, April 3**

**Thursday, April 4**

**Friday, April 5**

**Saturday, April 6**

**Sunday, April 7**
What kind of music would Mozart make if he were currently living on the beach in southern California? “The Swarmius-Hausmann Project is a new melding of two groups that have each been around for several years,” says Joe Waters of the seven-piece collaboration of the Swarmius Trio and the Hausmann String Quartet. “We merge classical music with rock, hip-hop, jazz, and world-music genres by creating music that’s easy to get into, with strong hooks and grooves, that also has additional levels with all sorts of things to discover, like musical references, juxtapositions, and palindromes.”

Though ostensibly rock and roll, Waters notes that performances demand classically trained players. “The music is extremely demanding, like extreme sports. The songs are composed, not improvised, and the musicians are reading music onstage or have their parts memorized. The electronic sounds are all created from scratch, a painstaking process that’s necessary in order to realize the unique vision of the band. There are elements of electronica, surf, dubstep, gypsy, video-game sounds, and thousands of other things.” Waters sums up their sound as “Moby gone over to a dark side, where Yoko Ono is the dungeon master and Brian Eno keeps score. We’re trying to make music that is classic, not classical.”

All seven members responded to our queries: Waters, Isaac Allen, Eric Chin, Angela Choong, Jeremiah Shaw, Todd Rewoldt, and Justin Dehart.

WHY'S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

Joe Waters: “Radiohead’s Kid A is an open, emotionally profound record that sounds unique and is very well crafted.”

Isaac Allen: “The Pixies’ Doolittle and Schubert’s last string quartet, D.887 in G major. I don’t know why, but I find aspects of both of these to be similar. Both offer wide ranges of expression, from minor to major, from tender to anguish.”

Jeremiah Shaw: “Sara Tavares, Balance. I love listening to music that’s so compelling that it doesn’t even matter if I can’t understand the lyrics.”

Todd Rewoldt: “NOFX, Punk in Drublic. Faster than the Ramones, and vocal harmony chops like Boyz II Men.”

Justin Dehart: “Michael Gordon’s Time, one of the most profound sonic experiences I’ve had while listening to a CD.”

DIRECT CONCERTS

WHERE DO YOU TAKE OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS?

Joe Waters: “The cactus garden in Balboa Park, which looks like the flora in Dr. Seuss books.”

Justin Dehart: “The desert.”

BRUSH WITH FAME?

Jeremiah Shaw: “I don’t regret the partying, I just wish I’d balanced out the work and play thing a little better.”

USELESS TRIVIA?

Jeremiah Shaw: “The last Olympic gold medal that was made purely from solid gold was [awarded in] 1912.”

OTHER BUCKET LIST ITEMS?

Eric Chin: “I played music at Robin Williams’s most recent wedding...he may be famous and successful, but, even though I’m Asian, I’m taller.”

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU EAT POTATO CHIPS?

Angela Choong: “Potato chips.”

Jeremiah Shaw: “Crunchy foods, like carrots, and Persian cucumbers.”

Angela Choong: “Start a concert series on Mars.”

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THE YOUNGER YOU?

Eric Chin: “Never having sex again.”

Jeremiah Shaw: “Win a Grammy.”

Justin Dehart: “The desert.”

WHO DO PEOPLE SAY YOU LOOK LIKE?

Eric Chin: “Jet Li, Jackie Chan, and Bruce Lee. Do we really all look that similar?”

WHERE DO YOU TAKE OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS?

Joe Waters: “I always eat with chopsticks.”

Eric Chin: “Always eat with chopsticks.”

Jeremiah Shaw: “I used to sell toilet paper for a living.”

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FEB 14-16
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701 Beach Club:
Tuesday, 9pm — PB-OKE Karaoke.
Wednesday, 9pm — Open Mic Open Jam.

98 Bottles:
Thursday, 8pm — Nathan Hubbard. $8-$10.
Saturday, 8pm — Steph Johnson and Friends. $12-$15.

AMSDConcerts:
Saturday, 7:45pm — Spider John Koerner. $20.

Analog:
Friday, 8pm — Gigamesh.

ArtLab:
Friday, 8pm — Still Ill and DJ Chuckie V.

Balboa Theatre:
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Suzanne Vega. $36-$46.

Bar Pink:
Thursday, 9pm — The Sure Fire Soul Ensemble.
Friday, 9pm — Pocket.
Saturday, 9pm — The MilkCrates.
Sunday, 7pm — Happy Endings.
Tuesday, 9pm — Adrian Demain’s Exoticatronica.
Wednesday, 9pm — DJ Katstar.

Belly Up:
Friday, 9pm — Tommy Castro and the Painkillers. $20-$22.
Saturday, 9pm — The Wailers. $22-$25.
Sunday, 3:30pm — Brad Steinwehe Big Band (matinee). $10.
Sunday, 7pm — The Highwayman. $13-$15.
Monday, 8pm — Dirty Dozen Brass Band. $14-$16.
Wednesday, 8pm — Hot Rain and Staoiu. $21-$37.

Belo:
Saturday, 10pm — Wale.

Bird Rock Coffee Roasters:
Saturday, 10am — Robin Henkel. Free.

Boar Cross’n:
Friday, 9pm — Club Musee.
Saturday — High Tide.

Bob Burton Center for the Performing Arts:
Sunday, 3pm — New York Polyphony. $10-$38.

Brick by Brick:
Friday, 7pm — Ronny North, Temporal Rif, Cabuclao. $10.
Wednesday, 7pm — Locked Out of Eden.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:
Thursday, 7pm, Friday, 7pm — 1st Marine Division Band. Free.
Sunday, 7pm — Keith Sweat. $35-$49.

Caribe Nightclub:
Saturday — Little Black Dress.

Cashbah:
Thursday, 8pm — Gayle Skidmore, Goldenboy, Leanna May.
Friday, 9pm — Gone Baby Gone, Subsurfer, Hargot.
Thursday, 8pm — Grant Rabbit and Hills Like Elephants. $10-$10.
Sunday — Big Freeida, Keith Sweat, DJ Claire. $14.
Monday — Sir Sly and Miner.

Free:
Tuesday — Oceanside Sound System, the Amalgamated, Unsteady. $6.

Ché Café:
Friday, 7pm — Entities, Big Bad Buffalo, Tona Grad. $7.
Saturday, 7pm — Creative Conspiracy, Some Kind of Nightmare, Denied Youth. $7.
Monday, 7pm — Merauder, Murder Death Kill, Brawl, Halftime. $12.
Tuesday, 7pm — Spoonboy. $7.

Copley Symphony Hall:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Gil Shaham Recital. $20-$85.
Friday, 8pm, Saturday, 9pm, Sunday, 2pm — Segerchazade. $20-$96.

Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Kyle Myers & the Full House Band. $5.

Coyote Bar & Grill:
Thursday, 6pm — Clay Colton.
Friday, 6pm — Friends & Enablers.
Saturday, 6pm — The Shell Blue Band.
Sunday, 5pm — Debra Galan.

Dirk’s Niteclub:
Friday, Saturday — Wild Turkey Honey and F55.

Dizzy’s:
Friday, 8pm — The Mike Garson Quartet. $10-$15.
Saturday, 8pm — Milan Zlatkovich & the JazzMakian Trio. $10-$15.

E Street Café:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Joseph Anglastrio Trio. Free.

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

El Dorado Cocktail Lounge:
Thursday — Psychemagik.
Friday, 9pm — Posse on Broadway.
Saturday — Boom Boom Saturday.

Eleven:
Sunday, 5pm — Tiny Frank, Kitty Plague, TNO.T.

Epicentre:
Thursday, 8pm — OF!. $15.
Friday, 7pm — Buffalo Picnic.
Saturday, 6pm — Nostalgia.
Wednesday, 6pm — Terror, H2O, Backtrack, Code Orange Kids.

Flying Elephant:
Sunday, 8pm — SengMoyo.
Saturday, 8pm — Straight Laced.
Tuesday — Open Mic.

Four Points by Sheraton:
Friday, 8pm — Braudsdale and Sol e Mar Samba School.

Good Guys Tavern:
Saturday — Privatized Air.

Griffin:
Thursday, 8pm — Andre Morani & Group Zahoomba. $10.
Friday, 8pm — Micah Brown, Katastro, Mergence. $10.
Saturday, 8pm — Get Back Loretta, Deadly Birds, Jackson Price.
Sunday, 7pm — Roxy

Moonslinger and Vignette. $7.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Oliver Trolley, Static Bloom, Noise Floor. $5.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — St. Lucia and Wildcat! Wildcat! $8-$10.

Handley Hotel and Resort:
Saturday, 7pm — Christopher Dale and Suds County. $10-$15.

Hill Street Cafe & Gallery:
Friday, 7pm — Alan Land.

House of Blues:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Emeli Sande. $18-$20.
Friday, 9pm — Bro Safari, Tixsworth, Torro Torro.
Wednesday — In Flames, Demon Hunter, All Shall Perish, Battlecross.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:
Thursday, 8pm — Cadillac Wreckers.

