Jack Ruby’s La Jolla rabbi
The Kennedy assassination’s last insider
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1-hour Full Body Massage... $39
• Swedish massage (Deep Tissue $44)

2-hour Massage Packages only

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NEWS & FEATURES

City Lights
Lady Catarina Pietra Toumei goes back to her maiden name; and News Ticker.............................................................. 2
Under the Radar .............................................................................. 3

Letters .......................................................................................... 4

Neighborhood News ...................................................................... 6

Diary of a Diva
Cow-eye juice on Jane’s silk top......................................................... 8

SD on the QT
Almost factual news ....................................................................... 12

Street Style
Non-bulkly boots that scream fall/winter ........................................ 16

The Kennedy Assassination’s Last Insider
Ruby was visited in jail after the shooting of Oswald by Campisi.
By Matt Potter .................................................................................. 18

Art Subject/Object
Garbage, Inc., by GMONIK; and Brianna Lopez has gotta dance...or else ................................................................. 54

Savage Breast
The male’s frantic clawing tore at the hen’s back.
By Judith Moore ................................................................................ 58

Crossword ....................................................................................... 96

Sudoku ............................................................................................. 98

Off the Cuff ..................................................................................... 101

News of the Weird ......................................................................... 106

CALENDAR

Events
Art, Book-signings, Classes & Workshops, Comedy, Dance,
Discussion Groups, Food & Drink, For Kids, Lectures, Outdoors,
Special Events, Spoken Word, Sports & Fitness ............................ 45

Travel & Getaways
Evil monkey and leeches for company in Malaysia ......................... 46
A mountain hike to the Warlock Mine via the Wilcox Trail ............ 47

Poetry
“Old age does not happen slowly,” by Harold Norse .......................... 50

Restaurants
Ed faces down a Reuben that brings tears to New Yorkers ............. 57

Music
Blurt .................................................................................................... 64
Club Crawler .................................................................................... 68
C-Money talks Batman, public office, vodka and grape juice ...... 70

Everyone’s a Critic .......................................................................... 74
Happy Hour ..................................................................................... 78
Fret not, fellow friends of the former Ruby Room .......................... 80

San Diego Beer News .................................................................... 79

Theater
Venus in Fur in the round at the Rep .............................................. 82

Movies ............................................................................................. 85
CITY LIGHTS  

NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers

Orca collectors exposed
Will documentary whack SeaWorld stock?
San Diego — A documentary named Blackfish exposes the dark side of holding killer whales captive to do tricks for SeaWorld audiences, says columnist Al Lewis of MarketWatch.

Lewis notes that the film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January but went mainstream when it was shown on CNN October 24.

Don Bauder

Mayoral hopeful Faulconer bails on debate
No reason given for last-minute withdrawal
San Diego — There was to have been a debate among three of the leading mayoral candidates on November 12, sponsored by the League of Women Voters and televised by UT-TV.

Some time ago, Nathan Fletcher said he could not come, but the debate was still going forward. “Yesterday morning I heard from [Kevin] Faulconer,” who said he couldn’t come, says Kay Ragan, co-president of the league. “Faulconer didn’t give any reason...his office said something had come up.”

The league and UT-TV jointly decided that two candidates (Mike Aguirre and David Alvarez) would not be enough and that two candidates (Mike Aguirre and David Alvarez) would not be enough and that two candidates (Mike Aguirre and David Alvarez) would not be enough and that two candidates (Mike Aguirre and David Alvarez) would not be enough and that two candidates (Mike Aguirre and David Alvarez) would not be enough.

Don Bauder

Organization denied taxpayer money to fight lawsuit
Litigation is over...misuse of taxpayer money
San Diego — The Downtown San Diego Partnership won’t be able to dip into taxpayer funds to help pay for legal help needed to fight a lawsuit over mismanagement of the $15.5 million in annual revenues it collects.

An October 11 email from Luis Ojeda, the person in charge of overseeing assessment districts for the city, denied the partnership’s request to pay for legal fees using money collected as part of the Downtown Property and Business Improvement District.

The suit from a local watchdog group accuses the partnership of having free rein to spend money collected from property owners in five downtown neighborhoods.

The partnership has directed taxpayer revenues to pay for, among other goals, the organization’s new business plan, the Downtown Partnership’s new logo, and their fresh new website.

Dorian Hargrove

Still image from Blackfish

Is San Diego Fire Department racist?
Asian-American firefighter claims mistreatment
San Diego — Steve Choi, currently employed as a firefighter in San Diego, is suing the city and deputy chief of Emergency Medical Services Criss Brainard for discrimination.

Choi’s Asian/Korean ancestry has allegedly prompted some in the department to direct racially charged epithets his way, such as calling him “Bock [sic] Choy” and “Hop Sing.” The culture of discrimination inside the city’s fire department, reads the complaint, has also blocked Choi from being reinstated as a paramedic following a 2004 incident.

“The State of California determined that no disciplinary action or action against Choi’s license was warranted.” Nevertheless, shortly after the undisclosed incident, Deputy Chief Brainard reassigned Choi from his firefighter/paramedic position after a medical director determined Choi did not possess the necessary skills for the job.

Months following the determination, the local firefighters’ union filed a grievance on Choi’s behalf, asking that he be reinstated and get reimbursed for lost pay.

Dorian Hargrove

Union backs their own; fire department resists

Boy who cried kidnapper
Student’s fake story causes trouble
Lemon Grove — A student at Monterey Heights Elementary apparently fabricated a story that sent sheriff’s deputies and a law-enforcement helicopter on a fruitless chase for a would-be child abductor on November 12.

Neal Obermeyer

continued on page 42

Lady Catarina has a new name
By Don Bauder

Lady Catarina Pietra Toumei had a Rancho Santa Fe address and attended soirées of San Diego’s Beautiful People. She claimed to be an investment relations manager, “humanitarian and philanthropist.”

Then, in civil and criminal suits in New York, she and two accomplices were charged with attempting to defraud investors by claiming to be connected to the famed Guggenheim family as they tried to make multimillion- and billion-dollar deals for diamonds, gold, oil, works of art, and such.

Supposedly on behalf of the Guggenheims, she attempted to contact George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, press baron Rupert Murdoch, and other dignitaries.

She and her friends were written up as modern-day impostors by the New York Times, New York Observer, New York Post, and San Diego publications such as the Reader.

Last year she pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor and got two years of probation. Her accomplices—who both claimed to be Guggenheims — got off easy, too.

Now she has changed her name back to one very similar to her maiden name. In August, she printed notices in the East County Californian that Lady Catarina Pietra Toumei intended to change her name. According to a long takeout in the New York Observer, she was born as Rina Nastopka in 1966. She married three times and used eight different names over the years.

Lady Catarina Toumei’s days of hobnobbing with dignitaries may be over.

George H.W. Bush
George W. Bush
Rupert Murdoch

Lady Catarina Toumei has a new name. By Don Bauder

Neal Obermeyer

"Taxpayer-funded stadiums are basically free throughout the years:

THE OLD

SURE, IT’Ll COST HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF PUBLIC DOLLARS BUT WITH THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS, IT’Ll PAY FOR ITSELF!

THE NEW

SURE, IT’Ll COST NEARLY A BILLION PUBLIC DOLLARS, BUT WHEN YOU FIGURE WE’LL NEED TO BUILD THE STADIUM FOR THE EVENTUAL OLYMPICS ANYWAY, IT’S LIKE 2 FOR 1!"
In early September, North County Superior Court declared that she is now Lady Katerine Nastopka. Since the mid-19th century, various Guggenheims have made fortunes and become famed philanthropists. Guggenheim museums are celebrated for their collections and architecture in New York; Bilbao, Spain; and elsewhere.

In 2010, when Guggenheim Capital LLC and Guggenheim Partners LLC learned of the alleged misuse of the family name, they sued Toumei and her partners in New York, charging them with a nationwide scheme to defraud investors through false use of the Guggenheim trademarks and name, while claiming to be owners of the nonexistent Guggenheim Fund and Guggenheim Bank. The court banned them from further use of Guggenheim trademarks.

Then the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York charged the three with being “criminal impostors” soliciting funds for “multi-million and multi-billion-dollar investment opportunities.” Noted the U.S. attorney’s office, “Catarina Pietra Toumei generally acted as the front-person in promoting these purported investments, calling herself ‘Lady Catarina Pietra Toumei,’ and telling potential investors that she was a countess.”

Jan Ronis, longtime San Diego criminal defense attorney, represented Toumei in the criminal case. “I was shocked this got filed,” he says. “Nobody lost any money, and nobody was going to lose any money”

They have claimed to work for media outlets and individuals that deny she ever did, according to the Observer.

On her former website, bestsellingwriter.net, Toumei boasted that she had invested with “the fastest-growing privately held company in America and the fastest-growing beverage company in America.”

Actually, she was one because the attempted deals were not credible. “It started like a lot of juvenile romances that blossomed over the internet. She was wooed over the internet,” she believed that she had actually dealt with someone “who had access to great resources” because of many persons who got sucked into a multilevel marketing scheme named eFusion, Inc. The law offices of Alexander M. Schack in Rancho Bernardo sued the firm and its principals for being a pyramid scheme. The suit was settled secretly. The company apparently closed its multilevel marketing operation and has a mailing address but no phone number. Geofrey Spreter of the Schack Law Firm is representing Toumei.

Put up in San Diego and the many names she has used. “Smart attorneys don’t ask too many questions,” says Ronis, professing he doesn’t know much about her local activities.

Those activities raise eyebrows. The Reader reported that in 2009 she was a guest at a party sponsored by David Copley and Scripps Institution of Oceanography to honor His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco. The New York Observer obtained emails in which she allegedly claimed to have once been a fiancée of the prince. That publication also wrote that “she falsely claimed to be married to John Ratzenberger,” a TV star. (They had had a brief relationship.)

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LETTERS

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Phone them in at 619-235-3000, x460; address them to Letters, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-3803; or submit them at SDReader.com/letters. Include your name, address, and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Incomplete Tattoo

Regarding “Tattoo You,” I feel as if the contest winners for any contest should meet the minimum requirements. What do you think?

Rob
National City

We accept any submission that has some requirements — why you got the tattoo, what it means to you, plus where you got it, where you live, your age, and your job.

But you have a much better chance of getting in print, and of winning the more requirements you fulfill. — Editor

Laying Claim

Just FYI regarding your Happy Hour section that Pal Joey’s is not in Del Cerro. It’s in Allied Gardens, on Waring Road. Del Cerro is at the extreme other end of Waring, where it become College Avenue and crosses Interstate 8. In fact, Pal Joey’s is maybe a couple hundred yards from the “Welcome to Allied Gardens” sign at Zion Avenue and Waring Road.

Bill
Allied Gardens native since 1956

Comments from Reader website

Comments are not edited for spelling, punctuation, or grammar.

Cover Story

“Want to Out Your Gun-Toting Neighbors? There’s an App for That.”

Published November 14

If the app worked as intended, it would be a map showing the houses to not rob, leaving blank spaces where the sheep live.

By CaptainObvious, November 16 @ 7:25 a.m.

I’d like to see an app that lists people who don’t believe in guns and “gun violence” who have forewarned the instruments of slaughter. I’m sure they’d all be proud to sign up and have everyone know who they are and where they live, so they can share their enlightenment with all.

By John Oliver, November 16 @ 3:11 p.m.

I don’t think an app can find where illegal guns are located.

By Shirleyberan, November 16 @ 4:34 p.m.

Ahh, but when someone believes all guns should be illegal (or just illegal for everyone else, but they should be one of the special appointed elite), an app like this starts to make sense, in a twisted way.

By jnojr, November 17 @ 8:38 a.m.

The many flaws in this scheme are so numerous that it is hard to know where to start. But I’ll start with the old-time axiom of early computer users, “garbage in, garbage out.” If there were some even slightly reliable source of this data, then the app might have some marginal value in identifying those who MIGHT misuse firearms. But in the absence of such a data base, Stalbaum wants users to report places where firearms are misused, or might be misused, or are stored, or … something. And then that will somehow prevent kids from being injured or killed. The connection is tenuous at best.

This gives him and his supporters grounds to then claim that those who don’t like this strange process of tatting on your neighbors, or on people you don’t like, or on those who have guns and profess to having them for any of a number of legitimate purposes, or … are anti—gun safety. Again, there is not obvious connection. Most of those who have firearms around, and who occasionally use them in shooting continued on page 14
I tweeted out a photo of me in a Car2go, & my girlfriend thinks it's hilarious because I'm a 390-pound six foot five, strongman competitor. But hey, it fits me. It fits my life. I use Car2go for errands, concerts, & one-way trips.

Parking them downtown is like tossing a keg full of cement—easy! The phone app makes finding a Car2go quick! & paying for it is not heavy lifting. I do get stares & some laughs as I get out of a Car2go. But I'm a big guy, I can take it.

Andrew, Seattle Car2go member since 2013

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Offer ends Dec. 1 | Sign up at sandiego.car2go.com

$10 exclusive membership & 30 minutes free [PROMO: CAR2GOLIFE]
Earn up to $125 for your story and photos. Go to sdreader.com/write

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS
By Reader stringers

EAST VILLAGE
Library has whistling dome
And elevator with “3D portal effect”

On November 8, the Carnegie Society’s annual tea was thrown by the San Diego Public Library Foundation on the ninth floor of the new downtown library building.

View of the new downtown library’s Pelican Perch

Guests learned that the foundation met all of its major funding goals for the library. The final funds cover not just the facilities and supplies but also five years of operational expenses.

Dana Springs, interim executive director of the City of San Diego Commission of Arts & Culture gave a talk and showed a slide presentation of the public art installations in the building, including the main central elevator (not yet operational) that has multiple layers of art on translucent glass, giving “a 3D portal effect to those who enter it.”

An unexpected feature of the library’s dome is (reportedly) that when the wind is blowing just right it makes a singing or whistling sound quite clearly. Apparently some neighbors have complained. Those who work on the eighth floor say they haven’t heard it yet.

Jay Hill, CEO of the San Diego Public Library Foundation, said they are now gearing up for library projects that have long been on hold, such as the new Hillcrest/Mission Hills library on Washington Street.

Comments
On windy days, the dome’s howl can be heard quite easily. We’ve heard it a number of times in Tailgate Park before Padres game ever since the dome was completed. Fortunately, high winds downtown aren’t a regular feature, but every time it’s windy, that dome will howl. — AARON MARK

TEMECULA
Burn marks on your record
Fires happened on separate dates

The identities of two teenagers sought by police for lobbing molotov cocktails at a school during the summer have been turned over to the Riverside district attorney for prosecution, fire investigators announced November 7.

The fires caused minor damage to the external structure and playground of Abby Reineke Elementary School, at 43799 Sunny Meadows Drive. The neighborhood school was the target of three arson acts caused by homemade bombs.

“They happened on separate dates in the evenings in August,” said Melody Hendrickson, spokeswoman for CAL FIRE /Riverside County Fire Department.

She said incendiary devices were used in each instance, and the devices were made up of a breakable container, ignitable liquid, and wick (molotov cocktail).

Felony charges of arson and possession of a destructive device are being sought against several juveniles in connection with each instance, and the devices were made up of a breakable container, ignitable liquid, and wick (molotov cocktail).

LEUCADIA
Little Leucadia post office to close?
Postage-stamp-sized building has been there since the 1940s

The United States Postal Service, in an effort to reduce continuing losses, has been looking to close, consolidate, or downsize several area post offices. While the possible closures of the La Jolla, Mission Valley, and one of the Escondido post offices have all made headlines recently, next on the USPS study list will be the little Leucadia post office.

Although Leucadia is part of the City of Encinitas and shares the same zip code (92034), many Leucadians insist on using their town’s name in addressing mail. Leucadia, CA 92024. The current postage-stamp sized building, with its patriotic paint scheme, has served Leucadia since the late 1940s.

Jackson points out, however, that the possible closure of a USPS branch doesn’t mean less availability of postal services to the public; she says Office Depot and Staples are beginning to offer USPS services at straight USPS pricing — no price mark-up.

Fred Caldwell, owner of Caldwell Antiques, believes concern over the Leucadia post office is unfounded. “It’s not closing,” says Caldwell. He is looked upon in the community as having his finger on the pulse of the issues.

SAN YSIDRO
Better for border crossers
“They want a nice public bathroom. We wouldn’t have thought of that.”

Residents who gathered at the San Ysidro Civic Center to see the latest set of plans for a new transportation center at the border crossing seemed to like the latest design — the third so far — the best. The goal is to design and build a safer, more workable entrance to the U.S.

“One this, you don’t have to walk across the tracks, and the buses are separate,” said Ysenia Avalos, who lives nearby. "When you go to pick people up, it’s so complicated and dangerous now.”

The first design allowed for buses and pedestrians crossing the trolley tracks, which, besides being dangerous, risks serious traffic jams should anything go wrong, such as a bus breaking down or a crash.

The second design put the buses underground, which meant building a 60’ high retaining wall on the east side to contain the unstable hillside. And it still had places where buses and trains could tangle.

The third design lays things out so the trolleys and buses are separated and pedestrians deal with autos at just one location.

City of San Diego engineer Nicholas Abboud said, “We drew this one based on public comments about the last two plans,” he said. “If you walk or drive or live in this area, you know details and have insight we don’t have.”

“A lot of people commented about bathrooms, how they want a nice public bathroom,” Abboud said. “We wouldn’t have thought of that, but it’s important to the users and we’re going to make sure it’s included.”

MARTY GRAHAM

LA MESA
Tons of teens at Oktoberfest
Oompah bands to scare ‘em away?

At the November 12 La Mesa City Council meeting, police chief Ed Aceves said that for the third consecutive year, crowds of youths caused problems during the town’s Oktoberfest, even after the elimination of carnival rides.

Aceves said security issues arose because Oktoberfest is an open-air event; and the report said “social media most likely played a role” in drawing juveniles to La Mesa.

Most problems occurred in the area between the Spring Street Metropolitan Transit System platform and a building at the intersection of La Mesa Boulevard and Date Street. On the ground floor are commercial tenants, including Starbucks. On the four floors above are the La Mesa Village Plaza Condominiums.

continued on page 44

VIEW OF THE NEW DOWNTOWN LIBRARY’S PELICAN PERCH

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Cow-eye juice calamity

"Can you talk for a minute? Something horrible happened to me yesterday." Jane didn’t bother to identify herself; she didn’t need to. My bleary eyes had easily made out the familiar image of her face as it lit up my screen. That’s why I answered. Anyone else would have gone directly to voicemail that early in the morning. I have a rule: I don’t pick up the phone until I’ve picked up my cup of espresso.

But lately, because our respective work responsibilities had made it nearly impossible for us to connect, I try to take my sister’s calls whenever I can. "Okay, what happened?" I said, as I sat up in bed. David, whose head remained on his pillow, opened his eyes and mouthed, "Jane?" I nodded. He sighed louder than necessary, rolled over, and pulled the comforter over his head.

"What is it? PTA politics? Drama with coworkers? Talk to me," I said. "What was so horrible?"

Whatever Jane’s daily difficulty turned out to be, I didn’t expect it to be catastrophic. Jane abuses the word “horrible” to the point where I sometimes wonder if she knows what it actually means. Then again, perhaps her watered-down use of the hyperbolic “horrible” to refer to things that are merely “unpleasant” puts my sister at the forefront of our ever-changing language.

But to believe that, I’d have to disregard an important fact — that, thanks to a hereditary gene for histrionicness, Jane, along with everyone else in my family, isn’t really capable of differentiating between something that is “unpleasant” and something that is “truly horrifying.”

The last “horrible” experience Jane told me about involved a new pair of steel-gray pumps that perfectly matched her steel-gray pencil skirt suit. That day, she called me just after lunchtime to tell me how horrible it was to be wearing shoes that were too tight to the point of painful, but too cute to consider taking off, at least not while she was wearing that outfit.

Still shaking the pre-espresso fog from my brain, Jane launched directly into her latest tale of horror. "It was terrible," she began. "I was dissecting a cow’s eye and got cow-eye juice all over my silk top, but as too cute to consider taking off, at least not while she was wearing that outfit.

Still shaking the pre-espresso fog from my brain, Jane launched directly into her latest tale of horror. "It was terrible," she began. "I was dissecting a cow’s eye and got cow-eye juice all over my silk top, but as too cute to consider taking off, at least not while she was wearing that outfit.

Upon hearing this question, David tossed the covers off over my silk top, but as if that wasn’t bad enough — "Why? Back up. Why in the shit were you dissecting a cow’s eye?"

