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WIN $100
Find somewhere in our features (articles, listings, or classifieds) three instances of the same phrase. This week’s clue: “ice cream streets” (2 words)

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March 14, 2013
San Diego Reader
Over 184 pounds of pot
Border crossers caught carrying marijuana in packs near Calexico

Imperial Valley — U.S. Border Patrol agents intercepted another load of marijuana on March 5, shortly after it crossed the border on the backs of four men near the Imperial Valley town of Calexico.

Shortly before 8 p.m., agents observed five men, four of them carrying large packs, illegally cross the border just east of the Calexico crossing and head north toward Interstate 8.

Upon reaching the freeway, a Plymouth Voyager van stopped, allowing the men to unload their bundles. Two of the men stayed with the vehicle, while the others ran back toward the border. Agents chose to watch the vehicle rather than those fleeing, and other agents nearby disabled the vehicle using a tire spike strip.

The packs turned out to contain bundles of marijuana weighing in at just over 184 pounds and carrying a street value of about $147,000.

Harlem Shake felt throughout San Diego
Dumb dance fascinates millions

Don Bauder, March 8

Chargers hawk combined convention center/stadium
The idea hasn’t worked in other cities

San Diego — A judge begins hearing a case next week on the legality of hotel-room-rate surcharges to pay for the proposed expansion of the convention center. Later, the California Coastal Commission will decide if the expansion should go ahead.

Mark Fabiani, Chargers flack, has told NBC7 that “If for any reason — whether it’s the court next week or the Coastal Commission in a few months — the existing convention-center expansion is stricken down, we would stand ready to present an alternative which would be a multi-use stadium with a retractable fabric roof on the East Village site, a couple blocks from the convention center.” This idea is similar to the Farmers Field proposal that is stumbling in Los Angeles. NBC7 says mayor Bob Filner would look favorably on such a proposal, but Filner demands a public vote.

The NBC7 story is a good one, but, unfortunately, it doesn’t look into the record of such multi-use stadiums/convention centers. They have not been successful in places such as Indianapolis, Atlanta, and St. Louis. One reason is convention attendees do not like to go from one building to another — particularly two blocks to another facility.

Even traversing from the Mesquite Center to Moscone West in San Francisco, right across the street from each other, annoys some conventioners.

Of course, convention centers are vastly overbuilt in the U.S., and centers, including San Diego, are slicing prices — a good reason that any expansion is a bad idea. Massive subsidization of a football stadium for a billionaire family is a horrible idea.

Looking for bubbles? Visit San Diego
By Don Bauder

Since early 2009, the American stock market has more than doubled while the economy has crawled up by about 2 percent. But bad news is good market news. Sequester? Stocks zoomed right past it. Europe is in recession; its stocks have been soaring. Japan has suffered deflation for 15 years; stocks have been climbing recently. Greece is Europe’s worst economic basket case, but its stock market zoomed 33 percent last year.

What’s going on? The United States Federal Reserve, our central bank, has put interest rates at record low levels and says it will keep them there until unemployment improves. Other central banks in the world are taking similar steps. In short, they are all printing gobs of money. That money is not improving economies very much but is lifting stock markets. It sounds counterintuitive, but it really isn’t. Sad but true, Wall Street is thriving because Main Street is hurting, and other industrial countries have the same disease.

Springfield, New Jersey—based economist A. Gary Shilling calls the phenomenon “the Great Disconnect — the vast gulf between the economies around the world that are growing anemically at best and investors who couldn’t care less as long as central banks are shoving liquidity out the door.”

Neal Obermeyer

Neal Obermeyer

Economist A. Gary Shilling says investors “couldn’t care less” about the slow economy “as long as central banks are shoving liquidity out the door.”
What’s scary is that in both of those crashes, our Federal Reserve did nothing. In fact, Alan Greenspan, who was in charge during the buildup to the first collapse, declared that economists cannot detect a bubble after it has burst. He argued that addressing stock-market distortions is not part of the Fed’s mandate. But he made a liar of himself by pouring money in 1987 when stocks suddenly went down, upsetting Wall Street. When stocks went up irrationally in the late 1990s, he stood idly by — and ultimately, of course, they crashed. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 49 percent and the Nasdaq, where most major San Diego stocks trade, plummeted 79 percent.

The Fed is now headed by Ben Bernanke. In 2002, he stated in a speech, “The Fed cannot reliably identify bubbles in asset prices.” Before the 2008 crash, he insisted that there was no real estate bubble. In November of 2005, economists Dean Baker and David Rosnick (in a paper called “Will a Bursting Bubble Trouble Bernanke?”) made a pre-scient prediction: the housing bubble was around the corner. Home sale prices were rising far more sharply than rents; home construction was ahead of itself; the savings rate was down. Bernanke blew it completely, while Baker and Rosnick were correct. There was not only a bubble — there was a colossal bubble.

If only Greenspan had visited San Diego in the late 1990s and Bernanke had stopped by sometime before 2007–2008. One of the big money machines of the 1990s tech bubble was the initial public offering, or a company issuing stock for the first time. If Greenspan had just seen some San Diego new issues: Wireless Facilities went public on November 5, 1999, at $15 a share, the first trade was at $37.50, and the stock closed the day at $62. Diversa went public on February 14, 2000, at $24; the first trade was at $54.50, and the closing price $75. Webense went public March 28, 2000, at $18; the first trade was $34.50, and the closing price the first day was $47.75. Onetime online-music wunderkind MP3.com went public July 21, 1999; the initial price was $28, and the first trade was $92.

This is not how a rational market operates. It was strictly gambling. This is not investing, and it has nothing to do with the allocation of capital, which, after all, is supposed to be the purpose of Wall Street. And Alan Greenspan didn’t see a bubble? At the time, Richard Russell of La Jolla’s Dow Theory Letters declared the dot-com phenomenon to be one of the biggest bubbles in history.

Bernanke should have visited San Diego to learn what a housing bubble was all about. For example, researchers Baker and Rosnick stated in their 2005 warning report, “In the last eight years, [national] house sale prices have risen by 55 percent, after adjusting for inflation.”

There was no precedent for this run-up because home prices normally rise with inflation, they said.

But San Diego made those national figures look piddly. Over the same eight years, the Zillow.com home-value index for San Diego soared from $153,900 to $525,100. Those home values continued rising until February of 2006, when they topped out at $534,500. Then the bubble burst, and they hit $352,100 in April of 2009. Now they are back at

<table>
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<th>Stock</th>
<th>Wireless Facilities</th>
<th>Initial Price</th>
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Full non-disclosure by KPBS

San Diego State University’s owned and operated public broadcasting operation is out with its “2013 Local Content & Service Report,” touting what it says are various achievements of the previous year. The document is required by the federally funded Corporation for Public Broadcasting as a condition of a station getting its grant money. “Every public television…grantee is required to provide to its community a annual report on its content and services that serve local needs, including information about the impact of such services,” says the corporation’s website. “The report should provide an overview of the grantee’s most impactful local content and services in its most recently completed fiscal year. The definition of local content and services will be determined by the grantee.”

So, what did federal and California taxpayers get for their multimillion-dollar annual investment? “Just saw the news broadcast and I applaud your hard hitting interview of Mayoral candidate [sic] DeMaio…Excellent work PBS…thank you for asking the tough questions!!!!” says a quote attributed to Erik Windsor, identified by the report as a “KPBS viewer” who made a “Facebook post following interview with mayoral candidate, Carl DeMaio, September 2012.” The rest of the post, left out by KPBS, said: “I was impressed with the questioning of his very close ties to Doug Manchester and John Lynch. The revelation that they were the largest financial supporters to his citizens watch dog group was enlightening. Talk about beholding to special interests! could there be more special interest than Manchester and Lynch who only want to develop downtown to their benefit.” Though the report doesn’t mention it, Windsor is identified by his Facebook profile as an “engineer/paramedic” with the San Diego Fire Rescue Department. Republican city councilman Carl DeMaio, reviled by city workers for his pension-reform plan, was facing off against public-employee-union-financed Democratic congressman Bob Filner, who won the race.

Regarding “a radio segment on La Jolla’s marine protected area,” Fay Crevoshay, identified as a “KPBS listener,” was quoted as saying, “KPBS' host Maureen [Cavanaugh] was great, focusing on the important facts of the issue and their consequences, as well as the bigger picture.” The KPBS report didn’t mention that Crevoshay is the media and policy director of Wildcoast, a coastal environmental advocacy group based in Imperial Beach. And KPBS left out another detail regarding the occasion of Crevoshay’s post, “WILDCOAST’s CEO Serge Dedina was interviewed by KPBS radio’s Millyday Edition about La Jolla Marine Protected Area and how to clean it,” according to Facebook. Crevoshay is a well-known figure in the local environmental movement. “She creates and directs our media campaigns and is in charge of our spokespeople as well as organizational outreach,” says Wildcoast’s website. And Crevoshay knows more about a public radio from personal experience: “Prior to WILDCOAST, Fay worked as [an] NPR and El Financiero reporter, where she earned several awards, including a 1992 Journalism Award for Best Feature Story.” KPBS general manager Tom Karlo didn’t respond to a request for comment.

Fourth district triage

The race to replace ex-city councilman Tony Young in the Fourth District is being fed by a raft of out-of-town special interests. According to recent disclosures, “Californians for Quality Paramedic Services, Sponsored by Rural/Metro Corporation” has so far come up with $822 worth of “design costs” and “data” for a mailer on behalf of Democrat Wayne Crenshaw. The Scottsdale, Arizona-based firm, whose current paramedic contract with the city expires on June 13, 2013, is competing against a host of other paramedic providers for a new deal. Two years ago it was savaged by a city audit… San Diego State University, whose relationship with the neighborhood surrounding the sprawling and ever-growing campus has long been rocky, is in the market for a director of Government and Community Relations. Among other responsibilities, the new hire, says a help-wanted posting, will be expected to “Build and develop SDSU’s relationships with neighbors and community leaders. Share regular updates on important issues and

continued on page 42
Featured Deals This Week

50% off kayak rentals
Hike Bike Kayak
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Wednesday–Friday, March 13–15

$99 for 6 Laser Hair Removal Treatments
West Coast Med Spa
on sale
Wednesday–Thursday, March 13–14

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PRP Wine International
on sale
Friday–Tuesday, March 15–19

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.

Kickstarter Follow-up
Your December 13, 2012 cover story about Kickstarter highlights the San Diego Public Market as a major success at raising more than $165,000. But having a good idea or concept is one thing; successfully executing it is another.

How about a follow-up story on SDPM and how the money has been used? The market looks the same as it did when it opened it August; their website is one page with limited info (hours and address); their Kickstarter page was last updated in October; and the comments page includes unanswered inquiries from people asking about the items they purchased as part of their donation. What people do with the money is the real story.

Name Withheld via snail mail

Remains of the Bay
I found the differing perspectives on designs for our downtown waterfront in your November 29 cover story (“Bay Dreams”) quite interesting.

Beginning with the construction of the first Marriott tower between Harbor Drive and the waterfront, I believe the City of San Diego and the Port Authority have squandered a wonderful resource. Today it is a joke to drive along Harbor Drive south of the Broadway Pier. Without the clue from the word “harbor,” no one would expect to be so close to the waterfront. With all the commercial development from hotels and the Convention Center, visual and physical access to the San Diego Bay has been all but eliminated.

After that development, CCDC added insult to injury by wasting a huge amount of tax dollars in the design and development of their Linear Park, which celebrates the existence of a set of rail tracks more than the close-by waterfront. While all this development was underway I longed for them to look at the design of the downtown waterfront in Chicago as an example of beauty and public access. Linear Park should have been developed on the land between Harbor Drive and the bay. If redevelopment had stair-stepped buildings of increasing heights along the other side of Harbor Drive, just imagine how many could enjoy the views of the bay today, and what the values of that property, and thus the tax values, could be now.

Yet a handful of “business leaders” continue to push for development of a new football stadium and more hotels in the small... continued on page 46

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City to ban RV, trailer parking?  
Ordinance in the works, may extend to inland areas 
An ordinance to ban recreational vehicles, boats, and trailers from parking overnight on public streets west of I-5 is in the works, said Michael Patton, representative for District 2 city councilmember Kevin Faulconer at the monthly meeting of the Ocean Beach Planning Board on March 6.

The matter will come before the council’s Land Use and Housing Committee on March 27 for consideration and possible advancement to the full council, Patton said.

Though the ordinance is still in draft form, Patton shared two tentative features: homeowners could purchase a 72-hour permit to park in front of their property to allow temporary uses such as packing for a vacation; and a 24-hour ban would apply at intersections where an oversized vehicle could hinder drivers’ eyesight.

Faulconer, who represents much of the city’s beach areas, has promoted the ordinance for several years to combat complaints about the vehicles being an eyesore and used as living quarters.

Jane Gavronski, who chairs the planning board, said she was worried that applying the ban so sparingly could shift the associated parking problems to Clairemont and other areas east of I-5. “Our neighbors are not going to like that,” she said.

But Patton said the ordinance was intended to be launched as a pilot program, and the council would likely expand it citywide if successful.

Council puts brakes on stoplight for cyclists  
Using surplus SANDAG funds “not quite right,” says mayor 
An effort to install a traffic light that would help cyclists on the Bayside Bike Trail — one supported and funded by the San Diego Association of Governments — failed to get off the ground with the Imperial Beach City Council on Wednesday, March 6.

While councilmembers expressed a willingness to spend SANDAG money on other improvements, none would make the motion needed to bring the stoplight installation at 7th Street and Palm Avenue to a vote.

“I foresee this [stoplight] creating a traffic backlog on Palm,” said councilwoman Lorie Bragg. “There’s not enough bang for the buck here.”

The stoplight would have helped bicyclists lured into IB from the Bayside Bike Trail to get across the dicey intersection of 7th and Palm and head west to Seacoast Drive, where they turn south.

Palm Avenue will be narrowed to two lanes from four, between 3rd and 7th, with bike lanes added. The Eco Bike Trail is designed as a spur off the Bayside trail; original plans — intended to draw on the trend of eco-tourism spending — date back years.

The bike lane painting project, funded with a $1.5 million grant from SANDAG, came in under budget by about $500,000 and council members considered enhancements, including the stoplight, to eat up some of the money. The stoplight, an option in the original plan, could be added for about $120,000, according to staff reports.

Mayor Jim Janney, who reminded members that he also sits on SANDAG’s board, discouraged councilmembers from dreaming up ways to spend the excess rather than give it back.

“We got the largest chunk of grant money of any city in the county, and we’re in the queue for the next round of funding — it’s not quite right to do that.”

SeaWorld's sea mammal rescue unit saves a sea lion pup in Carlsbad. They've rescued about 85 this year.

Sea lion pup rescued  
SeaWorld crew saves pup after man spotted it on shoreline boulders 
On Thursday, March 7, Carlsbad resident Doug was taking his daily 7:00 a.m. walk along the beach next to Carlsbad Boulevard. At the Agua Hedionda Lagoon’s outlet, just south of Tamarack Avenue, he spotted a young California sea lion appearing to be in distress, sitting on the large boulders.

Doug continued his walk toward the Carlsbad power plant, returning about 45 minutes later to find the sea lion was approaching the street. Together, he and another walker named Neal corralled the pup, forcing him away from the street and back onto the rocks. The pup was probably trying to cross the highway to get into the lagoon.

The pup scampered along the shoreline boulders about 150 feet south of the bridge, where it stayed on the same rock for the next few hours. At 8:30 a.m., Carlsbad police responded and notified SeaWorld’s sea mammal rescue unit of the incident.

Oblivious to nearby beachgoers that stopped to look and take pictures, the pup seemed lethargic and in distress.

At 10:00 a.m., a surfer came in to let bystanders know that a larger sea lion, probably the mother, was out in the channel of the lagoon’s jetty, popping its head up, seeming as though it was looking for the pup.

Doug stayed near the animal until the rescue team from SeaWorld arrived at 10:25 a.m., placing a big net over the sea lion.

The rescuers said the pup was less than a year old, should have already been weaned from its mom, and was probably having trouble finding food. The big waves during the previous day probably scattered its food source into deeper waters. The pup was probably malnourished, dehydrated, and hypoglycemic.

This year, SeaWorld has so far rescued some 85 sea lions, with around 50 currently being rehabilitated before their release back into the wild.

Cross-dressing crook caught  
Police nab thief who robbed businesses disguised as a woman 
Tijuana police say they arrested a man who allegedly disguised himself as a woman to steal from various businesses in the San Antonio de Los Buenos neighborhood.

Officers captured 27-year-old Brian Roldán Cedillo at around 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 3, after the victim of a break-in earlier the same morning spotted the supposed female walking near Libramiento Rosas Magallón and called police.

The break-in was captured on video, police said. It showed what looked like a woman breaking the windows of a restaurant on Boulevard Gustavo Aubanel in the El Rubi neighborhood.

The thief made off with 8350 pesos (about $680) and a device used to read credit cards, according to the police account. When officers responded to the restaurant owner’s call, the suspect continued on page 94.

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You want this?” David held up his buzzing phone so I could see the number displayed on the screen.

After weighing the risk of answering an unknown number, I said, “Here, give it to me.”

For years, I used the land line as my business number. But when we did away with the wires, David transferred the cool, easy-to-remember, multi-zero string of digits to his mobile. That was a risk in itself, seeing as the bulk of the calls received on that number were unwelcome telemarketers or wrong numbers, of which David now receives an average of five a week.

Though both my man and I subscribe to the “if it’s important, they’ll leave a message” school of thought, I was expecting a call, and there was a chance that my expected caller had my old number in his contacts. Having to say, “No, I don’t have time for a survey or money to give you,” was a small price to pay compared to missing the imminent call from a busy CEO.

I answered with a cheery, “Hello,” and then hunched my shoulders forward and flashed my disappointed face at David as I said, “No, this is not the Ramada Inn,” to the elderly sounding man on the other end of the line.

“Are you sure this isn’t the Ramada?” the man asked.

I was so tempted to respond with, “You got me! I was just kidding — Ramada here. There’s no fooling you!” But instead I said, “I hope not, I’m not ready to receive any guests here. My place is a mess.”

“But is this...” he recited my seven-digit number.

“Yes, that’s my number, but I’m telling you, this is a residence, has been for years. We’re not a hotel. But good luck to you.” He hung up before I did, without a “sorry” or “thank you.”

Cantankerous old man, I thought bitterly, mostly out of frustration because his was not the call I had hoped to receive.

A minute later, David’s phone rang again. When he saw it was the same number, he said, “Let it go to voicemail.”

“He didn’t believe me,” I said with a huff, annoyed by both the man’s stubborn and my expectation that he’d trusted me — a stranger — to tell the truth about my phone number.

“Look, he left a message.” David pressed “speaker” and played it: “There’s... something really screwed up,” said the confused man, sounding like he was speaking to someone offstage.

“Aw, now I feel bad for him,” I said. “Somebody must have given him the wrong number, or maybe he wrote it down wrong. Wait...you know what?” I smiled at my Sherlockiness. “It probably is our number, and he’s just not dialing the right area code. He’s got a 619 number — why would he be looking for a hotel in his own city?”

The phone rang again, and this time I was quick to answer. “Hello? Hello, sir? I think I know what you’re doing wrong.” I paused for a moment, but the man was proving himself a skeptic by keeping quiet. “I think you might have the wrong area — I sighed and said, “He hung up.”

David, who’d been tapping on his keyboard while I was trying to connect with the caller, said, “You’re right. It’s in Florida. Ramada Inn — here it is, our number, different area code.” I nodded approvingly. David’s the best googler I know.

I brought up the list of recent calls on David’s phone. “This poor guy needs help. I’m going to call him back. Hope he doesn’t freak out when he sees the number on his phone, I wouldn’t want to scare him away. He’ll be all, like, ‘What manner of callback voodoo is this?’” I chuckled and then chided myself for laughing at someone’s deficiency. I tapped on the number and then waited through several rings before I was forwarded to an un-personalized voicemail box. “Aw, he doesn’t even know how to set up his voicemail,” I said to David as I waited for the beep.

I tried to sound as friendly as possible, so the poor guy didn’t think I was calling to complain for his many misdials. “Hi there. I’m the person you think is the Ramada, but I’m in your area code, in San Diego, and we think you’re trying to reach a Ramada in Florida. If that’s the case, try dialing with this area code.” I stated and repeated the three-digit area code, wished him the best of luck, and hung up.

For the rest of the night, we assumed the man had realized his mistake and taken my advice. But then, the next day, he called again. David’s phone was silent in another room, and the caller ended up in David’s voicemail box, which is preceded by a personal message that is clearly not a Ramada hotel. “Maybe he’s calling to thank me,” I said when David alerted me to the new message. “Go ahead, play it.”

When the message began, the man was seemingly mid-sentence and referring to David’s voicemail greeting: “...and that comes up all the time.” Then — and this was new — two women could be heard in the background. One asked, “What’s the area code?” while the other said, “Is your
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Leaked Photos Reveal Scope of Romney’s La Jolla Remodel

Neighbors complain about height violations; Romney’s legal team counters, “While man was given dominion over the earth, the heavens belong to God. And as for me and my house, we will honor the Lord.”

Emails obtained by the San Diego Reader give the public its first look at Romney’s Rest:

**The ocean is right there; you just can’t see it because of the huge white building.**

STROLLING ALONG THE BEACH, HOLDING A FLUFFY WHITE CAT, SAN ONOFRE — “It’s...disappointing,” says Ernst Stavro Blofeld, gazing wistfully at the twin domes of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. “For a minute there, when I first saw those lovely concrete globes, it took me back to the good old days. For a minute there, I thought I could get them back.”

Blofeld is referring to the similarity between SONGS and his former hideout on a volcanic island, from which he launched numerous attempts at world conquest. (Those attempts, we know now, were consistently foiled by British secret agent James “007” Bond, one of the great unsung heroes of the Cold War era.) And looking at recently declassified images of the hideout’s main hangar, Blofeld’s nostalgia is certainly understandable: when he heard that SONGS had been shuttered for over a year and that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission was hesitant to approve the plant’s restart — “owing to public safety concerns or some such nonsense”— he put in a bid to buy the plant and convert it to a retro-classic villainous lair. “It had everything we could have wanted,” he rhapsodizes. “Coastal location for launching covert submarine missions, warm weather for maintaining a bevy of bewitching, bikini-clad beauties, and, most importantly, that hulking, ominous character that is essential to a good headquarters. Let me assure you — the way developers work these days, finding a spot like that at a reasonable price is harder than rigging the world’s financial markets for your own nefarious ends. San Onofre looked like a godsend.”

Alas, it was not to be. Blofeld is a bad guy, the sort who is not above feeding an underperforming minion to his pet shark. But in the eyes of SONGS co-owner SDG&E, he isn’t quite evil enough. “Anyone can design a spaceship that will swallow other spaceships,” said SDG&E spokesman Sonny Ovabich. “But that kind of wickedness is really little more than a cry for help. Every time he tries to take over the world, he’s begging to be stopped. Real villainy requires a little more subtlety...like charging customers for a generating station that isn’t actually generating. Or charging customers for fire damage for which we found to be liable. SDG&E has a legacy of evil to uphold, and we’re not about to hand a goldmine like SONGS over to some washed-up, out-of-control megalomaniac. If you want to see my nemesis, look no further than a certain former hideout on a volcanic island.”

**SPECTRE Fails in Effort to Purchase San Onofre for New Headquarters**

Famed terrorist organization deemed “just not evil enough” by co-owner SDG&E

**SINHALA CARTEL NAMES U.S. ATTORNEY DUFFY ITS WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

Medical marijuana opponent recognized for her work in ensuring the stability of the cartel’s lucrative drug-import business

Sitting in what I would probably describe as a beautiful and exotic location were it not for the bag over my head, Mexico — Last night at its annual Awards gala and Nosy Journalist Slaughter, the Sinhalo drug cartel awarded U.S. Attorney for Southern California Laura Duffy its coveted Woman of the Year award.

“Ordinarily,” said a cartel spokesman from somewhere behind me, “we give the award to the year’s top-performing mule. Last year, it was Gloria Esteban Sanchez, who managed to get 15 heroin-stuffed condoms over the border in a single trip. Of course, we had to give the award posthumously, since one of the condoms ruptured in her lower intestine. But, even so, it’s a hard job to do.”

“...and make a big scene. And who suffers? The little guy. Me. Same old, same old.**
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Hello Matt:
I hope this finds you and the Elves doing well. I know I am un-hip to most things these days, but something has puzzled me for quite some time.

Why do certain fellows wear their pants or shorts below their rear end with the belt almost beneath the bottom of the underpants? What in the heck holds up the belt? I know the cops like that because it makes it hard for suspects to run, often tripping the offender, but how did thatfad get started?
— Dan, Clairemont

Some hot debate surrounds the presence of baggy, saggy jeans at the heart of hip-hop fashion. The trend really caught on in the early '90s, with gangster rap's rise to prominence as the de facto culture of urban minorities. Karl Kani was the first mainstream designer to put extra-baggy jeans on the shelves at major retailers, but he was really just pushing the envelope on what a lot of people were already doing. One popular theory is that prison dress inspired the baggy look and that ex-cons brought it to the streets. That might be a part of it, but baggy clothes had a place in hip-hop before gangster rap. B-boys from the early days — taking it back as far as the late '70s — wore parachute pants and other loose-fitting clothes because it was easier to execute the acrobatic maneuvers of break dancing.

As for holding up the pants, it’s a matter of technique. Once the belt is all cinched up, the best thing to do is walk with a little bit of a swagger. Having your feet splayed out a little bit generates the cocksure gangster’s saunter and keeps your pants from falling off. If you have to run somewhere, just hike them up and let fashion take a backseat to expedience.

Hello and good day to the person hired and appointed to read email sent to the mayor: This email is also being sent to the San Diego Reader employee who seems to know where to go to get good information on some off-the-wall questions/concerns. My concern is why is it that Cox Cable and Time Warner Cable have set areas throughout the county in which only one or the other — and not both companies — can provide service? If it is a California Public Utility issue, then I will probably be wasting my time with bringing this issue up with you (sorry, I mean, whomever is paid to read your email). My concern is probably falling on deaf ears, so I challenge the mayor to bring this “issue” to the attention of the general public via the media. This media attention would allow various customers to know they actually do have a choice, or, maybe they once did. I believe most are just afraid to bring the “cable company issue” to the attention of anyone important. Most people or persons within the jurisdiction of a city or a mayor do not like unwelcome attention due to fear of being ridiculed, embarrassed, deported, or simply being pointed out. Yet, I am not afraid of speaking my mind and actually do look forward to the actual city municipal code/rule/policy/law that states why it is “Cox” has a stranglehold on most properties south of the 52 freeway.
— Bryan Hendrix

Are you trying to say that the cable companies divvy up territory so that they can run exclusive monopolies on cable service to millions of people?
Yap. And it’s all perfectly legal.
But, wait a minute, Matt, doesn’t the government break up monopolies?
Yes, with a “but.” No, with an “if.” Cable television, according to lots of economists, is a “natural monopoly.” What that means is that the initial cost of doing business (i.e., setting up the cable infrastructure) is enormous and the cost of expanding the business (i.e., adding cable subscribers after the first one) is minimal. Because of that, it’s more cost effective for one company to provide cable service to a large area and for competition to stay out. At least, that’s what the government has maintained in the past. Because of this, cable companies operate as “franchises” that are overseen by local authorities. In our case, that’s the County of San Diego. There are two cable franchises in San Diego: Cox and Time Warner. Cox gets the territory south of the San Diego river, Time Warner gets everything to the north. They're legally forbidden for them to “cherry pick” neighborhoods, by which I mean they can’t just wire up the rich neighborhoods and leave the poor ones without cable. In order to acquire those territories, the companies had to submit a proposal with a $2000 fee attached and a bond demonstrating they had about half a million dollars kicking around. Most of these territories are 25+ years old and the deals are long done. The natural monopoly is established and it’s unlikely to change.
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<tr>
<td>Is your doctor “iLASIK” certified?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Do they offer 4th generation FS Intralase to create a safer, faster, more controlled, bladeless all-laser procedure?</td>
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<td>Will they diagnose your vision needs and recommend the most appropriate refractive surgery (LASIK, CK, PRK, Multifocal Implants/ReSTOR, etc.)?</td>
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Thrift-store junkie

While browsing the racks at Hunt & Gather, a vintage boutique on University Avenue in North Park, I ran into the well-dressed duo of Issa Lozano and Domenik Grisanti.

Both wore similar bags with very different price tags. Lozano bought his vintage Coach shoulder bag for $1 at Goodwill. Grisanti was not as thrifty; his Cambridge Classic Satchel brand bag has a $156 price tag.