Jimmy Love’s:
Sunday, 8pm — David Patrone.
Tuesday, 8am — Unidentified Fusion Orangement. Free.

Jumping Turtle:
Friday, 7pm — Dive Bomber, King Legend, Ninja Love.

Kaffe Meister:
Friday, 6:30pm — Ben Owens. Free.

Lestat’s Coffee House:
Monday — Open Mic with Chad Taggart.

Loft:
Wednesday, 8pm — Joshua White & SPIRAL: the music of John Coltrane. $5-$15.

Luce Loft:
Friday — Portland Cello Project and Alialuish Choir.

Main Stage Bar at Valley View Casino:
Sunday — The Mighty Untouchables.

Manhattan Cocktail Lounge:
Friday, 9pm, Saturday, 9pm — Windy City. Free.

Molly Malone’s:
Friday, 9pm — Bender. Free.

THE HIGHWAYMAN

BY DAVE GOOD

“About six years ago, I had an epiphany of sorts.” Tony Suraci, aka the Highwayman, explains how he came to front such a complicated show. “For a long time I performed Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson, and Waylon Jennings songs,” he explains from Fallbrook. “And then one day, it just crystallized in my mind that I should put together a tribute act that honored these four.” And so he did just that, with a backup band and himself in the role of each. As a performance, it is seamless, impressive, considering how different each singer is and how close to each one Suraci can get. No — he nails each of them. ‘There’s actually a fifth voice in the Highwayman Show. Mere Haggard sings with Willie on the song ‘Poncho and Lefty,’ and, yes, I do Haggard’s voice on that one, too.’ How, exactly, does one train for such an endeavor? ‘I have been mimicking my whole life.’

In their time, which was roughly from 1985 to 1995, the Highwaymen were a so-called outlaw-country supergroup that consisted of Jennings, Nelson, Kristofferson, and Cash. But outlaw country dates back to the 1950s, say some, and may have started with Elvis. Suraci, who resembles none of the five (other than vocally), claims Willie Nelson as his personal favorite. He writes about how some songs have a performance burn factor, that he’s gotten tired of doing certain Bad Company tunes in years past. “But, Willie Nelson’s ‘Angel Flyin’ Too Close to the Ground…I still love it every time.” Suraci writes that he’s been woodshedding on some new Johnny Cash material. ‘For the first time, the public will hear me sing ‘Man in Black,’ ‘I’ve Been Everywhere,’ and ‘City of New Orleans.’ This show at the Belly Up,” he claims, ’will be the highlight of a lot of hard work and dedication to the outlaw-country movement.”

Lee Koch of The Voice also performs.

THE HIGHWAYMAN: Belly Up, Sunday, February 10, doors 6:30 p.m. 858-481-8140. $13 advance/$15 day of show

Find more Of Note columns online at SDReader.com/note
Tribe.

Stage Rock Bar & Grill:

Tuesday, 7pm — The Tubes and the Scott West Band.
Friday, 7pm — Bobby Rock’s Purple Planet.

Riffs Acoustic Music:

Tuesday, 10am — Jill Nooren.

Ruby Room:

Thursday — Mega Ran and the Megas.
Friday — Psychothermia CD release party.
Saturday — Ras Kass, Cicum Tomorrow, DJ Billie Knight.
Sunday, 8pm — Podunk Nowhere, Modern Heist, Autumn Electric.

Sevilla:

Sunday, 4pm — Folk Wars: Irish meets Spanish.

Shakedown Bar:

Friday — Satya Sena.
Saturday — Cholos On Acid, Nuclear Tomorrow, Normandie.
Tuesday — Whenairturnstowater, Cash Crop, Race Against Space.
Wednesday — The Living Deadbeats.

Smoky’s Lake Wohlford Cafe:

Saturday, 8pm — The Drinking Cowboy Band.

Soda Bar:

Thursday — Holly Williams.
Friday, 6pm — What Made Milwaukee Famous.
Soma:

Sunday, 6pm — The Toasters.

Space 4 Art:

Wednesday, 8pm — The Larry Ochs/Don Robinson Duo.

Sprechels Theatre:

Tuesday, 8pm — Ed Sheeran.

Stage Rock Bar & Grill:

Thursday, 10:30pm — Bass Tribe.

UPCOMING SHOWS

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-483-7841.
February 14 — Rock Out Karaoke.
February 19 — PB-OKE Karaoke.

February 14, 14 February 14, 14 February 14 — Jazz Valentine.
February 15 — The Peripherals and Julia May & The Penguins.
February 17 — Brandon Primus.

AMSDconcerts: 4650 Mansfield St., Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.
February 15 — Ellis Paul.
February 16 — John Gorka.
February 17 — Guy Davis.

Bar Pink: 3829 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194.
February 14 — I Blow, Daeta, the Fresh Yard, Premiere Fits.
February 15 — Nathan James Trio.

February 16 — Neon Beat.
February 17 — Happy Endings.
February 18 — The Husky Boy All-Stars.
February 19 — Adrian Demain’s Exoticatoron.

Belly Up: 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.
February 14 — The Hives.
February 15 — Ra Ra Rast.
February 16 — Steve Poltz’s Annual 50th B-Day Party.
February 19 — Reform.

Boar Cross’n: 390 Grand Ave., Carlsbad, 760-729-2899.
February 14 — Taken By Canadians and Goodnight Ravenswood.
February 15 — Club Musae.
February 16 — Hi Roots.

February 14 — Soulfly, Incite, Lody Kong.
February 15 — T. Irie Dread, the Amalgamated, Soul Ablaze.
February 16 — Madman and Ratz.
February 17 — Cockney Rejects and Youth Brigade.
February 19 — Velvet Acid Christ, the Twilight Garden, Squirelly Arts.

February 14 — Wallpaper and Con Bro Chill.
February 15 — Transfer, Nervous Wrecks, Roy King.
February 16 — Om and Sir Richard Bishop.
February 17 — Old Tiger, Sundrop Electric, Bart Mendoza & True Stories.
February 18 — Graveyard.
February 19 — Night Beds and John Meeks.

Ché Cafe: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-2311.
February 15 — Ed Tucker Ghost and Button Willow Locomotive.

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Lonerism
Tame Impala
By Robert Duffy
Lonerism is the second outing for the brain-child of Perth’s Kevin Parker, for it is he who composes, produces, sings, and plays (almost) everything on Tame Impala records. He’s even responsible for the sleeve photography.

Kicking off and fading in with a mantra chant (“Be Above It”), the tunes are set with space-rock electronics before heading into an orbit of flanged guitars and swirling, multilayered vocals. Think Syd-era Floyd, White album Beatles, 13th Floor Elevators.

However, lead single “Elephant” stoms along with a fuzz-tone bass and a T. Rex groove and sounds slightly out of sync with the rest of the collection.

Usually, when an artist’s influences are rooted in the ‘60s, they look and sound past their sell-by date. Parker & Co. find something fresh to add to the psychedelic smorgasbord. “Feels Like We Only Go Backwards,” with its beautiful summer melody and organ, could be their potential hit 45. “Sun’s Coming Up” brings us to the end of the trip. It’s an awkward ending to the album, flying off the stage. Trash Talk’s most recent album, 179, brought several new additions to the short-lived, fast-paced songs on their set list. “Awake,” one of the band’s most intense and popular songs, was two minutes of instrumental havoc. For one of the songs, lead singer Lee Spielman accompanied fans above the stage as he hoisted himself onto the rafters, while guitarist Garrett Stevenson climbed onto a speaker.

The eccentric frontman made positive remarks about the crowd and location. When he asked if anyone came from Mexico for the show, he was handed an ID as proof. Crossing borders seems to be the extent people will go for a Trash Talk show.

Concert: Trash Talk
Date: December 21
Venue: Epicentre
Seats: General

Up to $100 for your concert review, $25 for your CD review. Submit at SDReader.com/critic
**San Diego**

**Achiote Restaurant:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 beer, $3.99 margaritas.

**Balloona Park**

**The Prado:** Tuesday-Saturday, 4-8pm: $4.50 well & house wine; $3.45 domestics & Mexican pints; $4 house sauce, hot dogs, tacos. **Aldine**

**Donato’s Italian Restaurant:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints; $4 house wine.

**College Area**

**Casa Machado:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 and $3.50 drafts; $3.50 wells, margaritas. Free chips & salsa.

**Clairemont**

**Blarney Stone Pub:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $5 off all drinks.

**Coronado**

**Village Pizzeria:** Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3.50 drafts, $5 wine by the glass. 2 off artichoke hearts and mozzarella sticks.

**Del Mar**

**Brigantine:** Daily, 4-6pm: $4 Brüg beer, $4.75 margarita, $5.50 chardonnay, $1 off featured wine. Discounted fish tacos.

**Mission Valley**

**Beach House:** Daily, 4-7pm: $2.95 draft domestic beers, $3.45 wells, $3.95 bloody mary & house wine, $4.95 well martini, $5.95 cosmopolitan, mojito, margarita, bloody mai tai.