But tetanus? That’s the real deal. Get the shot. "Hang on," I said to Jane so I could ask David, "She couldn’t actually get mad-cow disease that way, could she?" David’s face fell in that, Please don’t tell me I married a stupid person way. "Come on, it’s not a stupid question," I argued. "She opened her veins to dead-cow guts. You have no idea what could be transferred that way?"

"Tetanus," Jane said. "Those scalpels are old and weren’t really clean. But I’m not as worried anymore. I looked up tetanus, and the side effects are fever and seizure. I haven’t had either."

"Jane. Jane. Mad cow is impossible. Please don’t tell me I married a stupid person. "Come on, it’s not a stupid question," I argued. "She opened her veins to dead-cow guts. You have no idea what could be transferred that way?"

"Tetanus," Jane said. "Those scalpels are old and weren’t really clean. But I’m not as worried anymore. I looked up tetanus, and the side effects are fever and seizure. I haven’t had either."

"You’re still going to get the shot, though, right?"

"I don’t have time for that," Jane said. "Jane. Jane. Mad cow is impossible. But tetanus? That’s the real deal. Get the shot. You don’t even need to go to the..."

continued on page 43
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On Point

Ruth Lesslie defends decision to let Predator drone lead 2013 San Diego Veterans Day Parade

Parade organizer: “These guys are on the front lines so your sons and daughters don’t have to be.”

San Diego Veterans Day Parade organizer Ruth Lesslie held a press conference this afternoon to respond to the growing outcry over her decision to allow a General Atomics Predator drone to lead this year’s parade. “First of all, these drones are what we have instead of boots on the ground in Pakistan. Pakistan is where the bad guys are. But do you really want us to declare war on yet another country? I didn’t think so.”

The drones have a lot of technology onboard that can see things we can’t see. Sometimes, they go off…unexpectedly.

“Jeez, people,” concluded Lessley. “Can’t you just rally ‘round for a day and stop fretting about moral complexities? Shed a tear and give a cheer for our men and women in uniform! Next, you’ll be asking us to include the maimed civilian victims of drone attacks. No, wait — forget I said that.”

Ruth Lesslie defends decision to let Predator drone lead 2013 San Diego Veterans Day Parade organizer: “These guys are on the front lines so your sons and daughters don’t have to be.”

On Point

Almost factual news

Water Wise

San Diego mayoral candidates respond to looming water rate hikes

We asked, “How should San Diego respond to the proposed 15% increase in water prices over the next two years, and how would you promote your solution on Twitter?” Here are the responses!

San Diego police successfully clear homeless veterans from path of Veterans Day parade

Parade organizer: “It’s kind of hard to honor veterans when they’re passed out on the sidewalk under an old Smurfs sleeping bag.”

The 2013 San Diego Veterans Day Parade went off without a hitch, thanks in part to redoubled efforts from the San Diego Police Department to clear the parade route of homeless veterans. “Studies have shown that fully 56 percent of San Diego’s homeless served in the military at some point,” said parade organizer Ruth Lesslie. “Many of them have substance-abuse issues, and many others have psychological issues, and many of these issues stem from trauma related to their time spent in uniform. It’s tragic, but it’s also extremely ugly and depressing. That’s not really what a parade is about.”

Lesslie cleared her throat and continued. “I mean, we have children there, waving flags and expressing their gratitude for the sacrifice that veterans make. Imagine some little girl having to listen to a drunken ex-Marine yelling from the bushes about the time he shot a 15-year-old boy wearing a suicide vest. Or if an eager boy marching alongside the parade should have to step over an unconscious man in an old Army jacket — one sleeve hanging emptily askew. It would be confusing at best.”

Lesslie was quick to point out that the homeless vets were not simply “pushed out of the way where people wouldn’t have to see them and their representation of the awful toll of war. After rounding them up, we drove them to the old Central Library and gave them the run of the place.” The central branch has been closed ever since the opening of the new downtown San Diego library, “but we thought they might enjoy a little time in a familiar setting. Who knows? If the day goes well, we may just let them stay. It’s not like anybody else is ever going to need those microfilm magazine archives.”

Lousy Bolts Won’t Bolt

Chargers Coach McCoy: “The City of San Diego doesn’t much care for losers, but what they really hate are winners.”

“If we won, we’d have to leave town.”

“Here’s my point,” he says, leading into his point. “San Diego is comfortable with mediocrity. It values it, holds it up high, draws money at it in order to make it stick around. People who hit it big — think Adam Lambert or Gregory Peck — they catch the first train north. Because they know that here, they’ll just be ignored.

“No, wait — forget I said that.”

“The San Diego Gulls — hilarious,” says McCoy at the end of the conversation, more to himself than anyone else.
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City Lights

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Published November 14

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By Robert Oyten, November 14 @ 9:54 p.m.
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Three pairs of lust-worthy fall boots

When fall rolls around, most Americans look forward to crackling fires, hot cocoa, and the changing leaves. There’s not a whole lot of that going on here in San Diego. But the fashionistas among us want an excuse to pack up their sandals and trade them in for a great pair of seasonally appropriate cold-weather boots.

Enter the bootie.

The ankle boot is the perfect option for San Diego’s temperate setting. It’s a high heel-meets-boot combo that screams fall/winter without being too bulky.

In Golden Hill, 32-year-old hairstylist Brooke Dankowski sported a unique pair of leather-and-textile ankle booties. The boots are from Revolve clothing. They retail for $350. They are Freebird by Steven. Each pair is handmade in Mexico. Dankowski paired her boots with a pair of olive H&M skinny jeans.

In Mission Valley, 26-year-old Missy Harper wore a pair of classic cognac-toned boots. Her double-strap ankle boots retail for $129 at Lucky Brand Store. She paired them with a pair of classic dark denim skinny jeans also from the Lucky Brand store.

In La Mesa, Kylie Healy wore a pair of high-heeled, tan, lace-up booties. She purchased the boots last season at Piperlime. Healy paired her boots with cuffed, dark, polka-dot jeans from the Gap.

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It is early fall 2013. Almost 50 years have passed since the killings of John F. Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald. Most of the rest of the Dallas power players of that era are long dead, unable to bear further witness to the truth; the legacy that survives them is one of skepticism and intrigue. The Warren Commission, the House Select Committee on Assassinations, the Assassinations Record Review Board, Oliver Stone’s movie, J.F.K., all produced various theories about what really happened. Was Jack Ruby — Lee Harvey Oswald’s killer — a helpmate to the mob? Was he enlisted by them, or others, perhaps the CIA or Naval Intelligence, to kill Oswald and erase forever the truth about who really killed President Kennedy?

The Warren Commission, appointed by Kennedy’s successor, Lyndon Johnson, and chaired by U.S. Supreme Court chief justice Earl Warren, said Oswald alone killed the president and that Ruby was also a deranged single actor. Polls show a minority of Americans believe them.

Remaining faithful to the Warren Report is one of the last men still alive who knew Jack Ruby personally, knew him both before and after he killed Oswald, visited him in his Dallas jail cell for months, and testified at his trial. His name is Hillel Silverman. He was Jack Ruby’s rabbi. Today he lives in San Diego.

Three miles up the road and over the hill from where mid-century Dallas oil tycoon Clint Murchison’s Del Charro hotel used to be before it was torn down for condos in the 1970s (see sidebar), Silverman gingerly puts down his cane and eases into a chair for yet one more take on the truth. He is 89 years old, but his memory of November 1963 is still firm, if sometimes, as might be expected at his age and after so long a time, wavering on some of the details. If anyone can speak with authority about those tragic days in Dallas, he can, though the mystery remains formidable, he admits, even for himself.

The bright sunlight of early fall streams through the windows of the upscale apartment complex near University Town Centre, where he has lived with his second wife in retirement for 12 years. After a career in Dallas, Los Angeles, and Greenwich, Connecticut, he moved to University City in 2001, becoming interim rabbi at La Jolla’s Temple Beth El. He still serves...
Jack Ruby, Del Charro, and Rabbi Silverman

Nine days after the assassination of John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963, a letter arrives at the White House. It has been barely a week since the nationally televised murder of Lee Harvey Oswald by Dallas strip club owner Jack Ruby. Addressed to Attorney General Bobby Kennedy, the late president’s brother, and CIA chief Allen Dulles, it says:

“If my memory serves me right, Jack Ruby was visiting Syndicate members in San Diego between the last months of 1961 and early months of 1962. The meeting of the Syndicate members was at ‘The Brass Rail,’ a bar-restaurant owned by two Hungarian members. It is used as a homosexual bar, much as the New York Syndicate under the former Gallo gang used some dozen homosexual bars as ‘fronts.’...Jack Ruby is known as a ‘finger man’ in these operations, and not only is it probable for him to have had a hand in stimulating the assassination of President Kennedy by Oswald, but likewise pre-arranged the attitudes for the assassination which was ordered from the East Coast. Oswald was a ‘sitting duck’ to be used for the actual assassination of President Kennedy.”

“I wish you good luck by the investigations, stressing the most careful analysis and protection to those who might give testimony during the trial. I likewise suggest that Mr. Robert Kennedy personally take greater precautions for himself and his family until such time as he retires as Attorney General.

“I prefer not to sign my name...As you know from my past letters, I have very little confidence in the local FBI office maintaining silence regarding my name, please do not acknowledge this letter to them here.

“Respectfully yours,” There is no signature.

The same weekend, another tip about Jack Ruby and San Diego prompts two agents to pay a visit to a federal prison in Los Angeles. An inmate wants to talk about Ruby’s mob connections, in particular a robbery at the Del Charro hotel, the high-end La Jolla hideaway of Dallas oilmen Clint Murchison and Sid Richardson. They run the hotel and the Del Mar race track as their personal playground, playing host every summer to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover and his close friend and assistant Clyde Tolson.

A revolving lineup of smart talking con men, flashy gamblers, and mobsters of the highest order also frequents the place, a complex of low slung two-story buildings and some bungalows grouped around a busy bar and swimming pool frequented by Dallas socialites, high class “showgirls” flown in from Las Vegas, and Hollywood stars and starlets.

“On November 30, 1963, [Special Agent in Charge] Spaman and [Special Agent] Knowland, FBI, interviewed Harry Hall at Terminal Island without prison officials being present. Hall stated that around 1950 to 1952 his uncle, Marty Fields, introduced him to Jack Ruby in Dallas, Texas.

“At that time Ruby ran a small cheap bar and night club in Dallas. Harry Hall had checked into a Dallas Hotel using the alias of Harry Sinclair, Jr. and was looking for high stakes gambling games to get into or to place bets on football games or horse races.

“His method of operation at that time was to use the name of a well known person and ingratiate himself with persons with money. He would then make bets or gamble putting over fictitious checks if he lost and leaving town.

“Ruby on occasion provided Hall with a bankroll and introduced him to likely victims, with Ruby taking 40% of any deal while Hall collected 60% percent. Ruby’s cut was because he was supposed to have influence with the police, so that he would have no worry about any gambling arrest.”

“Hall stated that there was a Texas millionaire named Bill Byers who came from Tyre, Texas, who was friendly with two other Texas millionaires named Murchison and Andraddy. Bill Byers circulated between Texas and Los Angeles.

“Ruby knew that Byers carried large sums of money with him and wanted Hall, who also knew Byers, to find out when Byers would be alone. Ruby said he had a couple of men who would hold Byers up without injuring him, and Ruby and Hall could divide whatever money Byers had.

“Hall said he did not go through with this deal, but he heard later that Byers was robbed while at the Del Charro Hotel, La Jolla, California.

“This hotel is owned by Mr. Murchison.”

The memo misspells Byers’ name — it is actually William Byers.

The letter arrives at the White House on November 30, 1963, but it is not acknowledged. Ruby was killed on November 24, 1963.

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Jack Ruby, Del Charro, and Rabbi Silverman

Silverman, the son of a renowned Jewish scholar, went to Yale to play baseball, and then to the Jewish Theological Seminary in Manhattan. In the middle of his seminary training, Silverman went to Palestine to study the Talmud. When war broke out in 1947, he joined the Haganah, the Jewish paramilitary group, seeing deadly combat against Arab enemies. A legendary force for Zionism, the Haganah carried out anti-British operations in Palestine, liberated interned immigrants, and sabotaged British bases and radar installations. Silverman still carries the emotional scars, as well as the fierce pride of having been present at the explosive birth of Israel.

“I went to study at the Hebrew University and I wanted to be a farmer,” he recalls. “I wanted to work on a kibbutz, one of those agricultural collectives, but when the war broke out and the Hebrew
University closed. And I was not a hero — I did what anybody would do: I joined.”

At the end of the fighting, he returned to New York to complete his seminary degree and become a rabbi. But Silverman’s military career was not over. When the Korean War broke out in 1950, he joined the Navy and ministered to sailors and Marines. As the sole Jewish chaplain of the Sixth Fleet, he stood on the deck of the carrier Coral Sea and watched fighter jets launch on perilous, top-secret missions. He traveled in Europe, going to Germany, where he says he came face-to-face with fresh images of the Holocaust.

Silverman says he loved the Navy; he would remain an officer in the Reserves for another 30 years, seeing active duty again in Hawaii during the early days of the Vietnam War before retiring as a commander in 1974.

In 1954, deciding it was time for a change, he left full-time duty and for the first time sought a civilian pulpit.

A friend and mentor from the great Warburg family of Wall Street whom he had worked for at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York put him in touch with a Dallas lawyer for Del Charro’s Clint Murchison, who arranged an interview with Shearith Israel, a prosperous conservative congregation that wanted to build a new synagogue in the burgeoning suburbs of North Dallas. He got the job. That’s where he would find himself face-to-face with Jack Ruby.

Silverman was born to Morris and Althea Silverman. Of his father, Silverman says: “He was
in Hartford, Connecticut, for 50 years, and he was the editor of a prayer book, a holy day prayer book that’s used all over the world. It’s a little out of fashion now but still is used, so he’s very well known.

Though his father was a scholar, Silverman says he was still surprised when he got admitted to Yale. “It was a miracle. I couldn’t get in today, I guarantee. I don’t know how I got in, I really don’t. My marks weren’t that great, though my senior year I did well and I did some summer work. I wanted to build myself up for football, so I was on a construction gang with a pick and a shovel.

“I remember in August — August! — my mother came to pick me up, and she’s waving this slip — ‘You have been accepted to Yale!’ It was a miracle, and I’ve been very loyal to Yale, very active in the alumni and my class.”

Forty miles from Hartford, Yale in the early 1940s was a world largely closed to Jews. Silverman would not gain admission to any of the secret societies, such as Skull & Bones, with its legendary links to the Central Intelligence Agency.

“Was there anti-Semitism at Yale? I had heard that there was a 10 percent unwritten quota for Jews at Yale. I had two strikes against me.

“I was Jewish and a public school graduate, not a ‘preppie.’ I was not welcome at any campus fraternities — not that I cared. The members of the basketball team were cordial but not particularly friendly.”

Later in life, as his military and rabbinical reputation grew, he would be asked to speak each year at his class reunion. “Amazingly, former class-mates who barely spoke to me at Yale, the Endicott Peabodys and Rockefellers and Eldridges would approach me after the address and put their arms around my shoulders: ‘Hillel, that was so moving. We have so many wonderful memories with each other at Yale. Let’s have a martini together!’”

Later Silverman would come to know Prescott Bush, son of the U.S. senator from Connecticut and brother of former president George H.W. Bush.

After graduation, Silverman entered rabbinical training at the Jewish Theological Seminary in Manhattan, known, he notes, as the “fountain-head of Conservative Judaism.” His father had graduated from there, class of 1922. By the end of his own sophomore year in 1947, he had made arrangements to spend his junior year in Palestine. “Zionism was raging, and the United Nations, after much study and examination, was preparing to vote on partition into an Arab and Jewish state.” War came in November 1947.

Silverman sets the scene in his autobiography: “Every American student there responded to the call. It was the culmination of two thousand years of yearning, at last a Jewish homeland. How could one not join one’s beleaguered brethren?”

He smiles when he remembers his single week of basic training: “They gave me a machine gun, they told me, ‘You’re a machine-gunner.’ It was from the First World War, a Schwarzlose water-cooled, and that’s what I did for a while.” The real action was yet to come.

“After sixty years I still recall the members of my platoon,” Silverman writes. “Yosef, who became a distinguished...”
accented English surprised were up to. My American-certainly knew what we
barbed wire. inters soldiers through the
converse with the Brit-
ings, we could actually
separating the two build-
we patrolled in the alley
Across the way was a Brit-
the building and patrolled.
Jerusalem. We slept in
ground army. A Jew could
statehood, was an under-
the Arabs....

They were friendly and
certainly knew what we
were up to. My American-
accented English surprised
them.

Suddenly fire burst out
between the two buildings.
We never learned who was
doing the shooting, Arabs,
British, or Jews. We didn’t
stop to ask. We ducked
down on our stomachs
on the pavements, a virtual
foxhole, until the shooting
stopped at nightfall. After
all was quiet we crawled
away to our sleeping bags
in the Jewish Agency. It
was very close!”

During his interview,
he remembers another anecdote.

“We were surrounded at one place, a little village, by thousands of Arabs. And we didn’t have anything to eat. All we had was sardines and halavah. They didn’t have anything for three weeks. That’s all we had.

“So I can’t touch a sardine today. My wife has sardines every morning. I can’t stand the smell. But it was a miracle that Israel was able to defeat the invaders. Six different Arab countries invaded. The world gave them a couple of days to be liquidated, but they weren’t. And there they are. Eight million strong.”

Silverman returned home to New York and the seminary. He graduated in 1949. Wishing to complete his doctorate, he was given a job there. “Assignment number one, assistant to the director of the Jewish Museum,” says Silverman in his autobiography. “It really had very little to do with Jewish art and working with the curator, Dr. Stephen Kay- sen. The purpose was public relations and fundraising. I would come to know Eddie Warburg, son of the donor of the Fifth Avenue mansion that houses the Jewish Museum.”

A year later, Communist North Korea invaded South Korea and Silverman signed up for duty. “I was assigned to the Marines the first year in at Parris Island in South Carolina,” he remembers today. “Marines have no doctors, dentists, and chaplains; they get them assigned by the Navy, so it was boot camp. It was very nice. I really enjoyed it. Then they sent me to the Navy, back to the Navy in Italy. I lived in Naples, but I was connected with the Sixth Fleet, so that I would go where the fleet went for two weeks on a carrier, two weeks on a cruiser.

“We went once to Spain on the High Holidays, and I conducted a service on an aircraft carrier which was tied up to Barcelona. And as you know, Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492. Some of them were living on the shore, but they didn’t have any synagogues, they were not recognized, and I had not only my Navy people, but many people from the shore, Jews who had been living in Spain, came to the service, so that it was one of the first services that Spanish Jewry was able to attend.”

Though technically there was no war, the United States still faced a deadly challenge from the Soviet Union, Silverman says. “It was in the Mediterranean during the Korean War, all the fighting was in Korea, but they were training, of course, for eventual... who knows what,” Silverman says. “We didn’t know. We thought [the Soviets] would be threatening, that’s why they built up the Mediterranean.”

“I would go out on the aircraft carriers and watch the night firing and the planes coming in in the

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middle of the night, it’s dark, and the ship is bobbing up and down, and a guy in fluorescent whatever it was signaling and once or twice the plane hit the ship as it bobbed and bobbed. That was exciting.”

Not as pleasant was a trip Silverman made to Europe, described in his autobiography:

“I was sent to Frankfurt, Germany, on an assignment. It was a few years after the Second World War. I was walking the streets at night and heard footsteps behind me. I envisioned the goose-step of Nazi soldiers. I hoped they saw the Jewish star on the shoulder boards of an American officer, the same symbol that Jews destined for gas chambers wore on their sleeves. I can’t tell you how uncomfortable I felt.”

Silverman says he liked his time in the service and the Navy liked him, but it would soon be time to move on. “I loved the Navy, I really loved it,” he says. “I almost stayed in. A chaplain, Captain Goldberg, came to Naples and he said, ‘Why don’t you stay in the Navy? They like you, you get along with non-Jews, you like the work — you love it!’ I said, ‘I’ve never had a congregation. I’d like to try it.’ So, I didn’t go into the regular Navy. I went to Dallas, and I loved the rabbinate. I really enjoyed it.”

Eddie Warburg, his old friend and mentor from the seminary in Manhattan, helped him get the job. “I heard about Dallas opening up. It was a fine congregation. And I was intrigued with living in cowboy country, Texas, and I never had a congregation. I was not eligible, really. And I went to Eddie, and I said, ‘Eddie, What do you think?’ And he said, ‘I tell you what. During the war I was stationed in Europe with a guy from Dallas who is very important, and I’ll call him up. They’ll give you an interview. You know I can’t guarantee you’ll be accepted, but at least you’ll get an interview. So, I did and I was accepted. So, it was because of Eddie.’