Twenty-year-old Issa Lozano is a thrift-store junkie. Along with his vintage Coach bag, he wore a pair of old-school Ferragamos also from Goodwill. The Italian shoes retail for $600 and up. Issa scored his pair for $3.

“Just about everything I am wearing is from Goodwill,” Lozano said of his outfit. The 20-year-old’s biggest pet peeve is uninspired fashion.

“A lot of people use Instagram and Tumblr for their fashion choices. They see a photo of someone and copy their style. That’s not fashion. It’s supposed to be fun and about individuality. This morning I woke up and said, I want to dress like The Breakfast Club so that’s what I did. That was my inspiration for today.”

I’d say Lozano’s look is a nice mixture of John Bender meets Brian Johnson: it’s preppy with an edgy twist.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old Grisanti wore mostly eBay-purchased items. His leather jacket and T-shirt are both from the online marketplace. He wore a pair of classic Doc Martens boots, which retail for around $120. He also wore Zara skinny jeans.

BY SIOBHAN BRAUN

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BLOG

TITLE: The Beekman 1802 Mercantile (UN)Intentional Misleading Information
POST DATE: January 25, 2013

Let me ask you, how do you feel when people lie to you?

Sometimes people don’t know they’re lying. Sometimes they don’t know they’re hurting anyone in the process. That’s understandable. Once it’s been made known, the decision to make amends and change is up to them.

Here’s a brief recap: In 2010, Planet Green aired the first episode of season one of The Fabulous Beekman Boys. Self-declared “Fabulous,” the show was new, fresh, and whiny. I became an insta-fan. I Tivo’d it, saving all the episodes to watch repeatedly. I never tired of it. I supported Josh and Brent’s mission, their vision, and what they were trying to achieve: to gain awareness for and share the importance of farming, sustainable living, shopping at small businesses, and buying products that were “Made in the USA.”

Fast-forward to the present day...to January 22, 2013.

While browsing Twitter and checking individual profiles, I noticed a retweet from Beekman1802Boys: “Yay! RT @Kalegal2: Just received my canvas Beekman bag. The quality is outstanding...” [Tweet modified.]

So I replied: “I have the original, made in China!” They replied, “You need to upgrade to American-made.” I replied: “I know...right? And to be sure before placing orders, are all items listed in your shop made in the USA?” They replied, “Everything with the exception [of] mugs. Most everything is made within 20 miles of the farm.”

(I like to buy American-made when I find something I like. However, I buy all kinds of items from all over the world. I have never stated that I ONLY buy American-made.)

I liked their honesty, and in all fairness, I really wanted to know. I asked my question, they answered my question. I thought we were done. I was surprised when I received another tweet from Beekman1802Boys: “Are the sunglasses you are wearing in your profile pic made in USA?” I replied, “Most definitely not. Though @Disneyland never made claims to locally source all of its products. So I knew ahead of time.” I got another tweet, this one from Beekman Boy Dr. Brent: “Then I don’t think you should be on any high-horse, missy. You vote with your pocket book.”

Why were they getting so defensive? Remember, I was just asking a question. It wasn’t even a hard question. Maybe it was difficult to answer publicly when their website states, “All Beekman 1802 goods are hand-crafted near Sharon Springs, NY, using only natural ingredients & quality materials...” All?

Again, I thought we were done with this nonsense...NOPE! I understand that when someone calls you out, you get defensive. You get personal. My questions had to do with business; Dr. Brent’s next tweet went personal when it quoted from my website. “@beckycharms hmmm... Perspective, perseverance, sparkle, & charm not seeing any of those falseadvertising.”

Now no, Dr. Brent; I like that you took the time to quote me. But, it’s not okay to trick your shoppers. Tell them the truth. They’ll admire you more for it. I know I would. “All Beekman 1802 goods...” Well, all but my Original Beekman 1802 Canvas Tote. All except for the mugs. And my $28 Limited Edition Beekman 1802 Polka Spot T-Shirt that my mom bought me for my 30th Birthday. “Made in Nicaragua.”

The issue: Our family shopped online from the Beekman 1802 Mercantile under the impression that ALL items came from Sharon Springs, NY. We felt we were supporting the Beekman Boys and felt a part of their mission: to support local farms and their communities. We felt duped when we discovered two of our items didn’t even come from the USA.

The solution: Change the wording on the home page of the Mercantile and for the Limited Edition Polka Spot T-shirt. Stop claiming “ALL.” An apology is also in order, for the omission of the truth regarding the origin of our canvas tote and Polka Spot T-shirt, and for the personal attacks via Twitter.

What you profess, we support. It’s just time to align what you do with what you say.

[Post edited for length and content]
COOL STUFF... HOT PRICES!
These are GREAT DEALS! Some items have limited quantity. So Hurry for the Best Selection!

MAXWELL
LEATHER SOFA
$350

QUEEN FABRIC
STORAGE BED FRAME
$350

TIERED RACK
$95

MODERN
SOFA
$175

STORAGE
OTTOMAN
$135

RED LEATHER
CHAIR
$95

MODERN
CHAIR
$135

BLACK QUEEN
PLATFORM BED
$345

END TABLE
$20

COOL NEW
SOFA STYLE
$395

Living Room • Bedroom • Dining Room
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OPEN DAILY.

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MetroDecorOnline.com

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619-275-4300

1156 Morena Blvd. • San Diego

1210 W. Morena Blvd., Ste. B • San Diego
St. Patrick’s Day is fast approaching, and my Kelly hubby is heavy into party planning.


“It’s called a fascinator, honey,” I informed my Irishman.

“What kind of party is this going to be?” I asked, picturing my outfit.


“Classy,” I said.

“There’s an Irish saying: ‘An Irishman has an abiding sense of tragedy, which sustains him through temporary periods of joy.’ That beer hat is your tragedy,”

“What are we doing for music?” I asked, changing the subject.

“I wanted a live band, but I blew the budget on your stockings,” Patrick winked. “Call your experts and get some recommendations. We’ll put together a playlist.”

“Our favorite Irish albums around here are Chieftains albums,” explained Angela, “and also a somewhat arcane album called My Love Is in America, which is the recording of a fiddle fest at Boston College that I happened upon in person [$4.22 used at amazon.com]. And The Wild Rover is the best drinking song,” she added ($9.99 for an MP3 at amazon.com).

“My man sang that song at our wedding reception,” I reminisced, winking at Patrick. The comment launched him into song:

“I’ve been a wild rover for many a year,
And I’ve spent all me money on whiskey and beer,
But now I’m returning with gold in great store,
And I promise to play the wild rover no more...”

“Okay, Bard of Armagh, back to the playlist,” I chided.

“The High Kings is a great band,” suggested Bridget, “and I also like ‘I Know My Love,’ by the Corrs and the Chieftains [$9.99 MP3 at amazon.com], and I love Niamh Parsons [Blackbirds & Thrushes, $8.99 for the MP3 album at amazon.com].”

“Elemental, by Loreena McKennitt is incredibly beautiful,” said Margaret. “Van Morrison with the Chieftains...that album is excellent, and his version of ‘Star of County Down’ is awesome [$19.98 used CD at amazon.com].”

For instrumental music, “Derek Bell’s Musical Ireland is one of my all-time favorite Irish instrumentals [$13.99 CD at amazon.com]. His rendition of ‘Car-tickferges’ is gorgeous.”

Margaret suggested Susan Neill Plays the Irish Harp (99 CD, $6.99 MP3 at amazon.com) any Mary Black (Mary Black, $13.85 CD; Holy Ground, $14.99 CD at amazon.com), and Sinead O’Connor’s I Do Not Want What I Haven’t Got ($8.86 CD, $9.49 MP3 at amazon.com), “Sinead O’Connor’s versions of the ‘Parting Glass’ and ‘He Moved Through the Fair,’ heard in the end scene of the movie Michael Collins, are both hauntingly beautiful.”

“I hope this helps,” Margaret added, “and if not, Póg mo thóin!”

“Sassy Irishwoman,” complained Patrick, who understands enough Gaelic to know that póg mo thóin means “kiss my arse.”

“We love classics like Clancy Brothers, the Irish Rovers, Paddy Reilly, Wolfeones, and the Fureys,” suggested my Irish pal Bernadette, whose husband Tim performs in an Irish band. “And newer groups like Young DUBLiners, Gaelic Storm, and Flogging Molly.”

“As for tunes for the playlist, she continued, “include some fun ones like ’The Unicorn,’ ‘Donald Where’s Your Trouser,’ ‘Goodbye Mrs. Durkin,’ I’ll Tell Me Ma,’ and, of course, ’The Rattling Bog.’ The party favorite ’The Rooster’ by Fair Isle Folk is great stuff.”


“Those beer hat is your tragedy.”
That mantra is engrained in my mind as I climb the treacherous employee stairs, reading the large motivational signs; it prepares me for a long shift. I enter the sleek Nordstrom in North County and leave Jessica Swenke behind. I am now employee number 9138934 — a customer-service zombie in trendy attire.

As I stroll through Cosmetics to get to my department, Accessories and Sunglasses, I am dreading the prospect of checking my sales figures. Commission sounded fabulous during three intense days of training, but when customer returns count against employees, you can grow to despise Nordstrom’s generous policy. I find 9138934 and see that I am at negative $550. “Damn,” I mutter. “It must’ve been those Gucci sunglasses.” At a 9 percent commission rate, I will lose about $50 on my next paycheck — all because of a return. We Nordstrom salespeople call it working for free. Yeah, it happens all too often.

I pace around the sunglass bay, looking for my next sale. An edgy-looking older male approaches. “I need to return these,” he says.

I recognize the Chanel 330s. They’re called Glam Magics, big sellers at any luxury retailer. These $330 shades look as if they’ve gone through a washing of scarves, hats, and sunglasses just to break even. Yeah, it happens all too often.

* * *

SELLING IS SERVICE

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“I got these for my girlfriend’s birthday a month ago, and my dog chewed them up before I could give them to her. Can I get a new pair?”

Sir, I am so sorry,” I say. “I cannot take these glasses back, due to the scratches on the lenses and condition of the frame. Let’s check out some of our new sunglasses and we can find another pair for your girlfriend.” This tactic is a bit of a stretch. On the other hand, I have nothing to lose.

“I thought this was Nordstrom,” the customer complains. “This is bullshit.” He grabs the case and struts off. Well, nothing gained, nothing lost. But now I need to hustle so I can make some money.

My department manager appears. Kathy (not her real name) seems to be on a power trip. “Okay, girls!” she says. “Each of you has to come up with a minimum of three reasons why we can’t take these returns back on the floor.”

Going along keep the higher-ups off your back. “Sounds great, Kathy,” I say. “You’re totally right.” Not. I may be a sheep in the corporate herd, but I will never drink the Nordstrom Kool-Aid.

I switch over to scarves and hats, hoping for luck about this scarf?” I ask Ash, another sales associate. “Doesn’t it smell like perfume? We should take it to alterations to get steamed. That’ll take out the smell.” I hoist the obnoxious purple wrap that someone probably wore once and returned. In my mind’s eye, I see Grandma all gussied up. Must’ve been bingo night at the casino.

“It’s disgusting that we have to put these worn returns back on the floor,” Ash says.

A classy older woman walks through the second-floor opening in the mall, and we’re suddenly like lions spotting their prey — this store is so dead, most sales associates usually spend their time trying to sell merch to other employees. But if it looks as if a customer has money, we jump all over the sale.

“Ding-ding-ding,” I say. “Welcome. How are you doing tonight?” Closing is at 9:00 p.m., and I am still in the negative, and I am going for the exactly right level of friendly. I need to make this sale.

“I’m not shopping,” the lady says. “I just need to get this belt fixed. It’s falling apart. I got it ‘bout ten years ago.”

Before I can think of how to respond, the old gal beats me to it.

“Nordstrom should stand behind their products,” she says. “This belt is falling apart. It should not be falling apart.”

I want to scream, “Nothing lasts forever!” but being a customer-service-trained individual, I know only too well that I can’t be that real.

So I pick up a phone and dial the night manager. I can see the relieved faces of my coworkers — by pure luck, they’ve escaped
being stuck with That Lady with the Crazy Return.

When the manager arrives, I introduce her to the customer, then get as far away from the situation as possible. But before heading back onto the floor, I decide to check the department’s sales numbers for the day. If I use employee numbers, I can see how my teammates have done, and even the boss. This isn’t snooping, only normal practice at Nordies. It keeps the competitive atmosphere thriving.

Me: sales $0.00, returns $550.
Ash: sales $475, returns $35.
Kathy: sales $1745, returns $25.

My hope for making money tonight is dwindling away.

And here is Kathy. “Girls, it is dead in here!” she says, a smirk on her face. “Call your customers and get ‘em in here to shop! We need to make our goal! Make it happen.”

It’s 7:00 p.m. on a Monday night, and calling customers at this hour is something we all hate and dread, but to stay with the herd, we do as Kathy says. I dial Jill in Rancho Santa Fe, hoping she won’t pick up. Then I can leave my well-rehearsed voicemail.

Score! Another long conversation with a shopaholic, husband-deprived housewife avoided.

I look at my watch. Another two hours have flown by, filled with the folding of hundreds of scarves, then laying them out facing in the correct direction, according to my manager’s standards. And now I can go. Lucky for me I’m not closing tonight. My feet throb as I trek down the once-motivating employee stairs at the end of another disappointing shift in retail sales.

* * *

My mom rushes into my room playing the ultimate backup alarm: “Wake up! You’re gonna be late for work!”

It’s a serious oh shit moment. I have 30 minutes to get ready. That’s enough time for hair or a good outfit, but not both.

What the hell am I going to wear? I mentally scroll through my inventory of clothes, trying to settle on something my coworkers — and especially Kathy — will not criticize. On top of everything else, it’s mandatory...
WOMEN WITH FIBROIDS & HEAVY PERIODS
A 9-month clinical research study is underway to evaluate an investigational oral medication for women with fibroid tumors of the uterus with heavy periods who want an alternative to surgery

To possibly qualify for the study:
- Women, 20 years of age and older
- Must have a history of fibroid tumors of the uterus
- Periods must be heavy and occurring every 24-35 days

Qualified participants may receive at no cost:
- Study-related exam and consultation with a board-certified ob-gyn
- Study-related labs, EKG, Ultrasound, Dexam bone scan, and study medication
- Compensation to $900.00 for time and travel

INTERESTED CALL MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH 619-521-2841 • WWW.MCCRESEARCH.COM

BROUGHT DRYNESS & IRRITATION SEX IS UNCOMFORTABLE
A 2-week clinical research study is underway for menopausal women affected by vaginal dryness and irritation. Two investigational vaginal suppositories will be compared in menopausal women complaining of Menopause-induced Dryness, Irritation And Painful Sexual relations.

To Possibly Participate:
1) Postmenopausal women, 30-75 years of age
2) Must have bothersome symptoms of vaginal dryness, irritation, or painful intercourse
3) Natural or surgical menopause (>6 weeks after surgery)
4) Not presently using hormones

Participants May Receive At No Cost:
1) Exam and consultation with a board-certified ob-gyn
2) Labs, pap smear, mammogram, and study drug or placebo at no cost
3) Compensation for time and travel

INTERESTED CALL MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH 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 CALL MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH 619-521-2841 • WWW.MCCRESEARCH.COM

BAD ACNE . . . Consider a Research Study
A 3-month medical study is underway comparing 2 topical investigational gels for Moderate Facial Acne. If you are not on treatment at present or willing to go off present oral and topical treatments for acne, but suffer from moderate facial acne, you may be a candidate to participate.

To Possibly Qualify Must Be:
1) Male and Females, 12-40 Years of Age, With a Diagnosis of Moderate to Severe Facial Acne
2) Not Presently on Oral or Topical Medication, or Willing to Stop Present Treatments to Qualify for the Study
3) Not Allergic to Benzoyl Peroxide, Clidamycin, or Retinoids

Participants May Receive At No Cost Study-Related:
1) Exam and Consultation by Board-Certified Physician
2) Topical Study Medication at no Cost
3) Compensation to $300.00 for Time and Travel

INTERESTED, CALL MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH 619-521-2841 • WWW.MCCRESEARCH.COM

INTERESTED CALL MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH 619-521-2841 • WWW.MCCRESEARCH.COM
that Accessories employees wear a scarf or headband every day to work. That seems a bit extreme, right?

I pull myself together with an all-black outfit. I hope won't receive too many snarky looks from the young, ultra-trendy (make that ultra-snobby) “personal stylists” roaming the store.

“Good morning, girls!” I say on my way in. I always greet the customer-service gals. They deserve serious credit for dealing with clowns, day after day.

To my right I see a group of young, egotistical salesmen — with a few oldies sprinkled in — over in Women’s Shoes. Now that is where the money is.

To my left, the Cosmetics employees are gos-siping, refreshing their makeup, adding a dab of perfume before starting their shift.

I spot Kathy at a register, typing at the keyboard, and with every step I take toward her, I am preparing for the sales-confidence beating about to go down.

“Hi, Kath —” I begin.

Then I am saved by the bell.

Paula (not her real name) — aka the Shepherd, aka the store manager — announces: “Good morning, my fabulous 364 store! Are we pumped up in here to shop!”

I run to the stock room to grab some over-priced gloves for the rally. Neither of the colors seems right for the rally, upstair. Hmm... purple or gray? These are the only colors left in back-stock of our popular, tech-friendly gloves.

“Girls, it is dead in here! Call your customers and get ’em in here to shop!”

To my left, the Cosmetics employees are gos-siping, refreshing their makeup, adding a dab of perfume before starting their shift.

I see Paula steps out for her shift. She has a presence that comes from being a tall woman with incredible style. Think Devil Wears Prada Meryl Streep, without the harsh edge.

Paula steps out for the rally. She has a presence that comes from being a tall woman with incredible style. Think Devil Wears Prada Meryl Streep, without the harsh edge.

**RESEARCH STUDIES**

**DIABETES**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH STUDY**

As part of a research study, PrecisionMed is conducting rating tests (Pain and feeling in legs and arms) and other testing which will consist of a blood draw and spinal tap, on volunteers aged 25-60 yrs. who have been diagnosed with diabetic peripheral neuropathy.

Tests will be conducted every 6 months and participants will be compensated $75 for the first visit and $250 for testing at each of 2 possible completed spinal tap visits. Participation involves no medications or treatment.

For information call Carole Marks at 1-888-468-6654 ext 209 or email carolemarks@precisionmed.com

**BIPOLAR DISORDER CLINICAL TRIAL**

Researchers at Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital are enrolling men and women for a clinical trial. Individuals who have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and are currently experiencing a manic episode may qualify.

Eligible participants will receive all study-related care at no cost, and may be reimbursed for time and travel.

Participation is confidential and trials are safely conducted under the supervision of experienced physicians and research specialists.

To learn more, call (858) 836-8350.

**Smoke Too Much? Drink Too Much?**

We are looking for men and women who are motivated to quit smoking and drinking!

You may be eligible to participate in our 18-week research trial. This study does involve taking a study drug or placebo.

Qualified participants may be compensated up to $290 for time and travel.

For more information, call us toll-free: 1-855-PAC-TARC (722-8272)
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.

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**DEPRESSED?**

Sad? Down?

**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*

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**Currently on treatment for bipolar I disorder?**

If you’re being treated for bipolar I disorder and still feeling depressed, you may qualify to take part in a clinical research study. If enrolled, you will receive:

- Investigational medicine
- Study-related care from a local doctor
- Compensation may be available for your time and travel

**To qualify you must:**
Be 18 – 75 years old
Take medication for Bipolar I disorder

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**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.

---

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

**South Bay**
1908 Sweetwater Road
National City, CA 91950

1-888-619-7272
www.synergysandiego.com

**North County**
710 E Grand Avenue
Escondido, CA 92025
Paula is going to get everyone fired up to sell and make the store money. Department by department, sales associates go up to the microphone, trying to score brownie points with Paula, who gives away free drinks from the espresso bar. The retail gods know we need it — concealer can only hide so much.

Then we are given our daily sales goals. Then we're dismissed back to our sparkly departments, which have been bedazzled with holiday decorations. Yes, it's that time of year. Longer shifts, the endless folding of those beloved silver Nordstrom boxes, and the tying of the infamous silver bows. You'd think sales associates would be trained on how to tie bows, on how to wrap boxes perfectly, because that is the standard. But, no.

My first customer of the day — Ina, an older woman who buys a beautiful scarf for her daughter-in-law — asks me to wrap the box. My skills are about to be tested. Uh-oh. I do a hack-job on this poor lady's gift box. When it comes to wrapping presents, not everyone is Martha Stewart. But there's no one around to help me fix it, and I can't leave her waiting for long. Every step back is filled with dread and embarrassment.

In one long breath, I say to the customer, "Hi, Ina. Okay, so, I know the wrapping isn't perfect... If you want to get it wrapped nicely, I would recommend going upstairs to customer service, and they will do a great job. I'm sorry." Ina is legitimately mad. I am sincerely upset that our store wants us to provide this wrapping service without ever teaching us how to do it properly. Wrapping is the plague — I'd like to stay far, far away from it.

Ash, my coworker, has started her shift. She approaches with her usual smile, something necessary in this line of work. "Hey, Jess," she says. "You can take your lunch now."
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.

- 18 years of age and over
- We have a study with Investigational topical medication applied to the feet
- 3 office visits up to 6 weeks
- Qualified participants receive up to $90 for time and travel.
- Health insurance is not required.

To find out if you qualify for study participation, please call 858-784-7867 or visit our website at pearsoncenter.org for more info.

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Foot Fungus Clinical Research Study

Register online! www.univct.com

7695 Cardinal Court Suite 210
San Diego, CA 92123
Ph: 858-278-8470

We are located off the 163 Freeway and Genesee Ave.

---

We need kids 12-17 who are allergic to Dust Mites.

This is a Fall Allergy Research Study for an investigational medication that might help clean things up.

Here are the qualifications:

- Your child must be age 12 to 17 with or without asthma
- They must have at least a 6-month history of allergy symptoms related to house dust as diagnosed by a physician
- If they have asthma, it must be controlled and stable
- Your child must test positive for dust mites at the first screening visit with us
- Your child must not have had allergy injections for house dust mites in the past 5 years
- 3 office visits and 6 phone contacts are required during this test period
- You will be compensated for time & travel after the study.

Health insurance is not needed. This is a no-cost research study for your child.

Please call Margie Hattox for the remaining details at 619-229-2355

Or e-mail her at: mhattox@aaamg.com

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Allergy Associates Medical Group

The Research Center

6386 Alvarado Ct, #210; San Diego, CA 92120  Website: www.allergyassociates.net

Dr. Bruce Prenner-Board Certified Allergist and Staff

Over 36 years of experience with clinical trials.
I am relieved to hear this. Time to put these feet up for an hour. But an employee could go broke eating at the Nordstrom Cafe, even with our discount, so I opt for more caffeine instead, a quad-shot espresso over ice. The retail employee’s fountain of energy.

Oh, and the Nordstrom employee lounge can make or break your lunch. For instance: the shoes guys always rush to the lounge to grab the clicker for ESPN. The girls and other non-interested employees must opt for another location.

Or, the employee tables are filled to capacity.

Or: Bravo is on the TV, so we are all forced to catch up on the latest Real Housewives episode.

Lucky for me, on this day the TV is off. The clicker is nowhere to be found.

I sit at an empty table, hoping to tune out the chatter, the exchange of weird-return stories, the bragging about a large sale.

I go into a daze…

“Jessica Swenke, five-four. Jessica Swenke, five-four.”

Oh, that’s me. I run to the nearest phone. It’s up on the third floor, in St. John, a designer area where you would be lucky to find anything to wear that’s less than several bills.

“Hi, this is Jessica Swenke,” I say into the receiver.

“Jessica! It’s Nika,” says the woman on the other end of the line. “Albert and I are heading over to the mall and want to shop with you for new hair accessories. Just checking to see if you’re available.”

“Sounds great, Nika!” I say. “I’ll see you and Albert soon. Thank you so much for thinking of me!”

Albert (not his real name) and Nika (not her real name) are regulars of mine. They are a cute couple from Russia, mid-40s, and they never shop without one another. Nika returns about 70 percent of the stuff she buys.

I down my espresso and clock back in, hoping Nika will purchase something worth keeping in that headband.”

“Of course!” I say. Another hour has passed, and I’ve earned less than $9 in commission. I’m thankful that at least it’s more than minimum wage.

“Excuse me,” another customer says. “I needed some help with sunglasses, but no one was helping me. Do you mind?”

This woman is dressed way down, but she sounds kind.

“Oh, my gosh, you look stunning.”

Albert spews these dramatic compliments in a monotone. Nika soaks up the glory. After an hour, he’s said it all and Nika is ready to buy.

“Your total is $85.10,” I say. Another hour has passed, and I’ve earned less than $9 in commission. I’m thankful that at least it’s more than minimum wage.

“Of course!” I say. Night is creeping in, and I am eager for a sale. “Let’s go over there.”

The woman pulls out older Chanel and Gucci sunglasses cases.

“I’ve had both of these styles for years and absolutely love them,” she says. “So I came in to buy a new pair of each.”
You may be qualified to participate in an ACNE research study

To participate in the study you must:
• Be between the ages of 12 and 40 (participants under 18 must have parental consent)
• Have ACNE of moderate severity
• Agree to not use oral ACNE medications 1 month before study start, and ACNE topical medications 1 week before study start
• Not have known skin allergies to cosmetics or other ACNE treatments

Participants will receive:
• Examination by a board certified dermatologist
• Study-related drug
• Compensation for time and travel

For more information please call or email:
(619) 243-7015 • clinicaltrials@medderm.net
Or visit our website: www.medderm.net
I grab the current, modified styles of the glasses from back stock. The woman loves them as much as her old ones. “Total is $1125.95,” I say.

She hands me her card to swipe. It’s heavier than usual, and I realize it’s the notorious black American Express.

Never, ever judge a woman who isn’t decked out in designer duds. Especially when you’re out in designer duds.

Kathy paces up to me after I hand the generous 100 percent commission. Kathy and Ash jet out for the night, and I am left alone for the oh-so-dreaded closing shift: dusting, cleaning the glass displays, making sure everything is perfectly folded and in its correct place.

A tall order, if you’re busy, you know, helping customers. Isn’t that my real job?

The store is set to close at 9:00 p.m., but we’ll remain open if people are shopping. It’s ten to 9:00 and a few browsers remain; customers who, when you approach them, say immediately, “I’m just looking.” Isn’t that what everyone is doing here?

The other employees have nasty looks on their faces. They’re giving the evil eye to these last stragglers on the second floor. Meanwhile, I scurry around the department, making sure everything is perfect for Kathy in the morning. Not one scarf can be left unfolded, not one pair of sunglasses can be out of place, or I will have to kiss goodbye being on Kathy’s good side.

The ten-minute warning sounds: “Attention, customers, our store will be closing in ten minutes.” A giant sigh of relief comes from every department on the floor.

Now it’s time to get serious. Time to count the money. There are three registers I have to count. I know I’ll be last in line when we get upstairs to turn in our money bags. I scramble to write everything down. If I miss something, I’ll be in deep shit (pardon my French, Kathy). I glance up every 30 seconds. The Women’s Shoes team is heading upstairs, followed by Cosmetics, Men’s, Jewelry, and Handbags. I am a one-girl team, trying to finish. Accessories is short-handed. Other departments have three or more people to help.

The ten-minute warning sounds: “Attention, customers, our store will be closing in ten minutes.” A giant sigh of relief comes from every department on the floor.

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Finally, I shovel the money bags into my arms and try to balance them as I make my way upstairs. The glamorous and spar-kly second floor isn’t quite as fabulous in the dark. Ah…light. The third floor is alive. I don’t feel so alone anymore. I am the last in a line of very tired but well-dressed customers who, when you approach them, say immediately, “I’m just looking.” Isn’t that what everyone is doing here?

The other employees have nasty looks on their faces. They’re giving the evil eye to these last stragglers on the second floor. Meanwhile, I scurry around the department, making sure everything is perfect for Kathy in the morning. Not one scarf can be left unfolded, not one pair of sunglasses can be out of place, or I will have to kiss goodbye being on Kathy’s good side.

The ten-minute warning sounds: “Attention, customers, our store will be closing in ten minutes.” A giant sigh of relief comes from every department on the floor.