**Cardiff**

**Bullpen Pub & Grill:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm, 10pm-2am: $1 off draft beer, $3 off pitcher, $2 off wine.

**Eastlake**

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

**Golden Hill**

**Main Tap Tavern:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off 6oz. pints, $2 off pitchers, $3.50 wells.

**Encinitas**

**Bullpen Pub & Grill:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm, 10pm-2am: $1 off draft beer, $3 off pitcher, $2 off wine.

**Escondido**

**Brigantine:** Monday, 11:30am-close: $6 vodka cosmos, merlot, chardonnay. Saturday, 11:30am-7pm: $6 vodka cosmo, merlot, chardonnay. Sunday, 3-7pm: $6 vodka cosmo, merlot, chardonnay.

**Harbor Island**

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

**C-Level:** Monday-Friday, 3-30:53pm: $4 brews, $5 specialty drinks.

**Del Mar**

**Brigantine:** Daily, 4-6pm: $4.65 martini, $4.99 pitcher, $4 imported, $12 pitcher, $1/2 off sushi rolls (no sushi on Monday).

**Equestrian**

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

**Golden Hill**

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**Fallbrook**

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

**C-Level:** Monday-Friday, 3-30:53pm: $4 brews, $5 specialty drinks.

**Golden Hill**

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

**Grantville**

**Tio Leos:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints; $4 house margaritas, wells; $3 quesadillas, hot dogs, tacos.

**Habana Island**

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

**La Jolla**

**Aloha Sushi Hawaiian Grille:** Daily, 4-6:30pm: $2.50 small sake, $4

**Mission Valley**

**Sons of Italy:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints; $4 house wine.

**College Area**

**Casa Machado:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 and $3.50 drafts; $3.50 wells, margaritas. Free chips & salsa.

**Coronado**

**Village Pizzeria:** Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3.50 drafts, $5 wine by the glass. 2 off artichoke hearts and mozzarella sticks.

**Del Mar**

**Brigantine:** Daily, 4-6pm: $4 Brüg beer, $4.75 margarita, $5.50 chardonnay, $1 off featured wine. Discounted fish tacos.

**Downtown San Diego**

**House of Blues:** Daily, 4-7pm: $2 domestic drafts, $3 wines, $3 wells, $4 martinis. Killer happy hour menu.

**Patricks Gaslamp Pub:** Daily, 10am-8pm, 11pm-close: domestics from $2.50, wells from $3.25.

**The Stage Rock Bar & Grill:** Daily, 5-7pm: $1 off all wells, beer, wine.

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

**East Village**

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

**Jake Southworth:** 702 Fifth Ave., 619-236-1616

**Set ’Em Up, Joe!**

**Aldine**

**Donato’s Italian Restaurant:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints; $4 house wine.

**College Area**

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**East Village**

**Monkey Paw:** Daily, 5-8pm: $1 off local draughts and drinks.
large sake, $1.95 select hand rolls, $3 cucumber roll, $3.50 California, spicy tuna, veggie roll.

La Jolla Brew House: Friday-Saturday, 11pm-1am: $2 Off Pints; $3 Well & Wines; Buy Any Pizza Get One Free.

Su Casa: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: 1/2 Off well & appetizers (excludes seafood & guacamole).

LA MESA

Anthony’s Fish Grotto: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: $3 draft, Anthony’s white; $4 wells, $5 calls. $2.75 fish tacos, $3 lettuce wraps, $4.50 tostado.

LITTLE ITALY

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

MIDWAY DISTRICT

Desi’s Bar and Grill: Monday-Friday, 2-7pm: $3 wells, domestic beers. 11pm-midnight: $3 drafts.

MISSION VALLEY

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

MISSION BEACH

Sandbar Sports Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 wells, domestic bottles/drafts, $4 premium & import bottles/drafts. $3.50 mahi taco, dis-counted nachos, calamari.

MISSION HILLS

The Aero Club: Daily, 2pm-2am: $5.00 beer and wells.

Starlite: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $3 drafts, $1 off other. Sunday, all night: $5 salads. $15 wine bottles.

Ocean Beach

Mother’s Saloon: Monday, 3-7pm: $1 off drafts, 1/2-off appetizers. 7pm-close: $3 large beer, $3.50 house wine.

Tuesday, 3-7pm: $1 off drafts, 1/2-off appetizers. 7pm-close: $3 Fireball shots, $1.50 tacos. 11pm-close: $2.75 well; $1 off drafts. Thursday, 9pm-close: $3 you-call-its. $1.50 sliders. 11pm-close: $2.75 well; $1 off drafts. Saturday, 11pm-close: $2.75 well; $1 off drafts.

Oceanside

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

Old Town

Old Town Mexican Café: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm, 11pm-close: Drink & beer specials. $2 Taco Tuesday (chicken, beef, fish). $2.50 margaritas, Teque, toquilla.

San Marcos

Cowshed Bar and Grill: Monday, Wednesday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $3 domestic. $3.50-4.50 wells, house wines.

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

Point Loma

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

Solare Ristorante Lounge: Tuesday-Saturday, 3-6:30pm: $5 Tapas, $3 Beers, $5 Select Wine, $6 Select Cocktails. Sunday, 7-4pm: $3 Tapas, $3 Beers, $5 Select Wine, $6 Select Cocktails.

Poway

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

Ramona

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

Rancho Bernardo

Kelly’s Public House: Monday-Thursday, 3-7pm: $2 domestic appetizers, $3.50 wells, house wines.

Rancho Penasquitos

Deli Stop Sports Pub: Daily, 4-7pm: $1 off all beer, $3 Corona or Bud Lite, $3.50-$4 wells.

San Diego BBQ: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2 domestic, $3.50 wells, house wines.

Udell’s Chicagoan: Daily, $3.50-4.50 beers, $3 24oz domestic bottles/drafts, $3 24oz Rolling Rock and PBR.

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

Sorrento Valley

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

South Park

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

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

Whistle Stop Bar: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 off all cocktails, pints. Saturday-Sunday, 2-8pm: $1 off all cocktails, pints.

Spring Valley

Fannie’s Nightclub: Daily, 4-6pm: $5 off all drinks.

Tierrasanta

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

UCSD

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

University City

Apollonia Greek Bistro: Daily, 11am-7pm: $3 ouzo aperitif, $2 bottled beers, $3 wine by the glass.

Donovan’s Steak and Chop House: Monday-Friday, 7-8pm: $8 martini (complimentary steak sand-wiches and burritos 4-6pm).

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

University Heights

Baboo’s Bar and Grille: Daily, 4:30-6:30pm: $3.95 wells, drafts, wine.

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

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

Valley Center

Casa Revisual Mexican & Seafood Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: $2 domestic. $3 imports, well cocktails.

Santee

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

Scripps Ranch

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

Serra Mesa

Channel 1 Sports Bar and Grill: Sunday, 2-5pm: 50% off all drinks & menu items (excludes holiday/concert nights).

Solana Beach

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

La Jolla Brew House: Friday-Saturday, 11pm-1am: $2 Off Pints; $3 Well & Wines; Buy Any Pizza Get One Free.

Su Casa: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: 1/2 Off well & appetizers (excludes seafood & guacamole).
Into temptation

If your brother is your “keeper,” how does it feel to be kept?

They are three African-American males at San Pere, Louisiana, near the Bayou. Ogun Henri Size, a mechanic, prides himself for being a responsible adult. Free-spirited younger brother Oshoosi’s back from two years in prison. Now on parole, he’s trying to decide what’s next. Sly Elegba’s also on parole, after two years in the same prison. He claims a bond with Oshoosi greater than any family relation. Ogun feels a threat to his lifelong connection.

Tarell Alvin McCraney’s The Brothers Size sets up a tug-of-war between Ogun and Elegba. The pattern’s familiar enough: the orderly Ogun and the trickster Elegba suggest good and evil angels pulling Oshoosi in different directions.

But the playwright layers in multiple dimensions, and facile labels don’t apply. The names come from Yoruban deities, to whom people pray for specific wants and needs. Oshoosi’s the hunter-wanderer, moving alone, often in the struggle to survive (in some ways his cunning intelligence resembles Homer’s Odysseus). Elegba stands at life’s crossroads. He’s a teacher, often with tough love, since he leads his subjects into temptation. The only way they can survive is to mature.

McCraney sets Brothers in the “distant present” — at once here and now, and in a myth-scape outside of time, or before it began. Although they live in San Pere, the trio reenacts a cosmic event pulling Oshoosi in different directions.

But the playwright uses a similar technique on a larger scale with In the Red and Brown Water (the first of his Brother/Sister trilogy of plays; Brothers Size is second, and Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet, third). He also creates the then/now impression by having the actors read the stage directions for their characters.

Boundaries blur in the story itself. How far should responsibility for someone else extend? If your brother is your “keeper,” how does it feel to be kept?