Who was the Dallas connection? “His name was Jaffe,” Silverman says today. “Morris Jaffe. And he was not a member of the congregation. He was in a reform congregation, but his brother was in the congregation. He was intrigued with living in cowboy country, Texas, and I never had a congregation. I was not eligible, really. And I arranged for me to have an interview. So, I’m forever indebted to Eddie.”

The congregation had traditionally been located in South Dallas, but most of its new members were living in the tony exurbs of North Dallas. “Eight years previously they had purchased an eighteen-acre tract of land in a lovely section of luxury homes,” Silverman relates in his book. “Shearith Israel was a large congregation serving six hundred families,” writes Silverman in his memoir. “It was very traditional, ‘Texas Orthodox,’ men and women seated together.”

He adds modestly today, “I was only 30 years old. I didn’t really have any right to be in such a big congregation; and it was orthodox, but I kind of changed it to conservative, and we built a building, a very nice building, but the neighbors gave us a hard time.”

The congregation had traditionally been located in South Dallas, but most of its new members were living in the tony exurbs of North Dallas. “Eight years previously they had purchased an eighteen-acre tract of land in a lovely section of luxury homes,” Silverman relates in his book. “For years the neighbors had protested the erection of a public building (never using the...
word ‘synagogue’) because it would create traffic congestion.

“In my first year as rabbi, the synagogue leaders went to court to sue our neighbors to allow construction. It was a trial by jury, a trial to end all trials. It lasted three days in the heat of summer. There was no air-conditioning, just a huge fan suspended from the ceiling. It was like a scene from the movie Inherit the Wind.

“Our attorney, with a 32-year-old rabbi at his side, faced a hostile red-neck jury of twelve men. I was on the stand. The lawyer for our neighbors questioned me with derision: ‘Do you intend to slaughter chickens and animals in your new kitchen? The blueprints call for a meat and milk kitchen.’

“I carefully explained the intricacies of the Jewish dietary laws, separating milk and meat.”

“Later they asked me on the stand, ‘Rabbi, will you teach the Talmud to your children?’ I thought to myself, ‘Teach the Talmud to children? I’ll be fortunate to find one adult who could absorb it,’ I answered, ‘I will try to teach the Talmud.’

“Can you tell us something that the Talmud teaches?” the neighbors’ lawyer asked Silverman. “I thought, here we go. I’ll fix them.” Silverman quoted his namesake, the ancient Jewish sage Hillel: ‘That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow man. That is the entire Torah. The rest is commentary.’

“The jury was out just a short time. It was unanimous. ‘Build your temple.’

“The final chapter to the story was written when we were vindicated by a famous baseball player on the New York Yankees, Mickey Mantle, who built a beautiful home adjacent to our chapel. I can still see him throwing the ball to his four sons in his backyard.”

Silverman and the hard-drinking Yankee slugger became fast friends. Besides their common love of baseball, Silverman and Mantle were both dedicated golfers, which brought them into contact with another figure to play a role in the Jack Ruby case.

“I used to play with a guy who owned an Italian restaurant I loved in Dallas — Campisi’s. And Campisi used to play with Mickey Mantle and a couple of guys. They used to play thousand dollars,
three ways. You know, they really gambled.”

Silverman says Ruby wasn’t part of the game, but in 1978, the House assassinations commit-
tee investigated several Ruby-Campisi connec-
tions. “Law-enforcement files have long contained information suggest-
ing that Joseph Campisi occupied a position in organized crime. The committee’s investigation did not confirm or refute the allegation, but it did establish that Ruby visited Campisi’s restaurant on the evening of November 21 and that Ruby was vis-
ited in jail after the shoot-
ing of Oswald by Campisi and his wife. Further, Campisi acknowledged a long-standing business and personal relationship with [New Orleans Mafia boss] Carlos Marcello.”

Silverman can no lon-
ger remember the first
time he met Ruby. “I got
to Dallas in 1954, and the
president was assassinated
nine years later, so I don’t
think I met Jack until
maybe the late ’50s. He
may have been around, he
may have been a member,
I don’t know, it was a large
congregation.

“And I didn’t know him
that well before the assas-
sination, though I remem-
ber some things about
him. I remember that he
was saying the mourner’s
prayer for his father, and
he came in one day and
he had a cast on his arm.
I said to Jack, ‘What hap-
pened?’ He said, ‘Well
somebody came into my
nightclub and was boister-
ous so I kicked him out.’ I

Hillel Silverman, Jack Ruby’s Dallas
rabbi at the time of the Kennedy
assassination, now lives in the
University Town Centre area.

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I remember that.
I remember he loved dogs, and he had dachshunds. And he came one
day before this happened, the assassination, to my home, in the yard, and
all the dogs were running around. He said, to
the mother dog, Sheba,
"This is my wife," he said,
"and these are my little
dogs." He said, "Take a
dog," I said, "I don't want
dogs," but my kid saw
a little dachshund and said 'I want that dog,'
so we adopted the dog.
Snoopy, they called the
dog Snoopy. He used to
say 'I want that dog,' but my kid saw
a little dachshund and
said 'I want that dog,'
so we adopted the dog.
Snoopy, they called the
dog Snoopy. He used to
stand up on his rear end.
"We went to Israel one
summer. This was before
the assassination and I
didn't know what to do
with the dog. And I fig-
ured there were a lot of
dachshunds there, so we
brought him to [Ruby's]
nightclub, and he took
care of the dog for a
month." When the fam-
ily returned, Silverman
says, laughing, "the dog
was never the same. He
didn't seem the same."

Ruby, Silverman recalls,
"liked class, everything
to him was status, class,
because he was raised in
poverty. I don't know
if you know this — his
mother was an alcoholic
and they were divorced,
she and his father. They
put him in a home for
children, an orphans' asy-
num. So he grew up in very
difficult circumstances,
had very little education,
and he was always look-
ning for status, for class, for
respectability. He wanted
to be known."

The day of the assassi-
nation, Silverman was set
to hear Kennedy's Dallas
speech in person. "They
invited a lot of clergy and
civic leaders to the Trade
Mart, and we were sit-
ting there waiting to have
lunch, and I remember
my wife said, 'I'm going
to see Jackie Kennedy.
I'm so happy,' and we sat
there and we waited and
we waited, and nothing
happened."

"All of a sudden they
announced there's been
an accident, the lunch is
called off, and we heard
that Kennedy was shot,
and they took him to
Parkland Hospital, which
was a five-minute drive
from where we were. So
I hopped in my car and
got to Parkland Hospi-
tal and people were gath-
ered there. I remember a
physician was asked by
the people, 'Is he going
to live?' and the physi-
ician said, 'The wound is
moribund.'"

"I never heard that word
before: moribund, 'fatal.' I
remember that.
I never heard that word
before: moribund, 'fatal.' I
thought, God,
"Isn't that peculiar." It didn't
occur to me until later,
after he killed [Oswald],
why in the world? Where
was he? Was he grieving,
was he... What was it all
about?"

Two days later, Oswald
was gunned down in the
basement of the Dallas
Police Department as he
was being transported to
county jail. "I was talking
to my confirmation class
Sunday morning, and I
said to them, 'You know
we Jews are a small minor-
ity, and we become scape-
goats. When we do some-
thing that casts aspersion
on our people, all of us are

---

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

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**Flu Vaccine Study**

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3) HAVE NOT USED ETANERCEPT IN THE PAST
4) HAVE AT LEAST 10% BODY SURFACE INVOLVEMENT

PARTICIPANT MAY RECEIVE ALL STUDY-RELATED:
1) EXAM AND CONSULTATION WITH A BOARD-CERTIFIED PHYSICIAN
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2) Labs, cultures, and study drug at no cost
3) Compensation for your time and travel
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• Healthy females, 30-75 years of age, naturally or surgically menopausal complaint of vaginal irritation, dryness, itching, or discomfort with intercourse presently off or willing to go off menopause hormones.

PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE:
Exam and consultation with a board-certified gynaecologist study-related labs and hormonal testing, mammograms, pelvic ultrasound, and all study-related investigational medication or placebo at no cost compensation for your time and travel.

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“I heard about Dallas opening up...and I was intrigued with living in cowboy country, Texas.”

Yet, as Silverman acknowledges, doubts remain, many of which arose from Ruby’s relationship with mob associate and Dallas gambler Lewis McWillie, who also had connections to San Diego players. McWillie testified to the House assassinations committee in 1978 that while a manager at Benny Binion’s famous Top of the Hill Terrace, a gambling emporium in Arlington, Texas, during the early 1950s he frequently saw oilman Sid Richardson, co-owner of La Jolla’s Del Charro hotel, with fellow Texas oil baron Clint Murchison. And Billy Byars, the millionaire Texan said by federal jail house stool pigeon Harry Hall to have been set up and robbed at the
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**Do you suffer from Schizophrenia?**

Excell Research is starting several new INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT studies.

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November 21, 2013

31

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November 21, 2013

31
North County Clinical Research (NCCR) is conducting a clinical research study to evaluate an investigational treatment. If you are interested in participating in this study and would like more information, please call the number below:

1 (760) 639-4378 Or visit our website at nccresearch.com

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Principal investigators: Thomas Rutledge, PhD, Sanford Nidelich EdD. VA San Diego Healthcare System and UC San Diego • 3350 La Jolla Village Dr, San Diego, CA 92161 Maharishi University of Management Research Institute • 2100 Mansion Dr, Maharishi Vedic City, Iowa 52556

IRB Protocol Number: H120042 IRB Approval Date: 2013-08-12

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"I loved the Navy, I really loved it."

...about which he had not informed the F.B.I. It seems that McWillie [sic] had called him from Houston and asked him to contact a Todd in Dallas to deliver to him four rifles, which in turn were shipped to Cuba. "This will link me to the underworld and reflect on all of the Jews. I am a "meshuggeneh martyr" and now it has backfired." (Meshuggeneh is a Yiddish word meaning crazy, or senseless.)

In his jailhouse sessions with Silverman, according to his notes, Ruby dwelled on his connections with McWillie, and his fears that Dallas district attorney Henry Wade might use them against him. "He was terribly disturbed about the McWillie situation. It seems that he has asked Sam Brody weeks before to check with a gun store on Singleton Blvd, in order to clear himself. (It seems that he had purchased four rifles there for McWillie.) Finally, he was told by one of [Ruby defense lawyer Melvin Belli’s] staff that the store owner did have a recollection of only one gun having been transferred. In any event, Jack was terribly disturbed that all of this would come out at the trial. 'Now the world will see that I have underground connections. This will be terrible for the Jews. Wade and his staff are out to get all of us.'"

"For the first time, he seems to express some kind of distorted remorse, not for his deed, but for Oscar's family, nor for depriving America of information about Oswald. He merely said, 'I have unleashed terrible hatred. Now everyone hates Dallas and hates the Jews.'"

According to Silverman’s notes, at one point Ruby seemed to admit...
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to him that the killing of Oswald had been premeditated, a version in conflict with his lawyer Belli’s “psychomotor epilepsy” defense. “With crestfallen face he then suddenly related that he had ‘thought of it’ in his apartment as he entered his automobile. ‘I felt sorry for her coming back.’ I questioned him about this thoroughly but he would not divulge any further information. For the first time in many weeks I have the feeling that he is holding back and hiding something.”

After he was found guilty, Ruby’s mental state virtually collapsed, according to Silverman’s notes, though his allusions to organized crime continued. “On Friday, April 17, I visited with Jack Ruby in his prison cell. He has deteriorated so rapidly that I have the feeling he is on the verge of a complete mental breakdown. He was disturbed and distressed, at times completely incoherent. He whispered his fears to me and his glance is that of a manic depressive.

“He referred back to some episodes when he had observed a robbery at the Statler. He feels that after his court appearance on Wednesday, they will throw him in the ‘hole’ and torture him. He pleaded with me to see the Governor and other individuals in order to forestall a ‘blood purge’ against the Jews.”

Ruby’s mental condition grew progressively worse. “On Wednesday, April 29, I visited with Jack Ruby in his cell shortly before his appearance in court at the hearing for a new trial. He was in an even more emotional state.” “He would whisper rapidly and then suddenly stop to hear the screams of Jews being tortured. A few times his mind went completely blank and there were minutes of silence. Suddenly he stood up and kissed me on the cheek. ‘I am kissing you good-bye because I will never see you again. They will kill you as soon as you leave my cell.’

“Suddenly he took out a pencil and wrote some names completely incoherent. He said, ‘It is a kangaroo [sic] court, it is all a farce and a plot.’ There is no possibility of Jack’s putting on an act. He was far too emotional, irrational, incoherent, and obviously mentally deranged to be ‘playing games.’ I sat near him in court this morning and every few moments he would turn to me. ‘Will God forgive me for this? This is the end. They will kill you today. This is the greatest tragedy in history.’

“He asked me in his cell, ‘Will God forgive me for all that I have done?... I am worse than Hitler.’”

There had been talk by the Warren Commission of giving Ruby a lie-detector test, but the majority of the commission’s staff opposed polygraphing him, arguing that Ruby’s mental condition made such a test problematical at best, and in any case wouldn’t have been considered admissible in a conventional legal proceeding.

But there was one man on the staff who insisted on the lie-detector for Ruby, and, as he later wrote, he would use his friendship with Silverman to achieve that goal. He was David Belin, a deputy counsel to the commission. Recalls Silverman: “We were on a mission to Israel together, of young leadership, so I knew him. Very bright guy. It was in '62, I remember the year. He was an attorney, I think he was from Iowa [or] Nebraska, a very bright, very nice man.”

Belin, who died in 1999 — reportedly killed in a fall at a Rochester, Minnesota hotel — described how he used Silverman to get to Ruby in his 1973 book November 22, 1963: You Are the Jury.

“In light of the position of the Commission on polygraph examinations,” Belin wrote, “I decided to take matters into my own hands.”

“Although Ruby seldom attended religious services, I found out that Rabbi Silverman was regularly visiting Ruby in the Dallas County Jail. The plan I developed was basically a very simple one: Ruby proclaimed he was innocent of any conspiracy. Yet, the fact that he had killed Oswald gave rise to all sorts of speculations and rumors in the Dallas area. Rabbi Silverman knew this. Jack Ruby knew this.”

“Therefore, I thought I might — through Rabbi Silverman — encourage Ruby himself to ask the Commission for a polygraph examination. As a matter of fact, perhaps I could go one step further
San Diego Reader
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35

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and have Ruby make it a condition precedent to any testimony before the Commission:

“He would not testify unless the Commission agreed to give him a polygraph examination. Obviously there were many problems to overcome. First I had to have the cooperation of Rabbi Silverman. Second, Rabbi Silverman would have to convince Ruby that the plan would be followed even though Ruby’s defense attorneys might try to block it.”

In early March 1964, shortly after Ruby’s conviction, Belin wrote, he traveled from Washington to Dallas for a meeting with Silverman. “We had a cordial visit. Although during part of the conversation we naturally discussed the assassination, I did not broach the subject of a lie detector test.”

A few weeks later, they met again, and Belin made his pitch to the rabbi. “In that second meeting I did not wait long to bring my plan out into the open. First, I asked Rabbi Silverman if he was personally convinced that Ruby was not involved in any conspiracy. Without

Silverman conducts a High Holy Day service on an aircraft carrier in Barcelona in the early 1950s.

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hesitation, he said that he was convinced that Ruby was innocent of any conspiracy.

“I replied that based on conversations I had already had with citizens both inside and outside of Dallas, I believed that Ruby would never convince the world in general — and Dallas in particular — of his innocence of any conspiracy unless he undertook a lie detector test.”

“By the end of our conversation, Rabbi Silverman was receptive to my suggestion. However, he said that there was a problem because Ruby had already requested that a lie detector test be given him and his attorneys had refused.”

“I told Rabbi Silverman that I appreciated that Ruby’s life was at stake and that as a lawyer I also appreciated the fact that when a client places himself in the hands of a competent attorney, he should normally follow that attorney’s advice. I admitted to Rabbi Silverman that I also knew there were inherent risks involved in the course of action I proposed. For instance, the defense of Ruby at the time of his trial was basically one of insanity.

“I knew that if a lie detector test were given to Ruby, it could show enough premeditation to completely destroy that defense. Yet Ruby had already been convicted and sentenced to death. Matters could not be much worse.”

“Finally, Rabbi Silverman reached a decision. He said he knew that Ruby was innocent of any conspiracy, and he felt that in the long run the most helpful thing for Jack Ruby to have this innocence of conspiracy accepted throughout the world. He agreed that there could be no better way for Jack Ruby to have this accepted than through a lie detector test.

“I reiterated that the only way the test could be undertaken would be for Ruby to make this a condition precedent to giving any testimony before the Warren Commission. Jack Ruby would have to be determined to take this position because I was sure that his defense attorneys might do everything possible to interfere with the test, since it could disclose (as it ultimately...
did disclose) that the defense of insanity was not available.

“During my next trip to Dallas Rabbi Silverman told me that he had discussed this matter with Ruby and that he was making much progress. And in the following week — when I talked to Rabbi Silverman — he said that Ruby had decided to demand that the Warren Commission give him a lie detector test.

“Jack Ruby made his demand on June 7, 1964, in the interrogation room of the Dallas County Jail, where his testimony was taken before Chief Justice Earl Warren.”

“Ruby told Warren and fellow commissioner and Michigan Congressman Gerald Ford that he wanted to be polygraphed. ’Without a lie detector test on my testimony, my verbal statements to you, how do you know if I am telling the truth?’ He was interrupted by his attorney, who said, ’Don’t worry about that, Jack.’ Ruby persisted. ’I would like to be able to get a lie detector test or truth serum of what motivated me to do what I did at that particular time.... Now Mr. Warren, I don’t know if you got any confidence in the lie detector test and the truth serum, and so on.’

“Replied Warren, ’I can’t tell you just how much confidence I have in it, because it depends so much on who is taking it, and so forth. But I will say this to you, that if you and your counsel want any kind of test, I will arrange it for you. I would be glad to do that, if you want it. I wouldn’t suggest a lie detector test to testify the truth. We will treat you just the same as we do any other witness, but if you want such a test, I will arrange for it.’”

Ruby said, “I do want it.”

Among the questions Ruby was asked, according to the transcript of the session:

Q. Did you do business with Castro-Cuba?
A. No.
Q. Was your trip to Cuba solely for pleasure?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you shoot Oswald because of any influence of the underworld?
A. No.
Q. Did you tell the truth about relaying the message to Ray Brantley to get McWillie a few guns?
A. Yes.

Far from settling the facts of the case, the lie detector test engineered by Belin only further inflamed the debate over Ruby’s role in the Kennedy assassination and motivation in Oswald’s killing. In an appendix to its final report, the Warren Commission noted, “Because Ruby not only volunteered but insisted upon taking a polygraph examination, the Commission agreed to the examination.”

The commission went
San Diego Reader
November 21, 2013

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...and Earl discussed the matter. Surely, money was needed, for Earl and other members of the family had borrowed to the limit. In addition, Jack had always wanted to proclaim the truth about his case. This, then, we all agreed, would be a good means of accomplishing a dual purpose — fund-raising and vindication.”

“Our task would not be easy, for the sheriff and the district attorney would be suspicious of anything that we might attempt. Of course, Schiller would pay only for an actual interview, and not for the bare hope.

“So the contract was completed for the recording and use of Jack’s voice in a personal statement, or apology, for history.”

“Together Larry and I rehearsed with Earl the exact area to be covered by the interrogation of Jack. We tried to think of clear and precise questions that would best and most briefly bring out the essential facts about Jack. We tried to think of any conspiracy in these things. The very words of a dying man would serve to clear the air and persuade the American people.”

“Although Jack appeared to be much more rational than when we had seen him in the Dallas County Jail, he still whispered, mostly to Earl, of his earlier obsessions. But now to the slaughtering of Jews induced by his act was added another strain — there was something conspiratorial about his illness. It had been induced, somehow, by the prosecution.

“I asked him how he felt. ‘Like a dying man,’ he replied in an undramatic tone that almost belied
the substance of what he said. We whispered to him, in Yiddish, of our plans with respect to the tape recording. He understood and approved. He made it clear as to whom he wanted in the room and whom not.

After the interview was over, Gertz wrote, he edited the tape for public consumption with Schiller, Ruby’s brother Earl, and sister Eileen. “The task now was to select four minutes or so that would fit best with the material from other sources. Another copy of the tape was made, and from it passages were cut to preserve the original intact. The aim was to reduce the fourteen or fifteen minutes of the original to three or four.”