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**LASER HAIR REMOVAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lip or Chin</td>
<td>$29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both Underarms</td>
<td>$49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazilian</td>
<td>$99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower Legs</td>
<td>$139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Bikini Line</td>
<td>$59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-pay 5 treatments, get 6th free!</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dysport™</td>
<td>$199</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restylane</td>
<td>$325</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juvéderm® Ultra XC</td>
<td>$319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latisse</td>
<td>$79*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Buy 2 kits for $119 each and 3rd kit free. Limited quantities available.</td>
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**SKIN REJUVENATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPL Photofacial</td>
<td>$125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep Cleansing Facial</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glycolic Facial</td>
<td>$79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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sales associates waiting to turn in their money bags and be released back into reality. Somehow, I always feel like a mess in this sea of type-A personalities. I scramble to get my money bags filled out and in order.

"Next!"

Laura (not her real name), the customer-service manager, will be counting my bags tonight.

Sigh.

Laura climbed her way up the Nordstrom ladder from being a sales associate. It probably helped that she drank the Kool-Aid. Scratch that — she invented it. Every rule and code, she will enforce. If you make a decision about a customer or purchase, she will judge it. Laura is everywhere in the store and knows most everything that goes on. What with our extensive video surveillance, not a single move goes unnoticed. You are always being watched.

"The money needs to be facing upwards, Jessica," Laura says. "I’ll do it for you this time, but next time, you need to make sure you do everything before you get upstairs.
We try and make it timely and efficient up here this late."

Just like that, I’ve devolved from Sales Superstar to Money Bag Mess-Up.

“Yes, ma’am,” I say.

I dash to the nearest computer screen and clock out number 9138934.

I look at the dashboard.

“12:30!”

I am 30 minutes early for my 1:00 p.m. shift.

No sense in letting these curls fall. No sense in letting my make-up melt in the heat. So I go in.

The climb up the once-hopeful stairs at the employee entrance is exhausting. The motivational signs no longer seem bold, but transparent.

Instead of a cheerful hello to the gracious customer-service gals, I make a hard left. I head to Human Resources.
It’s a snap decision, but I will no longer answer to 9138934. Kathy, Paula, Laura — I think of them as “Javerts,” from Les Mis — they can’t get me now. Okay, maybe I’ve seen that story too many times.

I sign paper after paper, and then I am released.

I walk down the hallway, no longer a number. I am Jessica Swenke.

— Jessica Swenke
Model

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One Steak at a Time

Angie Elsbury wears a blood-smeared apron and, in her words, “like, five layers of clothes” underneath. She laughs with her mouth wide open, lifting the apron to prove she’s not exaggerating.

“I have knee-highs, two pairs of cotton [long johns], and these jeans.” She leans over to show me the various waistbands. Then there’s the black-and-gray striped sweatshirt, the long-sleeved white button-down (with polka-dot tie), a T-shirt, and an undershirt.

It’s a Monday afternoon, and we’re standing in front of the meat case at Vons on Regents Road. Elsbury has finished showing me the territories for which she is responsible as the meat-department manager. The job has her in and out of “the cooler,” a cold room kept at a temperature just above freezing, as well as the seafood and meat cases, parts of the frozen-food aisle, and the bulk of aisle five, the refrigerated section where lunch meats and hot dogs are kept. In other words, Elsbury claims responsibility for “pretty much the whole back part of the store.”

“Hi, you finding everything all right?” she says as people pass by or browse the meat case.

“Yeah, thanks for asking!” a young man responds, mirroring her cheerful tone.

A college-age woman in Ugg boots, leggings, and a flannel shirt approaches gingerly and asks what would be a good substitute for beef brisket. Elsbury walks the woman closer to the meat case and asks what she’s trying to make. The woman’s voice is so small I can’t hear her answer, but Elsbury suggests the beef chuck pot roast.

“Suggest the beef chuck pot roast,” she says. “Or browse the meat case.”

“Does it, like, shred?” the woman asks.

“Yeah, thanks for asking!” a young man responds, mirroring her cheerful tone.

A college-age woman in Ugg boots, leggings, and a flannel shirt approaches gingerly and asks what would be a good substitute for beef brisket. Elsbury walks the woman closer to the meat case and asks what she’s trying to make. The woman’s voice is so small I can’t hear her answer, but Elsbury suggests the beef chuck pot roast.

She recommends adding carrots and potatoes to the slow-cooker.

She pulls two plastic-wrapped packages of meat from the refrigerated case. Either one, she says, would be about right.

“And they’re on sale,” she adds.

“Does it, like, shred?” the woman asks.

When Elsbury answers in the affirmative, the woman thanks her and drops one of the two packages into her basket.

“The second part of this job,” Elsbury tells me as the woman walks away, “is knowing how to cook.”

Again, there’s that wide-open-mouthed laugh. Elsbury crinkles her eyes and nose. The face she makes reminds me of Joan Cusack, though Elsbury has less meat on her bones than the actress. A lanky five feet, ten-and-a-half inches, her frame appears slight—even with all the clothing she wears to keep warm.

Two weeks ago, Elsbury transferred to this store from the Vons office.

“One Day at a Time

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at Girard and Torrey Pines. This is the seventh Vons she’s worked at since she started at 30th and Howard in North Park as a bagger in 2007.

“They call it a ‘courtesy clerk,’” she explains. “I was 36 and didn’t really want to bag groceries. But I’d just gotten out of prison, and I was so happy to work.”

Although we’re still standing among the shoppers, she speaks without lowering her voice. More self-conscious on her behalf than she is, I look around for surprised faces.

Elsbury reaches down the into the meat case, retrieves a package that needs to be returned behind the counter.

“If it offends someone, I’m sorry,” she says of speaking frankly about her past. More often, she says, people will pull her aside and ask for advice on what to do for loved ones who need help.

By the time she was hired at Vons, Elsbury had spent a total of six and a half years incarcerated for possession of a controlled substance. Heroin was her drug of choice. She says she was born addicted to heroin

company today. I’m a hard worker, I’m motivated, and I’m friendly.”

The courtesy-clerk job at Vons lasted a whole three days — until the meat-department manager of that store requested her presence in his department. He promoted her to meat-and-seafood personnel (“MSP,” she calls it).

“He saw me working hard,” she says.

The new job paid ten cents more per hour, with 24 hours of work each week, in contrast to the 16 allowed to a courtesy clerk. The position included customer service, stocking, and cleaning areas overseen by the meat-department manager.

Behind the meat counter, the black rubber flooring is splattered with blood and chunks of meat. Elsbury has just pulled two 20-pound slabs of strip loin from the “cooler” and placed them on a cutting table flanked by two large garbage cans. On her left hand she wears what she calls a “shark glove” that is made of metal mesh. Grabbing a ten-inch Forschner steak knife (for which she paid approximately $40) from a knife-block at the corner of the table, she demonstrates how well the glove works by sliding the blade across her hand before I have time to squeeze my eyes shut or turn away. Elsbury laughs at my squeamishness.

“Tomorrow, I have Five Dollar Friday, and it’s gone meat-and-seafood professional for nine months before she decided to apply to Vons’ in-house journeyman-butchers apprenticeship program. She didn’t believe she’d get the position but was eager to prove herself in the interview.

“I wanted them to see who I am,” she says.

In the end, she landed one of seven spots in the program, but soon after she got the news, corporate decision-makers brought up her parole status, which prohibited the use of knives. The way she tells it, it was but 15 minutes later that she received a call from her parole officer, informing her that she was officially discharged from parole.

The apprenticeship began with a four-week class at the Vons at Clairemont Square. The first week included eight hours a day of book work, studying from Best in Class Cutting, which is full of diagrams, pictures, and information about the shelf-life of different meats; the names of different cuts of meat and which part of the animal they come from; safety, rotation, ordering weights and measurements; and so on. During the second, third, and fourth weeks, Elsbury and her classmates learned to cut. They practiced cutting, then were sent to stores around the district to continue practicing.

At the end of the four-week program, Elsbury was sent to train under three journeymen cutters at the Vons on Midway Drive.

“I got a lot of attention,” she says. “Which was good, but it was also, like, ‘Don’t do that. Do it like this. What is that? What are you doing?’”

Training under journeymen butchers can last as long as two years before an apprentice becomes a journeymen herself. At three points within the first six months of Elsbury’s training, her teacher from the classroom and the meat merchandiser for the district called upon her to perform block tests. The first came around the end of the three-month mark.

“They give you a list a week before the test, so

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you can order [the meat] you need, but they won’t tell you what you’ll cut out of it,” she explains. “When it’s time for the test, they’ll say, ‘I want two London broil value packs, a top round roast, cube steak, stir-fry, stew, and a top round thin.’ And then they’ll stand there and time you. They test you on time and craftsmanship.”

That first block test was for boneless meats. The second, given a month or two later, was bone-in. The final included some of everything. Elsbury still has the report her teacher wrote up and gave to the merchandiser after her final exam.

“He recommended that I was ready to run a small cutting shop. At that point, my strengths were in boneless cutting.”

And now?

“When I look at my meat, it looks really good,” she says. “I’m proud of my cutting.”

While still in the apprenticeship, Elsbury was transferred to the North Park store, where she continued to train under two journeymen. After about six months at North Park — by then she had a total of nine months in the apprenticeship — she was transferred again, this time to Hillcrest, where they made her “acting manager” of the meat department. The position was temporary but required her promotion to journeyman.

Three months later, she applied for and landed a permanent post as meat-department manager, the highest-paid in-store (union) position. She began at Tierrasanta, then transferred to Mission Gorge, and then to Girard and Torrey Pines, where she stayed for a year and a half. Currently, she makes $14 an hour more than before she entered the apprenticeship, a total of $22.08 per hour.

“It’s pretty cool to be a girl and have a man’s job,” she says. “I like it.”

When Elsbury finishes cutting and trimming the New York steaks, she places the styrofoam trays on a cart. One of her five employees, a young man named Dominic, wheels the cart away to be wrapped and shelved for tomorrow’s sale.

“You should talk to her,” she calls after him. “You can tell her what an awesome boss I am!”

They both laugh.

“Last time it was Five Dollar Friday, I came in second place in the district,” Elsbury says, “which was good. I like it.”

Elsbury also has photos of meat — and not just a cow, maybe they’ll see this [article] and say, ‘If she can do it, then maybe I can, too.’

“Maybe I’ll see [this article],” she says, “from what we’re looking at, huddled over Elsbury’s phone.

Again, she flips through pictures until she finds one of herself in a red dress, standing next to a man in slacks and a tie.

“His name is Jason. That was the night he took me to see Stomp,” she says, “I never went on a date like that.”

Elsbury also has photos of meat — and not just a couple. She scrolls through shot after shot of raw flank steaks and boneless New Yorks and ribeyes. She shows me pictures of a big seven-bone (shoulder of the cow), a whole hanging cow, and a boneless ribeye butterflied into the shape of a heart (which she used for a while as her Facebook profile photo).

“I skinned a whole pig forever,” she says.

“I’m proud of my second place in the district,” she says. “I like it.”

“Any man I have,” she says. “I told him, ‘If she can do it, then maybe I can, too.’

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“Because I love my job!” she says.

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“Because I love my job!” she says.

Again, she flips through pictures until she finds one of herself in a red dress, standing next to a man in slacks and a tie.

“His name is Jason. That was the night he took me to see Stomp,” she says, “I never went on a date like that.”

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“His name is Jason. That was the night he took me to see Stomp,” she says, “I never went on a date like that.”
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Looking for bubbles?
continued from page 3

$381,900.
Greenspan actually hinted of a stock-market bubble in 1996, then backed down and fed it with more easy money until the crash. Now, many think Bernanke’s extremely easy money policy will create another housing or stock-market bubble. He doesn’t see it, and frankly, neither do I at this point, but some kind of unhappy result of this madcap money printing is inevitable. As Aldous Huxley once pointed out, “That men do not learn from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons of history.”

Contact Don Bauder at 619-546-8529

Under the radar
continued from page 3

major university expansion projects. Attend community meetings as SDSU’s representative, delivering updates and building support for key initiatives.” Also: “Develop and maintain strong relationships with local government and community leaders to advance SDSU’s strategic priorities including setting up meetings for the university president and other university leaders.” No salary range is given.

Costs of doing city business: Republic Services, the big Phoenix-based solid-waste operation with a wide footprint in San Diego, has of late been anuing up the bucks at city hall. According to its latest lobbyist filing with the city clerk, company employees were conspicuous at the post-election December fundraising held by Democratic mayor Bob Filner. The firm has recently been seeking an “agreement with the city to obtain use of city property adjacent to 8364 Clairemont Mesa Blvd,” which is the company’s local headquarters. Republic employees Alberto Guardado and Jim Abroso lobbyied city chief operating officer Jay Goldstone and Jim Barwick of real estate assets. Both Ambroso and Guardado kicked in $300 to Filner on December 6, as did the company’s Jeff Andrews. Another employee, Neil Mohr, came up with $250. For good measure, Mohr also gave a post-election $200 to GOP city councilman Scott Sherman on November 29, as did Ambroso…

Lobbyist Richard Ledford has picked up a new client. According to a recently filed disclosure report, the former aide to GOP ex-mayor Susan Golding is working for Prime Time Shuttles to “identify, enhance, and facilitate new business opportunities for client in San Diego.” In case there was a question, the “outcome sought” is “new transportation contracts for client.” The report notes “fundraising activities” by the lobbyist on behalf of city-council Democrats Marti Emerald and Sherri Lightner. Ledford also works for the California Dental Association “to promote the continued financing of potable water supplied by the City of San Diego.”

— Matt Potter (@smattpotter)

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

NEWS TICKER continued from page 2

Housing drop
Number of S.D. homes on market plunges nearly 40 percent
San Diego County — The number of San Diego County homes listed for sale on Zillow plummeted by 39.4 percent for the year ended late February, the company reported today (March 7). Among the 30 largest metro areas, the contraction in California was dominant: Sacramento’s drop was the nation’s largest, down 48 percent; Los Angeles was down 45.7 percent; San Francisco, 40.9 percent; followed by San Diego. The nationwide number was down 16.6 percent. This portends higher prices ahead. Zillow chief economist Stan Humphries says, “The supply of for-sale listings continues to dry up, driven in part by potential sellers trapped in negative equity [value of the home less than the balance of the mortgage] and homeowners that won’t sell out of fear they won’t be able to find a suitable home to buy later.” But the lower inventory will result in higher prices, and many homeowners will no longer be underwater and will list their homes, thus easing the inventory crunch.

Don Bauder, March 7

Twelve years for child prostitution
Pimp used internet ads to lure underage girls
San Diego — A local man was sentenced to 12 years in prison on Monday, March 4, for pimping out underage girls.

The 20-year-old Carlos Alberto Garcia, who pleaded guilty last August, “made thousands of dollars pimping out underage girls using Internet ads,” according to a U.S. Attorney’s Office release.

One 17-year-old victim, according to a Courthouse News Service report, was beaten and stripped before Garcia “forced her into a cold shower, poured ice on her, and made her stand in front of an air conditioner” for concealing $300 from him. Following the ordeal, she was forced to accompany Garcia to the Fashion Valley mall, where he used money obtained through her prostitution to buy himself a pair of $685 Gucci sneakers.

According to U.S. Attorney Laura Duffy, reports of sex trafficking of children have increased as much as 600 percent throughout the Southern California region in recent years. Criminals have increasingly been using social-networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter to lure potential victims.

Dave Rice, March 6

Fliner lawsuit: a tangled tale of GOP judges
The mayor’s entering a clubby world of Republican judicial cash and big business ties
San Diego/ Coronado — Mayor Bob Filner — who appeared before San Diego Superior Court Judge Timothy B. Taylor today to unsuccessfully argue against an expedited hearing of the lawsuit brought against him by hotel mogul — is more familiar with the halls of Congress than the tangled network of the local judicial benches of both state and national government.

Though Taylor’s ultimate decision in the case is far from certain, and last month he ruled against the city’s so-called Plaza de Panama project, Filner’s local legal road is virtually sure to be crowded with plenty of insider intrigue, most of it of the Republican variety.

Even in his historic ruling against the city, Taylor expressed sympathy with its plight, saying, “The loss of the generous funding offered by [Qualcomm founder Irwin Jacobs] will be a sad day for San Diego.”

The elderly Jacobs is a liberal-leaning Democrat and not especially well loved by the local GOP establishment.

The same cannot be said for C. Terry Brown, Bill Evans, and Richard Bartell, the triumvirate of well-connected hotel magnates who are the apparent prime movers behind the lawsuit against Filner.

Appointed judge here in January 2005 by Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Taylor was a lawyer for two decades with the big firm Sheppard Mullin Richter &...
Hampton, which frequently lobbies city hall for well-heeled corporate clients.

Taylor has often ruled for big business; in April of last year, he tossed a complaint against a Walmart complex at the old Farmers Market building between Sherman Heights and Logan Heights that plaintiffs claimed hadn’t received sufficient environmental review.

Taylor’s background bears more than a few similarities to that of San Diego Republican city attorney Jan Goldsmith, an advocate of the wealthy hoteliers who have helped pay for his political campaigns for decades.

Goldsmith, who, like Taylor, was a resident of tony Coronado before Goldsmith moved into a small apartment across the bay to run for city attorney, was appointed a judge here in December 1998 by Republican Gov. Pete Wilson, the former mayor of San Diego who also was cozy with the hotel moguls here and derived heavy campaign funding from them.

And Goldsmith and Taylor have at least one more thing in common: their wives are both judges.

Taylor’s wife is U.S. Bankruptcy court presiding judge Laura Taylor. She, like her husband, was a lawyer with Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton.

$2M for a rainy day/suing the mayor?

As Filner lawsuit plays out, tourism district is sitting pretty on “catastrophe reserve fund” stash

San Diego — The feud between mayor Bob Filner and Jan Goldsmith spilled over into a San Diego Superior Court room during a March 5 hearing.

“For the record, your honor, I do not have an attorney,” Mayor Filner told Judge Timothy Taylor in court, according to NBC reporter Wendy Fry’s Twitter feed.

“I feel it’s a deep conflict of interest [between the city attorney and myself. He has stated in front of press that my actions are illegal],” added Filner.

And while the question of whether City Attorney Goldsmith will represent Filner in court has not yet been answered, it’s safe to say that the Tourism Marketing District does not have any concerns about how to pay for its legal expenses.

The district has access to millions of dollars that it has stashed into a “catastrophe reserve fund” since 2007. According to the published minutes from an August 15 meeting financial report, the Tourism Marketing District had $1.8 in revenues in the “opportunity/catastrophe fund.”

Dorian Hargrove, March 6

Comments

monaghan March 6 @ 4:09 p.m.

Excuse me, isn’t that “catastrophe reserve fund” public money? When is the TMD going to be reined in? It’s past time. And how is it that these public agencies feel

continued on page 44

San Diego Reader, March 14, 2013 48
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San Diego Reader March 14, 2013

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St. Patrick’s Day Specials!
I said, "He probably didn’t even get my message. I’m wondering if he even realizes he has voicemail."

“What was it Einstein said about the definition of insanity?" David cocked his head in thought. “Wait, I have it — doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.”

“I don’t think this guy is insane, beh-beh. I think he’s just old. Do me a favor — never let me fall that far behind the technology curve. It’s got to be a scary, confusing world for people who are out of touch.”

“I’ve got you covered,” David said with a smirk. “The first thing you have to do is sign on to something called FaceTube.”

Find more stories by Barbarella at SDReader.com/barbarella

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LETTERS

continued from page 4

Comments from Reader website
Comments are not edited for spelling, punctuation, or grammar.

Under the Radar: “Latham’s Multiple Masters”
Published March 7
Latham & Watkins has received a lot more money from the city, more than $10 million, in fact. This was revealed in September, when Goldsmith tried to pay the law firm up to $500,000 for help with the Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation matter.

By dwhat Mar. 6, 2013 @ 5:17 p.m.

Fun stories from the past...
Published: Tuesday, Sept. 16 1997 - Deseret News
California Assemblyman Jan Goldsmith tried to push a bill making the critters [Ferrets] legal as pets one year, but he made the mistake of wearing a new toupee to the Capitol. That was the end of the bill. According to the Sacramento Bee, House Speaker Willie Brown pointed to Goldsmith and deadpanned that the bill was “deader than that thing on his head.”

By Ponzi Mar. 10, 2013 @ 11:28 a.m.

Sporting Box: “Instant Replay Solution”
Published March 7

Very good and timely story. I too have been doing research into the personal drone phenomenon that is quietly occurring. GPS, lithium batteries, micro-controllers and sensors, composites, miniature hi-res cameras, 3D printing and other technologies have become so evolved and practical, it seems like they may be the next personal computer. Like PCs, we just have to figure out why we might need them.

The industrial users have plenty of applications for these flying robots. Many small drones are being developed that have high payload capacities of 50 pounds and more. In the not so distant future, small drones may be delivering packages or pizzas to our homes. Obviously, they have valuable uses in search and rescue and getting supplies to hard to reach locations, such as during a disaster.

When I began looking into personal drones, I came across a San Diego company called 3D Robotics that sells UAV drones, accessories and kits. The founders of the company were inspired by the community of drone enthusiasts they attracted with a blog called DIY Drones. That blog was started by Chris Anderson, former writer for The Economist and Editor-in-Chief of Wired Magazine until 2012.

There is also a new breed of even smaller drones coming, like this drone you can put in a shirt pocket, the Robot Dragonfly - Micro Aerial Vehicle.

People could use Dragonfly drones to film themselves skiing, cycling, you name it. The question about little drones like this is what happens when they show up at sporting events, the beaches, concerts, trying to snap up close personal photos of an athlete or celebrity.

By Ponzi Mar. 7, 2013 @ 11:21 a.m.
It’s always stroke and counterstroke, so I’ll be waiting for the Sharper Image Drone Killah Mark 7: “See how your nosy neighbor likes it when you put a tiny sidewinder up the tailpipe of his super snooper.” I assume having a drone interceptor is covered by the 2nd Amendment.

By jmr1944 Mar. 9, 2013 @ 10:48 a.m.
Or capture it with a large fishing or butterfly net. Using a paintball gun might be fun too.

By Ponzi Mar. 9, 2013 @ 11:16 a.m.

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By Ponzi Mar. 9, 2013 @ 11:16 a.m.

Using a paintball gun might be fun too.
Thursday | 14

SCIENCE ON THE ROCKS: PIZZA, PINOT, AND PI


WHEN: 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
WHERE: Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado, Balboa Park. 619-238-1233; rhfleet.org

Friday | 15

SAN DIEGO DANCES

A “roving mini-festival” of dance by the PGK Dance Project, featuring choreography by Peter G. Kalivas, Natasha Ridley, Donna Scro, Viviana Alcazar, guest company Freespace Dance/NJ, and participants of a local workshop led by Kalivas and Scro. Wine and beer concession provided by Blufoot Bar & Lounge and Soda Bar. $15–$20.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: 3rd Space, 4610 Park Boulevard, University Heights.

Sunday | 17

GROWING PUBLIC ART IN FALLBROOK

Event features five artists participating in demonstrations and interactive projects, Irish food, refreshments, a silent auction, and an opportunity to work with an artist to create a masterpiece. Artistic media include oil and watercolor painting, sculptures, and metal pouring. This annual fundraiser will benefit Fallbrook’s 2013 project, an “organic wall” mural that is being planned by local artisans. Admission ticket includes dinner and dessert. $15.

WHEN: 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
WHERE: Alta Vista Botanical Gardens, 1270 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. 760-414-1056; jeanniemortiz@cox.net; altavistagardens.org

Monday | 18

SCULPTING CLASS

Local artist Jeannie Ortiz leads the class. “We work in a variety of materials, from modeling clay to soap, plaster, wood, stone, and whatever else we can get our hands on.” Meet under the palapa at the top of the hill.

WHEN: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: Balboa Park, 619-582-4441 or 858-268-9111; stpatsparade.org

Wednesday | 20

MUSHROOMS AREN’T JUST FOR DINNER

Test out one-of-a-kind building blocks made entirely from fungi. San Francisco–based artist Phil Ross creates forms from the strands of mushrooms, called mycelium. Participants invited to build a structure with these strong and sustainable materials. All ages welcome. Recommended for ages 3 and up.

WHEN: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
WHERE: New Children’s Museum, 200 West Island Avenue, East Village. 619-233-8792; thinkplaycreate.org
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
By Vivian Lee Croft

I stepped off the plane and onto the tarmac and was directed toward a small white building with bright blue lettering: "Toussaint Louverture."

The massive cracks in the side of the building were visible even before we touched down. I followed the crowd — Haitians returning home, visiting relatives, modestly clad missionaries, church groups with several duffel bags per person — until we started down a single escalator, bound for security checks and baggage claim.

I travel light, usually with only a backpack and a laptop bag, so I was able to skip over the baggage-claim area, which was nothing more than piles of bags about a 20’ x 20’ floor. After declaring only myself and my media equipment, I found my way outside. I was thrust into a huge crowd of people, all men, and all extremely interested in carrying my bags to their car. My friends were waiting for me, but finding the two sisters in the sea of eager-to-be-paid drivers took a little longer than anticipated.

The girls found me. I ran over and embraced them and then we headed toward their home...or, rather, home base, workspace, supply storage, where the day-to-day operations of their non-profit are situated. Most of their time is spent in the field, visiting families enrolled in one or more of their social programs. I learned all this on the 90-minute drive from the airport.

They spend a majority of their work hours in a truck, driving over rough terrain to appointments sometimes hours away from Port-au-Prince. Going to their home first would help me ground myself for a week in the homes of some of Haiti’s most needy.

We traveled along bumpy unpaved roads lined with litter and the occasional farm animal tied to feed off what grass grew nearby. We drove through the center of a few villages. Each side of the narrow street was lined with umbrella carts or simple stands full of items such as clothing, fruit, school supplies, live chickens, mattresses, repurposed goods, and art.

The main roads are filled with Haitians — on foot, mopeds, even bicycles, although I’m not sure how a bicycle tire can survive on these rocky roads. Competing with the traffic of cars, trucks — I can’t fathom how movement works so well here. But the flow is constant. Almost effortless.

Traffic, people, animals are all moving together, all the time. There is no stopping in Haiti.

Other Adventures
walterbeys: Guanabara Bay, Rio de Janeiro (taken from an airplane)
robertchartier: Llamas on the trail in the Eastern Sierra Mountains at 10,000 feet
Icbruhn: Multnomah Falls, Columbia River Gorge, Multnomah County, Oregon

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ROAM-O-RAMA
San Diego Outdoors with the Canyoneers

HIKING THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ALONG AGUA CALIENTE CREEK

Stands of majestic oaks and sycamores line a bubbling stream along a section of the trail.

Distance from downtown San Diego: Approximately 68 miles. Allow 1.5 hours driving time. From I-8, exit onto SR-67 north, continuing onto Main St./SR-78 east/Julian Road to Santa Ysabel. Turn left onto SR-79 north and drive about 1.4 miles. Park in the turnout just beyond a bridge 2.5 miles north of the Warner Springs CALfire station and walk back to the bridge. The PCT goes under the bridge. To reach the trail, start walking east from the northern end of the bridge and soon a small sign “to the PCT” will be visible. No facilities or water.

Hiking length: A little less than 8 miles, out and back. Difficulty: Intermediate with elevation gain/loss of about 1000 feet. Stream water must be treated before drinking.

This section of the Pacific Crest Trail is a welcome sight for through-hikers on their way to Canada after spending many days in waterless stretches of the desert. Day-hikers will likewise enjoy the oaks and sycamores alongside a stream as well as some great chaparral and wildflower habitat. In most years, water flows beside the oaks and sycamores alongside a broad sandy wash studded with towering coast and Engelmann live oaks, interspersed with sagebrush and non-native grasses. The trail here is on Warner Ranch property that the PCT legally crosses as a result of an easement. Numerous horse tracks and a dirt road intertwine, but the PCT is well marked and easily followed. After trudging through the sand for about a mile, the trail crosses the stream and begins a gradual climb up a chaparral-covered hillside, leaving Warner Ranch property and entering the Cleveland National Forest.

Chamise dominates the chaparral at first, but as the trail climbs, ribbonwood, a chamise cousin, becomes more abundant, forming a nearly 20-foot canopy over the trail. When the ribbonwood is in bloom in October, it casts a golden tint to the chaparral-covered hillsides. Less frequently encountered is holly-leaf redberry, mountain mahogany, bigberry manzanita, white sage, toyon, ceanothus, scrub oak, sugar bush, Spanish bayonet, Mojave yucca, cane cholla, and desert prickly pear. A late winter or spring visit has an additional reward with numerous blooming herbaceous plants, including golden yarrow, Chinese houses, owl’s clover, paintbrush, showy penstemon, scarlet monkeyflower, and many others. After hiking about 3 miles, listen for the sound of water flowing over rocks as you descend toward the stream. The trail then follows the stream for almost a mile, crossing it several times. While hiking along the stream, note passing through a riparian forest dominated by coast live oaks, sycamores, arroyo willow, cottonwoods, and Coulter pines. The trees here aren’t as large as those encountered in the first part of the hike, but they are much more numerous and provide almost constant shade.