Poor Ogun. In Red and Brown Water, he was deeply in love with Oya, a miraculous athlete. But she found him too ordinary. She fell so hard for Shango, the dashing warrior-womanizer, she broke two hearts: hers and Ogun’s. Possibly as a result, he has pushed his care for his brother to such an extreme that he imprisoned Oshoosi long before the judge banged his gavel.

Elegba wants to set Oshoosi free, but to do what? In the Old Globe production, Antwayn Hopper makes Elegba a near-impossible read — beautifully. In mythical terms, he’s chaos where Ogun is order. But in human terms, Elegba talks the talk about a spiritual bond, but does he mean to walk it? Does he just want to be Oshoosi’s lover or, as his devilish grin suggests, does he have a more sinister intent? Or, deeper down, is he an agent of Chaos Theory, which finds order inside randomness?

Joshua Elijah Reese gives Ogun an iron will, admirable at first, but maybe too much so. Ogun is duty, even to the point of personal sacrifice. He’s like a surveyor, a marker of borders. But as the story proceeds, he too has caged himself.

Okieriete Onaodowan has a tricky task as Oshoosi. Where Ogun is rooted, Oshoosi begins unformed, floating, yet to find his true self. Though he can be “on the cusp of crazy,” he wants to believe that “life can be sweet still.” Performing with an impressive lightness, Onaodowan treads a narrow ridge: crazy on one side; sweet, maybe, on the other. Which way he’ll tilt remains in doubt.

In the Red and Brown Water, at UCSD last November, is an epic dream-fable. The Brothers Size is a more chamber piece. The playwright once again shows a remarkable gift for language, sudden bursts of theatricality, and dramatic intensity. But in Brothers, the visual symbolism — bare stage, flat stones in the circle of sand marking inside and “outside” — feels a bit tacked on. And the play has both flashes of brilliance and lulls, when the various elements don’t quite coordinate. The overall effect is mixed: a survey of brotherhood’s many sides; and, during the lulls, an oddly cerebral quality.

The actors do excellent work throughout. As does the indefatigable Jonathan Melville Pratt. Along with a nonstop preshow on congas and other drums, he accompanies the 90-minute, intermissionless piece with Cuban-Caribbean percussions.

Program notes suggest that Brothers is more
a different drummer and Elegba's is an improvisational drummer, Ogun's beat is rock formation. If each character is a light it more; the speech patterns of words. People like the ur-My Fair Lady will be surprised. The plot, especially the ending (which the director nicely complicates) does not conform up the musical. Critics Pick. OLD GLOBE THEATRE 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK, 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUES- DAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 24.

San Diego Repertory Theatre stages Clybourne Park through February 10.

San Diego, I Love You Circle City dot dot present a "site-specific walking adventure play for the Romantic in us all," written by Katherine Harroff and Sonya Rowley. JAKE’S ON 6TH — A WINE BAR, 3755 SIXTH AVE., HILLCREST. 619-291-9463. 1PM, 1:30PM, 2PM, 2:30PM, 3PM, 3:30PM, 4PM, 4:30PM, 5PM, 5:30PM, 6PM, 6:30PM, 7PM, 9PM. $30, $25, $20. (JK) 30th Anniversary Season. A smart, abraisively funny play that — under Forbush. Her portrayal is so stiff and superficial you wonder what the world why the character. Ray Linoros chronique vitalizes the randy Seabees. But the technical work is a mix. And when someone sings upstage, they cast shadows on the sketch of Bal H’a painted on a drop. Dodge’s effort (and the great musical) merits a recommendation. Worth a try. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 SOUTHWAY WAY, SAN DIEGO. 619-544-1000. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 7:30PM FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 17.

The Trip to Bountiful New Village Arts presents Horton Foote’s drama about “finding your way home,” which is what Carrie Watts wants to do before she dies. Kristin Chenoweth directs. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-5245. 3PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 9.

about rhythms than, say, its mythical dimension. Pratt’s work underlines this notion, but the production could highlight it more: the speech patterns in particular, since they at times verge on mere declamation. If each character is a drummer, Ogun’s beat is rock steady, a regular pulse gradually clogged by high blood pressure. Elégba is an improvisational jazzzy beatboxer. He delights in turning a melody on its ear. Both want to impose their rhythm onto Oshosoi. Caught in between, he wants to march to a different drummer and must discover just who that drummer is.
Back in 1989, indie film director Steven Soderbergh broke onto the scene with his first film, Sex, Lies, and Videotape, a seamy, sticky drama about sex, lies, and videotape. Here in 2013, he is giving us what he says will be his last film: a seamy, sticky drama about sex, lies, and digital images. Also, psych meds, because the modern anxiety over how a pill can or cannot change a persona is ripe for exploitation.

Soderbergh does a fine job of intertwining the smooth, clinical world of Dr. Jonathan Banks (Jude Law) with the jagged, messy life of depressed young wife Emily Taylor (Rooney Mara). And for a while, he does an even better job of keeping the viewer uncertain about who, if anybody, should be rooted for. Some dodgy casting decisions — Law never manages real desperation — do little to get in the way of the story's gleefully nasty mechanics.

— Matthew Lickona

AFTERIMAGE: CLOUD ATLAS

Oh, boy, this is a sad story. Not the story in the movie — that was meant to be hopeful and even happy in places. No, I’m talking about the story of the movie.

So, the Chinese distributor for Cloud Atlas decided to cut about 40 minutes from the version of the film released in that country on January 31. (Some reports say 30, some 40.) On the one hand, no big surprise: they invested $10 million in what turned out to be the most expensive indie film ever made, they wanted a chance to make their money back, and they knew that some things just weren’t going to fly with the Chinese authorities.

On the other hand, 40 minutes is a lot of cutting, even for a film that was 172 minutes to start with. And the distributor didn’t bother to run the cuts past the directors and producers but still expected them to come to China and stump for the finished product. Which they did. Ouch. Small wonder that codirector Lana Wachowski said of the situation, “It sucks, really.”

Why did Wachowski go to China? Because of the money. After a dismal domestic run, the film has clawed its way to $85 million worldwide, but with a reported production budget of $100 million (and that’s before marketing), it’s still a commercial failure with a lot of disappointed investors behind it.

Yeah, yeah, it’s a tough business. Artists have to make compromises with business realities. But this time, there’s a special twist to the economic knife, and not just because the directors invested some of their own money in the film. Again and again over the course of its six storylines, Cloud Atlas asserts the absolute autonomy of the individual against an oppressive system or culture. That’s the point of the film. And here we are, with the autonomy of the individual (in this case, the directors) being compromised by an oppressive system or culture.
Ouch again.

Oh, it gets better (worse). Lana Wachowski is transgressed and says she made the film because she is “interested in engaging with the world, hopefully in a way that makes some people not as afraid of people like me or view people like me as these others who aren’t as human as them or different than them.” She compares herself to the film’s android, Sonmi, who dares to live and love as a human.

“Soon, there are people who will spit on me, want to lynche me, want to crucify me,” she says. Among the cut scenes! You guessed it: Sonni’s android-on-human sex scene. Sure, you can make a case for the film surviving such a cut, but given that sexual- ity is at the very heart of Wachowskis’ perceived otherness, the removal of that scene has to be a bit of a blow for a director who identifies with the character.

On top of that: Lana Wachowski is married to a woman. Also cut from the film: the gay love scenes between people not as afraid of people like me as different than them. “She compares people not as afraid of people like me as the Animal Cracker Conspiracy, a contemporary hybrid puppet company. Performed with toy theatre, tablecloth puppets, and film, the story slowly unfolds and draws you into an Orwellian, neo- Victorian world. Accompanying is a live quadraphonic sound mix by composer Margaret Noble. Art/Tidal post-screening conversation with the artists. Thursday, February 7, 8:00pm Canela Canela (Cinnamon) tells the story of a girl, her grandmother, and their love of cooking. 7pm food; 8pm movie; $10 movie only; $34 food + movie. Wednesday, February 27, 7:00pm MIRACOLLE COLLEGE SAN ELIO

CAMPUS

3333 Manchester Ave., Cardiff
760-944-4449

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Even the Rain (También la lluvia) “Idealistic filmmaker Sebastian (Gael Garcia Bernal) and his cynical producer Costa (Luis Tosar) arrive in Bolivia to make a revisionist film about Christopher Columbus’ conquest of the Americas” in Icardo Bollaín’s 2010 film, screening in room 204. In Spanish with English subtitles. Friday, February 22, 1:00pm

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART LA JOLLA

700 Prospect St., La Jolla
858-454-3541

Spitfire! A Mike Festival of Animation The festival’s anniversary celebration features appearances by Disney Pixar and Simpsons celebrity guests as well as an abundance of short, award-winning and award-nominated animations from the past 30-year history. Animator David Silverman, of Simpsons fame, will be present for Q & A discussion on opening weekend. Runs through March 22. 8:16-10:07:07 Saturday, February 9, 7:00pm; Saturday, February 9, 9:15pm; Sunday, February 10, 5:00pm; Sunday, February 10, 7:00pm

MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park 619-238-7559

Adult Puppet Cabaret Film Festival Animal Cracker Conspiracy’s first event of 2013 features Heather Henson’s Handmade Puppet Dreams Vol IV, a touring festival of independent artist films exploring their handmade craft specifically for the camera. Sam Koji Hale will also present his short film, Yenaying. Event also includes puppet making, audience interaction, and adult refreshments. 619-887-1451. Friday, February 22, 7:00pm

READING TOWN SQUARE 4665 Clairemont Dr., Clairemont 800-328-3264

Jewish Film Festival The 11-day festival features 47 films, including comedy, drama, documentary, music, war and peace, full length and shorts, and more. Popular festival draws over 16,000 patrons. Opening night Under African Skiesdocumentary Paul Simon’s emotional return to South Africa. It reveals the back story of Graceland (the album), breaking the UN boycott of South Africa, political backlash, and many stories from the tour. Run through February 17. 8:38- 343:100. Thursday, February 7, 7:00pm

FilmFlix: Dorfman Deb Dorfman is a young lady living out her dreams — sort of Nobby, incidentally compliant, and prone to no more than a little magical thinking Deb gets a chance to leave her parents’ home in the San Fernando valley—where she cares for her ailing, widower father, played by Elliot Gould— to spend a week to leave her parents’ home in the San Fernando valley—where she cares for her ailing, widower father, played by Elliot Gould— to spend a week

FILM FESTIVALS COLEY SYMPHONY HALL 750 B St., Downtown San Diego 619-235-0804

The Son of the Sheik Fox Theatre Film Series continues with organization Russ Feingold for this 1926 film starring Rudolph Valentino and Vilma Banky. “Ahmed, son of Dianna and Sheikh Ahmed Ben Hassan, falls in love with Yasmin, a dancing girl who fronts her father’s gang of mountebanks. Yasmin and Ahmed begin to meet secretly until one night her father and the Animal Cracker Conspiracy’s first event of 2013 — Wednesday, February 16, 8:00pm

The Animal Cracker Conspiracy San Diego artists Roumier and Ian Ginn are the Animal Cracker Conspiracy, a contemporary puppet company. Performed with toy theatre, tablecloth puppets, and film, the story slowly unfolds and draws you into an Orwellian, neo-Victorian world. Accompanying is a live quadraphonic sound mix by composer Margaret Noble. Art/Tidal post-screening conversation with the artists. Thursday, February 7, 8:00pm Canela Canela (Cinnamon) tells the story of a girl, her grandmother, and their love of cooking. 7pm food; 8pm movie; $10 movie only; $34 food + movie. Wednesday, February 27, 7:00pm MIRACOLLE COLLEGE SAN ELIO

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BULLET TO THE HEAD — A bullet rip through the heart of two studio logos, announcing the return of Walter Hill to the genre that brought him fame, the action comedy. Sylvester Stallone and Sung Kang perform a nifty reversal on the characters Nick Nolte and Edward Burns in Hill’s latest. With a Kevlar toupee and tanned tusk that resembles wax burbling in a double-boiler, Sly hasn’t had a role this meaty in decades; his “dead inside” narration of the two studio logos, “real” and “false,” as it were, and “Up in the Block, Down in the Guvnor,” still holds up. And Ryan Gosling is handsome, and Emma Stone is old-fashioned pretty. And Los Angeles is missing — this is a city that tells you this tale of a good cop in a crooked town who tries to clean up things by forgetting about the law and treating American gangsters like an enemy army is a caserole made from fried leftovers. Blend Up The Untouchables, Dick Tracy, and Mulholland Drive, drenched in the moral insignificance, sparked with a sense of style, comic, and service. With Josh Brolin, Nick Nolte, Robert Patrick. 2013. — M.L.

HANSEL & GRETEL: WITCH HUNTERS — The only honest one in this cast of fractured fairy tale is Emma Jansson. When asked why she took the role of the witch, the actress acknowledged that she had a mortgage to pay off. Director Tommy Wirkola, who knew full well how to wrangle Nazi-zombies in Dead Snow, can’t muster more than the background atmospherics and practical effects needed to give this tale of a stage on which to lay out. Jeremy Renner and Gemma Arterton star as the fabled Faun-toticked Twins (He’s 42, she’s 27). Their impoverished upbringing at the hands of of the Seven Deadly Sins — snare, candy-coated walls, not lead paint chips. Instead of waging war against diabetes, the pair mature and confront anything that comes flosses on a broomstick. It’s more grim than Grimm; the stitch of Comic-Con filled the theater the moment the image hit the screens. More of the same scene (Harp's and a whole lot of breasts) as comes equipped with its own built-in fan fad (Tommy Mann) who follows our heroes around with scrapbook in tow. Will Ferrell and Channing Tatum, a couple chumming it up for the film’s adventurous comedic touches. (Pictures of missing children are slapped onto the funny books.) If not to enjoy the year while the studios wasted for Renner’s star to rise. The best can that be said is menace Arterton’s performance is the cornerstone of this film and she can take a good punch. 2013. — S.M.

JACK REACHER — “A Tom Cruise Production.” — it’s the first thing you see on the screen, and it’s all there to know. Here, he plays Jack Reacher, an invincible, invincible, invincible superstar with a machine gun, who tries to investigate a rogue sniper’s shooting spree. (The opening scene, in which a rife scope follows first one pedestrian and then another and another and another and another, is to be taken as a metaphor, as is, as the dialogue—free investigation that follows. Then suddenly, we’re deep in TV procedural territory.) Reacher teams up with the sniper’s lawyer (Rosamund Pike) who we’re told is a super-cruiser-type to beat her dad the death penalty, but whose real job is to have boobs and listen, open-mouthed with both desire and amazement, as our hero tells her what’s what. The only parts that aren’t formula are just weird — most notably, a Stooges-style attempt on Reacher’s life by a couple of clumsy thugs. You might find some joy in Robert Daval as a dumpy gun range owner, or in Cruise’s gradual demolition of a comic’s muscle as he gets his ‘70s AM show in the chase scene. And there are a couple of jokes. But not much else. 2012. — M.L.

THE LAST STAND — Weary screen warrior Arnold Schwarzenegger returns to Hol-lywood with a film about a couple of old and left for an Arizona border town. But this being Arnold, trouble finds him. And this being Arizona, it’s Mexican trouble — “A Tom Cruise Production.” — it’s the first thing you see on the screen, and it’s all there to know. Here, he plays Jack Reacher, an invincible, invincible, invincible superstar with a machine gun, who tries to investigate a rogue sniper’s shooting spree. (The opening scene, in which a rife scope follows first one pedestrian and then another and another and another and another, is to be taken as a metaphor, as is, as the dialogue—free investigation that follows. Then suddenly, we’re deep in TV procedural territory.) Reacher teams up with the sniper’s lawyer (Rosamund Pike) who we’re told is a super-cruiser-type to beat her dad the death penalty, but whose real job is to have boobs and listen, open-mouthed with both desire and amazement, as our hero tells her what’s what. The only parts that aren’t formula are just weird — most notably, a Stooges-style attempt on Reacher’s life by a couple of clumsy thugs. You might find some joy in Robert Daval as a dumpy gun range owner, or in Cruise’s gradual demolition of a comic’s muscle as he gets his ‘70s AM show in the chase scene. And there are a couple of jokes. But not much else. 2012. — M.L.

THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY — More of the same from director Peter Jackson, here pulling a proper Lucas and giving us the first installment of a prequel trilogy to his earlier three-part, The Lord of the Rings. (Then, he was adapting three books, now, he’s stretching just one, packing a lot of material into a rather short movie. And Ryan Gosling is handsome, and Emma Stone is old-fashioned pretty. And Los Angeles is missing — this is a city that tells you this tale of a good cop in a crooked town who tries to clean up things by forgetting about the law and treating American gangsters like an enemy army is a caserole made from fried leftovers. Blend Up The Untouchables, Dick Tracy, and Mulholland Drive, drenched in the moral insignificance, sparked with a sense of style, comic, and service. With Josh Brolin, Nick Nolte, Robert Patrick. 2013. — 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 past (the stake of a loaf of bread). But the reformed man is pursued by Javert (Russell Crowe), a lawman who does not believe in 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 Sasha Baron Cohen and Helena Bonham Carter to steal the show as a couple of natty, bawdy, scallywags. (The set is set in France, but the culture it portrays smells English, except there are more nuns about.) They have the show stolen from them by Eddie Red- mayne’s Marius, a young nobleman with a head full of populist ideals 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 prolonged closeups come solo time. And solo time comes often. With Anne Hathaway, Amanda Seyfried. 2012. — M.L.