“Now Eileen, then Earl or I, would be dubious about something or other. Words change their meanings when you listen to them too much or too well. Words have different meanings for foes and for friends. Larry Schiller had ideas of his own, and would sometimes argue with us. At last we wound up with the right words and the right length.”

Later, reporters and Warren Commission defenders would erroneously claim that Rabbi Silverman was present at Ruby’s so-called last interview, suggesting it gave a presumptive air of spiritual credibility to his testimony. Silverman says he was not there and had nothing to do with arranging it.

As late morning edges into noon, his interview in University City nearing an end, Silverman shifts in his chair and repeats the questions he has been asked by skeptics thousands of times over the years about the Kennedy assassination and Ruby’s murder of Oswald.

“People don’t kill unless there’s a conspiracy. I mean, why did Oswald kill [Kennedy]? Who did he represent? Why did [Ruby] silence Oswald? There must have been a reason.” Despite his position as a reserve officer in the Navy, Silverman says he’s had no contact with any government agencies besides the FBI and Warren Commission regarding the assassination.

“I don’t know anything about Oswald, except what I’ve read, and he seems to have also been a misguided communist. I call Ruby a misguided patriot.”

Not the mob, not the Texas oilmen, not the CIA, not the Del Charro set, he insists. Silverman points the finger at Dallas itself.

“They were very right wing, very conservative, that ad appeared in the paper. I don’t like to say it but they applauded in certain public schools when they heard Kennedy was shot. There were a lot of conservatives there, even in my congregation.

“It was an environment that made possible the assassination, really. Of course, he went to this — what was it called? — the textbook depository, the whole thing is really unbelievable, isn’t it? That he got a job [at the depository], that he went back to get [the] gun.

“I know I read something recently about it. I don’t know what book it was, how [Oswald] went back to get the gun, how he went up the flights of stairs, whatever it was, dismantled the gun, went out, hopped a bus to Oak Cliff, which is where he lived, to get a revolver, shot this guy Pickett [Dallas policeman J.D. Tippit, allegedly killed by Oswald].

“Unreal.”

—Matt Potter
**Under the radar**

continued from page 3

Commission on October 15, Vargas has so far raised in more than $289,000 this cycle, but expenses left his fund with only $94,915 in the bank. Donors included Qualcomm executive and majority hopeful Nathan Fletcher ($250); serial entrepreneur Barbara Bry ($250); and Simms Health Plan founder Frank Carrillo ($260). Among expenses: $13,000 paid to Vargas’ 2010 state-senate campaign committee, which still owes hefty consulting payments to various Vargas friends and associates.

In addition, the congressional campaign committee paid out $1035 on August 2 to the El Castell Motel in Monterey for ‘‘lodging/trip to No. CA’’ and $264 for a fundraising meeting at the Firehouse Restaurant in Chicago on July 30. — Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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

**Lady Catarina**

continued from page 3

law firm cannot remember Toumie/Nastopka being involved.

Toumie has a website, sextradebook.webs.com, that supposedly promotes Sex Trade, Part Memoir, Part Fantasy, billed as a fictional thriller featuring a young prostitute, a showgirl, and a Harvard grad transvestite. I went to the sextradebook site and found no book, but got to a site named Rescue Children from Human Trafficking, a purported nonprofit foundation that exposes child sex slavery. Many of the articles are written by someone named “Katerine.” There is a photo of Toumie/Nastopka, and she is quoted as an expert source in one of the articles.

I emailed the foundation and she responded. We set up an interview. She said she has been slandered in many stories and would share “exclusive information” with me if I would not reveal her new name. Having been offered several such deals before, I did not bite. She said she has lost 13 jobs in two years, is forced to do secretarial work, has no assets or financial support for her teenage son, and has been on food stamps. “I am not in investments or brokerage; I am just trying to get by,” she said.

But she has written a manuscript about “all kinds of government cover-ups, threats, and conspiracies.” But since I would not go along with her terms, our conversation ended…not, however, before she claimed that one of her accomplishments is actually a Guggenheim. ■

**NEWS TICKER**

continued from page 2

According to Sgt. James Blanton, the youth told school officials a man had grabbed him and attempted to drag him down the street shortly after classes had ended for the day. The boy said he was able to break free and run back to the school.

After a search of the whole neighborhood, detectives from the Lemon Grove station were dispatched to get a complete account of the incident, at which point the boy recanted and told officers he’d made up the entire story. — Dave Rice

City employees’ health benefits in trouble

Though not as bad as Detroit San Diego — City employees may soon see their retiree health benefits cut significantly, according to a study by ElderBranch, an online information portal dealing with healthcare issues.

Cities are undertakings employees’ health-care plans, and more than half won’t be able to close the gap through tax boosts and spending cuts alone. While not as bad as Detroit, San Diego is one of the troubled cities, says ElderBranch.

San Diego taxes would have to go up 2.12 percent and spending cut 2.1 percent to close the funding gap. ElderBranch figures that an additional 19.1 percent of San Diego employees’ salaries would have to be taken to close the funding gap.

— Don Bauder

**Defective sewage pipe suit**

San Diego wins case against pipe manufacturer

Los Angeles — A federal jury in Los Angeles has unanimously agreed that J.M. Eagle, which claims to be the largest pipe manufacturer in the world, knowingly sold to government entities standard plastic pipe used in water and sewer systems.

San Diego is one of the cities that will get paid as a result of the suit. — Don Bauder

**Judgment sticks**

Sufficient evidence Illumina violated DNA patent

University City — According to Law360.com, a Washington state federal judge on November 4 refused to overturn a $115 million patent-infringement lawsuit against San Diego biotech Illumina.

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The judge found that Syntrix Biosytems had presented sufficient evidence that Illumina violated a patent covering DNA technology. The judgment affirms the largest patent verdict in Washington state history.

Don Bauder

Banker turns looter
Wells Fargo employee goes rogue
Chula Vista — Richard Adolfo Benavente III of Chula Vista, a former banker for Wells Fargo, was sentenced on November 13 to 27 months in prison.

He stole $293,000 from Wells Fargo accounts and moved the money to accounts under his control. His targets were large accounts in which there was little activity; he figured the account holders weren’t monitoring them. Then he moved the money to accounts in the names of fictitious customers without reporting his ill-gotten gains to the Internal Revenue Service.

Don Bauder

First time!
SDSU business school in top 50
San Diego — The College of Business Administration at San Diego State University announced November 12 that for the first time in the school’s history it has been named among the top 50 business schools in all three publications that conducted business-school ranking surveys in 2013. U.S. News & World Report, Forbes, and Bloomberg Businessweek have recognized the college’s part-time and full-time M.B.A. programs among the 50 best in the nation’s public universities.

Don Bauder

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Aceves said between 200 and 300 youths congregated near the Spring Street Metropolitan Transit System platform on October 4 and 5.

On October 5, law-enforcement officials identified “known gang members from rival schools outside La Mesa.”

Police broke up a fight there between two girls, a dispute one girl said was related to a Facebook posting. While police moved to break up the fight, someone threw ice cream and hit a motorcycle officer’s helmet, according to the report.

Councilmembers called for tighter controls in the future, referring to a report statement: “A large fight, stabbing, or shooting in this area with the size of the crowd could have led to mass panic.”

Aceves said police could do more to control crowds. But, he cautioned, “I don’t think you want a line of ten officers in riot gear to control students.”

Burl Hogins, a condominium association president, made suggestions that included “closing the event at dark” or “more oompah bands.”

LIZ SWAIN

OCEANSIDE
Downtown entrance gets a facelift
And much wider sidewalks
After years of planning, Oceanside has finally begun its long-planned streetscape program for its main entrance into downtown.

Mission Avenue, between Horne Street and Coast Highway, was closed to two-way traffic on November 12. K-rail concrete barricades have been put up, allowing only westbound traffic to proceed to Coast Highway.

By November 13, jackhammers and bulldozers were tearing up sidewalks on the north side of Mission Avenue, while westbound motorists were channeled into one lane on the south side.

The $2.5 million facelift will eventually create a more pedestrian/bike-friendly commercial district, while creating a one-way grand entrance into Oceanside’s downtown, civic center, and the pier areas.

According to project manager Nathan Mertz, the city expects a positive economic change in the area. “Sidewalks will be expanded from 5 to 30 feet, landscaping, and trees will be added,” said Mertz.

KEN HARRISON

CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA
Recycling truck catches fire
Ozone hole just got bigger
On November 11, a motorist traveling northbound on I-5 noticed smoke coming from the trailer of a semi truck and reported it to the CHP.

When the truck pulled over at the Birmingham off-ramp in Cardiff by the Sea, the onboard load of recycled paper, cans, and bottles were on fire inside the trailer.

The Encinitas Fire Dept. arrived and hosed down the smoldering pile. The wet mess had to be removed from the trailer, which blocked the freeway’s northbound onramp at Birmingham Drive until around 7:30 p.m.

As it was getting dark, Caltrans had to close the freeway’s right lane through Cardiff, to allow room for their crews to bulldoze the load of wet recycled material into two dump trucks.

The truck driver, who said he was taking his load to Wilmington (near Los Angeles), was not cited and was allowed to leave the scene before the mess was cleaned up.

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Enter by Friday, December 6th at 1PM.

Win VIP Tickets
Enter to win 2 VIP tickets to Big Night San Diego New Year’s Eve Gala.
Enter by Monday, December 30th at 1PM.
Thursday | 21

SAN DIEGO AMERICAN INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL
The inaugural San Diego American Indian (SDAI) Film Festival features three days of exclusive screenings, panel discussions, and opportunities for Q&A with film-industry professionals. Notable guests and screenings will include actress Kimberly Norris Guerrero (*The Cherokee Word for Water*), actor Danny Glover (*Chasing Shakespeare*), and a special presentation of *Star Wars: Episode IV — A New Hope* in the Navajo language. Held in the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center. $0–$7.

**WHEN:** 6:00 p.m. (also, November 22, 6:30 p.m., and November 23, 2:00 p.m.)

**WHERE:** CSU San Marcos, 333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos. 760-750-3535; sdaiff.com

Friday | 22

DROP DEAD DAMES ANNIVERSARY SHOW

**WHEN:** 7:00 p.m. to midnight

**WHERE:** Queen Bee’s Art and Cultural Center, 3925 Ohio Street, North Park. 619-255-5417; dropdeaddamesburlesque.com

Saturday | 23

THE FIT FOODIE 5K RUN
After a run through downtown, a post-event celebration features chef demos, wine tasting, refuel stations, post-race photos, and more. $55–$125.

**WHEN:** 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Hilton San Diego Bayfront, 1 Park Boulevard, Downtown. 619-312-1212; sandiegowine-classic.com/thefitfoodie.html

Sunday | 24

TURKEY “BASKETBALL” SHOOT
Participants will compete in three rounds of free-throw basketball shooting. Winners will go home with prizes, including a turkey dinner and other goodies. Age division times are as follows: ages 5–7, 10:00 a.m.; ages 8–10, 11:00 a.m.; ages 11–12, 12:00 p.m.; ages 13–14, 1:00 p.m.

**WHEN:** 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Monday | 25

JUST TRUFFLES
A class dedicated to the art of truffle making. Executive chef Arleen Lloyd instructs in the arts of both free-form and mold-ed truffles, their fillings, and combinations. $65.

**WHEN:** 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Alchemy of the Hearth, 960 Rancheros Drive, suite L, San Marcos. 760-233-2433; alchemyofthehearth.com

Tuesday | 26

FILM FORUM: THE ATTACK
A renowned Israeli Palestinian surgeon (Ali Suliman) is thrown into existential turmoil when he learns of his wife’s secret life as a terrorist in the West Bank underworld. Arabic, Hebrew with English subtitles.

**WHEN:** 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Point Loma Library, 3701 Voltaire Street, Point Loma. 619-531-1539; facebook.com/pointlomalibrary

Wednesday | 27

TURKEY-CALLING SHOW
UC San Diego Library’s annual Turkey-Calling Show is presented in the style of an old-time live-radio broadcast. Audience will get instruction on how to use turkey calls and find out how the American turkey became popular in European art. Hosted by sound effects expert Scott Paulson and featuring the Teeny-Tiny Pit Orchestra. Special guests include Aislinn Sotelo as “radio ballet teacher” and Melanie Peters as “story lady.” Featuring actors Ellen Lawson and Glenn Motil with musicians Christian Hertzog and Kirk Wang.

**WHEN:** 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** UCSD Arts Library, Geisel Library, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla. 858-822-5758; libraries.ucsd.edu
Langkawi, Malaysia
By Caitlin Forrey

Close your eyes. Now imagine a long stretch of dazzling white sand and the sun setting over the Andaman Sea. That’s where I’m writing from. It’s an island called Langkawi in northwest Malaysia. Currently flying solo on an Asian summer odyssey, undeterred by bad weather and evil monkeys. I like to write due to my ever-disappearing memory — and to prove to a future self that I did, in fact, live a life of adventure.

This morning, I awoke to the rain that I’d fallen asleep to. Darn it! It’s the first day of rain that I’ve encountered, so I guess I’m lucky.

Around midday I grew restless and decided a little bit of precipitation wasn’t going to stop me. I’ve driven through a typhoon, after all. So I got myself onto a rental motorbike and in no time I was cruising the wet roads to the 7 Wells Waterfall.

Upon arriving I bought ice cream and chips for some energy, since I had skipped breakfast. I needed some sugar for the 600-step climb to the first pool. I demolished the ice cream, saving the chips for a victory snack at the top — some five kilometers up a mountain.

But by the time I reach the top of the stairs, there’s a slight issue. An aggressive monkey is stalking me for my bag of chips. After a quick battle of hissing and kicking, I ward off the evil monkey...for the time being.

The rain has stopped, but humidity is through the roof. I have a mission to accomplish, however, so on I go. A sign posted at the trailhead advises to not bring food on the trail, so as to avoid unwanted animal attention. (They should have put that at the bottom of the stairs!) Either way, I concede to munching on my chips before I continue, to escape another close call.

Unfortunately, the aforementioned evil monkey is still lurking in the distance. As soon as the bag starts to crinkle, it charges at me! More out of fear of rabies shots than this nuisance, I throw the bag as far away from me as possible. Ego slightly bruised, I console myself that it takes more than that to stop me, and off I venture into the jungle.

Due to the storm from the previous night, the small trail is deserted — no one’s interested in climbing a muddy mountain that has become strewn with fallen trees and branches.

Now let’s assess what I’m wearing: sandals and a dress. Okay, probably not the best choice. Usually there’s a maintained-for-tourists trail, but not here. That’s the cool thing about Langkawi, it isn’t overdeveloped. So, jungle trekking it is!

The humidity engulfs my entire body in sweat. My mind begins to wander. I wonder what animals are out there and what I should do if attacked. I think about how many mosquito bites I could rack up and what other parasites might be lurking in the bushes I’m crawling through. I pass a sign with emergency numbers, which I find ironic; I have no phone and there’s absolutely no one else out there.

Looking south from the top of Langkawi’s Gunung Raya

Other Adventures

YvetteP: A palace in Seoul, South Korea
elissephotos: Overlooking Paris, France, from Montmartre
russevi: Two men standing beside an antique car in Havana, Cuba

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Julian’s Old Banner Road, now a hiking trail, starts in a suburban-like setting among Coulter pines and black oaks and descends through lush chaparral, providing a chance to explore a fascinating bit of San Diego’s history on this old wagon road.

Horace Wilcox built the first road connecting Julian with Banner in 1871 and operated it as a toll road for several years for both livestock and vehicles. San Diego County purchased the road in 1874 and eliminated the toll. For the next 51 years the Wilcox Road was the way to get from Julian to Banner, only to be replaced with the present Banner Grade Road in 1925. Today the Wilcox Road is a well-maintained hiking trail as far as the Warlock Mine site, a distance of about 1.5 miles. This portion of the historic road has been closed to motorized vehicles since 1980 but is open to hikers, mountain-bikers, and equestrians. Although it continues on to Banner as a gravel road after the Warlock Mine site, it is signed “No Trespassing” beyond the end of the hiking trail.

Start hiking down the signed “Private Road” extending east from the cul-de-sac. You have permission to travel on this and other private roads in this area, but there is no place to park further on. The pavement ends in 0.17 mile, as you reach a dry creek bed. Three roads branch off near this point, all with signs reading “Private Road.” However, the road on the left with the yellow sign is the road to take. Immediately below the yellow sign is a crude, easy-to-miss sign reading only “Trail” and pointing to the left. The road loops around to someone’s house while the trail continues down the canyon. The hike from here is on an excellent trail that takes you through a verdant canyon surrounded by Coulter pines, black oaks, and tall manzanitas. In about a quarter of a mile Banner Canyon begins. There is a faded sign on the left that provides a brief history of the Wilcox Road. As you proceed down the trail, look for the Elsinore Fault trace on the west-facing slope of Banner Canyon across from you. The more distant, dramatic views also include Granite Mountain, Earthquake Valley, and other features of the Anza-Borrego Desert area, as well as SR-78 far below, snaking its way down the canyon.

The town of Julian got its start as a result of the discovery of gold by a former slave, Fred Coleman, in 1869. The Warlock Mine site is just one of several former mines in the vicinity of the Wilcox Road, but it is the only one that can be easily reached by the trail. Mining operations were suspended in 1957. Not much remains except rusting mining machinery. The mine itself recently collapsed. The trail to the mine site adds another half-mile to the hike. Turn around here at the mine. The old road continuing down toward Banner is private property.

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.

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Malaysia

continued from page 46

After sizing up my next obstacle on the path, I wipe some mud specks off my legs that I noticed had been there a while. Oh, they’re not moving... what kind of dirt is this? I rub it harder and to my horror I discover a curled-up leech stretched out on my shin! There are three on my left shin, one on my right shin and one on my right ankle. (I feel obligated here to mention they were tiny, tiny leeches, but leeches nonetheless and equally terrifying.)

Maybe it’s a good thing no one else was around because the ensuing panic attack and freak-out was, if nothing else, overly dramatic. For my sanity, I hightailed it out of there but I didn’t know exactly where the leeches came from, so I was scared of everything. Trees in my way, all these suspicious branches and all the water...ahhh my brain was on overload. Paranoia set in. About every 200 meters, I stopped to inspect my body to insure no more bloodsucking parasites had decided to hitch a ride.

To completely shatter my nerves, of course, there was a big one between my toes. I had probably missed it from before because this one was much bigger, as it had filled up on my sweet crimson nectar. I couldn’t get it off the first try and started screaming and flailing around. Even the evil monkey would have been afraid if he had happened upon this scene.

Mother Nature must have mistaken this for a rain dance, because shortly thereafter, the sky started to sweat this for a rain dance, because shortly thereafter, the sky started to sweat...
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San Diego Reader November 21, 2013
**Rhyme & Verse**

**old age does not happen slowly**

_A poem by Harold Norse_

Old age does not happen slowly but all at once, in the head. The body takes its time getting there, but the mind, clinging to youth flashes suddenly — behaving as if it were still careless! — flashes on sagging skin, discolored hair. If you’re a woman you probably cry. Your face is set in sour lines about the mouth at the corners, and you’ve an ailment that’s killing you. The ailment is Time. If you’re a man you joke about not getting it up so often but doing it long and slow and women and men and all the good old days of football and war. But if you’re gay you’re dead. Nobody wants you, old friends think you’re pathetic and leave you alone with brief visits. You eye the beauties like some leftover dinosaur hovering in silence, terrified of those hard men you used to have. For if they go with you now it may be your funeral.

Harold Norse (1916–2009) became a part of W.H. Auden’s group of friends and writers after Auden moved from London to New York back in the late 1930s. Norse lived for several years in Italy, lived in the famous “Beat Hotel” in Paris with friends Allen Ginsberg, Gregory Corso and William S. Burroughs, lived in Tangier as guest of the writers Paul and Jane Bowles, and when he moved to Venice, California, he became friends with Charles Bukowski. Norse was most closely associated with the Beat poets and spent the last many years of his life in San Francisco. William Carlos Williams spoke of Norse as the best poet of his generation. He was also one of the first openly gay poets in the 1950s and ’60s. Norse’s memoir is _Memories of a Bastard Angel: A Fifty-Year Literary and Erotic Odyssey_. This poem is taken from _In the Bush of the Fiery Force: Collected Poems 1934–2003_, published by Thunder’s Mouth Press.