After nearly 4 miles, the trail leaves the stream and begins to switchback up the hillside. This may be a good point to turn around and retrace your steps. If you were focused on the trail ahead on the way to this point, the journey back is an opportunity to enjoy the views to the west toward Lake Henshaw and Palomar Mountain.

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

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

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Travel

San Diego Reader March 14, 2013
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.
Stage Monkeys Improvised Comedy Always unscripted and spontaneous, group takes one single suggestion from the audience to catapult them into characters, scenes, games, songs and more. Friday, March 15, 8pm; $5. 18 and up.

Twiggs Bakery Coffeehouse, 4590 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

DANCE

Argentine Tango with Colette Learn Tango Now! Take a first Free class this Monday, March 18, at 7pm, or Wednesday, March 20, at 7pm (or any Monday or Wednesday at 7pm thereafter!) at Dance Place San Diego. No need for a partner. We will introduce you the passion and magic of Tango. Visit www.tangowithcolette.com and call today: 514-726-5567. Dance Place San Diego, 2650 Truxton Road, Studio 106. (POINT LOMA)

Contra Dancing No partners needed and no experience necessary. Calling by Susan Petrick. Live music by Uncle Farmer. Teaching from 7:30-8:00. Dance starts at 8:00. Discounts for teens and children, college, and military. Soft-soled shoes only, please. Friday, March 15, 7:30pm; $12. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

Flamenco Dance Show Live show features singer-dancer Oscar Valero, guitarist Juan Moro, rotating guest artists including Erika Lopez, Carlos Villatoro, Patricia Lotufo, Malka Winograd, and the dancers of the Academia del Baile Español. Friday, March 15, 8:30pm; $10. Gran Tapas, 611 B Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Intro to Aerial Silks Students will learn to use special fabric to wrap, suspend, fall, swing, and spiral their bodies into and out of various positions. Aerial silks may be used to suspend in the air, striking poses and figures while flying. Limited to six students per session. Instructor Laura Dasi. Thursdays, 5pm; through Thursday, March 28, $175. 18 and up. Malashock Dance, 2650 Truxton Rd., Suite 202. (POINT LOMA)

Intro/BEGINNER MODERN I Instructor Stephanie Harvey introduces students to the fundamentals of dance in order to provide an outlet for creative expression. The class is designed to increase strength, flexibility, coordination, and body awareness. No experience necessary. Thursdays, 7pm; through Thursday, March 28, $9-$15. 18 and up. Malashock Dance, 2650 Truxton Rd., Suite 202. (POINT LOMA)

Tango Dinner Show Tango dinner show with live dancers. Recommended reservations: pampasgrill@gmail.com or 858-278-5971. Fridays, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; $10-$20. Pampas Argentine Grill, 8690 Aero Drive. (Kearny Mesa)

The Hacienda Project This site-specific event with San Diego Dance Theater will move audiences to four sites in the 2.1-acre park to see newly created work. Choreographers include: Jean Isaacs, Liv Isaacs-Nollet, and Marsha Rushing. Three showings. Audience encouraged to arrive early, 6:19-225-1803. Saturday, March 16, 10am, 11am and 12pm; free. Magee Park, 258 Beech Avenue. (CARLSBAD)

winterWORKS Directed by Yolande Smith, winterWORKS features new dance theatre works choreographed by UC San Diego’s Eric Geiger, Amanda Banks, Darcy Naganuma, and Paul Laurey. Thursday, March 14, 8pm; Friday, March 15, 8pm; Saturday, March 16, 8pm; $10-$20. Mandell Weiss Center for the Performing Arts, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Gun Violence The March meeting of Escondido Democrats will discuss how the average citizen can help stop gun violence. Speakers include Joan Keefe, representing “Moms Demand Action for Sensible Gun Laws,” and Escondido deputy mayor Olga Diaz. Saturday, March 16, 10:30am; free. Escondido Chamber of Commerce, 720 North Broadway. (ESCONDIDO)

Voyagers Toastmasters Improve business communications and speaking skills. Club meets every Thursday. Contact: Mark Shapiro, mshapiro@srs-techpr.com. Thursdays, 7am; through...
Rhyme & Verse
At the Vietnam Memorial
A poem by George Bilgere

The last time I saw the name Paul Castle
it was printed in gold on the wall
above the showers in the boys’ locker room, next to the school record for the mile.
I don’t recall his time, but the year was 1968
and I can look across the infiel
d of memory to see him on the track,
legs flashing, body bending slightly
beyond the pack of runners at his back.

He couldn’t spare a word for me,
two years younger, junior varsity,
and hardly worth the waste of breath.
He owned the hallways, a cool blonde
at his side, and aimed his interests
further down the line than we could guess.

Now, reading the name again,
I see us standing in the showers,
naked kids beneath his larger,
comprehensive force — the ones who trail
obscurely, in the wake of theswift,
like my shadow on this gleaming wall.

“At the Vietnam Memorial” was originally published in Bilgere’s collection Big Bang.
His most recent book of poems is The White Museum, chosen by Alicia Ostriker for the 2010 Autumn House Poetry Series. He received a Pushcart Prize in 2009 and won the May Swenson Poetry Award in 2006 for Haywire (Utah State University Press). His poems are heard frequently on Garrison Keillor’s Writer’s Almanac, and he has appeared as a guest on A Prairie Home Companion. He teaches at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. “At the Vietnam Memorial” is printed by permission of the author. George Bilgere’s photo is by Gary E. Porter.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

March 14, 2013
52 Reader
4150 Mission Boulevard #208.
California
Kebab and Beer Garden,
$20. Amplified Aleworks (at Cali-
of four craft beers. Sundays, 10am;
**Rematch: Judgment of Paris**
A wine-tasting event that pits the best California wines against the best that France has to offer. Guests will have the chance to taste six wines from the best vintners in California and France, as well as enjoy hot and cold hors d’oeuvres, live music, and voting to determine which wines are guests’ favorites. All proceeds benefit Mama’s Kitchen, a free countywide meal-delivery service for men, women, and children affected by AIDS or cancer. 619-233-6262. Thursday, March 14, 6:30pm; $50. San Diego Marriott Del Mar, 11966 El Camino. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**The Neuroscience of Extraordinary Places**

**Archiving and Digitizing Your Family Keepsakes**
Denise May Maldonado talks about digital history and genealogy. Saturday, March 16, 9am; free. Robinson Auditorium complex at UCSD, off Panga Drive. (LA JOLLA)

**Gull-Billed Terns**
Kate Goodenough lectures on the species, its conservation and management, and how science is vital in assisting management with diet and habitat needs. Saturday, March 16, 10am; free. Tijuana River Estuary, 301 Cuspin Way. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

**How to Buy a Used Piano**
Learn what piano buyers should know when picking out a bargain. Reservations: 858-586-7000. Saturday, March 16, 11am; free. Greene Music Recital Hall, 7480 Miramar Rd., Suite 101. (MIRAMAR)

**Military Intelligence**
LT. Strong presents, “Military Intelligence: Never an Ozymorron, Always a Can of Worms,” which addresses intelligence as the world’s second oldest profession, the nature of military intelligence as it differs from general or political intelligence, and the predominant role it has played throughout history. Thursday, March 14, 1pm; free. 18 and up. Rancho Bernardo Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Drive. (MIRAMAR)

**Peacebuilding in U.S. Foreign Policy**
Ambassador Rick Barton, U.S. Ambassador to the Phillipines, discusses the role of foreign policy in building peace and reconciliation. Thursday, March 14, 6:30pm; free. San Diego Museum of Art, 1200 Park Blvd. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

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**FOR KIDS**

**Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**
Missoula Children’s Theater cast 60 local children in this new musical. 858-748-0505. Saturday, March 16; Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road. (POWAY)

**Butterflies in Zoro Garden**
The Friends of Balboa Park release hundreds of butterflies as part of Balboa Park’s Family Science Day. Children 12 and under will have the opportunity to release a live “painted lady” butterfly into the insect-friendly garden. Live ladybugs will be handed out as well. There will be butterfly crafts and butterfly face painting for younger kids. Info@friendsofbalboapark.org. Saturday, March 16, 12pm; free. Zoro Garden, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**Computer Science the Fun Way**
Write code. Build circuits. Earn prizes. ThoughtStem presents this fast-paced workshop where students choose from a variety of challenges designed to introduce them to programming and circuit design. Ages 8-18 and all levels of experience in programming welcome. $50. 8 and up. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

The Mama Doni Band
The Mama Doni Band celebrates Jewish culture with high-energy, interactive family rock concerts and acoustic Shabbat experiences, with a blend of reggae, rock, disco, Latin, and klezmer. Perfect for ages one to eight years old (with free admission for children), every family who buys tickets will receive a free copy of their award-winning CD, Shabbat Shalom. Sunday, March 17, 10:30am; $12-$14. Carlsbad Village Theatre, 2822 State Street. (CARLSBAD)

**Young Writers Fiction Workshop**
In this four-week workshop with Tammy Greenwood, writers aged 8-12 will learn the fundamental elements of fiction. Students will read stories, engage in class discussions, learn writing techniques and terms, and practice writing skills while fueling creativity. Students will explore their imaginations and learn how to shape their ideas into narratives. Saturdays, 2:30pm; through Saturday, March 23, $90-$108. Ink Spot, 710 13th Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

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**Lectures**

**DNA Activation Workshops**
Guillermo Ferrara, bestselling author of Adam’s Secret, leads DNA Activation Workshops, involving science, yoga, and myth. Participants are introduced to genetics and its links to spiritual part of life. Known for his great sense of humor, Guillermo leads everybody to understand the field and gives practical recommendations. Workshop conducted in Spanish with simultaneous translation. Tickets at Eventbrite.com and LoveMeditationCenter.org. Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28, 2013, 11am to 6pm. Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way. (MISSION BEACH)

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Phillips Brooks
Every true life has its Jerusalem, to which it is always going up. A life cannot be really considered as having begun to live until that far-off city in which its destiny awaits it, where its work is to be done, where its problem is to be solved, begins to draw the life towards itself, and the end begins to know and own the summons. Very strange is this quality of our human nature which decrees that unless we feel a future before us we do not live completely in the present where we stand:... O do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men!

SPECIAL EVENTS

“Go Green and Get Lucky”
Dance/mixer. Ages 40-60ish. DJ, Lucky Clover Icebreaker, prizes, photos and more. Dance upscale casual, self parking $5. Valet $10. Dance price $15 if you’re wearing green (visible outside of clothing and cannot be something you’re carrying), $20 without wearing green. Register at SimplyTheBestSingles.com or call 818-577-6877. Saturday, March 16, 7:30pm to 11:30pm. San Diego Marriott Del Mar, 11966 El Camino Real. (DEL MAR)

William Shakespeare’s Macbeth
Vanguard presents Shakespeare’s darkest and most powerful tragedy. Directed by Tom Haine, Macbeth is a story of regret, inherent betrayal, and bloody repercussion. Tickets $15 (adults) and $13 (seniors, students, military). Student discounts. $10 for groups of 10 or more. Call 619-224-6263 for more information or visit our website, Vanguardus. org. March 8-24, 2013. Fridays, Saturdays, 8pm; Sundays, 7pm. Westminister Theater, 359 Tolant Street. (POINT LOMA)

Day Trip for Bird Geeks
Tour theme gardens, shrines, and more, including the main shrine, the central courtyard, and a museum exhibiting a collection of Buddhist artifacts from around the world. Cost includes transportation, morning coffee, pastries, water, and afternoon snack, guided tour, and buffet lunch at Hsi Lai, located in Hacienda Heights, 30 miles east of Los Angeles. 858-459-0831. Friday, March 15, 8:30am-$45-$65. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Irish 4 a Day
This 12-hour long celebration includes no cover admission to 20 St. Paddy’s Eve parties guided by leprechauns and Irish fairies, 11 drinks at 11 different venues, official opening and closing party, and additional perks. Come in sexy green costumes or kilts in true Irish fashion. Contact: party@ClubVIPSD.com or 619-944-8900. Saturday, March 16, 2pm-$29-$40. 21 and up. Gaslamp Quarter, Fifth Ave., between Broadway and Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Palomar Gem and Mineral Club Show
Dealers will sell rock, rough,

$15 Special price for listings of this size on these Sheep & Goats pages. 50 words or less. Additional word will kindly call us. Andrea Ormeolari (619) 235-3000 ext. 206 or email aormerod@SDReader.com. Or – easiest of all — go to SDReader.com/SheepAds and place your ad automatically at any time of day or night.

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

John Ireland Recital in Concert
A special recital in the new auditorium of the Seminary. Featuring organist Hal DeBartolo. (619) 235-3000. (LA JOLLA)

OUTDOORS

Birding Lake Murray
Birder Jeanne Raimold looks for migratory and resident water birds and land-loving bin. Binoculars/ bike book recommended. Meet at Kiowa Drive parking lot. 619-668-3281. Saturday, March 16, 8am; free. Lake Murray Reservoir, 5540 Kiowa Drive. (LA MESA)

Coyotes and Their Neighbors
The Tri-Canyon Interpretive Group presents an indoor presentation and outdoor exploration where participants can learn about the coyotes that may be in our neighborhoods and how to coexist with them. Features an opportunity to explore the canyon to find tracks and evidence of local wildlife. Saturday, March 16, 10am (free). Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLARIONE)

Gaslamp Quarter Historical Walking Tour
Tour includes architecturally significant structures of the period from Old City Hall (1874) to the Romanesque style Keating Building (1890) to the Baroque Revouss Louis Bank Building (1888), along with stories of the people that shaped the destiny of San Diego. The tour takes under two hours. 619-233-6492. Saturdays, 11am; through Saturday, January 4, $12-$15. William Heath Davis House Museum, 410 Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Tadpole and Fairy Shrimp Hike
Look for and learn about fairy shrimp and frog and toad tadpoles — the short-term inhabitants of the ephemeral rain pools and puddles of early spring on the Carmel Mountain mesa top. 858-484-3219. Saturday, March 17, 14pm; free. Carmel Mountain trailhead, 4730 Fairway Court. (CARMEL VALLEY)

Vernal Pool Walk
Naturalist Mike Kelly guides an easy walk and teaches about vernal pools as well as the rare and endangered plants and animals, some extremophiles, that live in and near them. 858-484-3219. Saturday, March 16, 9am; free. Lopez Ridge Park, 7245 Calle Cristobal. (MIRA MESA)

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF SAN DIEGTO

Emma’s Revolution in Concert
Emma’s revolution is the duo of activist musicians, Pat Humphries & Sandy O. Their songs have been sung for the Dalai Lama, praised by Pete Seeger and recorded by Holly Near. Among their recent works are “Peace, Salam, Shalom.” “Swimming to the Other Side.” “Keep on Moving Forward.” Friday, March 22, 8:00pm. Tickets $18 ahead of time. Reservations at: http://emmasrevolution.com. Directions call (858) 795-9225 or go to ufoled.org. Information: Lisa Shaffer at Lshaffer@roadrunner.com (SOLANA BEACH)

ST. ANNE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Five Latin Masses
Every Sunday, 7:30 am low Mass; 9:00 am sung Mass; 11:00 chant Mass; 12:30 pm low Mass with sermon and some hymns in Spanish; 6:00 pm low Mass. LOGAN HEIGHTS 8213 Sycamore Rd. (619) 259-8553

OUT OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Latin home-schoolers
Weathered 11:00–11:45am. Grades 1-2 (must be able to read English at least 1st grade level). We use the Phonem of Language for younger grades. (VISTA)

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ST. LUKES LUTHERAN CHURCH

Easter Prep...
Bring the lint and get Lent with Services every Wednesday through March 20, with Soup Supper at 6pm. Service at 7:30pm. Sunday Worship at 8am. 619.463.6833, www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org. LA MESA 5150 Wilson Street (LA MESA)

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St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Festival
Featuring Irish fiddler, clogger, vocalist, Celia Fawley as grand marshal. Also including food vendors, a tented beer garden, live music, clogging, floats, and children’s contests for most-freckled and reddest-head. The parade begins at 10:00am from the corner of Citrus and Broadway. Saturday, March 16, 9am; free. Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue. (VISTA)

St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Festival
The parade travels up Fifth Avenue from Laurel to Upas Street and then returns down Sixth Avenue to Laurel. There will be over 120 parade entries: bagpipers and high school marching bands, police and fire department units, floats, dancing groups, and more. The Irish Festival in Balboa Park (Sixth Avenue and Maple Street area) features entertainment on two stages, including Irish step dancers and a full afternoon line-up with Irish folk singers and bands, craft booths, food booths, a Celtic village, beer gardens, and a kids’ zone with rides. Contact: Colleen Murphy, ccmurphy2@yahoo.com or 619-582-4441 / 858-266-9111. Saturday, March 16, 9am; free. Balboa Park

SPORTS & FITNESS

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

Gentle Yoga
Instructor is Sheila Shaw. For adults. 619-527-3405. Friday, March 15, 11am; 18 and up. Malcolm X Library, 5148 Market Street. (VALENCIA PARK)

Golf Fest
Top golf manufacturers showcase their 2013 equipment lineups, including TaylorMade, Cleveland, Srixon, PING, Cobra, Nike, and more. This year’s show also features a giveaway packages, and the first 250 paid attendees each day will receive a 2-pack of Bridgestone golf balls. Golf trick-shot artist Peter Longo will perform his trick-shot show at 1:00 pm both days. Golf Fest will feature lessons by JC Golf Academy, driving range use to test the latest technology, golf skill contests for prizes, and craft beers in the beer garden. 619-683-3700. Friday, March 15, 1pm; Saturday, March 16, 9am; free.10. Oaks North Golf Course, 12602 Oak North Dr. (RANCHO BEVERNADO)

Hooleys Half Marathon and 5K
Event features a certified half marathon course; a 5k run/walk; a “Green Mile” run for adults with developmental disabilities. The finish line festival includes a light breakfast, a raffle, massage chairs, live bands, and bounce houses. Contact: Meredith Munger, Meredithmunger.com or 619-928-4575. Sunday, March 17, 8pm; $37-$65. Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill, 2955 Jamacha Road. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

Live Well Project
Attend seminars about healthy eating and exercise. The day will also include guest speakers, breakfast and lunch, a goal-setting session, and dance performances. All participants will receive donations from yoga companies, nutrition companies, local fitness facilities, and clothing and sporting companies. For girls ages 12-19. Registration required. Saturday, March 16, 8am; 12 and up. San Diego Hall of Champions, 2131 Pan American Plaza. (BALBOA PARK)

Temecula St. Patrick’s Day 15K
Race through country roads and vineyards as you wind your way to the finish line and a glass of green champagne in honor of St. Patrick’s Day. Race entry includes a champagne tasting and a signature glass to keep. Then, spend the afternoon celebrating the Irish way with all-day specials for race participants. Sunday, March 17, 9am; $30-$50. Cougar Vineyard & Winery, 39870 De Portola Road. (TEMECULA)

Irish Festival in Balboa Park
Free. Balboa Park

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Attend seminars about healthy eating and exercise. The day will also include guest speakers, breakfast and lunch, a goal-setting session, and dance performances. All participants will receive donations from yoga companies, nutrition companies, local fitness facilities, and clothing and sporting companies. For girls ages 12-19. Registration required. Saturday, March 16, 8am; 12 and up. San Diego Hall of Champions, 2131 Pan American Plaza. (BALBOA PARK)

Temecula St. Patrick’s Day 15K
Race through country roads and vineyards as you wind your way to the finish line and a glass of green champagne in honor of St. Patrick’s Day. Race entry includes a champagne tasting and a signature glass to keep. Then, spend the afternoon celebrating the Irish way with all-day specials for race participants. Sunday, March 17, 9am; $30-$50. Cougar Vineyard & Winery, 39870 De Portola Road. (TEMECULA)
Jessica Lange and Jeff Bridges have two things in common, photography and King Kong. My favorite Lange movie is Blue Sky, where she plays the self-involved, sexually restless Army wife of Tommy Lee Jones. Jeff Bridges is so steady that it’s hard to name one of Tommy Lee Jones. Jeff Bridges is playing the self-involved, sexually restless Army wife in The Fabulous Baker Boys and American Hero are peerless, and let us not forget the dizzed jauntiness of the Dude.

Lange’s first role was the damsel in the 1976 remake of King Kong. Bridges playing opposite her. It’s memorable now only for its substitution of the World Trade Center Towers for the Empire State Building. After being displayed in a hideous public performance, Kong breaks loose on a rampage to find the fair Dwan (Lange), who is being protected by the paleontologist Prescott (Bridges). Kong heads to Lower Manhattan because it reminds him of his habitat on Skull Island, and the towerers let the filmmakers stage a new kind of action: instead of clinging like a steeplejack to the Empire State spire, swatting airplanes, the newer, bigger Kong leaps from one tower to the other, though the open-grained wash and blur of action make it’s an image of manic life and jiggling lights: the ride’s attendant is running I think — lurks in a blustery chaos of smeared and jiggled lights: the ride’s attendant is running past as if panicked. 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It’s an image of manic life and jiggled lights: the ride’s attendant is running past as if panicked. It’s an image of manic life and jiggled lights: the ride’s attendant is running past as if panicked.
It matters that they are unless we get right up on top of cause they don’t snap into focus to see them really clearly you of romance and intimacy. And and Lange’s pictures of older and an empty, acidly lit old-style ered around a game of chance; Tilt-a-Whirl) of a traveling car- and entertainments (like that has inspired Lange’s best work. A picture of a wolf-human dress. A picture of a wolf-human mal life. In observance of this underworld spirits menace nor- ered an unstable, unlucky time: leftover, nameless days (called Days. In the Mayan calendar, profane and has made an for the blending of sacred and profane and has made an opening will more broadly approach FIG members will offer gifts to work led by Kalivas and Scro. Matthew’s unwavering control of these forces, his judicious choice of tempos, his meticulous attention to period stylistic ‘Valenzuela’s unwavering control of these forces, his judicious choice of tempos, his meticulous attention to period stylistic ‘Valenzuela’s unwavering control of these forces, his judicious choice of tempos, his meticulous attention to period stylistic ‘Valenzuela’s unwavering control of these forces, his judicious choice of tempos, his meticulous attention to period stylistic ‘Valenzuela’s unwavering control of these forces, his judicious choice of tempos, his meticulous attention to period stylistic ‘Valenzuela’s unwavering control of these forces, his judicious choice of tempos, his meticulous attention to period stylistic
One catfish at a time

“It know,” he says, “this is a crazy hole in the wall. But it has always been a dream of mine.”

Suddenly, we’re in the countryside. I’m walking across an arched bridge and looking down at Market Creek, a gurgling rill flanked by luminous green meadows.

Behind me: Market Creek Plaza, built like it’s out of Aztec times...or Egyptian, maybe. Yellow domes, purple towers, mosaic walkways, lots of restaurants, and even a Food 4 Less supermarket in the same dreamy design.

Then you cross the footbridge to the other side of the creek, and the only thing between you and empty land is this big community center and a parking lot.

So, now that I’m out here in the country — I’m discovering that there’s no other way back. I’m just trying to find one when I spot this sliding window in the back wall of the community center. It’s too small to get your head through. Has a sign: “Red Rooster Catfish, where Mmm Kisses Ahh!”

A tin rooster, painted red and yellow and blue, stands on the window’s ledge.

Now a face appears. Lisa. Dressed in red, with a pink apron. “What would you like?”

She hands me a menu. It has everything from catfish to tilapia to tiger shrimp to — hey! — frog legs. We’re talking Louisiana country cooking. Prices go from $2.95 (for fried pickles) to $4.15 for a catfish sandwich to $14.75 for two pieces of fried catfish with fried tiger shrimp.

Who’d’ve guessed? A full-on Louisiana cook-house, here behind a lil’ window in a community center in the middle of a field.

To get things rolling, I ask for breaded fried tilapia with a side of cheesy corn nuggets, Hawaiian bun, $5.50; “three sets” of frog legs, plus spicy beans, a bun, and spicy tartar sauce for $9.25. And here’s the thing: each “set” is a pair of jumping legs. They sit there on your plate, fried but still intact, as if three headless frogs were about to leap off of your plate. It’s a bit, well, disturbing, if you wanna know the truth.

I watch the legs carefully. Because I’ve just read in Wikipedia that “frog muscle does not resolve rigor mortis as quickly as warm-blooded muscle [chicken, for example], so heat from cooking can cause fresh frog legs to twitch.”

“Twitch? Ayee!”

Yes, they are a bit chewy, and the white meat does taste like chicken, but I can’t detect any twitching. Also — is it my imagination? — I swear you can taste the bayou in there.

Meanwhile, Frank says he’s working on having his dream restaurant in the plaza ready over the summer.

I start for home. Notice a quote in metal letters high up on the Jacobs Center. It’s from the man who made this big community center happen, Joe Jacobs himself: “And what did we start with? Nothing more than opportunity.”

Guess you could say the same about Frank.

Frank, Red Rooster’s owner and chef, makes his own posters.

Frank’s a visionary,” she says. “He always dreamed of starting his own Louisiana catfish restaurant. Catfish and beer. That’s the Louisiana thing. This is a start. He’s making it happen by word-of-mouth.”

My tilapia comes in five minutes. I take the black polystyrene box of goodies back to where a couple of umbrellas shade two lonely concrete tables and benches. Can’t get over how country this is. There’s just me, wind sighing through the trees, a distant trolley disappearing, the parking lot, the creek. There’s a couple of crows cawing and no other sounds. How do these people get customers?

The tilapia’s breaded and has those corn nuggets and the Hawaiian bun with it. Plus a spicy tartar sauce. It’s pretty delish and filling. But now I wish I’d come up with another buck and got some catfish, seeing as how that’s Frank’s main thing.

Then Frank comes out to take a photograph with a little gal who’s here with her great-grandma to get catfish — and to sell Girl Scout cookies.

When he’s finished talking to them, he comes and sits down at my table. “I know,” he says, “this is a crazy hole in the wall. But it has always been a dream of mine. I’m from Shreveport, Louisiana.

Back there, reputation was everything. You’d travel the bayou backroads, mud, potholes, in the dark, maybe, and then you’d arrive at a place in the trees, and it would be crowded with people, cars, because people knew that there was a good cook. I always believed, if you cook it right, people will come."

Frank was in the Navy, based in Japan, and Australia. Then he worked for Pfizer, the pharmaceutical company. “Budget and contracts manager. But I had this idea. So, finally, I left Pfizer. I couldn’t get financing because of the recession. But my grandma always says, take it one catfish at a time. So I just got me a ten-by-ten tarp and set up under it in the parking lot of a supermarket. Then an Elks Club manager invited me to go cook in their kitchen. Then these people at the Jacobs Community Center here tested my cooking and invited me to use this space in the back of their building. As an independent business, but also cooking for them. People know me now.”

Frank’s ultimate dream is to get a restaurant space across the footbridge in Market Creek Plaza. “With beer for the folks and moscato [muscat] sweet wine for the ladies. That’s what I’m working on now.”

Actually, the best moment for me comes a few days later. Hop off the trolley and head over that footbridge again: gotta try those frog legs.

Frank’s waiting. “Ah! Pond chicken,” he says. “That’s what we call the frogs, because they taste so like chicken.”

He cooks me “three sets” of frog legs, plus spicy beans, a bun, and spicy tartar sauce for $9.25. And here’s the thing: each “set” is a pair of jumping legs. They sit there on your plate, fried but still intact, as if three headless frogs were about to leap off of your plate. It’s a bit, well, disturbing, if you wanna know the truth.

I watch the legs carefully. Because I’ve just read in Wikipedia that “frog muscle does not resolve rigor mortis as quickly as warm-blooded muscle [chicken, for example], so heat from cooking can cause fresh frog legs to twitch.”

“Twitch? Ayee!”

Yes, they are a bit chewy, and the white meat does taste like chicken, but I can’t detect any twitching. Also — is it my imagination? — I swear you can taste the bayou in there.

Once you get past all this, it’s worth it. And, turns out frog legs are rich in protein and Omega-3 fatty acids. And, if it’s a bullfrog, you’re helping to limit a critter that’s right now invading the west and as outta control as fire ants.

Meanwhile, Frank says he’s working on having his dream restaurant in the plaza ready over the summer.

I start for home. Notice a quote in metal letters high up on the Jacobs Center. It’s from the man who made this big community center happen, Joe Jacobs himself. “And what did we start with? Nothing more than opportunity.”