LOVER (Amour) — So far, Michael Haneke has specialized in focusing his cinematic eye on texts of mortality that arise during life’s deepest unsettling transgressions. A film about losing one’s spouse to Alzheimer’s seemed to be a logical progression. Selecting French acting legends Jean-Louis Trintignant and Emmanuelle Riva to star as the 80-something couple makes all the more efficacious a contrast to what Francois Truffaut once called, “A Certain Tendency of the French Cinema.” Don’t expect a sentimental send-off: when it comes to Riva, the famously cognizant Trintignant does it his way, and that includes keeping his wife’s pride intact by prohibiting their daughter (Isabelle Huppert) from seeing mom in a state of decay. The castmembers aren’t the only ones to add color to the proceedings. Kudos to the director and cinematographer Darius Khondji for not adhering to form by casting sorrowful shades of gray as far as the eye can see. Haneke is as cold and unsympa- thetic as they get, a personality trait that in this case helps to make the subject matter go down easier. It’s a tough film, but some- times one has to work a little for its art. Recommended on occasion. 2012. — S.M.

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Career Education

San Diego Reader/February 7, 2013  95
Police investigators picked up 22 shell casings from the street. Since the investigation began, it’s been learned that the victim’s father was also a victim of assassination in Durango.

T.B. BEAUADE, JAN. 28

BAJA
Prep-school student assassinated

Victim followed home from school by car with California plates

A student attending a private prep school in Ensenada was murdered — reportedly shot at least ten times — on the afternoon of January 24.

The recent arrival from Durango, Mexico, was reportedly lured from his family’s house by a quartet of youthful assassins who were in a blue Kia automobile bearing California license plates.

A witness reported that the shooting occurred at around 1 o’clock, after the victim had gone outside to talk with the group of youths who had followed him to his house from school. The witness reported that the youths had called to him by name.

The group escaped in the car, speeding toward the center of Ensenada. The vehicle was later found abandoned on Calle Guadalupe, near Teatro Universitario and the Caliente casino. A subsequent report stated that two of the suspects were captured by Ensenada police.

L A J O L L A
Traffic a bear to see Tiger

Drivers clog streets for hours for a chance to see Woods win Torrey Pines’ Farmers tournament

The announcement of free entry to watch the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament at Torrey Pines on Monday morning, January 28, created a run on parking spaces at the Torrey Pines Gliderport. The parking area, situated along the northern edge of the golf course, is San Diego city property.

Heading north on the I-5 at 10 a.m., traffic began to back up a mile before the Genesee Avenue exit and then crept forward very slowly. The short distance of just a few miles from the off-ramp to the glider port — where available free parking had been advertised — took about an hour.

Finally reaching the lot entrance, officers were turning away most of the traffic at “Lot Full” signs. Convincing officers of the glider port or Black’s Beach as a destination, passage was permitted.

Later, at 1 p.m., traffic-control officers remained on the job, turning away still-arriving golf fans that hoped to park and see some of the event.

GARY CORNAGLIA, JAN. 28

C H U L A V I S T A
Indignation ripples through South Bay

Sweetwater board proposes changing meeting times to early afternoon

The official Sweetwater Union High School District calendar says the next board meeting will be held on January 28 at 6:00, the usual time board meetings are held. However, over the January 19–20 weekend, an enthusias-

continued on page 97
Then, on January 23, the Sweetwater Education Association put out a communiqué with a letter from member Helen Farias. The letter announced Brand’s intention to change the start time of the board meetings henceforth.

Farias responds: “This move is clearly intended to prevent district stakeholders from scrutinizing Board decisions, and will, in essence, silence students, parents, and community members. Not only will they be unable to personally speak to the board regarding school and student issues, teachers will not be able to represent [the Sweetwater Education Association] in large numbers regarding critical board actions.”

Finally, late Friday evening, January 25, the agenda for Monday’s board meeting was posted. Though the meeting will commence at the regular time, the agenda verifies that Brand has proposed changing the bylaws so that regular board meeting closed session will begin at 2:00, open session at 3:30, and “public communication will be held immediately following the open session or at 6:00, whichever comes first.”

Changing the time to earlier in the day (as the City of Chula Vista did last year) creates a host of problems: it changes the pool of candidates for elected seats; a person who has a full-time day job that requires his or her consistent presence would be excluded.

SUSAN LUZZARO, JAN. 26

Comments
VISEDON JAN. 26 @ 3:04 P.M.

Just when you think that maybe, just maybe, Brand is trying to do an honest job and be open in his dealings, he clears up any doubt. That is, doubt that he’s just hoping to run the district his way, on his timetable, with no scrutiny from the public. Sure, have the meetings in the afternoon and they will be almost sedate, sort of like meetings of a corporate board. No pickets with signs outside, few angry residents wanting to speak, and few there to witness the double-dealing.

CHULA VISTA
Parents and teachers get a win
Public outcry prevents Sweetwater board’s drastic meeting-time change
On Monday, January 28, concerned parents, teachers, and community members packed the Sweetwater Union High School District board meeting. One reason for the big draw was the district’s proposal to move evening board meetings to early afternoon.

Last week, it was learned that Sweetwater superintendent Ed Brand was going to propose changing the bylaws so that regular board meeting closed session would begin at 2:00 (instead of 5:00), open session at 3:30, and “public communication will be held immediately following the open session or at 6:00, whichever comes first.”

At Monday’s meeting, parents and teachers reminded the board that the early start time would preclude many working people from participating and that it would be undemocratic to hear public comments after decisions had been made.

The board succumbed to the public outcry and voted to cancel closed sessions one half hour earlier — at 4:30. Open session will begin at 6:00.

SUSAN LUZZARO, JAN. 29

GOLDEN HILL
From post office to fancy lofts
Signs of a neighborhood in flux as multistory loft residences added to lot
Major renovation is underway at 2692 C Street, the address that was previously home to the George Washington Station post office, which served Golden Hill from the ‘60s until it closed permanently in February 2011.

When it is complete, the new construction will include four single-family residences. The new apartments, called “Fancylofts,” will be approximately 1200 square feet each, with three bedrooms and two baths.

According to real estate website Zillow, the units will be available for occupation in mid to late February.

LEONAR GAVIARD, JAN. 29
Win Reader hat or t-shirt
10 winners a week!

Rules of the Game
1) Submit your completed puzzle to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online each week to SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.
3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!

Solutions to Last Week’s Puzzle:

Across
1. Indecuate at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1995
6. Emulates a llama
11. Underwear letters
14. Expression
15. Use hostess?
16. Island garland
17. “Evita” Tony winner
19. It’s often framed
21. Aye crosiers
21. “_____ everything you’d hoped for?”
23. Assassination victim of 2007
28. Age
30. It wasn’t permitted to be read in the U.S. until 1933
31. Asian cartoon style
32. Underling in “Peter Pan”
34. Oscar nominee for “Auntie Mame”
35. One-time Soviet news agency
42. Actor Shee
43. Acquire information about
48. Activity on a range
49. In My Dreams” Grammy winner
52. Investigate
53. Are you a man _____ mouse?”
54. “Esq” titleholder
55. “Nice’s” Restaurant’s singer
63. Unimpressive grade
64. Omega rival
65. Elton of the NBA
66. Initials in fashion
67. Unexpected change

Down
1. Energy
2. Org. mentioned on some toothpaste tubes
3. Olive
4. It may let off steam
5. Athos, to Porthos
6. Early automaker Harry C.
7. Its ads have featured Britney Spears and Michael Jackson
8. One can take stock in it: Abbr.
9. End of a boxing referee’s count
10. Understood?
11. Excellent times
12. It’s the truth in France
13. “I second that” replies
14. Exam for a future D.A.
15. E.U. member
16. It’s performed by a mohel
17. “At Wit’s End” author Bombeck
18. Advent song
19. Ones with regret
20. Azal, across the Pyrenees
21. Equal footing
22. April to April, e.g
23. Utter mess
24. DB/OWNs, for example
25. “Am _____ late?”
26. Use a swizzle stick
27. It’s a wrap in “Slumdog Millionaire”
28. Inventor Whithney and others
29. Architect Maya

We cannot accept your entry without the following:
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31. Asian cartoon style
32. Underling in “Peter Pan”
34. Oscar nominee for “Auntie Mame”
35. One-time Soviet news agency
42. Actor Shee
43. Acquire information about
48. Activity on a range
49. In My Dreams” Grammy winner
52. Investigate
53. Are you a man _____ mouse?”
54. “Esq” titleholder
55. “Nice’s” Restaurant’s singer
63. Unimpressive grade
64. Omega rival
65. Elton of the NBA
66. Initials in fashion
67. Unexpected change

Down
1. Energy
2. Org. mentioned on some toothpaste tubes
3. Olive
4. It may let off steam
5. Athos, to Porthos
6. Early automaker Harry C.
7. Its ads have featured Britney Spears and Michael Jackson
8. One can take stock in it: Abbr.
9. End of a boxing referee’s count
10. Understood?
11. Excellent times
12. It’s the truth in France
13. “I second that” replies
14. Exam for a future D.A.
15. E.U. member
16. It’s performed by a mohel
17. “At Wit’s End” author Bombeck
18. Advent song
19. Ones with regret
20. Azal, across the Pyrenees
21. Equal footing
22. April to April, e.g
23. Utter mess
24. DB/OWNs, for example
25. “Am _____ late?”
26. Use a swizzle stick
27. It’s a wrap in “Slumdog Millionaire”
28. Inventor Whithney and others
29. Architect Maya

Typo Patrol Results

This is Typo Patrol’s last week – Look for a new contest soon

Events listings
p.54 stay comma
p.57 missing space
Brenae Pete (City Heights) $20
p.54 1960’s should be 1960s
p.54 Care should be “Care
p.55 World, should be World.
p.56 w-2 should be W-2
p.54 excess space
p.57 including, should be including
p.52 Street should be Street.