Find more poetry online at SDReader.com/poetry
The Fit Foodie SK Run
After a run through downtown, a post-event celebration features chef demos, wine tasting, refuel stations, post-race photos, and more. Saturday, November 23, 7:30am; $55-$425. Hilton San Diego Bayfront, 1 Park Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival
The seven-day epicurean experience celebrates San Diego’s fresh and flavorful food and drink scene with over 20 citywide events. Featuring 200 wineries, breweries, and spirits from around the world, 70 local restaurants and gourmet food companies, and the Chef of the Fest competition where San Diego’s best chefs take center stage. Thursday, November 21, 11am; Friday, November 22, 11am; Saturday, November 23, 8am; Sunday, November 24, 10am; $45-$550. 21 and up. (SAN DIEGO)

FOR KIDS
Schoolhouse Rock Live A nerve-wracked school teacher tries to relax by watching TV, when various characters representing facets of his personality emerge from the screen. They show him how to win his students over with imagination and music. The cast is 8 to 18. Friday, November 22, 7pm; Saturday, November 23, 2pm and 7pm; Sunday, November 24, 2pm; $15-$18. Greenfield Middle School, 1495 Greenfield Dr. (EL CAJON)

Cooking Up Stories For Preschoolers Preschoolers will read food-themed stories and learn how to cook recipes inspired by a whimsical storybook world. Recipes focus on fresh, seasonal produce and healthy ingredients. Children will learn how to save money with proper maintenance, keep your piano’s resale and trade-in value, and protect your investment. Reservations: 858-586-7000 x120. Saturday, November 23, 11am; free. Greene Music Recital Hall, 7480 Miramar Rd., Suite 101. (MIRAMAR)

Lectures
An Evening with Richard Lederer Lederer, history quizmaster and language columnnist for the San Diego Union-Tribune and the founding co-host of A Way with Words on KPBS, will explore the many joys of words, including anniversaries of the Gettysburg Address and the invention of the crossword puzzle. Refreshments and Dr. Lederer’s books will be available. RSVP: prsd@consulatetoront.org. Sunday, November 24, 7pm; $10. Balboa Park, Hall of Nations, 2191 West Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

Care and Maintenance of a Piano Learn how to save money with proper maintenance, keep your piano’s resale and trade-in value, and protect your investment. Reservations: 858-586-7000 x120. Saturday, November 23, 11am; free. Greene Music Recital Hall, 7480 Miramar Rd., Suite 101. (MIRAMAR)

LIFE at Miracosta College Lectures 1pm: “Some Who Gave All: Stories from WWII with Linda Dubick.” 2:30pm: “John F. Kennedy: 50 Years On” with Michael Byron, Miracosta college faculty. Friday, November 22, 1pm; free. 18 and up. Miracosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

Pyramids in America: Dr. Kaba Hiawatha Kamene Dr. Kamene reveals the “Science of the Soul” encoded within the Shabaka Stone. Included are accounts of ancient Egypt, the Dogon of Mali, and the Bantu-Kongo spiritual systems. Shayamala Shengo, 949-226-9099 or sacredsciencestudios@gmail.com. Friday, November 22, 6pm; free. WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego’s most-haunted edifice: the William Heath Davis House. Fridays, 5:30pm; through Friday, November 28, $15. Gaslamp Museum at the William Heath Davis House, 410 Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Interpretive Nature Walk Docent, writer, and artist Donna Walker leads a nature walk among the watershed community’s native plants and wildlife. Learn about the history and culture of the indigenous people who lived in this area during prehistoric times. Sunday, November 24, 10am; free. Elfin Forest Reserve, 8833 Harmony Grove Road. (ELFIN FOREST)

Kumeyaay Footsteps Walk the trails of Native Americans with a trail guide naturalist and learn about harvest traditions and life in riparian, grassland, and sage habitats. Meet at the Entry Station. Saturday, November 23, 8:30am; through Thursday, December 12, $20. San Diego’s best chefs take center stage. Thursday, December 12, 8:30. Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 3459 Manchester Avenue. (CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA)

OUTDOORS
Family Discovery Walk An active outdoor experience designed for parents and their children. Share quality time in nature as trail guides and “the Fam” explore the trail to the Kumeyaay grinding-rocks site. Meet inside Visitor Center. Sunday, November 24, 1pm; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Jun’pero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

The Gaslamp’s Haunted History Take a scary stroll through the Gaslamp with historian Sandee Wilhoit, who will recount ghostly happenings of the past and present. Visit hotels, saloons, brothels, and other fun facts about the past. Thursday, 7pm; $10. Balboa Park, Hall of Nations. (BALBOA PARK)

Community Center. Saturday, November 23, 10am; $45-$550. 21 and up. (SAN DIEGO)

December 27, Fridays, 10:30am; through Friday, November 28, $15. Gaslamp Museum at the William Heath Davis House, 410 Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Kumeyaay Life: Acorns on the Rocks with Museum artifacts and a craft & nature walk to an archaeo logical site, kids can grind acorns and learn how the Kumeyaay Indians lived, worked, and played. 619-582-6261. Thursday, November 21, 9:30am; free-$10. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Jun’pero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Preschool Story Time a Craft Preschoolers are invited to a story time, followed by a fun craft. Thursdays, 10:30am; through Thursday, December 26. free. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Toddler Story Time A story time designed for toddlers, featuring songs, rhymes, and finger plays. Fridays, 10:30am; through Friday, December 27, free. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Turkey “Basketball” Shoot Participants will compete in three rounds of basketball shooting. Winners go home with prizes, includ-
Lalleshwari

Passionate, with longing in my eyes,
Searching wide, and seeking nights and days,
Lo! I beheld the Truthful One, the Wise,
Here in mine own House to fill my gaze.

That was the day of my lucky star,
Breathless, I beheld him my Guide to be.
So my Lamp of Knowledge blazed afar,
Fanned by slow breath from the throat of me.

Then, my bright Soul to my Self revealed,
Winnowed I abroad my inner Light;
And with darkness all around me sealed
Did I garner Truth and hold him tight.

Lord, myself not always I have known;
Nay, nor any other self than mine.
Care for this vile body have I shown,
Mitred by me to make me Thine.

Lord, that I am Thou I did not know,
Nor that Thou art I, that One be Twa

Siva or Kesava, Lotus-Lord, or Jîn:
These be Names. Yet takes Thou from me
All the ill that is my World within;
He be Thou, or he, or he, or he,
— from Five Sayings of Lal Ded (trans. R.C. Temple)
**SPORTS & FITNESS**

**Emeli Qigong Practice**

Master Wendy leads this weekly Wuji Gong practice group. Saturdays, 10am; through Saturday, November 24, free. First Unitarian Church of San Diego, 1420 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**ST. STEPHEN’S CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**

**Sunday Night Live**

Gospel Artist Networking MAKDATE. Records, Inc. and Topic Media are hosting this artist networking opportunity mixed with musical performances from singers, duos, and solo artists from all over San Diego. Everyone is welcomed to come and share their gift of music with the local gospel community while learning helpful and useful tips from industry insiders. This networking and worship will be held every third Sunday of each month.

**VALENCIA PARK**

5825 Imperial Avenue (619) 262-2671

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**Annual Living Nativity**

A visual depiction of why the church celebrates Christmas. Friday and Saturday December 20 and 21, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**First United Methodist Church of San Diego**

**Pilgrimage to England and Scotland**

Pastor Craig Brown will lead a pilgrimages to Christian England and Scotland in October 2014. Learn about the experience and how to sign up. Sunday, November 10, and Sunday, December 15, 12:15 p.m. to 11:15 p.m.

**MISSION VALLEY**

2111 Camino del Rio South (619) 297-4368

**San Diego Gaslamp Museum at the William M. Forward House**

**Free Admission**

Through Friday, March 28, $4-$6. By Mark Hamill. Fridays, 7pm; Saturday, March 23, 7pm; Thursday, March 21, 8pm; and Sunday, March 24, 3pm.

**San Diego Natural History Museum**

**Universe**

(8:15pm to 9pm): A full dome feature. From stars that are forming to stars that are exploding in death, these powerhouses are the beacons of the galaxy. Narrated by Mark Hamill. Fridays, 7pm; through Friday, March 28, $4-$6.

**Palomar College, 1140 West Mission Road**

(760) 744-7667

**San Diego County Fair**

**4-D Theater**

Digital sound recorders allowed. Cameras, smart-phones, and normal investigation tour of the cemetery. $30,000, and $300,000 in “must go” items, sample fair-trade coffees and gourment foods with an edge (think goth, steampunk): jewelry, clothing, accessories, decor and furnishings, bath and body items. Saturdays, November 23, 10am; free. Gaslamp Museum at the William Heath Davis House, 410 Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**San Diego Zoo**

**Night Lights**

Two shows every Friday. “The Sky Tonight” (7pm to 8:30pm); a live narrated show highlighting the current night skies from San Diego. The moon, planets, and constellations are described, and audiences are taken on virtual journeys into space. “Stars, Powerhouses of the Universe” (8:15pm to 9pm): A full dome feature. From stars that are forming to stars that are exploding in death, these powerhouses are the beacons of the galaxy. Narrated by Mark Hamill. Fridays, 7pm; through Friday, March 28, $4-$6.

**San Diego Zoo Safari Park**

**Prairie Night Live**

“Expecting the Main Things From You,” a three-movement work for chorus, harp, flute, violin, and organ. Clearfield’s multi-movement masterpiece incorporates poems by Langston Hughes to provide a stirring reflection on the American dream. Also on the program is “Expecting The Main Things From You,” a three-movement work for chorus, percussion, string quartet, and organ, by New York’s works by Walt Whitman.

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GMONIK’s changing perspective

“I incorporate a lot of garbage and trash imagery, because that’s the byproduct of our culture,” says GMONIK, a 30-year-old San Diegan who has launched himself into life as a full-time painter after the cessation of his travels in China and the world at large.

GMONIK paints mostly on canvas now, but at first glance, his artwork contains some of the graffiti iconography that decorated the neighborhoods of his youth. “I grew up around the National City area and Paradise Hills,” says the artist, describing his childhood in southeast San Diego’s heavily Asian and Pacific Islander neighborhoods. “After that, I left San Diego... and went to Alaska. I worked all kinds of shitty jobs and then realized I could spend my life working for somebody else... or I could become an artist and have whatever I make be representative of me and my life experience.

“I went to China, to see how the other side of the world lives. One thing I experienced was seeing people in poverty living right next to rich people.”

“The reason why I create the art that I create is that I think a lot of our society is based on consumerism without even thinking about everything that goes into manufacturing and producing things. I mean, if you’re complaining, ‘I need a brand new car,’ when there are other people complaining about not having food, the perspective changes.”

Dancer recovers her art and herself

Choreographing “Mind the Gap,” a short composition for four dancers, represents Brianna Lopez’s first real engagement with dance in three years. The show, which had a one-night-only run at Malashock Dance in Point Loma, is a visual representation and coming to grips with everything that has gone on in her life since she lost touch with the art of modern dance three years ago while attending SDSU.

Lopez says, “I haven’t performed since 2010. Once that final project ended [in September], I pretty much fell off the face of the Earth. I was just sleeping. I would sleep 12 hours per night. It was becoming so much of an issue that I couldn’t tell if I was awake or if I was asleep. I don’t know what triggered this other than that I stopped dancing.”

Deepening depression after a move to Los Angeles spurred Lopez to seek therapy, during which she came to realize how important dancing had been to her. “So I pretty much abandoned my whole L.A. idea and came back to my roots to start this project.”

In the beginning, most of the process was discussion-based. Lopez talked about ideas of

Used" by GMONIK

In Brianna Lopez’s “Mind the Gap,” the dancers created gestures that represented their individual understandings of shame.

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shame and its triggers with her dancers. Rather than simply handing down dance moves, she collaborated with the dancers. For example, for the first part of the performance, the dancers created gestures that represented their individual understandings of shame, the battle against which forms the major theme of “Mind the Gap.”

Sometimes, she gave the dancers vague directions such as, “I want you to have this or that quality of movement,” but specific steps weren’t outlined.

That explains why Lopez, during the first performance, sat anxiously at the back of the studio, watching her own choreography unfold with a look of “I hope this goes okay” on her face. After a certain point, she had to relinquish control of her own work and let it be. ■

Find more Art Seen at SDRreader.com/art

ART

Allison Wiese: Road Movie San Diego-based artist Allison Wiese’s exhibit, based in sculpture and video, includes a tracking shot in extremis that reflects the last leg of a passage across the continental U.S. Alternately banal and sublime visit-tas are accompanied by sculptures that play with American myth in relation to raw and found materials. Saturdays, 11am; through Saturday, December 14. Space 4 Art, 325 15th Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

Art-on-the-Green Carlsbad-Oceanside Art League (COAL) gallery member artists display their artwork every weekend (good weather permitting) on the resort’s lawn. 760-434-8497. Saturdays, 9am; Sundays, 9am; through Saturday, November 30. free. Carlsbad Inn Beach Resort, 3075 Carlsbad Boulevard. (CARLSBAD)

Artstop: Malcolm Leland

This 15-minute, staff-led tour discusses Malcolm Leland. Led by Dr. Jim Grebel. Thursday, November 21, 12pm; free-$12. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Lecture: Damaged Mirrors Professor William Nertiecco will give a talk on Women, War, and Industry in relation to a seminar he is giving at San Diego State University. Saturday, November 23, 10:30am; free-$12. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Mesa College Student-Art Exhibit Outstanding art in a variety of media and a reception with live music, refreshments, and large-scale inflatable outdoor sculptures. Students will have art, jewelry, ceramic, and fashion accessories available for purchase. Exhibit runs through December 10. Thursday, November 21, 4pm; free. Mesa College Art Gallery, 7250 Mesa College Drive. (MESA COLLEGE)

Painting and Vino Recreate Van Gogh’s Sunflowers while sipping wine or cocktails. Supplies (canvas, paints, brushes, apron) included. No experience necessary. Registration required. Sunday, November 24, 1pm; $45 and up. 98 Bottles, 2400 Kettner Boulevard. (LITTLE ITALY)

Peruvian Art John R. Kelly will lead a group discussion by collectors and scholars of the key moments in the artistic patrimony of Peru. Thursday, November 21, 3pm; free-$10. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

San Carlos Library Art Exhibit Featuring artists Judi Burnett and Christina Vold. Their paintings can be seen in the Community Room of the San Carlos Library, featuring Chinese brush, pastel, and oil tech-nique. Thursdays, 9:30am; Fridays, 9:30am; through Thursday, December 5. free. San Carlos Library, 7265 Jackson Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

Sonic Sampler Cutting-edge technology shapes student compositions from the Electronic Music Lab, directed by Madelyn Byrne. Thursday, November 21, 4pm; $5. Palomar College Performance Lab, 1140 W. Mission Road, Room D-10. (SAN MARCOS)

Sufis as Seen by the Indian Painter Art-historian Dr. R. N. Goswamy explores some of the many depictions of Sufis in Indian paintings during this annual Distinguished Lecture. Saturday, November 23, 3pm; free-$20. San Diego Museum of Art, 1435 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Wine and Canvas A local artist guides participants step-by-step in recreating a featured painting. Cost includes a 16” x 20” canvas, easel, paint, brushes, and an apron. Sunday, November 24, 1pm; $35-$40. 18 and up. Hard Rock Cafe, 801 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Winter C-Note Event C-Note consists of original artwork donated by members, emerging regional artists, and sold right off the wall for one ($100), two ($200), or three ($300) C-notes. 619-236-0011. Saturday, November 23, 5pm; $3. San Diego Art Institute: Museum of the Living Artist, 1435 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)
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Fatty, hot, tender

“It’s a celery soda. Real celery. They’ve been making it since 1864.”

O h, man. Missed all the danged happy hours. Yomping around the lower Gaslamp Quarter. It’s Thursday night, around nine. Popped in to Can-delas on Third. They have a happy hour, but chicken wings are $14, spring mix salad with shrimp goes for $16. Man, if that’s happy hour...

So, now I’m crossing Third at J.

Huh. Notice this quiet short, J Street block is cordoned off with temporary barriers and cones. Couple of food trucks parked by the curb. Outside the Crépes Bonaparte truck, guy’s just closing the side flap. The one behind is still lights a-blazing, though. King Kong, Buster Keaton, Babe Ruth, and the Brooklyn Bridge are plastered along its yellow side. “New York Deli on Rye,” reads their sign.

“You’ve come to the right place,” says this grizzle-bearded guy at the truck’s high counter. “You’ll never get a better pastrami on rye, New York-style.”

He says that half an hour ago this section of J, between Third and Fourth avenues, was buzzing with food trucks. “Happens every Thursday afternoon. A bunch of us gather here and open up. It’s quite a scene.”

On the side of the truck it says “Finally, Great Deli Comes to San Diego.”

But how do I know they’re gen-u-wine New Yorkers here? Part proof of the pudding is painted on the truck: “Have a Nosh Day,” it says.

Nosh. Where else but the Big Apple do you hear food called “nosh”?

Whatever. I can see these guys are starting to close, too. Hear the cook scraping the hot plate.

I scan the menu on the wall: Grilled Reuben (“pastrami or corned beef or turkey — Swiss, sauerkraut and Russian dressing on rye”) is $9.95, “The Beast” (roast beef, honey/orange horseradish, port wine onion marmalade and cheddar on “artisan bread”). They even have a total collision of cul-
tures: a corned-beef-hash burrito with chipotle, and pico de gallo ($8.33).

And I see they do a soup and half-sandwich combo for $9.95.

“What’s the most New York thing on the menu?” I ask the guy, Rich Huarte.

“The grilled Reuben on rye,” he says. “You won’t get better, right Mark?”

The cook behind him nods.

So I go for that, and invest another two bucks for “Dr. Brown’s Cel-Ray. “It’s what every New Yorker gets with their Reuben,” says Rich. “It’s a celery soda. Real celery. They’ve been making it since 1864.”

Twelve bucks. Ain’t the cheapest. But when Rich hands it down and I open up and take a chomp…oh, wow. It comes steaming-hot, lush, salty-sweet, this thick wax of sliced pastrami with a big surround of sauerkraut, bulging out from between crunchy-edged, flavor-soaked, golden toasted rye. I’ve never been a great pastrami fan, but this combo is seriously delicious.

“The bread’s from Bread and Cie,” Rich says. “That slightly sweet taste is the Russian dressing. It’s like 1000 Island when 1000 Island wants to grow up. My partner and I cure and smoke the pastrami ourselves. The beef should be from the animal’s navel area, the ‘plate,’ because it holds up to the smoking and keeps its moistness. It should be fatty, hot, tender. It should have been steamed. I’m fanatical about getting this right.”

“Well, I’m cooking with people’s memories,” says Mark, from the kitchen. “New Yorkers refuse to believe you can get a decent Reuben in places like California. We had one ex–New Yorker ordered the Reuben. He kept saying, ‘It can’t be…it can’t be…’ There were tears in his eyes. He left a $10 tip.”

“Of course, the flavor’s a little different out here,” says Rich. “Here we use a Hungarian rub on the meat. The paprika is sweeter, there’s less juniper.”

And New York–style has lots of black pepper. I spent 25 years in New York. I lived two blocks from Katz’s Delicatessen. And near 2nd Avenue Deli. They’re both famous. This was where I learned to love pastrami and respect the real delicatessen culture. My partner, Jay Margo-lin — my friend for 30 years — is the same. We make four or five of our own mustards, horseradish, the dressings…So, how is it?”

I can only nod. We’re standing by the truck in its pool of light. The noise and lights of Fourth Avenue are only yards away but here it’s no traffic, no noise. I’m both famous. This was the celery soda. (Refreshing! You can really taste the celery.)

“I couldn’t boil an egg until I was 30,” says Rich. “I had been in the multi-cultural world, teaching English to foreign students. Family company. My dad had worked for Berlitz. I traveled, and then I switched and went to culinary school when I was 40. I worked for fine-dining restaurants. Just as cheese was invented as a way to preserve milk. Imagine if they’d had fridges back then. No pastramis, no cheeses! This food is important to me,” says Rich, as I pack the second half of my sandwich. “Delicatessens are important to me. I think of myself as a Deli Evangelist…. I’m Catholic, but this is my New York food.”

They’re packing up. “Things are a little sensitive now,” says Rich. "Some restaurants around here are saying us food trucks are taking business from them. I think it’s helping them, because we draw people. If you come earlier next time, you’ll start to see what the whole point of what we do: conviviality. That’s what it’s all about.”

We shake hands.

“Have a nosh night,” he says. ■

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In Mexico, the Aztecs domesticated the bird; Montezuma’s chefs regularly prepared turkey dishes. According to Raymond Sokolov’s Why We Eat What We Eat: How Columbus Changed the Way the World Eats, Aztec cooks prepared turkey in a hot sauce containing chocolate, a dish that survives in modern Mexico as mole poblano de guajolote. Spanish conquistadores in the 1400s carried the Aztec turkey (and New World gold) back to Europe. No edible bird this large — 32 to 40 pounds — existed in Europe; among the wealthy, the turkey soon became a centerpiece for special occasions.