Guess you could say the same about Frank.

Frank (with Lisa) says he’s publicizing his oddly located restaurant Louisiana style — word-of-mouth. “Back there, reputation was everything.”
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Socks knocked off

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Heat Bar and Kitchen
Despite the fact that it’s right up in my neighborhood, I seldom travel Park Boulevard south of University. What can I say other than that it’s just not an appealing couple of blocks… until now! Oscar-worthy dramatic flair aside, Heat Bar and Kitchen (3797 Park Boulevard, 619-546-4328) somehow eluded my notice the past couple of months since they opened on the side of the street that’s technically North Park but spiritually Hillcrest. I poked my head in there during happy hour and the place is now on my radar in a big way.

More restaurant than bar, Heat doesn’t have a full liquor license, so drinks are limited to beer, wine, and sake mixers. Out of curiosity, I tried one of their sake cocktails. Somebody at the bar had the bright idea to put sake, agave nectar, sherry (I know!), and a splash of soda water together and serve it up with a twist. Honestly, it’s brilliant and different. I tried no other drinks, but they had me at sake and sherry, anyway.

Happy hour at Heat is 4–6:30 and pretty much everything is $5, a uniformity I admire. I sampled the daily crudo, which turned out to be a trio of shrimps dressed with a spicy but otherwise unidentified sauce. They were perfectly cooked, brushed with a little aioli finished them off. Exceptional.

I've had a haphazard week devoid of rave reviews, but Heat really knocked my socks off for $5. I think they're punching way above their weight and I hope they keep it up. I must explore their dinner menu sometime soon.

by Ian Pike

Beer & bacon brunch
Since opening shop in November at California Kebab and Beer Garden (4150 Mission Boulevard #208, Pacific Beach), Amplified Ale Works managing partners J.C. Hill and Alex Pierson have been dialing in their beer-and-bacon brunch and, last week, announced it as a fixture Sunday special.

“It just so happened I tried this particular cut of bacon from Iowa Meat Farms and it was the best I’d ever had,” Hill says in a press release. “I thought it’d be the perfect canvas to pair a variety of beers with. We always wanted to try a weekly food-beer pairing and that’s how Beer Bacon Brunch was born. Now we’ve decided it’s here to stay.”

The farm-to-table brunch (10 to 2) goes for $20 and included four slices of hickory-smoked bacon, rosemary fingerling potatoes, a smoked cheddar-and-egg scramble, french toast crostini, and a spicy but otherwise unidentified sauce. Both were indulgent. The sea bream ($8) with pomegranate-sangria syrup, and a sturdy helping of four craft beers.

“We select different beers each week that complement the brunch items,” says Hill.

“I like pairing a light, Belgian ale for the french toast crostini and a robust porter for the bacon, but the actual beer changes each week.”

Despite his credentials as a certified cicerone and several years of homebrewing experience under his belt, Hill acknowledged early on that he would need a seasoned brewmaster to run the show.

“My passion for beer and homebrewing would not translate to professional brewing overnight,” says Hill.

by Chad Deal

Whole horse mackerel?
After my trip to AI Sushi, which was more disappointing than thrilling, I followed a tip from a reader (thanks, Reg!) to Sushi Mura (2816 Historic Decatur Road, 619-241-2587) in Liberty Station. It’s new, open since sometime in November at California Kebab and Beer Garden.

Walking in and past the sushi bar, I knew I would be in for some kind of a treat. The chilled case displayed beautiful fish, all lovingly prepared and protected in a way that bespeaks great professionalism. As the server (a young guy with great tableside manner) rattled through the specials, I started to get excited, bouncing in my seat like a little kid.

A whole horse mackerel, you say? Yes, please! These guys have to be ridiculously fresh for raw service, since they spoil easily. The sushi chef filleted the little fish, made sashimi and a few rolls from the flesh, and presented the entire dish with the mackerel carcass skewered in place and used to decorate the serving tray. The sashimi was finely scored and dressed with a tiny bit of grated ginger, scallion, and a light soy sauce to complement the rich, oily fish. It was beautiful to look at and even better to eat. I only wish the server had told me it was $25 because I’d ordered it.

Even better, after I’d eaten the sashimi, the fish bones went back to the kitchen for a long, hot soak in the fryer. The skeleton returned, all brown and crispy, and I got to crunch the entire thing, head and all!

I could have stopped there, but I had to try an order of sea-bream nigiri and some tekka maki. Both were indulgent. The sea bream ($8) was perfectly dressed with just a light coating of soya sauce so as not to obscure the delicate fish. The rice was beautiful: sticky and sweet but still retaining its essential texture. Even in the tekka maki ($4), the individual grains of rice were still perceptible. Each bite was beautiful and truly a cut (or three) above the average, bargain sushi joints.

by Ian Pike

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span. But, having consumed so many dwarfish cabbages, I can certainly discern a good one from a bad one. 926's are nice enough, but some were a bit over-charred for my liking. I'd have rather had them cooked at a lower temperature so there was less exterior black and less rawness in the middle. Still, with a salty vinaigrette made from Dijon mustard and white anchovy paste and a bit of Parmegiano-Reggiano, it's a nice take on this ubiquitous veggie. Next time, I'll be sure to ask them not to skimp on the dressing, as the bowl I was served could have benefited from more of that.

It takes a lot for me to pass up pork cheeks. 926's are talked about often and positively by those in the know. But when presented a nightly special menu that included a wild-game trio of roasted Guinea fowl, grilled quail, and duck-orange sausage, I couldn't resist. Not only do I love these all three varieties of poultry, but cooking up small birds is a true sign of a chef’s skill. Richman killed it: the Guinea fowl was done through, yet moist; the quail was perfectly cooked and so tasty I sucked every piece of meat off its tiny appendages, and the sausage tasted like a zestier condensed version of duck a lorange.

The missus ordered pork tenderloin with toasted fennel, hedgehog mushrooms, and a blood-orange demi glace. The portioning on that dish and a blood-orange demi glace. The missus ordered pork tenderloin with toasted fennel, hedgehog mushrooms, and a blood-orange demi glace. The portioning on that dish

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Tell John you saw him in the Reader!!

TIP TOP MEATS
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Fast fish
I guess it’s because I’ve been dreaming, looking over the bridge rails of Los Peñasquitos (“the little cliffs”) river, watching the white heron watching fishing in the sunlit pool among the reeds.

When I came in here, I’m thinking fish. This is Ali Baba’s Cave. Sorrento Valley.

Raced in here when I realized I was starving and I had 15 minutes before the southbound Coaster was due to turn up. So, I crossed the footbridge (ducks, more fish below!) and then across Roselle Street toward a row of shops with no neighbors, the last sign of civilization before the hills soar upward and head for the coast.

It’s funny, because this shop row is about as boring as you could possibly build. But open the doors into Ali Baba’s (10920 Roselle Street, Sorrento Valley, 858-784-7515), and the place is rocking. It’s filled with alcochines that look like Ali Baba and his 40 thieves made themselves a pretty cozy hide-out here. At the back they have a crazy U-shaped bar. Crazy, because tons and tons of people are here all talking like they’d just come out of a football match, shouting across groups, trying to get the two bar girls’ attention.

Where did they all come from? It’s like discovering a rare scene on a plain on Mars. I collapse onto the last free stool at the bar. “We’re from high-tech, all those glassy offices,” says Scott. He’s sitting nursing his beer and his laptop. Valley’s full of them. I work at Pfizer, right up the hill. You should see this on a Friday night. You in a hurry!”

He must notice me twitching. “Got to catch this Coaster or life’s not worth a plug nickel,” I say.

“Kristie. Kristie!” Scott’s calling to the tall blonde gal behind the bar who looks a bit like Anne Coulter. Her hands fly as she talks to customers.

“He needs something quick,” says Scott.

I look at the menu. Ask for a Pepsi ($2.50). Gotta work tonight. And, what the heck, fish and chips, $6.95.

“But you do them in time!”

“If you do them in time!” shouts Kristie over the hubbub. She’s looking at another blonde lady standing in front of the kitchen. Stacie.

“What time’s his train?”


Scott says he works in research into cancer, creating drugs that narrow-target different types. “Our building’s right at the top of this cliff,” he says. “If I just lay down and let myself roll I’d be here in three minutes.”

Kristie brings me two cans of Pepsi. “That’s because he’s nicer than you,” she says to the two guys on my left. “He doesn’t make my life difficult.”

“So, what causes cancer?” I ask Scott, like I had the next 15 hours to work this out.

“Stress, the food we eat, the lifestyle we lead. Look at the Okinawans…”

I start wondering if they eat a lot of fish there.

This is when Stacie scoops up with my fish and chips.

Three golden slabs of cod, lots of fries, a pot of tartar sauce, and a tomato-and-vinegar-tasting red seafood cocktail sauce.

“Course, now it’s 3:37. I see that blue and green monster pulling in across the creek, bell dinging.

“Plastic bag!” says Stacie.

“Plastic bag!” says Kristie. “Course, now it’s 3:37. I see that blue and green monster pulling in across the creek, bell dinging. “Plastic bag!” says Stacie as though this is an operating room. “See ya,” says Scott as I’m grabbing everything, slapping down two Lincolns, and heading for the door. “Careful of the bones.”

Get home, and Carla and I add a bit of salad and split what turns into a damned good light meal.

“Where’d you find this?” she says.

“In the wilds of Sorrento Valley,” I say. “And I mean wild.”

by Ed Bedford
Brunch didn’t amount to many choices, but they also weren’t expensive. Everything was, give or take, within the $10 range. A few things topped that price, but not by much. Overall, the cuisine didn’t live up to the promises that the concept makes. The poussin (a little-used term for a young chicken) sat atop a bed of quinoa and chorizo with a few micro-greens strewn about for color. The chicken, while diminutive, had a nice texture and cradly skin, almost as though it had been prepared like duck confit. Mixed together, the quinoa and chorizo formed an adequate side dish; the maple-syrup flavor, though it was a bit heavy, meshed nicely with the zesty sausage. The effort at thinking outside the brunch box was all right, but the execution wasn’t there.

A veggie Benedict used not one but two separate plates. The eggs and vegetables were confined to a cast-iron skillet and that sat on top of a wooden board alongside some thin slices of toast and a ramekin of excellent fig preserves. The toast and preserves were probably the strongest portion of the dish, as the overcooked omelette, negligible drizzle of Hollandaise, unidentifiable greens, and lonely stalk of asparagus underwhelmed. Throwing a good-sized ball of deft mozzarella cheese on top of the whole thing helped a little, but as re-thought Benedicts go, Bailiwick’s was mediocre at best.

The kitchen at Bailiwick isn’t going to wow anyone who comes looking for a special brunch — that much is certain — but the lively scene and momentous amount of drinking going on inside give weekend warriors an excellent excuse for some high-class day-drinking. If anything, the food’s only there to soak up the mimosas.

by Ian Pike

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**Thursday Night Jazz**

Please come and enjoy live jazz from the late 1950's/early 1960's starting at 8:30pm on Thursday nights. Free admission!
Sloppy's Burritos opens in Hillcrest
When I was eating at that new pizza place in Hillcrest, workers were putting the finishing touches on yet another new restaurant in the plaza at Fourth and University. "Sloppy's Burritos," read the sign, with a little avocado pictographic for the "o" in "Burrito." Curiosity is a big motivator for me, so I've already gone in there to see what's what. With a name like "Sloppy's," I didn't think it would be a stereotypical burrito shop. It looked good in there, with lots of blue paint and shiny, new, glass parts everywhere. All the employees were smiling and seemed ready to leap out of their skins for the chance to serve me.

Hey! Turns out it's Mission style burritos!
Yup, they've got steam tables set up and an assembly line for building burritos in the San Francisco style. Steam the tortilla, pile it with rice, beans, meat, guacamole, sour cream, pico de gallo, and lettuce, and wrap it up tightly in a piece of aluminum foil.

Their twist is that almost everything is organic, natural, or otherwise deemed wholesome for you and yours to consume. I don't hate that. It's not connected to Project Pie, but Sloppy's also uses the "one price" model. All the burritos (or rice bowls...or salads) are $7.25 and you get to have them however you want. Uncanny coincidence!

Still, Freebirds tried foisting Mission-style burritos on the San Diego hoi-polloi a little while back, and they had all the capital they could want behind them. It didn't work, and now the building next to Urban Outfitters is getting a remodel. I haven't had the time or inclination to find out what it will be. Anybody know?

The thing is, San Diegoans don't particularly like this kind of burrito. It's just not our thing. Sloppy's burrito was okay, as steamed burritos go. The chicken and pork tasted mostly the same (seasoned white meat flavor), but it was better than Chipotle, and they had a Boylan's soda fountain (I made my own cherry cola) just like the pizza place next door. The people who run it are ambitious and they're already looking at Little Italy for an expansion, but they fight an uphill battle. I know there are people out there who are craving one of these burritos, but will they be numerous enough to sustain a business?

Sloppy's Burritos, 3884 Fourth Avenue, 619-269-2697. Open daily 11-10.

Animalyzed!
I thought I knew downtown. But here I am walking up First Avenue from Broadway, heading past the Bristol Hotel for the trolley when something at the bottom of a sign on the sidewalk stops me. You could miss it if you blinked. It's a little sandwich board outside: "Happy hour 7 days a week, 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. featuring... clever snacks from the kitchen."

Hmm... First Avenue Bar and Grille (inside the Bristol Hotel, 1055 First Avenue, downtown, 619-232-6141). It's a business-man's hotel; I'm not exactly in business attire and I don't exactly get a businessman's rack of gold cards, but I go in.

"Is it happy hour?" I ask at the reception desk.

"It is, sir," says the gal. And she hands me a card that says "Enjoy a glass of our craft beer or featured wine for only $1."

Not sure how long this is going on but I'll take it. I head through some doors and then someone points up three steps to the left and here I am in a dark-paneled half-circle bar. Maroon carpet, low lights, a bunch of customers on the stools, some of them eating on white china, all chatting with the barkeep, Melissa.

When she comes to the wall table I'm sitting at, I ask for the Stone Pale Ale. She leaves a card with the HH offerings. Draft beers are normally $3, already a great price, so this little card is a total deal. Guess it pays to stop at the reception station.

On the food menu, they've got "fire-roasted" brussels sprouts ($3), thyme-flavored fries ($3), poutine (Canadian fries and gravy, $4), Caesar salad ($4), prosciutto-wrapped shrimp ($7), and a burger with bacon, cheddar, and fries ($7).

Burger would be the obvious thing, but for some danged reason, I go to the things I hated as a kid, the brussels sprouts. Partly because they're only $3. Then I order the poutine as a belly-filler.

Oh, man. I needn't have bothered. One, the sprouts. They are totally divine. Sweet, sautéed, crunchy, creamy, with almonds on top. I have to stop the chef, Kirk Kocurek, as he passes.

"I kind of brainstormed this up with the corporate chef," he says.

"They're made with roasted tomatoes, Sriracha sauce, honey, lime juice, and toasted garlic in there, along with caramelized onions and almonds."

Lord. If I'd known, I would have done two things differently. I'd've ordered a ($1!) sweetish white wine instead of the beer, and I would have canceled the poutine, which is great, but not necessary. I'm full after the sprouts. And don't want to spoil the aftertaste.

And I'd’ve loved the thought of getting out of this swank hotel with its classily little bar totally satisfied for $4.

I mean, the poutine's good. None of the traditional cheese curd, but really rich, all the same.

"We animalized it," says Kirk. Animalized!

"It's a California thing. Really means we made it extra messy. It's got extra sauce, cheddar cheese, caramelized onions. Rich for one person. Really, it's for sharing."

I get about halfway through the poutine by the time I have to leave. But what a great feeling. Even with the poutine, I'm out on the street for $8, plus tax and tips. Say ten, eleven bucks total.

I ain't complaining. by Ian Pike

Late Saturday afternoon lunch
Mikko, an "authentic sushi and Japanese cuisine" restaurant, sits just off the 5 freeway at Carlsbad Village Drive (Elm Avenue, to older locals). Many Carlsbad residents and others have been offering their patronage to the establishment quietly occupy-
She was Turkish and had blue glass eyes placed everywhere to ward off the evil eye and bad spirits if they were about.

And eight years ago, when Sarah Mattinson bought the place, she lost the blue eyes but kept a lot the same. Including this Turkish coffee. Delicious, once you get used to all the gloopy grounds and a kinda tinny taste at first.

But, actually, I’m here for breakfast. It’s all day, so no pressure. And the outside patio is great, with flowers and trees in this quiet streetlet off Mission Boulevard. You get the neighborhood, vacationers, the student laptop crowd, and even the kids coming shivering from lessons at the surfing school.

They have dozens of egg combos, but I choose Cousin’s Favorite Scramble. Turns out Sarah’s cousin Michael made up this combo. Michael had taste, and so does the scramble. It’s three eggs scrambled up with green chilies, bacon, onion, cheese and avocado. Lots of avocado.

Man, it’s delicious. You get hash browns and toast (I opted for sourdough), too. But with a few splots of Tapatio, it’s the perfect way to kick off your day. Costs $8.25. Not the cheapest, but you get a lot. And the tastes are beautiful, helped by the coffee, of course. Before the Turkish, I got a large house coffee for $1.85, with endless refills when you buy a meal.

I end up putting preserves on my toast, getting that Turkish coffee, and watch the world go by from the patio.

Met Sarah about a year ago at the ice cream joint next door. Now she’s united the two into one big patio eating corner. So, when’s the coolest time to be here?

“Eight-fifteen in the morning,” she says. “That’s when we bring our scones out of the oven. Everybody turns up to have them hot and fresh. Especially the mixed-berry scones [$2.75].”

Ooh, man, I could live here. All these little walk-only alleys with their cute cottages, and a local café like this, one block from the ocean, but tucked away. Even the postman stops away. Even the postman stops.

Feel like calling Carla and telling her to start packing our bags. But will we? The coffee grounds wouldn’t tell.

Okay, actually we’re talking tasseography, the art of telling the future from what you see in coffee grounds. The lady who started this place, Sarah’s cousin Michael made up all these little walk-only alleys with their cute cottages, and a local café like this, one block from the ocean, but tucked away. Even the postman stops away. Even the postman stops.

But tasseography is part of the future of what you see in coffee grounds to tell the future.

VIP Oriental Buffet
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the inside track

Matt Bahamas: "Those fire extinguishers...caused a bit of panic."

it's a big gamble." Last year, the band's label, Art Fag Recordings, pressed a three-song vinyl seven-inch, "Superbowl XXIX," limited to 500 copies. It's been a blast to write, especially with my best friend.

"It will for sure be released this summer. Very excited for Comic-Con. We're gonna do something ridiculous."

— Jay Allen Sanford

Bujwah Hill
Growing up in the desert agricultural town of El Centro, Matt Zavala and friends stayed off boredom by going on renegade wheat-paste missions, causing trouble, and shredding every skateable surface in town.

"All of this evolved out of skateboarding," says Zavala, a pastor's son who runs Bujwah Clothes with his brothers Daniel and Tony Zavala ("He's the boss").

block and we started this company called Frontier Skateboards. It was me, Sebastian Ulloa (Batwings), Joe Pipkin, and Ernie Quintero (the Spits, Slab City). We were selling skateboards out of the trunk, making some money for the crew because we were all broke. My brother Daniel and his friend Tony came up with this concept called Bujwah in 1999."

Fast forward 15 years and the Bujwah team has designed shirts and fliers for festivals such as Desert Daze and Fuck That Fest, which, Zavala explains, is "a fuck you to Fuck That Fest because we were all broke. My brother Daniel and his friend Tony came up with this concept called Bujwah in 1999."

They've also curated a handful of art and music shows, including the Strange Tour, which took Beaters and Pool Honey from L.A. to San Diego to TJ to Mexico, and ended with special guests Blackfeet Braves in El Centro bar Strangers, owned by Bujwah/Frontier co-conspirator Ernie Quintero.

Bujwah is now gearing up for the grand opening of their storefront in Golden Hill (23rd and Broadway). To inaugurate the shop, Matt and company are teaming up with Fullerton-based Burger Records to throw a party on Sunday, March 24, at Tower Bar, featuring Bruin, Gap Dream, the New Rivers, Pool Honeyes, Little Girl Blue, Cosmonauts, Traumahelikopter, and DJ Lee Noise.

In addition to hosting monthly shows, the store will carry Bujwah threads, music from Burger Records, band merch, skate gear, and works by borderland artists including Daniel Zavala, Star27, D. Gibson, and Adam Moyes.

"We are trying to make a scene in Golden Hill," says Zavala, who, along with his brothers, built the shop's interior from the ground up.

"Lots of business owners were telling us to move down to Kensington because that's where all the foot traffic is. But I've been going against the grain all my life. Hopefully people follow and start making something in Golden Hill."

— Chad Deal

A very angry kid.

After "flooding" for eight years in a nonproductive, antimusic fog, Brandon Van Ekenburg found his new creative calling three years ago.

The former frontman of a Grossmont High metal band called Hostile Intentions (think: Slayer), Van Ekenburg found rap. He took the stage name of Van Brando and started rapping with passion about real-life struggles.

"I had a guy I worked with at Petco who made rap beats. He said I had a voice for rap and he said I should try it. I laughed my ass off. I said 'Fuck, no!' But he convinced me to make some tracks on his piece-of-shit computer."

Van Brando, 29, started playing live at a 2010 Halloween house party. He then hooked up with producer/recording-studio owner Greg Garrison, who convinced him to start recording at his El Cajon-based Multi-Player Productions. Garrison plays all the instrumental tracks, which span rock, punk, and...
$17,000 FREEplay Party!

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3pm – 12am

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I was a very angry kid. Last Sunday he played a once-a-month competition at the Stage, downtown, hosted by DJ Bille Knight. He says 14 or so artists who agree to buy $100 worth of $10 pay-to-play tickets usually perform at those contests. “I sold 25 tickets for the last one, so I got to keep $150 [above the $100 guarantee].” The artist judged best-of-show gets $500 in cash.

The pay-to-play component doesn’t bug Van Brando; what does is the fact that he has to play alongside other aspiring rappers who want to sound like every hit on Z90.

“Ninety percent of the stuff [performed by the other competitors] sounds like the same kind of stuff you hear on the radio every day.”

For those fellow artists who only want to go with the flow, Van Brando wrote “Little Rappers”: So you call yourself a rapper/ More like a borderline shacker/ Wasting your time, one toke at a time/ Seeing your performance makes me so damn sick/ Even Slick Rick would be calling you a prick.

— Ken Leighton

**Bottling digestible jazz.**

Science Fiction Jazz wants to cut a full-length L.P. They really do.

“We have enough material to play a three-hour show,” says guitarist Aaron de la Rosa. “It’s just a matter of getting into a studio and actually recording it.”

In the meantime, the group’s sole release is a self-titled EP with tracks such as “Swamp-foot” and “Mt. Scurvy.” It’s a mix of competent, clean jazz progressions and funky, meandering vamps. The band’s name is an ode to their self-confessed geekery and Star Wars fandom more than anything else, although the

or Arizona. At the same time, we would love to have a new album recorded before we set out. That way we’ll have some-thing to tour with.”

Lately, they’ve been playing around San Diego at diverse venues. They played the UCSD Loft with the Afrojazzicals, and they’ll be playing at a comic-book release party later in the month. “They try to play a show every other weekend so band members can take some time to work on side projects. Aaron’s alter-ego plays guitar

in a Euro-Gypsy footstomping outfit called Quad Bordel, while his brother Allen strays more toward indie rock in his band Porn Film.

One of the biggest things that complicates the group’s desire to record is the improvisational nature of their shows.

“An eight-minute song might be ten minutes long the next time we play it,” explains de la Rosa. “Trying to figure out just how to record something we play so differently is tricky. I mean, you want the album to make people say, ‘Wow. Cool. I like these guys!’ But, then it has to be an even better experience live. That’s a hard thing to bottle and make digestible.”

— Ian Pike

**contributors**

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

**daily blogs**

Helzer, Grinnell & Hubbard: The ARC Trio

By Robert Bush — March 10, 3:44 p.m.

A Scribe Amidst the Lions calling it quits

By Jay Allen Sanford — March 9, 5:38 p.m.

Basshenge Technology techno dance series at AC Lounge

By Chad Deal — March 9, 3:12 p.m.

Excuse me: any spare change for harp fest?

By Dave Good — March 9, 2:46 p.m.

Joe Garrison & Night People live at 98 Bottles

By Robert Bush — March 8, 4:57 p.m.

Metropolitan Opera HD Parsifal

By Garrett Harris — March 8, 9:53 a.m.

4th annual San Diego Experimental Guitar show debuts as two-night extravaganza

By Chad Deal — March 5, 6:59 p.m.

Read these and other daily breaking music stories at SDReader.com/uvital-session

Van Brando’s rap is about real life, not radio life.

**Overheard in San Diego:**

**NORMAL HEIGHTS**

**JAY ALLEN SANFORD**

GOOD MUSIC! LET’S GO IN!

I CAN’T BELIEVE YOU’VE NEVER BEEN INSIDE.

I’D PROBABLY LIKE COFFEE SHOPS, IF THEY DIDN’T SMELL LIKE COFFEE.

OVERHEARD: EMAIL JAS2669@AOL.COM – IF WE USE YOUR TIP, YOU GET THE ARTWORK

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JAYALEN.SANFORD
Thursday 14

It's comedy night at the Casbah, as the rock club's favorite foil, the comic Neil Hamburger, will headline set by MTV's Johnny Pemberton, K-Stras of The Office, and our own brash beautician Jennifer Congernaum. Hamburger's shick — the vile mope in the bad suit with one helluva hostile combover — is the sharpest part of his show. America's Funnyman is actually America's worst comic. That's the gag, and it's funny, in a squirming, why-am-I-laughing sort of way. When he's not clearing his throat directly into the mic, his digs at celebs and politicos are way. When he's not clearing his throat directly into the mic, his digs at celebs and politicos are funny, in a squirmy, why-am-I-laughing sort of way. Fuzzy wuzzy.

― Scavenger‖ at bandcamp:

Death Revenge Death Ball have proven timeless for this seasoned vet....

Friday 15

Keeping the whiskey flowing at the Normal Heights hot spot, a barrel of bands will fill the Void Friday night, including Stalins of Sound, White Mule, Kodiak, International Dipshit, Jean's Wilder, Shiva Trash, Last Years, and Hoodrat. For the rest of the stagy details on this rocket-fueled weekend affair, get to thevoidsd.com.... Right up the street at Soda Bar, garage-rock quartet The New Kinetics takes the stage after Paragraphs. Recordable Colors, and Ed Ghost Tucker. You checked out the Kinetics’ in Stereo yet? Get on it: thrillor,ineties.bandcamp.com.... Some more local LOUDness over at The Tin Can Ale House, where Black Market III does its bluesy grease-punk biz after Leanna May & the Madatos and Hello Penelope do theirs.... Down the big hill, SoCal punk perennials the Swingin’ Uppers swing into Casbah after acoustic blues-punk duo Sean & Zander (Schlons of Circle Jerks), Wild Roses, and the Widows.

Saturday 16

Casbah catches Dengue Fever Saturday night. The L.A.-based ethno-indie hits have fused comfort-zone Cambodian surf-pop (sounds that found Cambodia via U.S. forces radio in the ‘60s) to knobsoundtracks, funky jazz, psych, and synthwave to great success over their 12-year career, in critical praise, world-music awards, and philanthropics for the folks back home. The band’s latest record, Cannibal Courtship, is a pretty decent party platter as well as a barometer for where their art is, which is not far from where it was 12 years ago, blowing on the breeze of those beautiful Cambodian beaches. Speaks or how, our own North Beach (ite Short Eyes) opens the show with the Southland sand pop off of their debut disc, Granado’s.... Best of the rest: roots-rocking SDMA winners Dead Feather Moon glows on Soda after Brothers Weiss and Mrs. Henry. Dizzy’s does a double-dip of jazz trios Saturday night, including saxophonist Ian Tordello’s outfit and guitarist Peter Sprague's three-man band... from the dancehalls of Jamaica, reggae singer Carlton Livingston (“100 lb. of Colee Weed”) visits Brick by brick... while jazzy funk ‘n’ jazz band Karl Denson’s Tiny Universe takes the stage at Belly Up in Solana Beach.

Sunday 17

Happy St. Paddy’s, the one day a year we all got it’s actually Dermal Piercings

$40 Each or Two for $70
Most other piercings
$20 to $25 including jewelry.

Who says the Buddy System doesn’t work?