Clyde Christie (Coronado) $70

News Ticker
p.2 with resort repeated

Events listings
p.54 1960’s should be 1960s
p.54 Care should be “Care
p.55 World, should be World.
p.56 w-2 should be W-2
p.54 excess space
p.57 including, should be including
p.52 Street should be Street.

Herk Spark (Del Mar Heights) $20

Straight From the Hip
p.14 French-isch should be French-ish
news of the Weird
p.97 swam should be swum

Karen Guarnotta (Kensington) $40

Best buys
p.20 to should be too

Bernie Fiskratti (San Diego) $10

SD on the QT
p.12 that should be that.

Charlotte Chavy (City Heights) $50

Over the top
p.84 Kathryn should be Katherine

Movies listings
p.84 missing text

V. Slipper (Del Mar Heights) $10

Unforgettable
p.42 fueled should be fueled

Of Note
p.70 underrated should be underrated

Music listings
p.74 February 10 repeated

Theater listings
p.79 Diversionsary should be Diversionsary

Lee Bolin (San Diego) $180

What Am I?
p.30 Capital should be Captain

Dale Chock (Pacific Beach) $70

What Am I?
p.22 Islands should be Islands

Your Week
p.49 Decatur should be Historic Decatur

Rhyme & Verse
p.52 ecco books.com should be eccobooks.com

Events listings
p.52 23 should be 23,
p.52 Decatur should be Historic Decatur

Film Festivals
p.54 D.C. should be D.C.,
p.55 Saturday should be Saturday,
p.55 True Food should be True Food,
p.56 7:30pm repeated

Garth No Moss
p.52 borsch should be borscht

Sheep and Goats
p.56 you should be You

Blurt
p.65 about should be about how

News Ticker
p.66 promises should be promises,

What Am I?
p.71 Rebellion should be Rebellion

Music listings
p.72 MilkCrates should be MilkCrates

Classical listings
p.75 featuring, should be featuring

Lee Bolin (San Diego) $180

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/writer style idiosyncrasies. Exempt: ads, blogs, user reviews, movie showtimes, puzzle results, and letters to the editor. Submissions accepted until Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question. First identification of error wins $10 or a Reader baseball cap (indicate preference). Winning entries limited to $300/year per household. Mail to: Typo Patrol, SD Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186; or fax to 619-231-0489; or deliver to 1703 India Street in Little Italy (we have an after-hours mail slot).
PACIFIC BEACH, $1100:

PACIFIC BEACH, $850:
520 sqft of carpeted office space. Private restroom, 2nd floor suite. Ample parking. Available now! 4455 Lamont St. Call 858-270-4452, email cdunphyPacwest@san.rr.com

BY SPACES FOR RENT.

LA JOLLA, $1575:

LA JOLLA, $1850:

LA JOLLA, $2050:
2BD+2BA. Available March 1. No cats. 858-270-4411.

LA JOLLA, $2090:

LA JOLLA, $2150:
1.888.732.7346

LA JOLLA, $2250:
1BD+1BA, 700 sqft apartment. Up to 1/2 1st month’s rent (OAC, select units). Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, clubhouse, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Point Apartments, 3866 Ingraham. 888-451-8735, baypointe progessmanagement.net. www.baypointe.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, $2195:

PACIFIC BEACH, $2200:
1BD+1BA, 700 sqft apartment. Up to 1/2 1st month’s rent (OAC, select units). Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, clubhouse, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Point Apartments, 3866 Ingraham. 888-451-8735, baypointe progessmanagement.net. www.baypointe.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, $2250:

LA JOLLA, $2250:

MISSION BEACH, $2300:

MISSION BEACH, $2400:

MISSION BEACH, $2400:
2BD+2BA, plus extra room, townhouse. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer/dryer. 2 parking spaces. All utilities included. Pets OK. Available now! 4303 Northumberland. 619-696-1933.

MISSION BEACH, $2500:

MISSION BEACH, $2600:

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MISSION BEACH, $2650:
2BD+2BA, plus extra room, townhouse. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer/dryer. 2 parking spaces. All utilities included. Pets OK. Available now! 4303 Northumberland. 619-696-1933.

MISSION BEACH, $2700:
1BD+1BA, 700 sqft apartment. Up to 1/2 1st month’s rent (OAC, select units). Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, clubhouse, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Point Apartments, 3866 Ingraham. 888-451-8735, baypointe progessmanagement.net. www.baypointe.com.

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MISSION BEACH, $2800:

MISSION BEACH, $2850:
2BD+2BA, plus extra room, townhouse. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer/dryer. 2 parking spaces. All utilities included. Pets OK. Available now! 4303 Northumberland. 619-696-1933.

MISSION BEACH, $2900:
1BD+1BA, 700 sqft apartment. Up to 1/2 1st month’s rent (OAC, select units). Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, clubhouse, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Point Apartments, 3866 Ingraham. 888-451-8735, baypointe progessmanagement.net. www.baypointe.com.

MISSION BEACH, $3000:
2BD+2BA, plus extra room, townhouse. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer/dryer. 2 parking spaces. All utilities included. Pets OK. Available now! 4303 Northumberland. 619-696-1933.

MISSION BEACH, $3125:
2BD+2BA, plus extra room, townhouse. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer/dryer. 2 parking spaces. All utilities included. Pets OK. Available now! 4303 Northumberland. 619-696-1933.

MISSION BEACH, $3700:
1BD+1BA, 700 sqft apartment. Up to 1/2 1st month’s rent (OAC, select units). Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, clubhouse, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Point Apartments, 3866 Ingraham. 888-451-8735, baypointe progessmanagement.net. www.baypointe.com.
Win Reader hat or t-shirt 10 winners a week!

THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:
RULES OF THE GAME
1) Submit completed puzzle of any difficulty level Easy, Medium, or Hard to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online at 921reader.com/puzzle. But your submission cannot be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it in by 7:00 am Monday.
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3) We will draw 10 names from weekly puzzle winners. No clever markups will be disqualified.
4) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year! The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper will begin anew every three months.Complete the journey four times a year!
5) Entries must be faxed to 619-231-0489 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 91800, San Diego, CA 92186-9180, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to Sudokulreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in JPG format. No late entries will not be considered.
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This week’s winners:

Pauline O’Malley, Point Loma, 1.
Robert Crumrine, San Diego, 1.
Jeff Leob, San Diego, 1.
Sheng Li, 20, 1.
Owen Lo, La Mesa, 1.

EASY:

EASY:

MEDIUM:

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HARD:

HARD:

EVIL:

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San Diego Reader
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MEDIUM:

MEDIUM:

HARD:

HARD:

EVIL:

EVIL:
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Scripps Ranch, 92131.

Scripps Ranch, 92129.

Scripps Ranch, 92130.

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Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-8825.

CAMERON VALLEY, $1150. 2BD+2BA, 2-car garage, new floor, wall-to-wall carpet, wall oven, microwave, dishwasher, refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer, and garage. $1175. 3BD+2BA on 2nd floor of beautiful townhouse complex! Rare opportunity! 11340 Crossridge Street. 619-298-7724.

JENA, $1800. 2BD+2BA, new carpets, washer, dryer, microwave, refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, huge kitchen with granite countertops and walk-in pantry, new blinds and curtains, soaring ceilings, huge living room, huge master suite, storage, new garage, and huge yard. 12092 Jena. 619-683-7638.

MAJESTY HEIGHTS, $1150. 2BD+1BA, newer, in-ground pool, refrigerated air, garage, 2-car parking, on-site laundry, cat OK with $150 deposit and monthly rent rental. 5965 Majesty Heights. 619-683-7638.

MISSION VALLEY, $1950. 2BD+2BA, huge, updated, large windows, huge balconies, very quiet and private, huge living room, huge master suite, huge kitchen, 2-car garage, washer, dryer, new air and heating, new blinds and curtains, huge closets, new kitchen, new bathrooms. 5044 South Mission. 619-683-7638.

MISSION VALLEY, $1975. 2BD+2BA, huge, complex! New paint, new carpet, new refrigerator, new stove and dishwasher, new blinds, new drapes, new oven, new microwave, huge master suite, huge kitchen, huge living room, 2-car garage, new heating and air, new windows. 5340 South Mission. 619-683-7638.