By the mid-1500s, in England, Germany, Holland, and France, selective breeding had produced a flightless bird with white rather than dark breast meat. (Some found the new bird insufficiently flavorful. Waverly Root in his three-pound encyclopedia, Food, tells of the way in which turkeys were killed in Alsace to make them less bland: “The turkey is kept without food or drink for a whole day. It is then driven all around the farmyard to anger it. When it has become furious and terrified, it is forced to drink salted ginger-flavored vinegar, and then strangled.”)

Why turkey has white meat and dark, writes Harold McGee in his ever-helpful On Food and Cooking, is not due primarily to blood and blood’s oxygen-carrying hemoglobin, but to the oxygen-storing myoglobin. The latter is located in muscle cells and stores oxygen carried by blood until the muscle cells need it. Muscles that use more oxygen have a greater oxygen-storing capacity than muscles that use little oxygen and therefore are darker red. Because oxygen use generally is related to activity level, muscles that are exercised frequently and strenuously need more oxygen. Once the turkey was domesticated and ceased flying for any distance, of course, its breast muscle became white.

In the 1600s, the Aztecs’ turkey that sailed to Europe with the conquistadores returned to North America with English immigrants as a white-breasted, somewhat plumper creature (refined, one might conclude, rather like a Henry James heroine). Breeding of the bird, with selection for meatier breasts and...
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thighs and the pretty tail feathers that were turned into feather dusters, continued over the next three centuries. By the mid-19th century, turkey — domesticated and wild — had become the entrée of choice for Thanksgiving dinner (and Mark Twain, in his 1878 book *A Tramp Abroad*, writing about his homesickness in Europe for American food, lists "Roast turkey, Thanksgiving style. Cranberries, celery" as some among the dishes for which he longs).

Previous to World War II, most of our domestic turkeys' breastbones rose in a high arch. On a 25- to 30-pound turkey, this lofty Romanesque arch of bone tended to make the bird too large to fit modern ovens. Breeders set about developing a bird with a lower arch to its breast. At the same time they also sought to produce an even heavier-breasted bird, to accommodate Americans' preference for white meat over dark.

By 1945, the apotheosis of turkey was considered to have been reached in the heavily flesched Broad Breasted Bronze, a turkey with a breast so wide that its legs (by then short and blocky) were not strong enough to permit easy walking. (This bronze-feathered turkey has since been replaced by white-feathered birds, thus eliminating problems with dark pin feathers.)

Another result of this genetic tinkering was that the male turkey could no longer readily mount the female without damage to both birds. The male's frantic clawing tore at the hen's back. Attempting to solve this problem, turkey growers fitted the hens with canvas saddles that protected the female from goring by male turkey claws. But turkey producers soon gave up on the saddles and turned to artificial insemination.

I talked one morning recently, by telephone, with Dr. John Proudman, at the United States Department of Agriculture avian physiology laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland. Proudman has worked exclusively with turkeys for the past 30 years. Male turkeys, like most birds, he said, do not have a penis.

"The sperm issues from a small lymphoid ejaculatory organ, one-quarter to one half-inch in length, in the cloaca [the common cavity into which the intestinal, genital, and urinary tracts open in birds]. Turks," said Proudman, "when they mate naturally, stand on the back of the female and lower this lymphoid organ onto the vagina. In response to this, the hen everts her vagina outward and the two organs come into contact. There is no actual penetration. The semen is put, very shallowly, right on the surface of the cloaca. A colleague of mine speaks of this as 'a cloacal kiss.' The semen is then deposited on the vagina, the male dismounts, and the hen draws the vagina back inside, bringing the sperm back in."

Turkey-breeding farms employ insemination teams to "milk" sperm from the male and then place that sperm in the female. To acquire turkey sperm takes two to three workers.

"You set a male turkey in a holder to hold it still," said Proudman, "and begin to massage at the base of the tail and along the stomach. The ejaculatory organ everts and a little semen rolls down on it. It's a very small volume, and it oozes rather than spurts. Then, using a straw, you aspirate, or suck, the sperm off the ejaculatory organ into a small vial. The objective is to get a clean, uncontaminated sample, uncontaminated, that is, with fecal matter."

Does the male turkey enjoy this?

"Oh, yes, they become perfectly happy after they go through a short training period. In fact, they will be eager to get up there and be worked on."

Does the male turkey have an orgasm?

"I've not seen them with a smile on their face. But perhaps it does give them pleasure."

"Turkey sperm, Proudman said, "is highly concentrated, more so than bird sperm in general and mammalian sperm. So, typically, before the hen is inseminated the sperm will be diluted quite extensively in a saline solution. You can cover as many as 30 hens with semen from one tom. And, your average hen will produce about 90 eggs in a reproductive lifetime of 22 to 25 weeks."

To inseminate the female, said Proudman, the "artificial insemination teams march the turkeys one at a time into an apparatus that holds them while the operator squeezes them in such a way that they evert the vagina just as they would were a tom on top of them. They have the ejaculate in straws and either blow it in by mouth or aspirate it inward with a bulbbed tube."

Ralph Ernst, University of California at Davis Cooperative Extension poultry expert, has worked with turkeys since 1960. In what Ernst spoke of as the "old days," the '60s, breeders had not yet perfected methods of storage for turkey sperm. (Now the sperm can be stored for as long as 24 hours and retain motility.)

"Back then," said Ernst, "the male would be milked for his sperm and then the sperm would be rushed to the hen. One person would sit down and put the head of the hen between his legs and hold her feet. From that position, you could push the oviduct and pop it up. The other person, the actual inseminator, would then take a slender four-inch tube filled with semen, insert it into the hen, and blow in the semen. It was hard work. These turkeys were big. But they didn't fight much. They get used to being handled."

How old does a hen have to be before she can be inseminated?

"You can push them to come into lay early, but it's not a good idea. If they are not big enough to lay eggs, you are likely to have a prolapse of the oviduct and the eggs are too small. Also, if you start them too soon, they end up by not laying as many eggs in a cycle. So, you lose at the other end. In the old strains you waited until the hen was 36, 37 weeks old. Now it's about 33 weeks of age that you can inseminate. When they are in lay condition, you can put a little gentle pressure right around the cloaca and get them to evert, just pop right out."

When the tom is in what Ernst called "reproductive condition," at about 30 weeks of age, insemination teams will "pre-milk toms, because the semen isn't necessarily that good the first time. When the tom is ready, is in reproductive condition,
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and when he gets used to being milked on a regular basis, he will sometimes ejaculate prematurely, which can be a problem if you’re not ready with a straw or an aspirator.”

Into the kitchen.

For the cook, the traditional Thanksgiving dinner can be an ordeal. I remember, in my first years as a housewife, getting up out of a warm bed while my husband and children slept. I pulled on my old blue chenille bathrobe over my flannel nightie and tiptoed across cold floors into the kitchen. After tossing the dachshund out the back door, I wrested the 25-, 30-pound thawed turkey out of the refrigerator (one of whose shelves I would have had to remove to accommodate the huge bird). I undid the metal wire that bound the turkey’s legs together at the ankle and spread apart the still-frosty legs; the cold flesh squeaked. I put my hand deep into the bird’s chilly interior and pulled out the slimy paper bag that held the turkey’s neck and giblets (giblets are the heart, liver, and gizzard of a fowl).

By that time, our two daughters likely would be out of bed, watching while I mixed stuffing in a big bowl, massaged salt and softened butter into the turkey’s skin, and placed him or her, breast up, in the navy-blue enamel roaster. Then, by the time I lifted the heavy pan into the oven, my husband would have wandered in and filled a bowl with Grape Nuts and wandered back to our bed to read. Slightly nauseated from my contact with the turkey, I would bathe and dress. Soon the aroma of roasting turkey perfumed the house. I would begin the rest of dinner.

By the time I’d managed three or four Thanksgivings, nothing about the dinner caused me worry except the giblet gravy. I worried about how ugly the giblets were, and I worried that my gravy would have lumps. Generally, gravy is made by thickening and seasoning juices that drip and ooze from cooking meat. Those juices, really, are a gift, as in one of the American Heritage’s definitions for gravy, “payment or benefit in excess of what is experienced or required,” and for the slang expression “gravy train,” defined as “income that requires little effort while yielding considerable profit.”

One good way to describe that “benefit in excess” is a poem titled “Gravy” that Raymond Carver wrote not long before he died in 1988. Carver from the time he was a teenager had been a big destructive drinker, and then in the mid-’70s, when a doctor told him he had to quit the bottle or die, he got sober. Ten years later, when another doctor told Carver he had lung cancer, he wrote “Gravy,” in which he urged readers, “Don’t weep for me...I’m a lucky man. I’ve had ten years longer than I or anyone expected. Pure gravy. And don’t forget it.”

Dobson’s chef, Deborah MacDonald Schneider, doesn’t make giblet gravy. She says she “hates guts,” that she “wouldn’t eat the giblets at gunpoint.”

But Schneider does make a turkey gravy and was kind enough to type out her recipe. “No quantities are specified,” she writes, “because if readers know how to cook they don’t need them (and if they don’t know how to cook, they ought
not to start practicing with Thanksgiving dinner).

“Start the day before, as follows. Buy a fresh turkey if possible (or thaw a frozen one). Trim off wing tips, parson’s nose, etc. Throw in the neck, and if you are a bit short on bones, toss in a piece of chicken or chicken bones. Make a brown stock by roasting the bones in the oven and adding water with a little wine, onion, celery, carrot, bay leaf, parsley stems, and a pinch of dry thyme and pepper. Simmer for several hours to make the stock on the strong side and cook off the wine. Strain and refrigerate. Remove hardened fat before using.

“On The Day: Roast your turkey with some sliced onions in the pan (these brown up and add color to the sauce). When the bird is done, remove to a platter. Strain off the fat. SAVE THE FAT! Pour your turkey stock made the day previous into the roasting pan and boil it up (add water if necessary) to get every wonderful brown bit off. Strain off the pan stock and set aside. In a heavy saucepan make a light roux with the turkey fat and flour, cooking it and stirring constantly until it is light brown. Pour on your stock and whisk it smooth. Cook at a gentle simmer for at least one half hour. If too thick, thin it with water or Swanson’s Chicken Broth, or, God help you, sherry. If too thin, it will reduce when you simmer it. Strain before serving. Enjoy.”

Give thanks. ■

— Judith Moore
First published in the Reader November 24, 1993
Improvational DJs.
“Sector 9 is one of my label partners,” It’s Congo Sanchez, the Thievery Corporation drummer on the phone to talk to the Reader about the label he’s founded, Herb Records. “[Sector 9’s] Garret [Meister] got snuck in through the back door at one of our shows when Thievery Corporation was in San Diego and he was, like, 18. After the show, he took us around and gave us a tour of the factory,” which manufact-
tures skateboards near Bay Park. Sanchez is on the road in San Diego and he was, like, “We started the tour in New York on a Tuesday night. Boston was the next stop, and then the Red Sox had just won the series. That was a no-brainer. We waited until after the game was over, and then we just partied. And then we played Halloween in Telluride.”

Herb Records 2013 was released on November 5. The 40-minute mix compilation includes Sanchez, DJ Hydrophonics, and Groove Status, all deejays on this project. “I started this as a way to have an avenue to release my own stuff. I have a hard drive full of rare sounds, and as much as I love roots reggae, I wanted to get that stuff out.”

He likes where the interplay between the deejays on Herb is going during the live shows. Sanchez says that though most of their show is worked out, there is room for experimentation as well. “Groove Status is quite young. He’s holding down a cool demographic of younger listeners, and DJ Hydrophonics is bouncing around between places to play. We’re getting comfortable in our own skin. I love jazz and jam bands. I was a jazz major in college,” Sanchez offers an explanation of the improvisational structures that lend up the group’s festival jams. This past Sunday (November 17) Sanchez and his crew held a Herb Records Listening Party at the Tekst Gallery in Carlsbad. “We’re working with a charity [BandoParents.org] that my mom started for the cancer that my brother passed away from,” says Sanchez. “At a time when music is basically free, we’re trying to connect with the world on a different vibe...we’re having a deejay listening party at an art space.” Does this mean the end of Thievery Corporation? “No. Thievery is still going strong. We’re getting ready to do Sea of Dreams for New Year’s [at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium in San Francisco] and we have a new record coming out soon.” — Dave Good

Happy medium. In the spirit world, Jenifer Whisper says she is well-connected. The 83-year-old retiree spends much of her time channeling songs from dead composers such as George Gershwin, Johnny Mercer, and Jimi Hendrix. It’s a job she’s had since Gershwin first contacted her in the early 1970s.

“I had learned to meditate and meditated about two years, when all off a sudden, I heard a voice in my mind, ‘This is George Gershwin,’” Whisper remembers. “Oh, sure, I said, ‘As in “Rhapsody in Blue?”’ That’s right, he said. That’s who!”

Though she was skeptical, she had a conversation with Gershwin that was all in rhyme.

“I scoffed at first and told him, ‘You’ve got the wrong person. You want my sister. She’s the musician, not me,’” she remembers saying.

George, as she calls him, was adamant.

“You’re right,” he said. ‘She’s a good musician. She sings well, just like you say. But, Jennifer, you’re the one gifted with ESP, receptivity, and telepathy. You hear what we say through your ear.”

Since then, Whisper claims she’s channeled more than 100 ditties from dead celebs, including Irving Berlin, Marilyn Monroe, and Bing Crosby. Some of the tunes are featured in Christmas Love, an original musical being performed November 30 at the Teaching of the Inner Christ metaphysical church in El Cajon.

One song, “I’ve Gotta Stuff with me!” is about a mom who waltz with me?/ Come on/ Set my spirit free/ Spinning like a top/ We won’t ever stop/ Do a Christmas love waltz.”

Even though many of them died millionaires, none of them — nor even Walt Disney, who gave her a new character, Buddah Mouse — have helped her sell the songs to a mass audience of living consumers. Whisper’s composing claims also raise the legal ques-
tion: If she claims a song was written by Gershwin, does his estate have legal rights to it? Washington DC–based copyright-law specialist Joy Butler doubts whether a judge could be convinced a composition was written after death, but Whisper could be liable if one of her songs was too similar to an existing song. In addition, telling the world a song was written by, say, Jimi Hendrix, might violate the right of publicity granted to his estate. Dr. E. Michael Harrington, (continued on page 66)
overheard in san diego: normal heights

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overheard? email jas2669@aol.com - if we use your tip, you get the artwork

www.facebook.com/jayalle nsanford

prog-influenced electronic trio hanging from the rafters will play their debut album box of songs at the release party slated for wednesday, november 27, at tin can ale house in bankers hill. "all the songs on the album started with original ideas developed in the roland groovebox, which inspired the title," says singer lolly brown, referencing an inexpensive retro-styled sequencer and integrated sound module popular with many techno and jungle-sound stylists. "kawika — kah-vee-ka, which is hawaiian for 'dave' — began experimenting with drum-and-bass grooves years ago while still playing in his former band, red light. he enlisted michael [brown, drummer] to explore the idea of adding live instruments over the groovebox compositions he'd been crafting, and i added melodies and lyrics. the all-local bill includes tiger milk imports and void lake.

jazz bassist justin grinnell, a vet of the danny green quartet and arc trio, will

Boy king, whose new psych-pop band soft lions will play a release party for their debut ep no peace on december 6 at soda bar in city heights. "it will be mainly a digital release. however, if you attend

also features jon bonser (new kinetics) and marco polo singer/keyboards virtuoso leonard pratt (formerly of wild wild wets).

also dropping this month are new cds from retro-rockers ristband (rally), goth band bloodbat (face full of filth), a double-cd set from william shatner impersonator shatman — a collection of several years' worth of live performances from various star trek conventions (he's dead, jim), a self-titled debut from witchhouse duo aimon (darkness), and a new one from mohavi soul, featuring plow fiddler john maylander.

— jay allen sanford

find blurt online at sdreader.com/blurt

contributors

chad deal, dave good, dorian hargrove, mary leary, ken longfellow, bart mendosa, jay allen sanford, david stampone

a professor at the berklee college of music, analyzed whisper's alleged gershwin composition, "my stars above," and found it to be "poorly conceived, phrased, and notated.

"there are oddities that do not fit the beautiful melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic/structural style of gershwin," he said by email. "in addition... the phrase structure is often amateurish. phrases seem too long and too short in places, and cadences arrive at the wrong place."

pianist jack nablink has worked with whisper for the past decade and says he's a fan of her music, no matter who wrote it.

"over the years, i've become a believer," he says. "at first i tried to convince her that she's a good songwriter, but she's not owning her talent. as time went on, she wore me down."

still, working with her has its challenges, especially when rewrites are needed.

"one time, johnny cash wanted to change a song, and i said, 'i don't care what johnny cash says, we're done with this song!'" he laughs.

whisper doesn't seem too worried about whether the world believes her story. she says her celebrity friends make heaven sound like a fun place.

"johnny mercer calls it 'hollywood heaven,' and they're still doing the things they like," she says.

"they do their shows. they write new music. they just have a ball. and i have seen in my mind's eye these beautiful alabaster-like palaces on the other side just filled with composers doing their thing. doing what they've always done. just music, music, music."

christmas love, an original musical featuring songs channeled through jenifer whisper as well as traditional christmas tunes, will be performed saturday, november 30, 7:30 p.m., at teaching of the inner christ, 1114 north second street, in el cajon (619-447-7007).

— david moyer
30th Anniversary Party!

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Thursday 21
What do you get when you FLUF up your Oliveslaw with Thunans Water? Yuh-huh, OctaGrape. The blow-out-corne gala is about as dissorient as a band can be and still sing and bring the hook. Case in point, last year’s tasty teaser EP Emotional Oil and this year’s long-player Red UFO. I didn’t drop a track transferring the files to all my devices, and there isn’t another band in town I can say that about. (Sorry, all the other bands in town). Also, Glen plays unparalleled and spastic and full of joy for melodic noise and well-sung no seum. This’d be the gig to see Thursday night as the hashtag-Grapple takes the stage at NoPark hot spot Bar Pink behind the up-and-coming punk-dorking Paper Thins, who had me at “Jawbox”. ... best of the rest. L.A. garage-punk survivors Moving Units deliver Neurotic Exotic to the Legends Ballroom at the Hard Rock Hotel. Interscope artist Rob Crow’s Bed and Breakfast opens up with and pick up Neurotic Exotic take the stage at House of Blues... and grunge-rock at Casbah. The bands’ll tour the West Coast together. Obits are out to tout their new Sub Pop set, the very recommended Bed and Bugs, which is immediate with the Brooklyn band’s garage-punk guitar rock (“It’s Sick”), with a splash of psychedelia (“Machines”) and, huh, “70s soul (“Recep-tor”). White Murder and Phantom Ratio also on this thrill bill in Middletown.

Else: San-Dago soul-punk duo Dr. Seahorse drifts into the Griffin after Ed Ghost Tucker and Neon Cough ... English metalcore quintet Asking Alexandria delivers the chart-smashing From Death to Destiny to Soma’s mainstage after All That Remains ... Tone ska revivalists the English Beat’ll be skunking up at Belly Up all weekend long... or get down downtown, in B-Side and Natty Vibes take the stage at House of Blues... and Montsalvan Quintet splits a bill with the Sure Fire Soul Ensemble at Whistle Stop for your USRDA of Certified Dance Jams.

Friday 22
Pitchfork, Jethro, Hot Snakes, Obits, holy shit, SD escape Rick Frobergs’s coming through town Friday night to play and pick up Rob Crow’s Ooey Gooey Place at Casbah. The band’ll tour the West Coast together. Obits are out to tout their new Sub Pop set, the very recommended Bed and Bugs, which is immediate with the Brooklyn band’s garage-punk guitar rock (“It’s Sick”), with a splash of psychedelia (“Machines”) and, huh, “70s soul (“Receptor”). White Murder and Phantom Ratio also on this thrill bill in Middletown.