Two of you can get a tattoo or piercing and we’ll only charge you for one of them!
### Upcoming Shows:

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<td>An Acoustic Evening w/ Medeski, Martin, &amp; Wood</td>
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<td>3/30</td>
<td>Pine Mountain Logs</td>
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<td>4/1</td>
<td>Ben Howard - SOLD OUT!</td>
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<td>Wild Child</td>
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<td>4/16</td>
<td>The Milk Carton Kids - arrested show</td>
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<td>Mike Pinto</td>
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<td>4/24</td>
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<td>4/30</td>
<td>This is a partial listing. Check website for more artist announcements.</td>
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### New Additions:

- 4/25 Paul Cannon
- 4/28 02 for Life - Rockin' in the Rainforest featuring The Devastators

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**Just Added:**

- 4/25 Paul Cannon
- 4/28 02 for Life - Rockin' in the Rainforest featuring The Devastators

**Upcoming Shows:**

- 4/13 Wild Child
- 4/14 Lucinda, Taylor
- 4/15 The Mar Dols Matinace - SOLD OUT!
- 4/16 The Black Angels
- 4/17 An Evening w/ Queencychye starring Geoff Tate
- 4/18 Mike Pinto
- 4/19 Wayward Sons
- 4/20 Presidents of the United States of America performing their classic self-titled album
- 4/21 FM 94.3 presents
- 4/22 Shadow
- 4/23 Katchafire
- 4/24 Cold War Kids - SOLD OUT!
- 4/25 Cold War Kids - SOLD OUT!
- 4/26 Little Hurricane
- 4/27 The English Beat
- 4/28 Mary Mary & Dottie Peoples
- 4/29 Happy Together Tour 2013: The greatest pop/rock artists of the '80s all together...

**Finalized Shows:**

- 5/23 & 24 Katchafire
- 5/24 Cold War Kids - SOLD OUT!
- 5/25 Cold War Kids - SOLD OUT!
- 5/26 Little Hurricane
- 5/27 The English Beat
- 5/28 Mary Mary & Dottie Peoples
- 5/29 Happy Together Tour 2013: The greatest pop/rock artists of the '80s all together...

**Best Pass Ever**

- 24 days unlimited admission for just $24
- Purchase at any San Diego County Albertsons
- $24 per day
- Includes exclusive t-shirts and more

**San Diego County Fair Summer Concert Series**

- June 8: The Beach Boys
- June 11: REO Speedwagon
- June 14: Switchfoot
- June 15: Steve Miller Band
- June 16: La Arrolladora Banda El Limon
- June 19: Caifanes
- June 20: Martina McBride
- June 23: Grupo Intocable
- June 25: Bad Company
- June 26: Bridgit Mendler
- June 27: Train
- June 29: 9th Annual Gospel Festival featuring Mary Mary & Dottie Peoples
- June 30: Julián Alvarez
- July 1: “Weird Al” Yankovic: The Alpocalypse Tour
- July 3: Adam Lambert
- July 4: Happy Together Tour 2013: The greatest pop/rock artists of the '80s all together...

**Tickets & Info**

- BellyUp.com 858-481-8140
- For pre-sales, contests and other special offers, follow us on: [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)
- and sign up for our VIP email list!

**Upcoming Shows:**

- 3/24 An Evening w/ Gordon Lightfoot
- 3/25 The Mavericks - SOLD OUT!
- 3/26 Mike An Intimate Evening
- 3/27 Benefit for SD Coastkeeper - Carmelita Scott w/ Big Penny and Lee Koch
- 3/28 Polk Ambassador and Popper’s
- 3/29 Living Colour
- 3/30 Who’s Bad
- 3/13 Dark Star Orchestra
- 3/14 Soul Asylum
- 3/15 An Evening w/ Big Head Todd & the Monsters
- 3/16 One Drop
- 3/17 Eddie Jobson Four Decades & Tour and Master Class w/ Marc Beiling, Alex Mazzocchi, Kelly Noon, Holly Skerritt, Virgil Donati, Jerry Fish, Steel Magnolias
- 3/18 Steel Magnolias
- 3/19 The Joy Formidable
- 3/20 An Intimate Evening w/ Queencychye starring Geoff Tate
- 3/21 The Black Angels
- 3/22 Presidents of the United States of America performing their classic self-titled album
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- 3/30 Mary Mary & Dottie Peoples
- 4/25 Paul Cannon
- 4/28 02 for Life - Rockin’ in the Rainforest featuring The Devastators

**San Diego Reader**

- March 14, 2013
- 71
**THIS WEEK’S SHOWS**

710 Beach Club:
Thursday, 9:30pm — Club 710 Neon DJ Dance Party.
Friday, 9pm — Hitman Honey.
Saturday, 9pm — Todo Mundo. $7.
Sunday — BoomSnap and Tim O’Malley.
Monday, 9pm — San Diego Music TV Showcase. Free.
Tuesday, 9:30pm — 710 Bass Club.
Wednesday, 9:30pm — Open Mic Open Jam.

ArtLab:
Wednesday, 8pm — Robin Henkel Band with Whitney Shay and Billy Watson. Free.

Baha Resort Hotel:
Friday, 9pm — Timothy H. Free.

Bar Dynamite:
Tuesday — Boom Boom.
Wednesday — Dance Klassique.

Bar West:
Thursday, Sunday, Tuesday — Mikey Beats.

Barleymash:
Thursday — Chris Kutz.
Friday — Demon.
Sunday — Artistic.
Monday — Demon.

Belly Up:
Thursday — Conspirator.
Friday, 6pm — Stepping Feet. $13-$23.
Saturday — Karl Denson’s Tiny Universe and Nigel Hall Band. Sunday — Odesza, Emancipator, Little People.
Monday, 9pm — Josh Ritter.
Tuesday, 8pm — Tionne. Free.

Block 16 Union & Spirits:
Thursday, 7pm — Casey Donahew Band. $10-$50.

Brick by Brick:
Thursday, 8pm — Midnight Starr’s EDM. $5-$10.
Friday, 8pm — Hi Def Dynamite.
Saturday, 7pm — Carlton Livingston and 100 lbs of Collie Weed. $20-$25.
Wednesday, 8:30pm — SD Music TV Open Mic. Free.

Cafe Ipé:
Sunday, 1:30pm — Darius Degeer and Cordelia Degeer.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:
Friday, 7:30pm — An Irish Holiday with Stagger Slagger. $34-$39.

Cashba:
Friday — Swingin’ Utters, Sean & Zander, Wild Roses. $15.
Saturday — Dengu Fever.
Sunday — The Virginas and Har Mar Superstar.
Monday — Heavy Hawaii album release.

Ché Cafe:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Oceanside System, Creative Conspiracy, Rat Jam. $7.
Wednesday — Retox.

Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurants:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Larry Okmin & the Full House Band. $5.

Coyote Bar & Grill:
Thursday, 6pm — Clay Colton Band.
Friday, 6pm — Big.
Saturday, 6pm — Tadouze Moulder.
Sunday, 5pm — Not Katie.
Wednesday, 6pm — Smokeytax.

Dirk’s Niteclub:
Friday, Saturday — Nemesis.

Dizzy’s:
Friday, 8pm — re:Tri. $10-$15.
Saturday, 8pm — Ian Tordella Trio and Peter Sprague Trio. $10-$15.

Downtown Vista:
Saturday, 9am — St. Patrick’s Day in the Aztec Beer Garden. Free.

Epicentre:
Friday — The Story So Far and Man Overheard.

Flame:
Saturday, 9pm — MayStar’s Diamond Dust. $3-$5.

Gaslamp Quarter:
Sunday, 2pm — San Diego Symphony. 2013. $35-$45.

Golden Acorn Casino:
Friday, 7pm — The Pine Creek Posse Band. Free.

Good Guys Tavern:

Gran Tapas:
Thursday, noon — Moonlight Orchestra. Folkly chamber and early music.
Friday, 8:30pm — Flamingo Dance Show. Live show features singer-dancer Oscar Valero, guitarist Juan Moro, rotating guest artists including Erika Lopez, Carlos Villatoro, Patricia Lotufo, Malla Winograd, and the dancers of the Academia del Baile Español. $10.
Saturday, 5:30pm — Pan Am.
Bossa nova, jazz.
Sunday, 5:30pm — Biviolin Trio. Fusion/world music.

Henry’s Pub:
Tuesday, 9pm — Roy Rapid & the Rhythm Rock Trio. Free.

House of Blues:
Thursday, Friday — Groove International.
Sunday, 3pm — The Santana Brothers.
Monday, 7:30pm — Imagine Dragons, Atlas Genius, Nico Vega. $22-$34.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — The Specials. $33-$36.
Wednesday — Andrew McMahon, Barcelona, Eland Waingly.

Jumping Turtle:
Tuesday, 9pm — SDMusicTV
North County Open-Mic.

Ki’s Restaurant:
Friday, 8:30pm — Robin Henkel & Billy Watson. Free.

La Costa Coffee Roasting:
Friday, 7pm — Tony Taravella. Free.

Lestat’s Coffee House:
Saturday — Jason Myles Goss and Jill Noonan.
Sunday — Allison Lonsdale.
Monday — One Mic with Chad Teggart.

Loft:
Friday, 8pm — Peter Sprague & Danny Green Project. Free.

Manedville Auditorium at UCSD:
Saturday, 7:30pm, Sunday, 2pm — Steven Schick conducts Repeat/Move On. $15-$29.

*Note*
BY DAVE GOOD

Once a beach band, always a beach band? Thicker Than Thieves will kick off their spring tour in Ocean Beach, not so far from where it began for them more than a decade ago. That would be Pacific Beach, where Thicker Than Thieves started out playing beach parties and bars. They were like a local version of Bad Brains with musical quotes from Bob Marley and whatever British post-punk bands there were that struck Jamin Hazelaar’s fancy. He’s the head Thief and, as such, knows perhaps better than anyone the uphill battle of being early on any sort of trend. Other than Buck-O-Nine, he says, “There really wasn’t anyone else in San Diego at that time who was doing what we were doing,” meaning the sounds that come from blending reggae and ska with punk rock.

Jamin Hazelaar grew up in a musical family and started performing at the age of nine. Not so unusual — that seems to be about the age when parents begin sticking clarinets or trumpets or violins in their kids’ hands. Hazelaar did recitals and musicals and plays as a child, and that’s where he worked out all of the mistakes that new singers must make. He’s a strong frontman; even in the earliest surf punk days of TTT, I thought him preternaturally calm and self-possessed.

In 2002, the band released their first full-length CD, Smuggler’s Run, said to have been inspired by a surfing trip (they have a new EP due this fall). It follows that the Thieves’ music and surf/skater aesthetic has made them favorites on such festival stages as the Van’s Warped Tour and the Costa Rica Caricaco Festival. Handy, because their Facebook page says the Thieves divvy their time between the California coast, Costa Rica, and Hawaii. Once a beach band, always a beach band.

Project: Out of Bounds and So Cal Vibes also perform.

**THICKER THAN THIEVES**: Winstons, Thursday, March 14, 9 p.m. 619-222-6822

Find more Of Note columns online at SDReader.com/notes.
Newly added VIP Area
Available by reservation
Sleek & Modern new look
Expanded dance floor - All new sound

Thursday, Mar 14  7pm  SOUND DOCTORS (ROCK)
Friday, Mar 15  5pm  FISH AND THE SEAWEEDS (JAM BAND, ROCK)
  9pm  CALIBER (DANCE ROCK)
Saturday, Mar 16  5pm  THE JOHNSON PROJECT (SMOOTH JAZZ)
  9pm  ATOMIC GROOVE (DANCE BAND)
Sunday, May 17  7pm  DARRYL WILLIAMS AND KHALIL (JAZZ)
Monday, Mar 18  7pm  CHET CANNON (BLUES)
Tuesday, Mar 19  7pm  BAYOU BROTHERS (BLUES)
Wednesday, Mar 20  7pm  NOISY TOYS (CLASSIC ROCK)

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

2241 Shelter Island Drive • 619-224-3577 • humphreysbackstage.com
mbv
My Bloody Valentine
By Richard Dotson
Mark February 2, 2013, on your calendars as “the day My Bloody Valentine broke the internet.” Why? Because on that day the band released mbv, the follow-up to a perfect album: 1991’s Loveless. Twenty-two years of anticipation broken by two Facebook posts. (Ah, the power of the internet.) Those of us who could make it through the “403 error” on the band’s site saw that the impossible was indeed possible. There is life after Loveless. After determining whether or not I was dreaming, I purchased the album. My card was accidentally charged three times. Ain’t even mad. mbv, like the rest of the band’s discography, is an album that feels timeless. It’s remarkable that My Bloody Valentine has retained the same ambition and relevance they had 22 years ago. The first three songs start where “Loveless” left off: a swirly pink hurricane of vacuum-cleaner shoegaze bliss. The next three songs present the concision and youth of Isn’t Anything and its adjacent EPs. The final three songs are unexpected—a structured drone jungle that ends the album with an ear-splitting roar.
ULTIMATE ELVIS® TRIBUTE CONTEST & ROCKIN’ ELVIS® FEST

Friday, March 15 - March 17

Elvis® Tribute Artists from around the world competing for a place in the Ultimate Elvis® Competition to be held in Memphis, Tennessee in August 2013

FRIDAY NIGHT 8PM:
First round of competition

SATURDAY 1PM & 8PM:
2nd & 3rd round of competition

SUNDAY NIGHT: 7pm:
Ultimate Elvis® Contest Finals

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

FRIDAY NIGHT 8PM:
First round of competition

SATURDAY 1PM & 8PM:
2nd & 3rd round of competition

SUNDAY NIGHT: 7pm:
Ultimate Elvis® Contest Finals

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Johnny Mathis
With Orchestra

JUNE 22

TICKETS ON SALE THIS FRIDAY AT 10AM!

For tickets visit the Pala Casino Box Office, call 1-877-WIN-PALA (1-877-946-7252) or go to StarTickets.com to buy them online. To charge by phone call 1-800-585-3737.

From San Diego County and Riverside County: Take I-15 to Hwy 76, go east 5 miles
From Orange County and Los Angeles County: Take I-5 South to Hwy 76, go east 23 miles
UPCOMING SHOWS

CLASICAL

Symphonic Concert
The Poway Symphony Orchestra will present a Spring Concert with a program that includes Tchaikovsky’s 1812 Overture, as well as the Piano Concerto No.1 with emerging soloist Chethan Tiwari. The second half of the concert features choirs from two local high schools and Cal State San Marcos for the performance of the Cantique de Jean Racine by Faure and the Gloria by John Rutter. Warren Torns, Music Director, is the conductor. Sunday, March 17, 2:30pm; free.

グループボヘミオ
R&B light opera, Sunday, March 17, 5pm; Gran Tapa, 611 B Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Live Music with Sister Speak
All-ages level classes features live music by Sister Speak. Saturday, March 16, 16; $10-$15. Sol Yoga, 8657 Villa La Jolla Drive. (LA JUNTA)

MTAC Concerto Winners Concert
The Greater San Diego Community Orchestra, directed by Dr. Angela Yeung, presents winners of the 2013 Concerto Competition by the Music Teachers Association of California. The program includes Haydn’s Piano Concerto in D performed by Tyler Kim (age 10), Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor performed by Zechariah Zhu (age 12), and Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto performed by Frank Lee (age 13). Also in the program is Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony. Thursday, March 14, 7:30pm; $5-$10. Shiley Theatre at University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park. (JUNDA VISTA)

Moonlight Orchestra
Folk/Fusion Chamber music, Thursday, March 14, 12pm; Friday, March 15, 12pm; Gran Tapa, 611 B Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Winstons
Thursday, 9pm — Thinner Than Thieves.

The Coyote Bar & Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-729-4695.
March 21 — Shelle Blue Band.
March 22 — Clay Colton Band.
March 23 — Soundta.
March 24 — Billy Watson.
March 26 — The Farmers.
March 28 — Polish Ambassador & Papadosio.
March 29 — Living Colour.
March 30 — Who’s Bad.

March 22, March 23 — Serious Gues.
March 29 — Noisy Toyz.
March 30 — The Farmers.

Dizzy’s: 4275 Mission Bay Drive (in the showroom at San Diego Jet Ski Rentals), Pacific Beach, 858-270-7467.
March 21 — Women in Jazz.
March 22 — West of 5.
March 24 — Women in Jazz.

El Cajon Brewing Company: 308 North El Cajon Blvd., El Cajon, 619-564-7194.
March 30, March 31 — The Airborne Toxic Event.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Mesa, 619-713-6900.
March 30 — West of 5.

The Irenic: 340 North 4th St., San Diego, 619-239-6144.
March 22 — Mika.

Hooley’s Irish Pub & Grill: 5500 Grossmont Center Dr., Mesa, 619-713-6900.
March 30 — West of 5.

The Jumping Turtle: 471-7778.
March 22 — 276-3462.

The Coyote Bar & Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-729-4695.
March 21 — Shelle Blue Band.
March 22 — Clay Colton Band.
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Humphreys Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Mesa, 619-224-3577.
March 24 — Robin Henkel Blues Trio.

March 25 — Houghton College Choir.

La Gran Tapa: 611 B St., Downtown San Diego, 619-234-8272.
March 21 — Moonlight Orchestra.
March 22 — Carlos Velasco.
March 24 — Dusky Bognor.

Ché Cafe: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-2311.
March 21 — Allison Weiss.
March 22 — Candy Hearts, Pentimento.

Copley Symphony Hall: 750 B St., Downtown San Diego, 619-235-0804.
March 22, March 23 — Heart and Soul.
March 29 — New Orleans Jazz Orchestra with Irvin Mayfield.

Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant: 2600 Calhoun St., Old Town, 619-297-1869.
March 23 — Sacha Boutou & the Full House Band.
March 29 — Charlie Arbelaez & Matt Hall with the Full House Band.

March 21 — Schematic, Ask, Man On Earth, Gone By Daylight.
March 22 — Two Story Zori.
March 26 — Small City Calling.
March 28 — Sister Sparrow & the Dirty Bones and Alan Evans Trio.
March 30 — Gap Dream.

Hard Rock Hotel: 207 Fifth Ave., Downtown San Diego, 866-715-7625.
March 29 — Kerli.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill: 5500 Grossmont Center Dr., Mesa, 619-713-6900.
March 30 — West of 5.

March 21 — West of 5.
March 23 — Los Bunkers.
March 30, March 31 — The Airborne Toxic Event.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577.
March 24 — Robin Henkel & Billy Watson.

The Iconic: 3090 Polk Ave., North Park, 619-624-9335.
March 21 — Christopher Owens.

Jimmy Love’s: 672 Fifth Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-595-0123.
March 28 — Big Papa & the TCB.

March 26 — SDMusicTV North County Open Mic.

The Kingston Club: 4079 Adams Ave., Kensington, 619-
**HAPPY HOUR**

You can submit a listing or find more information about these establishments online at SDReader.com/drinks

**ALLIED GARDENS**

**San Diego Brewing Company:** Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3 select house & domestic beers, house wine, well drinks. 1/2-off appetizers.

**ALPINE**

**Donato’s Italian Restaurant:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 glass Bud Light, $6 pitcher, $35 house wine.

**BALBOA PARK**

**The Prado Restaurant:** Tuesday-Saturday, 4-6pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints; $4 house margaritas, wells, $5 quesadillas, hot dogs, tacos.

**BANKERS HILL**

**Bertrand at Mister A’s:** Monday-Saturday, 2-3:45pm: $5 wells, $6 wine, $10 cocktails, $4 local brews. Bar or patio only.

**BAY PARK**

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

**BONITA**

**Sapphire 18+ Lounge & Hookah:** Monday-Friday, 3-6:30pm:

- $1 off wine and bottled beer, $2 off wells and drafts.
- **CARDIFF**
  - **Beach House:** Daily, 4-7pm: $2.95 draft/domestic beer, $3.45 wells, $3.95 bloody mary & house wine, $4.95 well martini, $5.95 cosmopolitan, mojito, margarita, bloody mary tai mai.

- **CARLSBAD**
  - **The Alley:** Daily, 11am-7pm: $2.75 wells, domestics.
  - **On the Tracks Brewery and Tasting Room:** Thursday, 5-7pm: Ladies, $3 pints.

- **CARMEL MOUNTAIN**
  - **Conway’s Irish Pub:** Daily, 10am-8pm: $2.75 domestic drafts and bottles; $2.75 & $3.75 wells.
  - **Oggis’s Pizza & Brewing Co.:** Monday-Friday, 11am-2pm: $3 house microbrews.

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

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

- **CITY HEIGHTS**
  - **Nate’s Garden Grill:** Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm, $1 off all beer & wine.

- **THE TOWER BAR:** Monday-Friday, 4-5pm: $3 wells and import drafts.

- **The Void:** Monday-Saturday, 5-8pm: $1 off pints. Sunday, All Night: $3 draft.

- **CLAREMONT**
  - **Barley Stone Pub:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm, 7-50 off all drinks.

- **COLLEGE AREA**
  - **California Kebab:** Monday-Friday, 3-8pm: $1 off pints, $2 off pitchers. Saturday-Sunday, all day: $1 off pints, $2 off pitchers.

- **CORONADO**
  - **Danny’s Palm Bar:** Daily, 3-6pm: $3 off all drinks.

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

- **Zel’s Del Mar:** Daily, 4-6:30pm: $1 off drafts & premium drinks, $2 off wines by glass, $3.50 wells. $4 fried calamari, $5 fish tacos, $10 burger & beer.

- **DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO**
  - **Anthony’s Fish Grotto:** Monday-Friday, 3-30-6:30pm: $3 draft, Anthony’s white wine; $4, well calls. $2.75 fish tacos, $3 lettuce wraps, $4.50 toasted.

- **La Gran Tapa:** Daily, 4-7pm: $3 craft beers, $4 cask wines. $3 & $4 tapas, free tapitas at the bar.

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

- **Escondido Sports Pub:** Daily, 4-6pm: $2.50 domestic bottles/drafts; wells, $3 well prices, $4.50 tall domestic drafts.

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

- **Brooks & Beer:** Monday-Friday, 4-5pm: $2.75 Premium drafts, $2.50 Premium Well drinks, $5 Appetizers, $5 Bourbon Slushy

- **KEARNY MESA**
  - **Proud Mary’s Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada:** Daily, 4-7pm: $2 Premium Drafts, $2.50 Premium Well drinks, $5 Appetizers, $5 Bourbon Slushy

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

- **Tijuana**
  - **Daily:** 4-7pm: $3 wells and imported drafts.

- **LA JOLLA**
  - **Bull and Bear Bar and Grill:** Daily, 10am-2am: $1 off all beer, $2 off all wine, $5 wells.

- **La Jolla Brew House:** Friday-Saturday, 10am-11pm: $2 Off Pints; $3 Wells & Wine; Buy Any Pizza Get One Free.

- **Su Casa:** Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $1/2-off wells and appetizers (excludes seafood & guacamole).

- **LA MESA**
  - **Casa de Pico:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: Discounted margaritas, beer, cocktails. Complimentary chicken wings, mini burritos.

- **Mr. G’s Tavern:** Tuesday, 10am-noon, 4-7pm: $3 margaritas, $4 horchata, $5 Patron, $6 corona. Wednesday, 10am noon, 4pm-7pm: $3 well whiskey, $4 Jim, Jack, Johnnie, & Jameson. Friday, 10am-noon, 4-7pm: $4 drink specials. Saturday-Sunday, 10am-noon, 4-7pm: $5 long island, $8 bloody mary.

- **LAKESIDE**
  - **Coo Coo Club:** Monday-Friday, 6-9pm: $2.75 wells, domestic bottles, drafts.

- **LEMON GROVE**
  - **Dirk’s Nitelube:** Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: $5 off all drinks $4.50 or less. Sunday, 6am-2pm: $1 off bloody marys.

- **LEUCADIA**
  - **Bar Leucadian:** Monday-Wednesday, 4:30-6:30pm: $2.75 wells, $2.50 beer of the month. Thursday, 5-7pm: $2.75 wells, $2.50 beer of the month, Ladies U-Call-it $2.75.

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**The New Morena Club I M1319:** Daily, 2-7pm: $2 domestic drafts, $2.50 wells and domestic beers; $7.50 domestic pitchers. $2.50 wells, $2.50 domestic drafts, well drinks.

**Puerto La Boca:** Daily, 5-7pm: $1.50 tacos, $2 burgers. $3 tall boys, wells, $3.50 Jack & Cokes. Friday, 4-7pm: $3 house martini. 30% off appetizers. $3 house wine, $3.50 drafts, wells, $6 Long Island. $1 tacos & wings. Free food from Lucha Libre & Cuba Libre). $3 French dipper slides. Smash, mint-tea juleps, margaritas, cocktails (Mojitron, Ginger Pear Smash, Spiced Rum). $3.50 mahi taco, discounted nachos, calamari.

**The Filling Station:** Daily, 5:30-7:30pm: $10 charcuterie platter & artisan cheeses. $6 Long Islands. Fireball shots.

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

**The Shakedown Bar:** Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: $3 select bottled beer & house wine. $3.50 premium drafts, well drinks $3.75, $1 off all bottled beer & house wine. Sunday, all day: 20-oz. Imperial pint of Fuller’s London Pride $4.95.

**Guava Beach Bar & Grill:** Monday-Sunday, 4pm-close: 1/2-off beer, shots, cocktails. 25% off pot stickers, oysters, $10 cover - Fridays @ 8:30pm. 2am: $1 off pints.

**The Calypso Cafe & Tapas Bar:** Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: Buy 1 get 1 free food from Lucha Libre & Cuba Libre. $3 French dipper slides. Smash, mint-tea juleps, margaritas, cocktails (Mojitron, Ginger Pear Smash, Spiced Rum). $3.50 mahi taco, discounted nachos, calamari.

**Taco Shop:** Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: $3 wells. Free food from Lucha Libre & Cuba Libre. $1 tacos & wings. $3 Jack & Coke. Thursday, Noon-2am: $3 lager bombs. Friday, Noon-2am: $3 Fireball shots. Saturday, Noon-2am: $4 Long Islands. Sunday, all day: $2 well drinks.

**The Calypso Cafe & Tapas Bar:** Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: Buy 1 get 1 free food from Lucha Libre & Cuba Libre. $3 French dipper slides. Smash, mint-tea juleps, margaritas, cocktails (Mojitron, Ginger Pear Smash, Spiced Rum). $3.50 mahi taco, discounted nachos, calamari.

**Callahan’s Pub & Brewery:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.75 small beer, $3.25 house wine. Thursday, 7pm-close: $2 kamikazes. Saturday, Noon-2am: $3 bloody marys. Sunday, noon-7pm: $3 bloody marys.

**Sandbar Sports Grill:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 wells, domestic pitchers. $3 bloody marys. $4 Long Islands. $2 Margaritas. Thursday, 7pm-close: $2.50 wells, domestic pitchers. Saturday, noon-7pm: $3 mimosas. Sunday, noon-7pm: $4 wells, sangria, margaritas. $4 Long Islands. Sunday, all day: $2 well drinks. 2am: $1 off pints.

**The Glass Door Restaurant & Lounge:** Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: $3 select bottled beer & house wine. $3.50 premium drafts, well drinks $3.75, $1 off all bottled beer & house wine. Sunday, all day: 20-oz. Imperial pint of Fuller’s London Pride $4.95.

**The New Morena Club I M1319:** Daily, 2-7pm: $2 domestic drafts, $2.50 wells and domestic beers; $7.50 domestic pitchers. $2.50 wells, $2.50 domestic drafts, well drinks.

**Puerto La Boca:** Daily, 5-7pm: $1.50 tacos, $2 burgers. $3 tall boys, wells, $3.50 Jack & Cokes. Friday, 4-7pm: $3 house martini. 30% off appetizers. $3 house wine, $3.50 drafts, wells, $6 Long Island. $1 tacos & wings. Free food from Lucha Libre & Cuba Libre). $3 French dipper slides. Smash, mint-tea juleps, margaritas, cocktails (Mojitron, Ginger Pear Smash, Spiced Rum). $3.50 mahi taco, discounted nachos, calamari.

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**OCEAN BEACH**

Mother’s Saloon: Monday, 3-7 pm: $1 off drafts, 1/2 off appetizers. Tuesday, 3-7 pm: $1 draft beers. Thursday, 3-7 pm: $1 off drafts, 1/2 off appetizers. $3 Fireball shots. $1 taco tacos. 11 pm-12:30 am: $2.75 well, $2 off drafts. Thursday, 7-9 pm: $5 Rolling Rock and Shot (1 oz); $1.50 JD’s. 11 pm-12:30 am: $2.75 well, $1 off drafts. Thursday, 9-11 pm: $3 you-call-in, $1.50 sliders. 11 pm-12:30 am: $2.75 well, $1 off drafts. Friday-Saturday, 11 pm-12:30 am: $2.75 well, $1 off drafts.