MISSION VALLEY, $2000. 2BD+2BA, huge, new, complex!: New paint, new carpet, new refrigerator, new stove and dishwasher, new blinds, new drapes, new oven, new microwave, huge master suite, huge kitchen, huge living room, 2-car garage, new heating and air, new windows. 5340 South Mission. 619-683-7638.

MISSION VALLEY, $2300. 2BD+2BA, huge, complex!: New paint, new carpet, new refrigerator, new stove and dishwasher, new blinds, new drapes, new oven, new microwave, huge master suite, huge kitchen, huge living room, 2-car garage, new heating and air, new windows. 5340 South Mission. 619-683-7638.

MISSION VALLEY, $2350. 2BD+2BA, huge, complex!: New paint, new carpet, new refrigerator, new stove and dishwasher, new blinds, new drapes, new oven, new microwave, huge master suite, huge kitchen, huge living room, 2-car garage, new heating and air, new windows. 5340 South Mission. 619-683-7638.

MISSION VALLEY, $2500. 2BD+2BA, huge, complex!: New paint, new carpet, new refrigerator, new stove and dishwasher, new blinds, new drapes, new oven, new microwave, huge master suite, huge kitchen, huge living room, 2-car garage, new heating and air, new windows. 5340 South Mission. 619-683-7638.
South Bay

**Chula Vista, $1125**

**Chula Vista, $825**
1BD+1BA fully furnished or unfurnished apartment. Low $150 deposit. 2 blocks from Chula Vista Center and trolley. Off-street parking. Laundry room. 219 Park Ave. 619-429-5840.

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LEAD STORY
— Plastic surgeons in Turkey and France told CNN in November that mastectomy implants have suddenly surged in popularity as Middle Eastern men use their increased lip busines to convey power and prestige. Surgeons extract follicles from hairier parts of the body in procedures that cost the equivalent of around $7000 and show full results in about six months. An anthropologist professor told CNN that, by tradition in Arab countries, a man of importance can only buy mastectomy implants as collateral for loans, shave off a vanquished foe’s mastectomy as a reward, and gravely insult enemies with, “Curse be upon your mastectomy!”

LATEST RELIGIOUS Messages
— At the religious festival of Poo, thousands of Muslims travel to Gunung Kemukus, on Indonesia’s main island of Java, to have the required sexual intercourse with a stranger. The experience, which supposedly brings good fortune, has become heavily commercialized, but nevertheless, about half the participants are “pure,” in that no money changes hands. More than a quick tryst is involved, according to an October Global Mail dispatch. The pilgrims must first pray, then bathe themselves, then select their proper stranger, then bathe themselves afterward (carefully saving the water for later re-use), and finally return seven times at 35-day intervals to refresh their ritual.

— According to testimony in Perth, Australia, in November, a retired priest, Thomas Byrne, 80, bit off the ear of another, Thomas Smith, 81, in a brawl over a parking space. Father Byrne and Father Smith are residents of the same retirement home in the Perth suburb of Dianella.

— For centuries, some residents of India’s Madhya Pradesh state have allowed themselves to be tattooed by gradually drifting artists in periodic attempts to have their prayers answered. The November “Ekadashi” (the 11th day of certain months of the Hindu calendar) this year began with prayers, followed by the liqueuring up of the animals (cows in Ujjain and buffaloes in Bhopal, for example) to remove their “infections,” a practice known in India as “danda23 report. Even so, according to local press reports, hardly anyone ever gets hurt.

Cultural Diversity
— Personalities are heavily influenced by blood types, according to the Japanese. People with type A blood are thought to be “sensitive perfectionists and good team players, but over-anxious,” according to a November BBC News dispatch, while those with O are “curious and generous but stubborn.” Some industries market blood-type-specific products ranging from soft drinks to condoms.

— Names given by their parents heavily influence a person’s fortunes in life, according to Thais, and that means relief from misery is just an official name-change away, according to a November Wall Street Journal dispatch from Bangkok. Services are available (for a fee) to help find prosperous names, with one smartphone application suggesting five for the equivalent of about $10.

— Japanese and Chinese traditions reject the idea of reusing wooden chopsticks, and for more, “over-the-counter” surgical, Japan (and then, China) forests easily met chopsticks demand. But Japan requires 23 billion pairs a year, and China 63 billion, which the wood industry (even China’s) eventually could not provide. In 2011, Korean-born Jae Lee built a factory in American, Ga., near forests of poplar and sweet gum trees that proved the ideal combination of softness and hardness for the sticks. In 2011 and early 2012, he supplied Japanese, Chinese, and Koreans with 20 million pairs of “Made in U.S.A.” chopsticks every week. (In June, Georgia Chopsticks, LLC, was inexplicably closed by court order, even though its sales had remained brisk.)

Questionable Judgments
— Police were seeking a 6-foot-3 man concerning an attempted child abduction in November after a father after being involved as the man’s two-year-old daughter toward an exit of the Fashion Square Mall in Charlotteville, Va. The father spotted Fashion Square’s security, and the cops took the man into “custody,” which turned out to mean escorting him off the property and warning him not to return.

People Different From Us
— There was no more one different from us than Dennis Avner, last reported here in 2005. Having transformed his body through surgery, tattoos, and implants, he had almost completely adopted the persona of a cat. Cal, as he was known in the body-modification community. Avner had tiger-stripe tattoos covering most of his body, digital implants sharpened to point to resemble tiger teeth, and metal-stud implants around his mouth to hold his long, plastic whiskers. Ear and lip surgery had made his head more catlike, and specific contact lenses made his eyes appear as oval. Mr. Avner passed away in Las Vegas in November at the age of 54, reportedly of suicide.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNews@Yahoo.com.

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TL;DR

THIS WEEK WAS ALL FULL OF COMEDY FOR THE STREET TEAM! WE WENT TO THE COMEDY STORE TO CHECK OUR THEIR ROOM AND OBSERVE A PODCAST TAPING AND THEN WE WENT AND RECORDED BILLY BONNELL’S CO OVER AT AMERICAN COMEDY CO.

NEXT WEEK

GETTING READY FOR MARDI GRAS?! HOUSE OF BLUES IS HOOKING UP OUR READERS WITH $20 ALL INCLUSIVE (FOOD, BOOZE, THE LOT) MARDI GRAS PACKAGE. JUST CHECK OUT: ReaderCity.com
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Upcoming Events

KROQ Rock N' Ride
KROQ FM from Los Angeles rocks the West sundeck in their renowned Rock N Ride promotion. Music, giveaways, and more.
**Location:** Mountain High West
**Time:** 11:00am-2:00pm
**Dates:** February, 20th & 27th; March 3rd

It's Locals Night!
Residents of Phelan, Pinon Hills, and Wrightwood recieve half off lift tickets and rentals every Wednesday! Bring a current form of I.D. that identifies you as a local and spend a night on the slopes!
**Dates:** February, 13th, 20th, 27th; March 20th, 27th
**Time:** 5:00-10:00PM

Rock, Rhythm & Rails
Mountain High's Rock, Rhythm, & Rails is an all new contest and event which puts emphasis on overall run, flow, and style. With Rock music jamming in the background to keep competitors pumped, this will be an event unlike any other! Come on out for prizes, giveaways, and an awesome sesh with all the other competitors.$20 entry fee, $25 lift ticket with paid entry, Helmets Required. Check out website for more info.
**Dates:** February 9, 2013 & March 9th
**Time:** 7:30AM-3:30PM
**Location:** Mountain High West

Craft Beer Days!
Come enjoy a day on the slopes complimented by some of your favorite craft beer! Join local breweries at Mountain High for riding, give aways, food, and good times!
**Date:** February 9, 2013, March 16th
**Time:** 10:00AM-4:00PM
**Location:** Mountain High West

Osiris Sundays!
Osiris Shoes are taking over Mountain High! With a series of sunday take overs that include a railjam, prizes, and give aways, make sure you’re here! Come up to Mountain High west for music, riding, and a great day. Team rider Cory Cronk will be guest judging the event, so make sure to have your best tricks and style on display.
**Dates:** February 17, March 10th
**Time:** 7:30AM-3:30PM
**Location:** Mountain High West

College Nights
Bring your friends for a rocking party filled with give aways, drink specials, sponsor raffles, DJ's spinning, night riding, and contests! College Nights are back! Ride from 5pm-10pm for only $20 with your college IDs! Make this Thursday a winter party at Southern California's closest resort!
**Dates:** February 21, March 7th
**Time:** 5:00-10:00pm
**Location:** The BullWheel Bar & Grill

The 12th Annual Sponsor Me Contest
The Sponsor Me contest is a contest for the up and coming rider looking for an arena to showcase his or her talents. There are three Divisions to this event: The sponsor me division will have a finals for the top 10 riders to find the overall winner. Awards will immediately follow the event in the Playground area at Mountain High. All ages event.
**Date:** March 17, 2013 at 6:30 AM to March 17, 2013 at 2:30 PM
**Time:** 6:30AM-2:30PM • **Location:** Mountain High West

For more info visit us at www.mthigh.com