Saturday 23
After an appearance at ATP’s Ripside festival I’ll Be Your Mirror in May (at an English palace with the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, San Diego grindcore quartet the Locust are still airborne and swarm Porter’s Pub at UCSD Saturday night. For 20 years, the synth-drunk demons of screamin’ speed math have bewildered and won audiences with aggressive inventiveness (I have no idea what that means, but there it is) and breath-stopping brevity. According to guitarist Bobby Bray, Locust are “a reflection of how our brains have to function in order to be able to do anything in the Western societies we live in.” Suck on that, Lady Cah. Widows up first... Too late to La Jolla? Take the 5 to the 805 to El Cajon Boul-levard, where Soda Bar stages Screaming Females. The new Brunswick punks’ latest, Ugly, is the trio’s most accomplished (and eclectic) set yet, as she-shredder Marissa Paternoster (one of the most dynamic gui-

Sunday 24
From the dark side of the garage comes psych n soul Seatlites the Night Beats with this year’s Sonic Bloom, the trio’s second studio set, out now from the Reverberation Appreciation Society. Like Zombies writing a demented cowboy soundtrack to Cormac McCarthy’s Blood Meridian, the saloon blooze of Bloom burns but goes down easy. For fans of the brand, I can’t recommend the record or this show enough. They will be wrapping a three-month tour and leaving it all onstage at Casbah

From Denver in Colorado, traveling troubadour A. Tom Collins hits Soda Bar with Stick & Poke, “a buzzy, moody record of stomp-and-wrangle-worthy anthems for the Now Times.” According to the bar site, Collins is a frontman taking cues from Tom Waits, Cab Calloway, and Sam Cooke, delivering, and I quote, “one hell of a live show.” Flow-erthief and Mayfield Affair also play, as do the Niners and the Washington...uhh, rhymes with headspins.

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Find Club Crawler online at SDReaders.com/club-crawler
We play social music, a mixture of styles based on the principle of making people dance and think,” says Players Inc. trumpeter/keyboardist Christofer “C-Money” Welter. “Social music is a term coined by Miles Davis, and it sums up a lot of new music that is hard to define in a genre.” C-Money spent nearly a decade with Boston band John Brown’s Body before joining Ocean Beach jamsters Slightly Stoopid in 2006, eventually relocating to San Diego. His debut solo album Family Business melded both bands a bit, with recording and songwriting assist from Craig Welsh (who’s worked with both Body and Stoopid) and songs by Stoopid bandmate Kyle McDonald and Body buddy Elliot Martin. His sophomore full-length The Rebirth of Hip-Hop coincided with the birth of his newest ensemble, C-Money and the Players Inc.

Though still constantly on tour with Slightly Stoopid, C-Money says his solo ventures have allowed him to meet several musical idols. “Don Carlos and G Love treated me as a fellow musician and gave me very solid advice on many things. Carlos and G Love treated me as a fellow musician and gave me very solid advice on many things. [Players Inc.] may not have the same name recognition as Slightly Stoopid, but working and playing on a smaller scale sometimes can keep you fresh, musically speaking. I’m a country boy from birth, so keeping it simple is what works best for me.”

2. Miles Davis with Gil Evans, Quiet Nights. “One the best of his work with ol’ Gil.”
3. Snoop Dogg, Murder Was the Case: The Soundtrack. “Not well known, but the beats and raps are A-plus.”
4. Old and in the Way, Live. “An American classic and a revival all at once, they played a real style of bluegrass during its revival in the 1970s. We all should know this band’s stuff.”
5. Gustav Holst, Suite No. 1 for Military Band in E Flat Major. “Bet you didn’t think I took it this far!”

BEST ADVICE YOU EVER GOT? “My grandfather used to say, ‘Keep your nose clean and your pecker up.’ Seriously, it was something they said to each other in World War II that he brought back from England.”

MAC OR PC? “I think the youth should know both. They run on similar platforms, even though they have major obvious differences. I can use a PC or Mac because I’m a poor musician who never has enough money to use a consistent brand and therefore can use either to get a task done. If all youth could do this, they would open up their job possibilities and add a way to hustle to survive in this dog-eat-dog world.”

WHAT’S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER? 1. “Social music, a mixture of styles based on the principle of making people dance and think.”
2. “Fruit juice mixed with soda water during the day and grape juice and vodka at night.”
3. “Nothing can stop the human spirit...it’s not if you want to be somewhere bad enough, nothing can stop the human spirit...it’s not that far out of your reach.”
4. “All lies are big.”
5. “I love American history.”

WHAT’S YOUR POISON? “Bet you didn’t think I took it this far!”

IF YOU COULD READ OUR MINDS? “I’d ask powerful people questions and see if they’re telling the truth.”

YOUR RECIPE FOR SUCCESS? “One thing I’ve learned in my biz is that, if you want to be somewhere bad enough, nothing can stop the human spirit...it’s not that far out of your reach.”

WORST MOVIE? “The last Batman was not what the vibe should be, and it put me to sleep. Too much terror and not enough heroism! We focus on the bad guy too much right now. We focus on bad news too much in general...bad and good exist in equal, so why not let the good news be heard just as much as we freak out about whatever witch-hunt the media is onto today?”

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THE YOUNGER YOU? “To never borrow money from anybody.”

THREE THINGS WE DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU? 1. “I maintain several fish tanks.”
2. “When I’m not a musician, I’m a carpenter.”
3. “If you want to be somewhere bad enough, nothing can stop the human spirit...it’s not that far out of your reach.”

YOU CAN’T COOK WHAT? “I can’t cook what?!”

WORST BOOK YOU’VE READ? “I’d ask powerful people questions and see if they’re telling the truth.”

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE BAND RIGHT NOW? “I love American history.”

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SATURDAY | DECEMBER 7 | COMEDY

CHRISS KATTAN AND FRIENDS
FRIDAY | DECEMBER 13 | COMEDY

CANDY KANE
SATURDAY | DECEMBER 14 | COMEDY

COCO MONTOYA
DAYTONA & THE BLUESIDE ROCKERS

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 21 | ROCK

MDG • TAZ TAYLOR • SACRED COW

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THURSDAY | APRIL 3 | BLUES

JOHNNY WINTER
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FRIDAY | APRIL 11:  JAZZ SUPERSTAR
KEIKO MATSUI

FRIDAY | APRIL 25:  JIMMY THACKERY

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FRI | APR 4:  JOE LOUIS WALKER
FRI | APR 11:  JAZZ SUPERSTAR
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FRIDAY | APRIL 11:  JAZZ SUPERSTAR
KEIKO MATSUI

FRIDAY | APRIL 25:  JIMMY THACKERY
**THIS WEEK’S SHOWS**

**710 Beach Club:**
- **Friday, 8pm** — Will to Wander, Rapsillacions, Laguna Pa.
- **Monday, 9pm** — Monday Night Jams
- **Tuesday, 9pm** — 710 Bass Club: Underground EDM.
- **Wednesday, 8pm** — Open Mic
- **98 Bottles:**
  - **Wednesday, 8pm** — John & Roberto
  - **Thursday, 8pm** — Oka's

**Across the Street at Muller College:**
- **Friday, 7pm** — Carlos Olmedo.

**ArTlab:**
- **Thursday, 8pm** — Gramophone Gregory. Free.
- **Friday, 7pm** — Mike Bowman.
- **Saturday, 8:30pm** — Baird & Silva do the Beatles.

**Boar Pink:**
- **Saturday, 9pm** — OctaGrape and the Paper Thins.
- **Friday, 9pm** — Bonkers! Dance Party.

**Chico Club:**
- **Saturday, 9pm** — Hills Like Elephants and Sad Robot.
- **Sunday, 9pm** — The Lyrical Groove and Oh Mercy.
- **Tuesday, 9pm** — Tiki Tuesday.
- **Wednesday, 9pm** — H.AM with DJ L.

**Beaumont’s:**
- **Thursday, 8pm** — Simeon Flick. Free.
- **Friday, 9pm** — Stratos. Free. **Saturday, 8:30pm** — The Tilt.

**Belly Up:**
- **Thursday, 8pm** — Steve Poltz and Tim Flannery.
- **Friday, 8pm** — English Beat, Oceanside Sound System.
- **Saturday, 8pm** — English Beat, Rian Basilo, the Roosters.
- **Sunday, 8pm** — Vaud & the Villains.

**Bar Pink:**
- **Thursday, 8pm** — Club Musae.

**Brick by Brick:**
- **Sunday, 9pm** — Teaser and SMC. $5.
- **Wednesday, 9pm** — Hesler, Dirve Bomber, Hundred Caliber. $5.

**Cashah:**
- **Friday, 8:30pm** — Obits and Rob Crow’s Glimmy Place. $12-$14.
- **Saturday, 8pm** — The Limousines. $12-$14.
- **Sunday, 8pm** — Wild Wild Wets, Amerikan Bear.

**Chilibum:**
- **Tuesday, 8pm** — Stripes & Lines and Ed Ghost Tucker.

**Club Rio:**
- **Friday, 9pm** — African Gala Night.

**Coyote Bar & Grill:**
- **Thursday, 6pm** — Mor Sol.
- **Friday, 6pm** — Clay Colton Band.
- **Sunday, 5pm** — Billy Watson.

**Crush:**
- **Thursday, 7:30pm** — Steve Orr.
- **Friday, 9pm** — Tiffany Jane.
- **Saturday, 9pm** — Andy Mauser.
- **Wednesday, 7:30pm** — Black Market III.

**David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre:**
- **Sunday, 9pm** — The Bench.

**Dirk’s Niteclub:**
- **Friday, 8:30pm** — The Farmers.
- **Saturday, 8:30pm** — Zone 4.

**Dizzy’s:**
- **Friday, 8pm** — Reka Parker, Joe Marillo, Derek Cannon.
- **Saturday, 8pm** — The Peter Sprague Group.
- **Sunday, 7pm** — 2013 Bass Summit.

**El Dorado Cocktail Lounge:**
- **Thursday, 9pm** — Dark Side.

**The Limousines:**
- **Casbah, Saturday, November 23, 8:30 p.m.**
- **619-232-HELL (4355).**
- **$12 in advance/$14 at the door.**

---

By Dave Good

“**We got together over the internet.**” This is taken from the Limousines’ self-penned backstory on their Kickstarter page. The Limousines are two guys: Giovanni Giusti and Eric Victorino. The virtual meeting took place while Victorino was in England (where all American pop goes to be reinvigorated), and Giusti was in San Francisco. Downloads and email addresses were exchanged and, in short order, the two began swapping lyrics and beats over the web. They crafted virtual songs. They became a virtual band. Before too long, there was a collection of virtual songs, which, oddly enough, they released on vinyl. Finally, they connected in the fleshy Oakland sometime during the late 2000s. “Luckily, when we met,” the Kickstarter narrative continues, “we fell in love instantly.”

As did the duo’s fans, who more than doubled the Limousines’ Kickstarter request for $30,000 to record and launch a tour. And how did that happen? You may ask, for a band that had very little in the way of real-time gigging? The gold came as a result of their YouTube hit, a stab at the ’80s song “Video Killed the Radio Star” called “Internet Killed the Video Star.” The video has 1,275,080 views as of this writing.

The Limousines have harnessed every bad pop cliche from the Euro-pop ‘80s and folded them into sweeping synth chords with chipper vocals, only a darker version of Thompson Twins or Wham! “We gotta be careful,” “cause love,” Victorino sings, “is a dog from hell.”

The duo chalked up the three-year gap between recordings to label troubles and death: eight recordings to label troubles and death: eight.

Mo and Dresses also perform.

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### House of Blues

**Thursday, 8pm** — Vanna, Alpha & Omega, Betrayal. $20-$60.

**Friday, 8pm** — B Side Players and Natty Vibes. $20-$60.

**Saturday, 8pm** — The Ridge Runners. Free.

**Second Wind (San Carlos):**
- **Friday, 9pm** — Hell on Heels Burlesque, the Bandits. $10.
- **Saturday, 9pm** — Red Wizard, Great Electric Quest, Bedsalms Edge. $5.

**Soda Bar:**
- **Thursday, 8pm** — Slipping Into Darkness, Natives, Bat Lords.
- **Friday, 8pm** — Shaka Before Us, Flagg, Shiva Trash.
- **Saturday, 7:30pm** — Upset and Screaming Females.

### Humphreys Backstage Music Club

**Thursday, 9pm** — Candy Warpop, Amigo, Pleasure Fix.

**Friday, 9pm** — Core, Smack This, Big Lewinski.

**Molly Malone’s:**
- **Friday, 9pm** — Passage
- **Saturday, 9pm** — Slipping Into Darkness, Natives, Bat Lords.

### Palomar College Performance Lab

**Thursday, 4pm** — Sonic Sampler. $5.

### Park Manor Suites Hotel

**Thursday, 5pm** — Jazz 88.3 Happy Hour. $5.

### Patricks Gaslamp Pub

**Thursday, 9pm** — Bill Magee Blues Band.

**Saturday, 8pm** — Church of Misery and Against the Grain.

**Monday, 8pm** — A. Tom Collins, Flowerbrol, Mayfield Affair.

**Tuesday, 8pm** — Pleasure Fix, Rogue Stereo, Dead Blue.

**Wednesday, 8:30pm** — Northlands.

**Solare:**
- **Friday, 8pm** — Jazzy Bar Leftover will be performing again at Solare — they totally jammed here for their CD-release party in September. Come for dinner and then listen to the great

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**Shakedown Bar:**
- **Thursday, 8pm** — Winslow Ridge.
- **Friday, 9pm** — Tim and Nelia.
- **Saturday, 9:15pm** — Shaka Before Us, Flagg, Shiva Trash.

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**San Pasqual Winery Tasting Room and Gallery:**
- **Saturday, 7pm** — The Ridge Runners. Free.

**Second Wind (Santee):**
- **Saturday, 9pm** — Bob the One Man Band.

**Seven Grand:**
- **Thursday, 9pm** — Low Volts and Two Wolves.

---

**Shackdown Bar:**
- **Thursday, 8pm** — Winslow Ridge.
- **Friday, 9pm** — Tim and Nelia.
- **Saturday, 9:15pm** — Shaka Before Us, Flagg, Shiva Trash.

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**San Diego Reader**

**November 21, 2013**

**Enjoy your night out!**
**Everyday's a Critic**

**Days Are Gone**  
By Ryu Miyazaki  
Meet Este, Danielle, and Alana Haim. The three sisters, along with drummer Dash Hutton, make up indie-pop band Haim (rhymes with “time”). Haim’s soft-rock-meets-R&B sound was described by critics as a nod to Fleetwood Mac in its beginnings. In the band’s debut, *Days Are Gone*, though, Haim proves to be a lovable group with its own identity. Haim comes with a well-formed sound and voice in its debut, from its slick bass grooves to tight drumbeats and sweet harmonies. Haim also takes its sound to fit bigger, live stages. Take “The Wire,” for instance, with booming drums on cue for the crowd to clap along.

Heartbreaks and break-ups are all over *Days Are Gone*, but a chorus like “don’t save me/ if your love isn’t strong” speaks to the hopeful future. Lead singer Danielle shows no sign of weakness as she lays down her sharp, tough vocals, whether she is getting over the blues or confessing her love. Haim put out a solid debut without having to compromise its down-home personality. Lucky for us, the Haim sisters are a friendly bunch with a talent that rocks on and off the record.

**Village Presbyterian Church:**  
Sunday, 6pm — Rancho Santa Fe Big Band.

**Viejas Arena:**  
Thursday, 7pm — Pearl Jam. $65. Sunday, 6pm — Drake, Miguel, Future.

**Whistle Stop Bar:**  
Thursday, 8pm — Kill Quanti: Astro Jump.

**WorldBeat Cultural Center:**  
Wednesday, 8pm — I-TAWEH & Reggie Lion, Nambo Robinson. Free.

**Zel’s Del Mar:**  
Saturday, 8pm — Robin Henkel. Free.

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**Music Reviews from Our Readers**

**Ensemble:**  
9pm — Jose Sinatra, Sure Fire Soul.

**I-Sight, King Schascha. $15.**

**Peninsula Pops:**  
Tuesday, December 17, $200. Thursday, December 19, $20; $15.

**Peninsula Pops:**  
Tuesday, December 24, $20; $15.

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**Upcoming Shows**

**710 Beach Club:**  
710 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844.
November 29 — Tim & the 23’s.
December 9 — Wicked Garden (STP tribute).

November 29 — Jame Shadowlight: Soulful Violin.
November 30 — Coast Bop

AMSDconcerts: 4650 Mansefield St., Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.

November 29 — Irish Christmas in America.

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November 29 — Irish Christmas in America.
November 30 — Paul Cannon Band.


November 30 — Judith Hill; The Cured, Really Idol, Fears for Tears.

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

November 28 — Aubrey Fay.

November 29 — BetaMax.

November 7 — Detroit Underground.

Infinity at Palis Casino: 11154 Highway 76, Pala, 877-946-7252.

November 29 — Dance Party with Fresh.

November 30 — Hanar k a Wow! Filipino Music Festival.

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

November 29 — Polar Bear Club, Citizen, Diamond Youth.


December 14 — Two Masters Annual Yuletide Concert.


November 29 — Glasses Malone, D-Boy, P. Chase.

Kaffee Meister: 9225 Carlton Hills Boulevard #30, San Diego, 619-928-9225.

November 29 — Joshua Taylor and Sean Manning.

The Kava Lounge: 2812 Kettler Bl., Little Italy, 619-543-0933.

November 28 — Dead Technology.

November 29 — Lee Reynolds and BlackAss.

December 3 — High Tech Tuesdays.


December 6 — Bile, Rabid Whole, Squirrely Arts.

Kona Kai Resort & Marina: 1551 Shelter Island, Shelter Island, 619-221-8000.

December 4 — Whitney Shay and Robin Henkel.


November 29 — Danielle Stathas, 23 Shades, Tyler Boone.

November 30 — Laura Leigh and the Santana Brothers.


December 14 — East County Bluegrass Jam.

The Loft: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-4947.

December 5 — Charlie Hunter & Scott Amendola.

December 6 — The New Division and Say Say.

December 7 — The Mike Keneally Band.

Luce Loft: 1057 J St., East Village.

November 30 — Julianne Barwick, Mark McGuire (Emeralds).

The Merrow: 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest.

November 27 — Crew of Oddwood, Unicorn Death.

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

November 29 — Outta Line.

December 6 — Rock Star Divas.

December 13 — Moxxie.

Monterey Bay Cannery: 1325 North Harbor Dr., Oceanside, 760-722-3471.

December 27 — Clay Colton Band.

Mother’s Saloon: 2228 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-221-8100.

November 30 — The Jimmy Lewis Band.


November 30 — Clay Colton Band.

The Office: 3956 30th St., North Park, 619-450-6632.

December 7, 9, 16, 23 — Dub Dynamite.

Parkway Bar: 9188 Fletcher Parkway, La Mesa, 619-463-8757.

December 15 — Street Heart.

Patrick’s Gaslamp Pub: 428 F St., Downtown San Diego, 619-233-3077.

November 29 — Troy Tosh & the T&T Band.

November 30 — Mystique Element of Soul.


December 7 — Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas Show.

Prohibitions: 548 Fifth Ave., Downtown San Diego.

November 28 — Piano Joe & the Wheeders.

November 29 — Jon & the Moonshiners.

November 30 — Lady Dottie.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub: 422 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-7008.

November 30 — Babys, Roni Lee, Teaser, Burning Down.

Riveria Supper Club & Turquoise Room: 7777 University Ave., La Mesa, 619-713-6777.

November 29 — Cougar Canyon Band.

November 30 — Sleepwalkers.

The Salty Frog: 992 Palm Ave., Imperial Beach, 619-429-1120.

November 7 — SoCal Ybex.

December 14 — Quel Bordel.

San Diego Zoo: 3200 Zoo Dr., Balboa Park, 619-231-1515.

December 1 — Cowboy Jack & North County Cowboys.

San Pasqual Winery Tasting Room and Gallery: 8364 La Mesa Bl., La Mesa, 619-462-1797.

November 30, December 28 — People of Earth.

Seaport Village: 849 West Harbor Dr., Downtown San Diego, 619-235-4014.

December 7 — Steven Ybarra.

Second Wind (San Carlos): 8152 Napa Dr., San Carlos, 619-465-1730.

November 29 — Cameltones.

November 30 — Chocolate Revolution, Black Market III.

Second Wind (Santee): 8528 Magnolia Ave., Santee, 619-596-8550.

November 29 — Hittin Honey.

November 30 — Relax Max.
Reader STREET TEAM

18 years ago doctors told me I would never walk again, but I’m standing in front of you today as a person who’s never given up pretending I couldn’t walk or climb.

@Jesse_sandiego

“My car’s so tiny, when I drive it looks like I’m wearing it.” What’s that, a metal backpack?

“No, it’s a Terce.”

@Jesse_sandiego

“I had my windshield wipers removed because I can’t even get parking tickets.”

@KennyKlein

“Balloon animals are white people’s answer to origami.”

@dan_harumi

“I like being from the south because maybe I don’t agree with what some people are saying, but I like how they’re saying it.”