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

**POINT LOMA**

Humphrey’s Backstage Music Club: Daily, 3-7 pm: 1/2 off all drinks & menu items (excludes holiday/concert nights).

Jimmie’s Famous American Tavern: Monday, Wednesday-Sunday, 3-7 pm: 1/2 off all appetizers, drafts, well, and select house wine.

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

**POWAY**

The Beach Grass Poway: Daily, 4-7 pm: $2.50 drafts, $3.50 microbrews, $4 select wines. $5 appetizers: panko-crusted calamari, tempura avocado, veggies & hummus, more.

Kaminski’s BBQ & Sports Bar: Monday, Wednesday-Saturday, 3-6:30 pm: 11 am-9 pm: $2 Corona, Pacifica margaritas. Wednesday, 11 am-9 pm: 4 drop drinks. Thursday, 7-9 pm: 3.50 Bud Light. Friday, 7-9 pm: 3.50 Long Island. Saturday, 11 am-9 pm: 3.50 Orange Patron, Tanqueray. Sunday, 11 am-9 pm: 3.50 bloody marys.

**SANTA YSABEL**

Santa Ysabel Resort & Casino: Monday, Mojito Monday: 4-7 pm: $4 Irish Mojito. Tuesday, Tropical Tuesday: 4-7 pm: Tropical Drink. Wednesday, Wicked Wednesday: 5.50 Speedy Gonzalez. Thursday, 4-7 pm: 1/2 off all drinks. Friday, Fiesta Friday: 4-7 pm: classic margarita. Saturday, Sweet Saturday: 5.50 pineapple-Midori martini. Sunday, Sunset Sunday: 4-7 pm: Amaretto Sunset.

**SANTÉE**

**BRENTWOOD**

Bernard O’Rourke Restaurant: Monday, 3-7 pm: 4-7 pm: $4 well, $2.75 domestic, $3.50 imported/specialty, $4.75 house margarita, $5 house wine.

Café on the Park: Monday-Friday, 5-6:30 pm: 3.50 well, $3 house margaritas, 1/2 off wine/house beer by the glass, $1 off beer. Complimentary cheese & crackers, 1/2 off appetizers.

Kelly’s Public House: Monday, 2-7 pm: 1/2 off domestic drafts, $8 pitchers, $3.50 well, $5 house wine.

**SAN MARCOS**

Dell Stop Sports Pub: Daily, 4-7 pm: 1/2 off all beer; $3 Corona or glass of wine. $1 off all appetizers.

**SOLANA BEACH**

Chief’s Burgers and Brew: Tuesday-Friday, 3-6 pm: 1/2 off all drinks & menu items (excludes holiday/concert nights).

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

California Comfort: Monday, 4-7 pm: 10% off all liquor/wine/any tall domestic draft. 50% off all starters. Saturday-Sunday, 10 pm-close: 10% off liquor/wine/any tall domestic draft. 50% off all starters.

**TIERRASANTA**

JP’s Pub: Monday-Friday, 3-6:30 pm: $2.50 well, domestic drafts, $3.25 house wine.

**UCSD**

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

**UNIVERSITY CITY**

Apolonia Greek Bistro: Daily, 3-10-3:30 pm: $4.25 micro/beer, $4.50 imported beers, $3 wine by the glass.

CozyMex’s Mexican Grill: Monday-Saturday, 4-6 pm: $2.25 Coors Light Draft, $3.25 Dos Equis draft; discounted appetizers. Sunday, All day: $2.25 Coors Light Draft, $3.25 Dos Equis draft; discounted appetizers.

Donovan’s Steak and Chop House: Monday-Thursday, 5:30-9 pm: $4 draft beers, $3 wine by the glass.

**URQUICH**

Babbo’s Bar and Grill: Daily, 4-6:30 pm: 3% skins, drafts, wine. Bourbon Street: Monday-Friday, 5-8 pm: 3% domestic pitchers, $4 well drinks, $5 imported pitchers.

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

Small Bar: Daily, 5-8 pm: 1/2 off local draughts and drinks.

**VALLEY CENTER**

Casa Reales Mexican & Seafood Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 2-6 pm: $3 imports, well. Discounted appetizers.

**VISTA**

Chili Coast Burgers: Monday-Friday, 3-6 pm: $5.50 7-65 tap beer.

Jumping Bean Cafe & Mexicali Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-6 pm: $2 domestic, imports, $2.75 margaritas. $3 well, $3 micro/beer, $4 Leaping Horse Wine. 3-6 pm: $1.50 chicken or carnitas street tacos.
They came to hear King
“I’m so happy tonight, I’m not worried about anything, I’m not fearing any man.”

I make it a hard and fast rule when entering a theater: leave expectations at the door. Even if I know the play or the subject, I want as clean a slate as possible. Be open to the work rather than impose what I think should happen. Or, as Meatloaf sang, “Let the drama tell your heart what to do.”

There have been exceptions. Katori Hall’s The Mountaintop, currently at the Rep, became one. For reasons both surprising and annoying, I wrestled with much of her 90-minute comedy-drama about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr’s last night on Earth. And because of the Critic’s Code — thou shalt not reveal the plot twist upon which an entire play hinges — I can only suggest my reasons why.

In 1968, Dr. King planned to take the Poor People’s Campaign for civil rights and justice to new territory: the North. Until then, the movement had been restricted to Southern states. At Washington, D.C., thousands of protesters would hold a convention and erect a shantytown to show the world the faces of poverty and hunger.

Dr. King announced he’d be in Memphis, beginning March 30, to support the sanitation workers’ strike (“we are God’s sanitation workers,” he said, “working to clear up the snow of despair and poverty and hatred”). On March 16, Robert Kennedy announced he would run for president — and seek Dr. King’s counsel. On March 31, president Lyndon Baines Johnson announced he would not run for reelection. Bobby and Dr. King were vehemently against the war in Vietnam.

On April 2, exhausted, Dr. King declined to speak at the Mason Temple in Memphis. His M.D. ordered him to rest at the motel. But when Dr. King didn’t enter the stage behind Reverend Ralph Abernathy, the assemblage became restless. Abernathy phoned King. “This isn’t my crowd,” he said, “they came tonight in this storm” — a lethal tornado was scouring Tennessee — “to hear King.”

Dr. King dragged himself to the temple and gave a speech both unforgettable — “I’m so happy tonight, I’m not worried about anything, I’m not fearing any man. MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY OF THE COMING OF THE LORD!” — and unforgettably prophetic.

On Thursday, April 4, 1968, at 6:01 p.m., as Dr. King stood on the second-floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel waiting for his ride to a buffet dinner, what sounded like a firecracker echoed across Mulberry Street.

An hour later, he was pronounced dead at St. Joseph’s Hospital. He was 39.

Noam Chomsky: “[Dr. King] was going beyond racist sheriffs in Alabama to northern racism, which is much more deeply-rooted and class-based. The civil rights movement was partly destroyed by force and partly frittered away at that stage. It never really made it past the point where you get into class issues.”

I brought expectations to the Rep’s opening night that I had trouble shaking, at first: the memory of the monumental event and the aftermath, as the country almost ripped itself apart in a frenzy of hatred.
A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder

The Old Globe Theatre presents the world premiere of a musical comedy (book by Robert L. Freedman, music by Steven Lvatok) about Monty Navarro. He’s ninth in line for an inheritance and wants to eliminate the heirs. Jefferson Mays plays all nine.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK, 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM SATURDAYS, 8PM SUNDAYS, 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH APRIL 14.

Doubt, A Parable

PowPAC stages John Patrick Shanley’s drama about ingrained bias and the pain it can inflict. Raylene J. Ball directs.

POWPAC, 13250 POWAY RD., POWAY, 858-679-8085. 8PM FRIDAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH APRIL 14.

Gypsy!

Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center presents the popular musical about the famous queen of the stage Gypsy Rose Lee, and her determined stage mother — Mama Rose.

LAWRENCE FAMILY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, 4126 EXECUTIVE DR., LA JOLLA, 7PM THURSDAY, 1PM SUNDAY, 4:30PM SUNDAY.

I Am a Man

As part of the San Diego Rep’s “surround” events, for its production of The Mountaintop, Antonio TJ Johnson reads Oyama’s drama about the sanitation strike that brought Dr. Martin Luther King to Memphis.

SAN DIEGO REPETORY THEATRE, 14 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO, 619-544-1000, 7PM MONDAY, 7PM TUESDAY.

Love, Sex, and the IRS

Mira Mesa Theatre Guild presents this comedy about out-of-work musicians who have filing tax returns listing them as rocky roads married. The day of reckoning comes.

WAGENHEIM MIDDLE SCHOOL, 9230 GOLD COAST DR., MIRA MESA, 858-576-1400. 7:30PM FRIDAYS, 7:30PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 16.

Mack & Mabel

Community Actors Theatre presents the Jerry Herman musical about the silent film era. Mack Sennett recalls the glory days of Keystone Studios.

COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 54TH ST., CROWLEY AREA, 619-264-3391. 8PM FRIDAYS, 3PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 17.

Night Stage to Big Shaft

Peggy Sue Productions presents a dinner-theater show set in 1853. Michael Brady’s drama about out-of-work miners. The Mountaintop, Antonio TJ Johnson reads Oyama’s drama about the sanitation strike that brought Dr. Martin Luther King to Memphis.

C-3 PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 4579 WANGENHEIM MIDDLE SCHOOL, 9230 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO, 619-544-1000, 7PM MONDAY, 7PM TUESDAY.


And Katori Hall’s play about the tragedy? It’s a fable. The earth only shakes outside the motel, where Dr. King spends some of his last hours with a maid. And she, it turns out, is by far the better-written character.

The play touches on historical details but — here’s where my expectations were fangs — isn’t all that shocked by it. It locates Dr. King in a metaphorical relay race (videos of Tommie Smith, John Carlos, and Lee Evans running in the ’68 Olympics, held that summer, enhance the notion), and he passes the baton to the next leaders. Post-Dr. King videos projected on a screen, however, reveal that no single person has carried it anywhere near as high or ran as far.

Mountaintop isn’t about the greatness of Dr. King. It’s an often whimsical piece about the denial of death and the need to let go, the irreverence extending into the afterlife.

For the Rep, Christopher Ward’s set is two places at once: humble furnishings suggest room 306 of the Lorraine Motel; but they’re inside a giant gest room of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. The setting, including the “whitewashed brick loft to Peter Forbush. Her portrayal is so stiff and superficial you wonder what the world Dr. King could see in her. Ray Limon’s choreography vitalizes the racy Seabees. But the technical work’s a mix. And when someone sings upstage, they cast shadows on the sketch of Bali Ha’i painted on a Dodge. Drop’s direction (and the great musical) merits a recommendation.

Worth a try.

Time and the Conways

Lamb’s Players has extended the run of Irish stories, music, and dancing. The Mountaintop, Antonio TJ Johnson reads Oyama’s drama about the sanitation strike that brought Dr. Martin Luther King to Memphis.

MISSION HILLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 4070 JACODAW ST., MISSION HILLS, 619-295-2067. 7PM FRIDAYS, 2PM SATURDAYS, 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 17.

Ten Minute Madness VI

North Park Vaudeville & Candy Shoppe stages seven new short works by playwrights from around the county: “drama, comedy, and plays with a message.”

NORTH PARK VAUDELSE AND CANDY SHOPPE, 2031 EL CAJON BL., NORTH PARK, 619-220-8663. 7PM FRIDAYS AND 8PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH APRIL 13.
Like Someone in Love is a logical follow-up to Abbas Kiarostami’s Certified Copy (2010). From its opening long take — the lead character speaks from outside the frame — the director’s sleight of hand draws us headfirst into this tale of purposeful miscommunication and calculated role-playing.

Certified Copy was the first narrative feature Kiarostami filmed outside of his native Iran. Like Someone in Love was shot entirely in Tokyo with a Japanese cast. Akiko (Rin Takanashi) — co-ed by day, call girl by night — is coerced by her pimp into turning a trick with a preferred, recently widowed client (Tadashi Okuno). The two form a precipitous alliance during the course of two days spent together.

Few filmmakers have an affinity for photographing characters in cars quite like Kiarostami. Forced to blow off a brief stopover from her grandmother, Akiko listens as the elderly woman sums up her entire visit in a series of incoming answering-machine messages that she plays back en route to her appointment. (To Akiko’s credit, she insists the cabbie pass by the train depot.)

A painting that hangs in the old man’s apartment adds a key piece to the film’s puzzling themes of resemblance and character. Akiko’s uncle gave her a certified copy of the picture, Training a Parrot, when she was 14. The child in the picture bears a striking resemblance to Akiko. “He told me it was my portrait,” she recalls, “that he painted it.” To the old man, it’s a picture of a girl teaching a parrot to speak, but according to Akiko’s grandmother, it’s the parrot that’s doing the coaching.

There is not a shot or gesture in the entire film that could not withstand rigorous visual analysis, yet this is far removed from the “coffee table movie” pleasantries of, say, Anna Karenina or Les Misérables. It’s the work of an assured master whose greatest virtue is making it all look so easy.

The title connotes more than just the lush tones of the Ella Fitzgerald song after which it was named. Like Someone in Love perfectly sums up the glow cinenthusiasts will feel upon exiting the theater.

— Scott Marks

HURRICANE “TINY” RIPS THROUGH THE SAN DIEGO LATINO FILM FESTIVAL

The phone rang just as I was pulling into the parking stall at Digiplex Mission Valley. “Where are you, man?” a familiar voice growled. “I’m upstairs in a holding area.”

When we spoke earlier in the week, “Tiny” Lister assured me that he was coming to San Diego for the Latino Film Festival’s premiere of his latest film, K-11. Tiny — the veteran character actor many will recognize as the heroic inmate from The Dark Knight — is a man of his word! Festival programmer Glenn Heath had this bemused I can’t believe this is happening look on his face as he escorted me upstairs to meet the man. It didn’t take long for me to spot Tiny’s broad, door-jamb-splintering shoul-
**Reader**

March 14, 2013

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**WHY POLL WHEN YOU CAN IMPALE?**

When I was young, my parents would yell, "What are you wasting your time at the movies for? Why not read a book?" Nowadays the parental war cry has been altered to, "Stop playing video games! Get the hell out of the house and go to a movie!" And yet, a recent *Reader* poll indicates that only 4 percent of respondents go to the movies each week.

Don't you realize that movies still are your best entertainment value? When was the last time you paid to see a concert, play, opera? Scratch that last question. The only opera my readers regularly attend is the one starring the Marx brothers. Would you really rather select your evening's entertainment choices from a red box that spends most of its time doubling as a rest area for the homeless in a 7-Eleven parking lot?

Look, I love my flat-screen TV and Bluray player as much as the next guy, but I don't think I'll be buying a ticket to see *Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth* — and, if you spend the major-ity of your entertainment dollars at a commercial multiplex — nothing to challenge you!

**No, Barbara, and Dead Man Down** — three outstanding times at the movies — are currently playing, (The San Diego Latino Film Festival could also use your support.) And screw the critical embargo: *Olympus Has Fallen* opening later this month, is a terrific pre-summer blockbuster. Even seeing *The Wiz* prequel or a *Tina Fey”comedy”* counts as a night out.

Don't let motion-picture exhibition as we know it cease to exist. I'm begging you. Get more out of life. Go to a movie this weekend!

— Scott Marks

**REVIEW: MIKE TYSON: UNDISPUTED TRUTH**

"Anyone see Tyson?" the former undisputed heavyweight champion of the world asked the packed crowd at his March 5 performance of *Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth*. Mike was referring to James Toback's 2008 documentary. "I saw James Toback and all," he continued, "but Tyson is real dog shit compared to what you're gonna see tonight."

It was everything you'd expect from a Spike Lee–Mike Tyson collaboration, at least when Mike remembered to hit his mark. "Wait," he'd say stopping in his tracks. "I should be on the other side of the stage!"

He occasionally fumbled with the lines and blocking, and at times it appeared as though Cynaro was whispering the words into an earpiece for Mike to recite. But for the most part, Mike Tyson owned the stage of the Balboa Theatre.

At times he was a stomping "gorilla," chewing up and spitting out recollections of former battles both in and outside the ring. He scored his first knockout when he was ten years old. On the receiving end was a local thug who had ripped the head off a pigeon before chucking it Mike's way.

Mike's raving was frequently offset by moments of surprising intimacy and candor. To those critics who have taken Tyson to task for resorting to pathos in dealing with the accidental death of his four-year-old daughter, Exodus, I say, you try burying a kid. My pathos-o-meter is always set to high, and not for one moment was there a sense that he was trying to turn this tragedy into something analogous to an Oprah special.

There was much I did not know about the champ. He was arrested 38 times by the time he turned 12. For Mike, going to juvie was like *Cheers*: "Everybody knew my name." In *Cas D’Amato*, Tyson found a trainer, manager, and legal guardian. Two years later, a 14-year-old Tyson was "knocking out grown men."

For a man who has spent a good chunk of his post-boxing days asking others for forgiveness, when it comes to Robin Givens, Iron Mike shows no mercy. He recalls a time when their bitter breakup was fodder for every entertainment news program and supermarket tabloid in the land. The marriage was going to hell, but the lovemaking was so good the couple wanted to maintain joint custody of their sexual relationship.

Mike sat waiting impatiently at Robin's doorstep when he saw her car — with a white boy in the passenger seat — tooling up the driveway. Riding shotgun was a then relatively unknown Brad Pitt. Here's pretty-boy Pitt expecting to receive class head from the Head of the Class star and instead finds the champion of the world, with the exact same thing on his mind, pacing the porch.

"You should have seen the look on his face when he saw my black ass," Mike chuckled. "They looked like Robert Redford and Pearl Bailey."

The self-proclaimed “Prozac-pop ping ear-biter-turned-stage performer” held my interest firm for 90 minutes. I was kinda sad to see it end. Picture to follow.

— Scott Marks

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**Priorities and Antipathies**

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**The Last Laugh to A Serious Man**

For 38 years, Duncan Shepherd served as the film critic for the San Diego Reader. Shepherd was a disciple of Manny Farber, a man Roger Ebert once called "the great iconoclast of American film criticism." Like Farber, Shepherd sought to assist moviegoers "in seeing what was in front of their faces, to wean them from Plot, Story, What Happens Next, and to disable them of the absurd notion that a film is all of a piece, all on a level, quantifiable, rankable, fileable." Instead of simply describing a film’s attributes, he took hold of it like Jacob wrestling the angel, and sought to see it face to face. Volume 1 of the series collects those relatively few films that merited his highest indicator of priority, from 1924’s *The Last Laugh* to 2009’s *A Serious Man*.
hijinks of The Hangover and the "We're too young, but who cares!" high-school hijinks of Project X, the Drunken Bromedy genre takes up the entire age-appropriate col- lege party circuit. It's all rather as if hippy melodrama played the master-bantering mainstream, Skyler Astrin is the nice Jewish kid who's much too old for the party. Chon is the chauvinist, but sadly, he spends much of the film as unconvincing baggage for two dudes crossing that magical border between youth and adulthood. The whole thing is a happy accident, the film's true power. The boys get spanked for their transgressions, but each soggy thread is neatly tied by the end, and nobody's even hung over the next morning. — M.L.

Barbara — Germany's entry for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar at the 85th Academy Awards (it didn't make the cut) is an unyielding Cold War drama set in East Germany, 1980. Barbara (Nina Hoss), a capable young doctor, is sentenced to a East Germany, 1980. Barbara (Nina Hoss), a capable young doctor, is sentenced to a

165-minute running time. With Bruce Willis reprising the role of John McClane, nothing in the film bears even the remotest connection to any of its four predecessors. McClane pulls up stakes and catches the first red eye to Russia to help his son (Jai Courtney) have fun "killing f@#" in the remotest connection to any of its four predecessors. McClane pulls up stakes and catches the first red eye to Russia to help his son (Jai Courtney) have fun "killing f@#" in the

4 Months, 3 Weeks, and 2 Days with a Kevlar toupée and... With Sarah Shahi, Jason Lee (this year's Channing Tatum), and an abundance of comeuppance for Christian Slater haters. 2013. — S.M.

The Call — Halle Berry plays a 911 opera-
tor's preoccupations. It's been a decade since Hill stepped behind a camera and his style — particularly the MTV flash frames — could have withstood some modification. A very enjoyable film as unconscious baggage for two dudes面条, drain off the moral intrigue, sprinkle with bits of soul-searching, reheat, and serve. With Josh Brolin, Nick Nolte, Robert Patrick. 2013. — M.L.

Bless Me, Ultima — Rudolfo Anaya's coming-of-age story, set in 1940s New Mexico, never comes close to escaping its novelistic origins — do we really need a narrator to tell us that wise old woman Ultima "taught me to listen to the living earth and to feel complete in the mystery of its time." But it does strive to take seriously the many forces at work on a young and watchful Chicano: the temperaments of mother and father, the good and bad examples set by relatives, small-town culture, and most importantly, the struggle between taught religion and experienced mysticism. (Ultima has a magic owl and the power to breeze curses, but what do you have, God?) A sincere, warmly photographed effort, if not quite an expert realization. 2013. — M.L.

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 perhaps unsurprisingly take on the characters Nick Nolte and Eddie Murphy played in Hill's 48 Hrs. With a Keval Pourf and the power to its time"? But it does strive to take seriously the earth and to feel complete in the mystery of

Ghost Rider, and Samuel L. Jackson as the spitting image of cotton-haired Woody Strode in Nero, and Samuel L. Jackson as the spitting image of cotton-haired Woody Strode in

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bucket of cold water to throw in the faces of nonbelievers. Say what you will about the opposition’s heedless use of deceitful tactics, trust me, the support for Frank Capra and Bell Laboratories’ 1958 classroom short, *The Unchained Goddess*, as an unheeded clarion call about the dangers that he already doesn’t do much to bolster Rosencrans & Trustworthiness. Liberals will stand in line, conservaties will shun it, and cinephiles, looking for a challenging piece of filmmaking at a late hour, do their best to ensure that they had waited for it to play on public television. 2012. — S.M.

**Identity Thief** — Don’t blame the Apata tow connection for this one. Director Seth Gordon (Four Christmases, Horrible Bosses) should get credit for capitalizing on Melissa McCarthy into this generation’s Schmuck chili that he’s not a crook. The problem is, John Candy was a dandy comedian, not Chris Farley with a vagina. Per usual, the shameless third act pathos (and the obliga tory end ear masterpiece) go anything of the stuff passing for comedy that precedes it. 2013. — S.M.

**The Incredible Burt Wonderstone** — Funny enough satire about that tragic juncture in American history where the great illusionists and magicians such as Vargas and the Great Houdini were eclipsed by common street magicians. There’s a moment where the title char acter, Emperor by Steve Carell, reveals his childhood idol and inspiration, Rance Holloway (Alan Arkin), in a nursing home. Carell can barely contain himself when he begins to express just how big an impression Holloway left. Arkin’s reaction is priceless, an inspired combination of "Yeah, yeah, go on with it" and eye roll that once again underscores his comedic dispensability. In a film where Carell and Jim Carrey do their best to out-mug each other, the real magic is Arkin’s (and Steve Buscemi’s) exalted underplaying. Ditto for Olivia Wilde who, with Butler and Burt Wonderstone, is blossoming an accomplished light comedienne right before our eyes. TV veteran Don Scardino directs. With James Gandolfini and Brad Garrett. 2013. — S.M.

**Jack the Giant Slayer** — A bag containing cholesterol free, nutrient-dense seeds that have the power to change the world falls into the wrong hands. Fee-fi-ho-hum! All of the costumes, elaborate sets, lush cinematography, (you, Newton Thomas Siegel?), and naturalistic use of depth don’t amount to a hill of beans in this giant time stepper. Talk about a colossal comedown this movie is brought to you by Bryan Singer and Christopher McQuarrie, the team behind *The Usual Suspects*. (It was co-written by Darren LeTom who might explain why all of the CG behemoths look like something out of Shrek 3D.) Nicholas Hoult should have stuck with war (as opposed to coco pops), while the rest of the lettered cast (who should have known better) — Ewan McGregor, Stellan Skarsgard, Liam Neeson, and Bill Nighy — are along for the paycheck. 2013. — S.M.

**The Last Exorcism Part II** — Things were so going well for Nell (Ashley Bell) in the group home where she was deported after all the misgivings that went down in the first film (you know, the Abba song). Nell’s refusal to allow Nell to move on. For 75 minutes, Ed Gass-Daniel’s film chugs along with the requisite amount of shriek ing violin strings, schlock-shocks, and radio transmissions that only our heroine can hear. Then suddenly, the proceedings veer into the world of nutty, crime-fighting fundamentalist was invited to the casting out party. This time it’s Cal (David Jensen), a corporate suit, who performs the moment of truth. The two spoilers aren’t just about every filmic exercise there is, and to the best of my knowledge, this is the first time the exorcist takes the “cure” approach. While the ending didn’t entirely justify the means, it was engaging enough that I didn’t leave the theater angry. 2013. — S.M.

**Life of Pi** — If Ang Lee’s adaptation of Yann Martel’s novel had been nothing more than the story of a teenaged boy who survives a shipwreck only to find he must share lifeboat with a Bengal tiger, it might have been a very fine — and often visually astonishing — adventure movie. But for better or for worse, *Life of Pi* appears to be much more than that. For better: the adventure is strong enough to bear the weight of some larger meaning. For worse: that meaning is spelled out and hammered home, visually astonishing — adventure movie. But for better or for worse, the audience is left to figure out the moral at the end. The Usual Suspects. I suspect the majority of us will never understand why the film was made in the first place. For the rest of us, it’s simply a beautiful film, well made and with an inspiring story. I didn’t even understand what was going on, I must admit, but I was struck enough by the finale was the only moment where I was actually engaged by the film and — for some reason known only to the screenwriter — must cart “Slabbin’ Hood” cross-country to help prove to his boss that he’s not a crook. The problem is, John Candy was a dandy comedian, not Chris Farley with a vaginal. Per usual, the shameless third act pathos (and the obligatory end ear masterpiece) goes anything of the stuff passing for comedy that precedes it. 2013. — S.M.
**EAST COUNTY**

**EL CAJON**

Regal Parkway Plaza  
405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)  
Call theater for program information.

**LA MESA**

Reading Grossmont  
3300 Grossmont Center Dr (800-326-3264)  
21 and Over

21 and Over (R) Fri-Sun: 10:20, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30  
5:15, 7:45, 10:15  
Sat & Sun: 11:30, 2:15, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 4:55, 7:15, 9:30, 11:45

**RANCHO SAN DIEGO**

Regal Rancho San Diego  
7251 San Diego Boulevard (760-946-8712)  
21 and Over

21 and Over (R) Fri-Sun: 10:20, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30  
5:15, 7:45, 10:15  
Sat & Sun: 11:30, 2:15, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 4:55, 7:15, 9:30, 11:45

**SOUTH BAY**

**CHULA VISTA**

Halle Berry  
Abigail Breslin  
**THE CALL**

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**AMC Palm Promenade**

770 Denney Road (888-262-4368)  
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**Regal Rancho Del Rey**

1025 Tierras Del Rey (619-226-0707)  
Call theater for program information.

**UltraStar Chula Vista**

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)  
Bullets to the Head (R) Fri-Sun: 12:30, 2:30  
5:15, Mon-Thu 7:15 PM  
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters (R) Fri & Sat: 11:00 AM  
2:15 PM  
7:00, Mon-Thu 7:00, Mo  
Mama (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 12:15, 2:30  
4:45, 7:00, 9:15, Sun: 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, Mon-Thu 4:45, 7:00  
Gangster Squad (R) Fri & Sat: (11:30 AM), 4:30, 9:30, Sun: (11:30 AM), 4:30, Mon-Thu 4:30.  
PA  

**WEST COAST**

**EASTLAKE**

AMC Otay Ranch  
Eastlake Park (at Olympia) (888-262-4368)  
Call theater for program information.

**IMPERIAL BEACH**

South Bay Drive In  
2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)  
Call theater for program information.

**NATIONAL CITY**

AMC Plaza Bonita  
2800 Plaza Bonita Road (888-262-4368)  
Call theater for program information.

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**SAN DIEGO**

**BONSALL**

Digiplex River Village  
5226 Mission Rd (760-945-8784)  
Dead Man Down (R) Fri-Sat: 11:00, 1:45  
4:10, 10:30 Sun 4:30 pm  
Jack the Giant Slayer (PG-13) Fri-Sat: 11:45, 2:30  
5:15, 7:45, 10:30 Sun: 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 7:45  
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri-Sat: 11:00, 12:00, 2:30, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00, 11:00 Sun: 11:00, 12:00, 2:30, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00, Running the Sahara (Not Rated) Fri-Sun 7:10 pm  
The Call (R) Fri (12:15), 2:45  
S: 8:10, 10:15  
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri-Sat: 11:15, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15  
9:45, 11:15 Sun: 11:15, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15  
Yannick Nezet- Seguin Conducts The Rite of Spring (Not Rated) Sun: 12:30 pm

**ESCONDIDO**

Regal Escondido  
355 West Mission Road (760-291-0119)  
Call theater for program information.

**POWAY**

UltraStar Poway  
13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)  
Call theater for program information.

**SAN MARCOS**

Regal San Marcos  
1130 W. San Marcos Boulevard (at Old California Walk) (800-326-3264)  
Call theater for program information.

**TEMECULA**

UltraStar Temecula Tower Cinemas  
27311 Ynez Road (951-899-2085)  
Call theater for program information.

**VISTA**

Krikorian Vista Village  
Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7499)  
21 and Over (R) Fri-Sun: 12:20, 2:30, 5:25  
7:50, 10:20  
Dead Man Down (R) Fri-Sun: 10:40, 1:40, 4:30  
7:40, 10:30  
Escape from Planet Earth (PG) Fri-Sun: 12:00, 2:15, 4:40, 7:45, 10:00  
Identity Thief (R) Fri-Sun: 11:05, 2:45  
4:45, 7:20, 10:00  
Oz the Great and Powerful in 3D (PG) Fri-Sun: 1:30, 2:30, 4:30, 5:30  
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri-Sun: 1:15, 2:30, 3:30  
6:00, 7:30

**NORTH COASTAL**

**CARLSBAD**

UltraStar La Costa  
6941 El Camino Real (760-603-8638)  
Call theater for program information.

Moviemax Plaza Camino Real  
2385 Marcos Road (760-729-7498)  
Call theater for program information.

**DEL MAR**

Cinepolis Del Mar  
12905 Del Mar (760-650-794-4045)  
Call theater for program information.

**ENCINITAS**

La Paloma  
471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-7469)  
Silver Linings Playbook (R) Fri 6:00, 8:35  
Sat 10:45, 1:35, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30  
Silver Linings Playbook (R) Fri 11:05, 13:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:20  
S: 13:45, 4:45, 7:45  
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri-Sun: 1:15, 2:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:35  
The Last Exorcism Part II (PG-13) Fri-Sun: 9:20 pm

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**SOUTHEAST**

**SANTEE**

Santee Drive In  
20991 Woodland Avenue (619-448-7447)  
Call theater for program information.
Mama — Boy kills girl and self, thus forcing their young daughters, Victoria (Megan Charpentier) and Lilly (Isabelle Nelisse), to spend five years in a deserted cabin being raised by mom’s ghost. The feral siblings are treated well and placed in the home of their father’s twin brother (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau) and his girlfriend, brunette, bobbed, and raccoon-eyed Jessica Chastain. Unless your nerves can’t stand the shrieking violins that accompany every popping head, there is not a legitimate jolt in the entire picture. Logic never enters into it: nosetime sun pours through the windows as Chastain chastises the girls for being up past their bedtime. When a Mama induced fall paints Coster-Waldau (or is it Scott Speedman) in a comatose state, a nonplussed Chastain goes about her life as if nothing happened. The lift from August: Osage County is readily apparent. With and Un Chin Andesalou show that director and co-screenwriter Andrés Muschietti did his homework. But the manner in which he smuggles in the homages proves that he learned nothing from his teachers.

Only two expressions in her acting kit — padded and more padded — Chastain is rapidly becoming her generation’s answer to Harrison Ford. The biggest stiff in this spoiled by Daniel Moder’s mediocre registers in the perfunctory role of an ear- nest sawbones bent on rescuing the girls to Mama from the multiplex.

Oz The Great and Powerful — Insert sinking balloon joke here. It’s Franco mugs his way through director Sam Raimi’s candy-colored CGI wonderland as a carnival magician who finds himself chosen as the wizard of Oz to believe in him. Or, at least, to believe in the power of their dreams? Anyway, belief is important. But the actor proves to be a better friend than a character. It’s up to Michelle Williams as Glinda the Good Witch to keep things interesting as you fol- low the yellow-cow-worn turns in the yellow road. (That she manages to do so without letting her sweetness turn saccharine is the real great and powerful thing here.) She gets dubious help from Zach Braff, doing schtick as a flying monkey, and from Joey King as a spunky china girl who reminds one of mythological figures and Plebian terror. The ham-fisted attentions of a palooka who shop behind her 1947-style glasses frames, flowers into fulfilled womanhood under the guidance of a female Checking the dressed-up gal on March 13, and closing gala on March 16. 16 — Logan Heights Library Logan Heights Library 587 South 28th St., Logan Heights 533-5396 Student Screening Videos produced by the 5th and 9th graders at the Barry Logan College Institute were made through a program offered by Media Arts Center San Diego. Drinks and snacks provided. Julia 619-230-1938, Tuesday, March 19, 6:30pm ARACOSTA COLLEGE SAN ELIO CAMPUS 3333 Manchester Ave., Cardiff 780-944-4444 Latino Film Series Presents: Voices of Cuba The people of Cuba share their thoughts and feelings about their revolution, the effects of the U.S. embargo on their daily lives and their hopes for their country in the 21st century. Special appearance by Dr. Julian Navar, film producer for the former U.S. ambassador to Mexico. Room 204. Friday, March 22, 5:30pm MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART SAN DIEGO, LA JOLLA 700 Prospect St., La Jolla 858-454-3541 El Cajon’s Michael Bike Festival of Animation The festival’s annual celebration features appearances by Disney Pixar and Simpsons celebrity guests as well as an abundance of short, award-winning and award-nominated animations from its 30-year history. Line-up includes five Academy Award winners and four Academy Award nominees. Rich Moore (Oscars nominee for Wreck-it Ralph) will be signing autographs and answering questions on March 1 and 2. Guests are encouraged to bring Disney memorabilia to get them signed. 808-459-8707. Friday, March 15, 7:15pm, Friday, March 22, 7:15pm, Saturday, March 30, 7:00pm, Saturday, March 30, 9:15pm MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS 1641 Pala Drive, Balboa Park 619-238-7559 FILM FESTIVAL SelenA In celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the San Diego Int’l Film Festival, this event will include a QA with the director Gregor Nava. Thursday, March 14, 7:30pm DIGIPLEX MISSION VALLEY 3750 Hazard Center Dr., Mission Valley 619-685-2841 Calendar MOVIES him cling to life. Storytelling! Significance! Ditto the boy’s struggle with faith: he prays, and things happen. Are these things answer to prayer or just things that happen? Don’t worry about answering, the film is happy to do that for you. The viewer does get to make a choice at the end, but it’s not a choice about anything as existential as the existence of God. It’s more about where we find consolation during our own adventure in the liefdad. Irfan Khan, Saru Sharma. 2012. — M.L. ** Like Someone in Love — Reviewed this in 2012. *** Mama — Ed Harris goes gaunt and haunting for his portrayal of a disgraced Russian submarine captain whose final mission turns out to be much more. (He’s played every role he has had. The sub is diesel, but its cargo is nuclear and its crew is compromised.) The film’s look is right — but smartly made. The ancient sub he commands — but the sound is strange. It’s one thing to have American actors dispense with any attempt at an accent; it’s another to have them dispense with any attempt at Russian idiomatic. David Duchovny as the villain is sorely needed. (If this is history, what is it as historical record and you won’t leave the theater teetering mom.) After the screening, a colleague confessed that the title’s allusion to Dracula, combined with Park’s previous film, Thirst, led him to believe Stephen King was involved with a new version of an “Uncle Charlie” assured me beyond a shadow of a doubt that the only blood sucked screams and drips of red through the veins. No matter how carefully the action is staged and lit, there is nothing we haven’t seen before. 2013. — S.M.

Warm Bodies — A date movie for every guy whose girlfriend forced him to watch films that heavily fall in body. R. (Nicholas Hoult) is a brain-munching zombie who just wants to connect. Julie (Teresa Palmer) is a skinny blonde from the hood. If her dad built a fortress like R. away from decent people like her daughter. (Dad just hates corpses — one of them at his house?) The “R” is for what? Don’t come looking for a consistent zombie aesthetic, and don’t pay too much attention to the cutey coverwear of R’s interior monologue. (Dude’s a teenage zombie, what do you expect?) Do come for the thoughtful sweetness and the Shakespeare allusions (“If you shoot us, do we not bleed?”). Zombie Best Bro Rob Corddry and John “Bulldog” Malkovich make the most of their supporting roles. 2013. — M.L. ** Yossi (Na-Sipur Shel Yossi) A ten-years-on followup to the gay Israeli wartime love story Yossi & Jagger. Yossi — a cloistered, aging, thickening Israeli doctor — hasn’t had a lover since Jagger’s death during a nighttime ambush. Lovers? He hasn’t had a life. (Nothing says “quiet desperation” like a scene of a man unbut- tontoning his pants in a dark room with only his shadow and a map. But a chance encounter with Jagger’s mother, together with a few wrenching sexual humiliations, serves to restore him from his torpor. He remains himself, rumpled, fuming, and stunned, but at least he’s trying. And while the handsome soldier he meets on vacation may qualify as fantastical — the gay var- iance of a manic pixie dream girl — the film has a disarming, apolitical frankness that lends it a measure of reality. 2012. — M.L. ** Zero Dark Thirty — Spoiler alert: it ends with the bad guy getting killed. More hurt from Kathryn Bigelow in this docudrama (read: hand-held) account of the hunt for Usama Bin Laden. From its conception to execution, the American government’s “Yippee ki-yay” man had Hollywood blockbuster written all over it. For its first 30 minutes, Zero Dark Thirty plays like torture porn, jigsaw waterboards [Jihadi John] — with a new face every time — and Maya, a prototypical Bigelow heroine, initially reserved but quick to grow an icy set of balls and become a man’s man. Beautiful picture of mythological figures and Plebian terror. Thursday, March 21, 7:45pm Codinucleo in the Yangtze Documentary follows China’s first Internet entrepreneur and former English teacher, Jack Ma, as he battles US giant eBay on the way to building China’s first global Internet company, Alibaba Group. An independent filmmaker written, directed, and produced by an American who worked in Ma’s company for eight years, the film captures the emotional ups and downs of life in a Chinese Internet startup at a time when the Internet brought China face-to-face with the Western world. Friday, March 22, 2:30pm Freeway (Voie rapide) Alex’s life is filled with customized cars, gatherings on parking lots, races, speed, and the road. At 20 years old he is stuck at the wheel of his yellow modified car, which controls his life. This exclusive pas- sion, with its rituals and its codes, leaves behind him is stuck at the wheel of his yellow modified car, which controls his life. This exclusive pas- sion, with its rituals and its codes, leaves behind an icy profile kingpins the government is after, so dad enters the drug world in search of a bigger bust to help lessen his boy’s jail time. The film’s only drawback is its unfocused, meandering, and persistent use of handheld cinematography. If you can afford The Rock’s salary, surely a tripod can’t be that big an expense. The support- ing cast — including Susan Sarandon, Barry Pepper, and Benjamin Bratt — is uniformly superb. 2013. — S.M. ** Stoker — For his first American film, South Korean director Chan-wook Park, best known to American audiences for The Vengeance Trilogy, cast Mia Wasikowska in the role generally reserved for a pale Asian chic whose face is frequently obscured by stringy black hair. A mysterious rela- tive (Mia Wasikowska) shows up at his brother’s funeral to instantly assume the role of father to Wasikowska, the teenage niece he never met. (Nicole Kidman plays her teetering mom.) After the screen- ing, a colleague confessed that the title’s allusion to Dracula, combined with Park’s previous film, Thirst, led him to believe Stephen King was involved with a new version of an “Uncle Charlie” assured me beyond a shadow of a doubt that the only blood sucked screams and drips of red through the veins. No matter how carefully the action is staged and lit, there is nothing we haven’t seen before. 2013. — S.M.
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Check out ads at SDReader.com Each print ad comes with an online ad.

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At A Glance

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program Units</th>
<th>40</th>
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<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>15 MONTHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completion Time</td>
<td>15 MONTHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost Per Unit</td>
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*Program lengths vary. Accredited Member, ACCSC.

For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit our website at www.concorde.edu/disclosures.
later in the day, they discovered that what looked like a woman on the videotape was really a man disguised as a woman.

Police said a search of a handbag Roldán was carrying turned up the credit-card reading device, a wig, and feminine accessories.

BOB MCPHAIL, MARCH 7

TIJUANA

Don’t bribe the cops (anymore)

Record number of bribery prosecutions in February

The longtime practice of offering Tijuana cops a little cash to buy your way out of a legal jam could now land you in jail.

In a March 2 press release, the city’s Department of Public Safety reported a record-breaking 57 arrests for attempted bribery in February — an average of around two such arrests per day.

According to police, there were 49 bribery arrests in January, bringing the total so far this year to 106. If the trend continues, officers will easily surpass such detentions made in 2012, when there were 191 arrests.

Among the January and February cases, according to the news release, the bribes offered ranged from 2000 pesos (about $163) to release a group of drug dealers in the Mari-ano Matamoros area, to 100 pesos (about $8) to ignore a traffic infraction in the Empleados Federales neighborhood. The bribery crackdown is part of a campaign launched by Tijuana mayor Carlos Bustamante, who has pledged to clean up the long-sullied reputation of the city’s police force.

BOB MCPHAIL, MARCH 4

OCEAN BEACH

People’s Food Co-op to expand

Grocery store’s parking lot and storage space near capacity

The Ocean Beach People’s Food Co-op is looking to expand its grocery store located at 4765 Voltaire Street. General manager Nancy Cassidy addressed the issue in the March 2013 monthly newsletter.

“We are reaching full capacity in the back- stock coolers, as well as in our parking lot many times throughout the day,” said Cassidy. The co-op parking lot is famously cramped, and circling autos increase their carbon footprint outside the “green” store by having to wait for a spot to open up.

Cassidy noted that “we have done extensive exploration in communities all over San Diego for the past few years, looking for sites that meet criteria for traffic, parking, truck loading, and affordability.”

The co-op is seeking feedback and input from members and the general public.

GAIL POWELL, MARCH 3

KENSINGTON | TALMADGE

Fairmount Avenue improvements en route?

Planning group supports Caltrans grant to make street safer for pedestrians and cyclists

All but two Navajo Community Planners, Inc., (NCPI) members voted February 25 to send a letter stating they supported the Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group (KTPG) and the City of San Diego applying for a Caltrans grant to study what NCPI chair Anthony Wagner described as making Fairmount Avenue “safer and more maneuverable.”

According to the February 13 Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group agenda, modifications to be planned for would include bike paths and pedestrian lanes on Fairmount between Meade Avenue and the Grantville trolley station. Also proposed for planning were roadway improvements at the Interstate 8 interchange, Fairmount and Montezuma interchange, Aldine Drive, and the intersection of Fairmount and El Cajon Boulevard.

KTPG chair David Moty and writer Joan FitzSimons (both of whom spoke at the meeting) learned that most Navajo Community Planners members had not seen the application that proposed expanding the Fairmount

Improvements would allow bike and pedestrian access to Grantville trolley station (pictured).

median to a minimum of 20 feet in the area between Meade and I-8. This would allow bike and pedestrian access to Camino del Rio South and the trolley station.

LIZ SWAIN, MARCH 4

CHULA VISTA

School District Realty Co.

Should Sweetwater Union district change its name after development gambit?

The Sweetwater school district owns several properties that it is trying to flip into condo/apartment developments. The properties, continued on page 95
located in western Chula Vista, are on L Street, Third Avenue, Fifth Avenue (district headquarters), and Moss Avenue.

The Reader reported last month that in March 2012, then-interim superintendent Ed Brand asked the board to approve the use of funds — $347,500 — from the district’s special reserve for a vaguely worded resolution involving the “hiring of E2 ManageTech to begin the process of re-entitling the district non school properties for future development of L Street.”

The L Street property was originally purchased in 2004, intended for the relocation of district headquarters.

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East County

EL CAJON, 92019.

South Bay

CHULA VISTA, 92111.

Old Town & Uptown

CITY HEIGHTS, 92103.

North County Inland

PALM SPRINGS, 92262.

North County Coastal

DEL MAR, 92014.

North County Inland

RANCHO PENASQUITOS, 92126.

Commercial Rentals

BANKERS HILL, 92101.

DOWNTOWN, 92101.

DOWNTOWN, 92101.

DOWNTOWN, 92101.

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON, 92019.

ESCONDIDO, 92025.

LA MESA, 92037.

MIRA MESA, 92126.

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EL CAJON, $900-1,050.


EL CAJON, $1,050.

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2) Employees of the Reader are not eligible to participate.
3) You must have a Reader subscription to be eligible to win.
4) Entries must be faxed to 619-397-8722. You may also post your puzzle online at Reader.com or send it to a Reader office.
5) Employees of the Reader offices front desk from the Thursday through Saturday the Reader appears in print to the following Thursday at 5pm.
6) You have the option to check “mail the puzzle.”

ONE PLAN, ONE WEEKEND, ONE DAD
The ideal solution to last week’s puzzle was

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

Across
1. 28th Crossword clue, featured on website.
2. Carl Norden.
3. Save.
4. San Diego’s Army Center.
5. San Diego film festival.
6. San Diego’s airport.
7. The Broadway.
8. San Diego’s shopping district.
9. San Diego’s zoo.
10. San Diego’s museum.
11. San Diego’s university.
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NORMAL HEIGHTS, $1025

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Baldwin Village, $1050

Baldwin Village, $1100

Baldwin Village, $1150

Baldwin Village, $1200

Baldwin Village, $1250

Baldwin Village, $1300

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San Diego, $1295.
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Michelle’s Spa

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(619) 265-0008
New! 30-min. Massage and Body Scrub $65


$30 off 60 minute Massage

Valid 10-5pm - Mon - Sat
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New Management - New Staff
$20 Off 1 Hour Massage
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Three's a Charm

WIN $100

Find somewhere in our features (articles, list- ings, or classifieds) three instances of the same phrase. A crossword-style clue to each week’s phrase is located on page 1, the table of contents. In one instance the phrase will be in context; the two others will be out of context (they will seem like errors).

Last Week’s Winner: Clyde Christie, $100

Last Week’s Hidden Phrase: shot of espresso

Claases / Lessons


Fun Dance Have fun dancing with us! Join our square dance class Tuesday, March 19, 6:30-9:30 pm. First class Free then $5 per class. Our Sari Loftus Demonstrates. 4011 Park Blvd., North Park. 619- 465-9205 or 619-479-7188.


Piano Teacher: Adelant graduate teaches elementary/intermediate students for instruction in the classics. All ages. Lessons include theory, technique, ear-training, sight-reading. UC La Jolla. 889-5974.

Massage

Back from Europe: with new inspiration. First time client special! Treat yourself to a special, stress- releasing session with professional Swedish massage. IH Outlets available. Saturday, March 16, 2:00-5:00. 619-400-7744.

Pain reduction and recovery from stress, anxiety, and depression associated with swedish, myofascial release, deep-tissue, reflexology, Shiatsu, Thai, lomi lomi massage. $200 for 3 treatments. MTX12116. Light Center Massage, 619- 593-7777. ParkInTanka.com.

Thai Massage: Visit our salons at 8601 Union Street in Little Italy for a real Thai Massage. Special #1: $85/ hour before 6pm. Special #2: Body with 1-hour massage for $69. Walk-ins welcome! License #6477. 619-685-1111.

Thai Massage: Visit our salons at 8601 Union Street in Little Italy for a real Thai Massage. Special #1: $85/ hour before 6pm. Special #2: Body with 1-hour massage for $69. Walk-ins welcome! License #6477. 619-685-1111.


Allured by a Goddess... A haute fashion photo-styled eclectic buzz. Indulge your senses in an exhilarating state of euphoria.

Counseling & Support Groups

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Energizing & Rejuvenating your Body for the New Year! Get the best massage treatment.


Therapeutic Massage for the New Year!


Energizing & Rejuvenating your Body for the New Year! Get the best massage treatment.


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Energizing & Rejuvenating your Body for the New Year! Get the best massage treatment.

LEAD STORY

— A cosmetics company in Gaza recently began selling a fragrance dedicated to victory over Israel and named after the signature M-75 missile that Hamas has been firing across the border. “The fragrance is pleasant and attractive,” said the company owner, “like the missiles of the Palestinian resistance,” and comes in masculine and feminine varieties, at premium prices (over, presumably, the prices of ordinary Gaza fragrances). Sympathizers have purchased the product in large quantities, and reports on victory, he said, from anywhere in the world.

Government in Action

— The Philadelphia Traffic Court has been so rife with ticket-fixing since its founding in 1938 that a recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court report on the practice seemed resigned to it, according to a November Philadelphia Inquirer account. One court employee was quoted as defending the favoritism as fair (as long as no money changed hands) on the grounds that anyone could get local politicians to call a judge for him. Thus, said the employee, “It was the [traffic] violator’s own fault if he or she didn’t know enough” to get help from a political connection. Traffic judge Christine Solomon, elected in November 2011 after a career as a favor-dispensing “ward healer,” said the ticket-fixing was “just politics, that’s all.”

— More than 200 school districts in California have covered current expenses with “capital appreciation bonds,” which allow borrowers to forgo payments for years — but at some point require enormous balloon payments. A Los Angeles Times investigation revealed that districts have borrowed about $3 billion and thus are on the hook for more than $16 billion. “It’s the school-district equivalent of a payday loan,” said California state treasurer Bill Lockyer, a former school-board member who said he’d fired anyone who sought such loans. Some defend the loans pointed to schools’ occasional need for immediate money so they could qualify for federal matching grants — which, to the districts, would be “free money.”

Great Art!

In October, Austrian artist Alexander Rieger installed a one-way mirror in the ladies’ room at a café in Vienna to allow men’s room users to peer inside (in the name of “art,” of course). Rieger said he wanted to start a “discussion of voyeurism and surveillance.” Men could see only the faces of women standing at the lavatories, and he said then that in January, he would reverse the process and allow women to peer into the men’s rooms. (The café had posted a signing restroom users that they would be part of an art project.)

Police Report

— Anthony Johnson, 49, was convicted in October in Hartford, Conn., of stealing an impossibly large amount of money — as much as $70,000 a weekend, and off on five for five years. He was breaking into darkened theaters and lifting credit cards from purses that movie-watching women had set down. The FBI said Johnson was careful to pick films likely to engross female viewers so that he could operate freely. He was often able to finish up, leave the theater, and make cash-advance withdrawals from ATMs before the movie had ended.

— In October, a 34-year-old man being detained by Port St. Lucie, Fla., police on an indecent-exposure complaint convinced the officer to free him based on showing the officer his testicles. (A woman had complained that the man was masturbating in public, but the man apparently demonstrated an impressively severe rash that he said he could not avoid scratching.)

— Niles Gammonns of Urbana, Ohio, apparently did some partying on Saturday, Nov. 3, because he managed a rare DUI daily double. He was first cited for DUI at 1:08 a.m. Sunday and then, 60 minutes later, he was again cited for DUI at 1:08 a.m. (The first was during daylight saving time; the second was after the changerover.)

People with Issues

— Justin Jedlica, 32, of New York City, bills himself as the “human Ken doll” after a ten-year-odyssey of cosmetic surgery (90 procedures) to achieve the idealized body shape that he metaphorizesm as a Ken doll, and the stranger the surgery, the better,” he told ABC News in October, even though the amount of silicone in his body, he says doctors (who told of Jedlica’s various implants), has reached a dangerous level. He dismisses actually “earning” the body, through gym workouts, as “just not existing, not glamorous.” (Of course, the “perfect” body is never perfect, Jedlica acknowledged, as illustrated by his recollection of his first surgery — to get a perfect nose: “which is still not done after three follow-ups.”)

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to weirdnewsTips@yahoo.com
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Local collector seeks: Early European and American classic cars. Finders fee gladly paid! Any condition including projects, barn finds. Porche 356 Coupes, Roadsters, Speedsters, early 911s. Jaguar XK. XJ12s, XJ12s, mercedes 500-10s, 300SLs, 190SLs, Early Cabriolets. Austin Healey 1004, 1006, 3000s, Triumphs, MGs, early VW bugs/slates. Any other interesting rare European/American classics including muscle cars. 858-454-0856 or 602-810-2179.

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- Top Rakers: Hi to Design-Saves for towing. Dust and debris. Stove, refrigerator, sink power converter, equalizing hitch available. Fair condition. $250. 858-279-6086.


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CELEBRATIONS!

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**SHORTCUTS**

by KAREN BOYD

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FREE PET ADS: Selling pet for under $50? Email your wording & photo to pets@SDReader.com.

ALL OTHER ADS: Call 619-235-8200.

DEADLINE: Monday 3pm.


Beagle dogs owners. Now forming Fun Club for Beagles/Dogs/Beagle mix dogs and their "parents." Fun activities and events planned. For more information call: 858-565-7462 or 619-204-2662.

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**CHOICE**

106 San Diego Reader March 14, 2013

**DRIVING IN SAN DIEGO?** I don’t have to commute very far because all of my jobs are right downtown. By far.

**AUSTIN HEALEY**

Model 1004, 1006, 3000

**JAGUAR**

40’s thru 70’s XJ, XKE Coupe/Roadster

**PORSCHE**

356 Speedster, Roadster, Coupe, 911S, 911E, 911T, 912, 911/930

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1930 thru 1960, 300SL Roadster, Gullwing, 190SL, 280SL

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**SHORTCUTS**

by KAREN BOYD

**NAME:** Maria Hart

**CAR:** BMW X5

**HOW DO YOU LIKE DRIVING YOUR CAR?** I like it. It’s not as comfortable as my Explorer, believe it or not. The seat is not as comfortable. I like it, but BMWs are very high maintenance and costly to fix.

**DO YOU LISTEN TO ANYTHING WHILE YOU DRIVE?** Yes, talk radio. Which is usually Christian radio now because Dr. Laura was on satellite radio. Which was fine, because I found some really great Christian radio stations.

**WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE DRIVE IN SAN DIEGO?** I don’t like to drive anywhere. I rarely leave San Carlos. But if we were to, let’s say, maybe up the 8, heading toward the casino, east.

**WHERE’S YOUR LEAST FAVORITE DRIVE?** Downtown. By far.

**WHERE DO YOU ENCOUNTER THE WORST TRAFFIC?** On the freeway. Since I rarely have to go on the freeway, I’ve been told it’s probably the 5 north...say, up to the Orange County area.

**WHAT’S YOUR COMMUTE LIKE?** I don’t have to commute very far because all of my jobs are right around here. Well, I take that back: Lakeside. I suppose Lakeside is the farthest I ever have to go.

**HOW WOULD YOU COMPARE DRIVING IN SAN DIEGO TO DRIVING IN OTHER CITIES?** I have driven in other cities. I used to live in Vancouver, Washington—that was pretty rural. There were two lanes on the highway, nothing like here in San Diego. And I also lived in L.A. County, so that was crazy. How would I compare it? I feel like San Diego is one big circle. Especially a lot of the roads in San Carlos; they loop, they curve, they curve. I’ve never been in a town where the streets curve. Like, if you’re going to go north, you’re going to stay going north. A lot of these streets are curving.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SHORTCUT?** If I were going somewhere, I would put the address in my GPS and go rocky roads where it tells me. If there’s a better shortcut than that, I don’t know about it.

**DO YOU HAVE A “REAL-LIFE” SHORTCUT?** Well, I do a lot of things at the same time. If I’m doing laundry, I’m also cooking, maybe answering email. Multi-tasking is my shortcut.

Also, if I need to wash my hair and I don’t have time, sometimes I’ll wash just my bangs and the top section. You know, I’ll pull everything back and just shampoo and condition and blow-dry the top portion, and then your bangs are all fresh, but the rest of it you don’t touch.

Got a shortcut to share? E-mail shortcuts@sandiegoreader.com.
Foster a Homeless Pet

At Furry Foster, please pay for food and vet care, you provide the roof and love. Save a life at www.furryfoster.com.

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Open your heart and home to a healthy, fully vaccinated, but in need of care, you provide the roof and love.

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LABRADOR RETRIEVER, “Nonnie” (A1516223) is a 6-year-old spayed female Labrador retriever. A relaxed and friendly girl who came to the shelter as a lost dog. She’s a likely housebroken, gentle and social with people. Available for adoption at the County of San Diego Department of Animal Services in Bonita. 619-767-2675. www.sdsdc.org.

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