@Beveridge

Lady keep posting inspirational quotes online and I like to call them personal descriptive messages to your ex.

@gregorysantos

See these photos and many more:

facebook.com/sdreader  @sdreader

@sandiegoreader

So, the Street Team isn’t totally confident you’ll be able to read these, but we figured it’d be better than looking at boring pictures of comedians anyway. We went to American Comedy Co. to see Laugh Attack, a show full of locals and ex-pats, and it was quite excellent. This week, we’ll be headed out to Sycuan Casino for their 30th Anniversary activities. Just google “Sycuan” and it’ll come right up. See you there!

...wait a sec, FREE CUPCAKES??

Try my Handmade American Vodka

Tito’s Handmade Vodka Austin Texas

I’m TITO BEVERIDGE. My HANDMADE AMERICAN VODKA beats the giant imports EVERY DAY!

ENTER TO WIN A TITO’S HANDMADE VODKA GUITAR!
VISIT SDREADER.COM/TITOS FOR DETAILS.

TitosVodka.com
Handcrafted to be savored responsibly.

30th Anniversary Party

FREE CUPCAKES T-SHIRTS COFFEE MUGS
TO ALL PLAYERS STARTING AT 10AM

Laugh Attack

30th Anniversary Party

3rd anniversary

FREE CUPCAKES T-SHIRTS COFFEE MUGS
TO ALL PLAYERS STARTING AT 10AM
**HAPPY HOUR**

You can submit a listing or find more information about these establishments online at [SDReader.com/drinks](http://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, $5.50 house wine.

**BAY PARK**
Tio Leo’s: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints, $4 house margaritas, wells, $5 street tacos, TJ hot dogs, carne asada fries, buffalo chicken tacos & more.

**BONITA**
Casa Bella: Monday-Wednesday, 4-10pm: Half-off bottles of wine with purchase of two entrees.

**CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA**
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 mai tai.

**CARMEL VALLEY**
Tio Leo’s: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints, $4 house margaritas, wells, $5 street tacos, TJ hot dogs, carne asada fries, buffalo chicken tacos & more.

**CHULA VISTA**
Achote Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 beer, $3 house margaritas.

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

**Til-Two**: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 well drinks and imported drafts.

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

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

**BANKERS HILL**
The Alley: Daily, 11am-7pm: $2.75 wells, domestic.

**On the Tracks Brewery and Tasting Room**: Thursday: Ladies, 3 pints.

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

**OGGI’S PIZZA & BREWING CO.:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off house pints & wells. Appetizer specials.

**CARMEL VALLEY**
Tio Leo’s: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints, $4 house margaritas, wells, $5 street tacos, TJ hot dogs, carne asada fries, buffalo chicken tacos & more.

**Twenty/20 Grill & Wine Bar**: Daily, 3-6pm: $2 off specialty cocktails, $4 well drinks, draft beers, $6 sangria, 1/2 off tapas.

**DEL MAR**
Flavor Del Mar: Monday-Saturday, 4-6pm: $3 Coors Light, $6 red/white house wine, $5 wells. Select cocktails. Sunday, 4-7pm: $3 Coors Light, $6 red/white house wine, $5 wells. Select cocktails.

Sushi Japano: Tuesday-Sunday, 5-7pm: $3.50 off selected appetizers. House, plum sauce, plum wine, apple sake. $3.50 select sushi hand rolls, tempura, deep-fried tofu, seaweed salad.

Zel’s Del Mar: Daily, 4-6:30pm: $1 off all drafts, $2 off premium drinks, $2 off all wines by the glass, $4 wells. $5 ceviche, $8ahi poke, crispy nachi tacos.

**DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO**
La Gran Tapa: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 craft beers, $4 craft wines & sangrias. $3 & $4 tapas, free tapas at the bar.

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

**Magnolia Tap & Kitchen**: Daily, 3-7pm: $4 Local Drafts, $6 Wells, $6 Wine + Specialty Cocktails.

**Patio Saloon**: Daily, 3-7pm: $2 domestic drafts, $2 domestic bottles, $3 wells.

**Main Tap Tavern**: Tuesday-Thursday, 4-6pm: $2.50 Draft Beers, $2.50 Wine.

**The Alibi**: Daily, all day: $2 pint Bud Light, $3 well, $3.50 Bud Lite, $8 Bud Light.

**Babycakes**: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 wines, and beer.

**Busalacchi’s A Modo Mio**: Monday, 4-6:30pm: 1/2 off all bottles of wine. Tuesday, Friday-Sunday, 4-6:30pm: Drink specials. Wednesday, 4-6:30pm. All martinis 1/2 off. Thursday, 4-6:30pm. Drink specials. Live music.

**CJ’s Club**: Daily, 5-7pm, 9pm-midnight: $2.75 wells.

**IMPERIAL BEACH**
The Salty Frog: Daily, 4-8pm: $3.50 wells, imported bottles.

**JAMUL**
Brody’s Burgers & Beer: Monday-Friday, Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $1 off pizza side.

**KEARNY MESA**
Elbow Room: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1-off all drinks, drafts, beers, $3-$4 10oz Chico’s Fish Taco $1.75, Garlic Cheese Bread $1.95, Loaded Tater Tots $4.95, Jalapeno Poppers $4.95, TJ Street Taco Pork $1.50, Mac & Cheese $4.95, Elbowroom Kettle Chips $2.95, Sweet & Spicy Meatballs $4.95, Onion Rings $4.95, Nachos $4.95, Potato Skins $4.95, Cheeseburger & Fries $4.95. Saturday, 10am-6pm: Well Drinks $2.50, Any Draft Beer $2.50, Happy Hour menu. Sunday, 9am-6pm, Well Drinks $2.50, Any Draft Beer $2.50, Happy Hour menu.

 Proud Mary’s Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada: Daily, 4pm to 7pm: 3/$3 draft pint, $4.25 premium well, $3.00 Famous Bourbon Shuffles. Happy Hour specials all for $5.00 each.

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**TUESDAY - FRIDAY**
**Happy Hour 4:30 - 6:00pm ($1 Off Draft Beer & Wine)**

**TUESDAY**
**$9 Flights - & Pours**
All night happy hour

**WEDNESDAY**
Buy One Pizza, Get One Pizza 1/2 Off
(Until 7pm)

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**THURSDAY**
**Beat the Clock Keg**
From 4:30-5:30
$3 pours 4:30-5:30
$4 pours 5:30-6:30
$5 pours 6:30-7:30

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**FRIDAY**
**$4 Sides 4:00-6:00pm**
**BEER NEWS**
**BY BRANDON HERNANDEZ**

**Reviewee caught in the act at Barrel Harbor**

“Are you reviewing the beers?”

This is the first time anybody has ever approached me in the middle of a quality check. Big props to the astute staff at Barrel Harbor Brewing Company (2575 Pioneer Avenue, Suite #104, Vista), not just for recognizing why I was there, but for handling it so well.

A friendly and attentive member of the tasting-room staff (who had no idea I was anything other than a normal paying customer) sold me on a pitcher I normally would have abstained from. And I’m glad she did.

Though not a pils in the traditional Trumer model — super crisp and bitingly hoppy on the finish — I found it to be enjoyable. Subtle and balanced at just 33 International Bittering Units, it made for a decent starter. Similarly, a dry stout served on nitro makes for a nice answer to those who worship at the church of Guinness.

I was surprised to come across a bit of a rarity on the beer menu — a framboise. Only mildly sweet and pleasingly sour in its raspberry-infused makeup, it wasn’t anything that will make me cheat on the Lost Abbey’s Framboise de Amarena (the best example of this style in San Diego County), but it was darn nice, and I find it admirable that this more esoteric style is being brewed by a start-up.

**Societe debuts first sour ales Societe Brewing Company (8262 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Kearny Mesa) has yet to unleash its much-asked-for sour beers. However, at an intimate dinner in Societe’s barrel room, headmen Travis Smith and Douglas Constantiner shared the first offerings of what they refer to as their “feral” beers. It was perhaps the hottest ticket of any San Diego Beer Week event. The first of the beers was a blond sour called the Swindler. According to Smith and Constantiner, once extracted from the barrel, the base beer was so intense in its oakiness that they needed to cut down on the wood presence while adding acidity. That required blending, to the point where just over 50 percent of the original beer made it in. The result is a rather mild, 6% ABV sour with soft scents and flavors of Granny Smith apple and added viscosity that’s almost milky in its feel.**

Next up was the Highwayman, a 7% ABV ale dosed with Saaz and Styrian Golding hops as well as Brettanomyces. The latter is wild yeast that adds spiciness and dryness to a beer that’s light but by no means thin, and almost creamy on the front end. Barnyardy funk shows up in the finish; all from the Brett.

Last was my favorite of the evening, the Savage, which was nowhere near as rancid and unnamed as its name might suggest. The same base beer as the Swindler rested on cherries, it brought on the fruity flavors as well as the tight, drop-off finish often seen in a Flemish-style red ale. One of my fellow diners said it “cut off like a Champagne.”

So, when will Societe release these sours? So far, the only answer provided is, “at a future date.”

For more breaking craft beer news, follow San Diego Beer News on Twitter (@SDBeerNews) or keep up on Facebook.

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**LEMON GROVE**

**Dirk’s Niteclub: Monday-Saturday, 4pm-2am: $3 off all drinks $4 off bloody marys.**

**LINDA VISTA**

**Bull’s Smokein’ BBQ: Daily, 2-6pm: $3 pints; $9 Bud & Coors Light pitchers, $2.50 bottled beer, $2 PBR, $12 select pitchers. $2 pulled pork or brisket sliders, $4.95 1/2-sandwich & side, $3.95 pulled pork fries.**

**LITTLE ITALY**

**Puerto la Boca: Monday-Saturday, 4:30-7:30pm: $3 house wine, $3.50 drafts, Wells, $6 house martini. 30% off appetizers.**

**MIRA MESA**

**Callahan’s Pub & Brewery: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 select house beer, select domestic drafts, well drinks, house wine. $1 off appetizers.**

**Mira Mesa Lanes: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $2 off pints, $7 pitchers. $3 import pints, $10 pitchers. $2.50 wells, $3.50 chicken strips, chicken wings.**

**MIRAMAR**

**Brewhski’s Bar: Monday, 4-10pm: Buy One Get One 1/2 Off Drinks Tuesday, 4-10pm: $1 Tacos, $4 Corona & Dos XX, $5 Patron Shots Wednesday, 4-10pm: $4 Vodka Rockstars Thursday, 4-10pm: $4 Jack & Coke Friday, 4-10pm: $4 Fireball Saturday, 4-10pm: $4 Jager Bombs Sunday, 4-10pm: $1 Off All Beers Draft, Bottles & Tall Cans Starts at 10am During Football Season**

**The Filling Station: Monday, 11:30am-7pm: $4 margaritas, $4 Mexican beers. Tuesday, 11:30am-7pm: $3 kamikazes, $3 domestic drafts. Wednesday, 11:30am-7pm: $5 stilettos, $4 pink lemon drops, $3 cosmos. Thursday, 11:30am-7pm: $2.75 wells, domestic beers. Friday, 11:30am-7pm: $4 bartender shots. Saturday, 11:30am-7pm: $4 white Russians. Sunday, 11:30am-7pm: $3 bloody marys.**

**MISSION BEACH**

**Barefoot Bar and Grill: Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm: $5 cocktails and $4 beers on tap for SD locals only. All draft beers are San Diego and California craft brews.**

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**MISSION VALLEY**

**Dave & Buster’s: Monday-Thursday, 4-10pm, 10pm-close: 1/2 price cocktails, beer specials, 1/2 off selected food items.**
When Ruby Room co-owners Sean and Brittni Cute announced last May that they would be leaving the iconic Hillcrest venue to pursue other ventures, I feared the worst. What would become of Ruby’s eclectic music months? Where would I go for flamboyant burlesque extravaganzas? Were my favorite bartenders destined to throw up their hands in defeat and pass the rest of their days as melancholic dental assistants?

To find out, I visited the four-month-young Merrow (pronounced “mur-Oh”) on a recent Wednesday afternoon. I was greeted by Amy, a familiar face from the Ruby days, who assured me that she, along with the majority of the late Room’s staff, had survived the transition. The magnificently mustachioed Ryan Roots still muddles his own mint behind the bar. Soundboard beard-lord Shiloh Nabor-Bloxton still EQs the nightlife on a new and improved system. Ruby regular Aubree Corliss still hosts the monthly Nerdocore Night and SD Union still brings some of the biggest names in international drum & bass, hip-hop, and West Coast bass.

The venue’s taps remain dedicated to regional appetizers.

and choice microbrews (which you can sample at $5 a flight during happy hour) and the headquarters of a vintage Cadillac still protrude from the entryway ceiling — a relic that has been emblematic of the space for years.

The only apparent difference, in fact, is the extensive aesthetic overhaul of the bar’s interior — a testament to the fact that Merrow owner Paul Smith (the more reserved of Ruby’s former trio of titleholders) has seen the spot as a diamond in the rough all along. Paying homage to his Irish heritage, Smith reinvigorated the venue as a nautically themed (Merrow is the Gaelic equivalent of mermaid) neighborhood lounge that, while certainly more polished than its predecessor (you won’t even recognize the bathrooms), maintains Ruby’s commitment to local art and live music.

What else is new? Wednesdays are now home to a laid-back but interactive open-mic night hosted by Science Fiction Jazz guitarist Allen de la Rosa. During my visit, the stage saw everything from drunken poets to adorable boyfriend/girlfriend ukulele acts to an older gentleman decked out in Tom Wolfe white, coaxing electronic beats and blurs from a kaossillator and ecstatic dance from the crowd.

So, fret not, fellow friends of the Ruby Room. Your beloved lives on. It just shines a little brighter, sounds a little crisper, and swings a little deeper.

— Chad Deal (@chaddeal)

Find more Here’s the Deal columns at Sandiegoreader.com
SAN MARCOS
Back Alley Grill: Tuesday, All Day: $1 Taco Tuesday.

Scripps Ranch
La Bastide: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $6 drink specials, $7 appetizer specials.

SERRA MESA
Thai Pepper Cuisine: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: Free Thai Iced-tea or Thai iced-coffee with every purchase.

SHELTER ISLAND
Humphreys Backstage Music Club: Daily, 5-7pm: $1 off local draughts and drinks.

VISTA
Chili Coast Burgers: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $.50-$.75 off tap beer.

RANCHO BERNARDO
Bernard’O Restaurant: Monday-Saturday, 4:30-7pm: $4 wells, $2.75 domestic, $3.50 imported/specialty, $4.75 house margarita, $5 house wine.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS
Deli Stop Sports Pub: Daily, 4-7pm: $1 off all beer, $3 Corona or glass of wine. $1 off all appetizers.

RANCHO SANTA FE
Delicat: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $4 draft beers and well drinks. $5 red and white house wine. $8 margaritas. Food specials.

SAN MARCOS
Back Alley Grill: Tuesday, All Day: $1 Taco Tuesday. Wednesday, All Day: $1 off pitchers Thirsty Thursday.

SCRIPPS RANCH
La Bastide: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $6 drink specials, $7 appetizer specials.

SERRA MESA
Thai Pepper Cuisine: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: Free Thai Iced-tea or Thai iced-coffee with every purchase.

SHELTER ISLAND
Humphreys Backstage Music Club: Daily, 5-7pm: 1/2-off appetizers, $1 off drafts, house wine, and wells.

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

UNIVERSITY CITY
Apollonia Greek Bistro: Daily, 3:30-6:30pm: $2.50 bottled beers, $3.50 wine by the glass, $3.50 Ouzo Aperitif.

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

VISTA
Chili Coast Burgers: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $5.00-5.75 off tap beer.

The Saddle Bar: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off drinks and drafts.

SORRENTO VALLEY
Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm: $4 pints, flights, house wine, and well drinks. $5 wings, hummus, calamari, chilli lime sweet potato fries and spinach dip.

SPRING VALLEY
California Comfort: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm & 10pm-close: $3 off drinks & half-price appetizers. Saturday-Sunday, 10pm-close: $1 off drinks & half-price appetizers.

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

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

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

VISTA
Chili Coast Burgers: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $5.00-5.75 off tap beer.

SPRINGS VALLEY
Thai Pepper Cuisine: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: Free Thai Iced-tea or Thai iced-coffee with every purchase.

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

SOLANA BEACH
The Saddle Bar: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off drinks and drafts.

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

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

VISTA
Chili Coast Burgers: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $5.00-5.75 off tap beer.
Hooked on Vanda

“Most women who are 24 these days sound like 6-year-olds on helium.”

Thomas rails at his cell phone. The first-time director just auditioned 35 women for his new play, Venus in Fur. None came anywhere near what he wants. In the terms of David Ives’s thought-provoking, erotic comedy of the same name, Thomas looks like he’s just had the exact opposite of sex.

Are there no “sexy-slash-articulate young women with some classical training and a particle of brain in their skulls?” he shouts at the phone. “Is that too much to ask?”

His play’s based on Venus in Furs, Leopold von Sacher-Masoch’s notorious 1870 novella about Severin’s S&M relationship with Wanda von Dunajew (which Ives changed to “Dunayev, for obvious reasons). Severin’s submissiveness defined, and eventually coined, the term “masochism.”

Thomas wants someone to play Wanda with overwhelming size. “Most women who are 24 these days sound like 6-year-olds on helium.”

He needs a goddess.

Lightning flashes. Not ominous — an electrical storm’s overhead — though the ones to come will be. Enter Vanda, trailing clouds of F-bombs. She’s late. She’s scattered. In a voice like a scratched CD, she announces she’s an ak’trece four hours late for her audition. She looks like the combined lowlights of Thomas’s first 35.

She also says, early on, “When you obtain your ideal, she may be crueler than you care for.”

Somehow Vanda has the complete script. Odd, since Thomas thought his was the only copy. And she produces costumes that fit the period — and them — to perfection. Plus, she’s committed the script to letter-perfect memory — and performs it with astonishing poise and power.

Hooked on Vanda, the eerie audition, and a fascination with Severin’s masochistic drives, Thomas plays along. What follows is, at the same time, a scorching Liz and Dick making “Rome in Tiber melt,” and Abbott and Costello doing not “Who’s on first?” but “Who’s in control?”

San Diegans may recognize David Ives from local performances of his All in the Timing and Time Flies. These are brief one-acts both funny and smart. In The Philadelphia, a guy’s trapped in a “Philadelphia” and must ask for the opposite of what he wants (one wonders what a “San Diego” might entail).

The San Diego Rep may have mirrored Thomas’s search for a young woman able to play dumb as mud, then leap tall buildings in a single bound. She must flip styles, from extreme contemporary to classical and back: the one requiring the elasticity of a gymnast, the other grave, from-the-neck-up formality, having only words to vent her passions. And the gymnast? She must shimmy up a metal pole, like a balletic Marine, and do a

**Auditions get masochistic in the Rep’s in-the-round production of David Ives’s Venus in Fur.**

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**Venus in Fur, by David Ives**
**San Diego Repertory Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza, downtown**
**Codirected by Kim Rubenstein and Sam Woodhouse; cast: Jeffrey Meek, Caroline Kinsolving; scenic design, Robin Sanford Roberts; costumes, Jennifer Brawn Gittings; lighting, Lonnie Rafael Alcaraz; sound, George Ye**
**Playing through December 8, Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-544-1000**

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routine worthy of Cirque du Soleil.

Enter Caroline Kinsolving. Oh, my WORD! Who? Where’s she been? Check her bio! Can’t — it just repeats “very” and points to a website. But she’s performing as if to the character(s) born! From her first entrance, Kinsolving owns the stage, even when Vanda submits to Thomas’s direction or Dunayev to Severin’s. She’s smart, freely sexy, and, even more to the point, relentlessly spontaneous.

She flits from empyrean to bumpkin and to comedian (as when she says, “You don’t have to tell me about sadomasochism. I’m in the theater.”). Kinsolving steals the show, thanks in large measure to Jeffrey Meek’s generous performance as Thomas. He leads, he follows, and he fuels her emotional outbursts with pyrotechnics of his own. Ensemble casts are usually large: the Rep’s got a dynamite, two-hander ensemble. How dynamite? Ives originally wrote the play for four actors.

The duo performs in-the-round, an ingenious choice by codirectors Kim Rubenstein and Sam Woodhouse, on Robin Sanford Roberts’s low, spare platform, with a collage of floor designs from previous shows (the pole’s a leftover from when the building was a sweatshop). They don Jennifer Brawn Gittings’s splendid costumes, which range from a dog collar and black lingerie to a crochet-like, 19th-century gown from worlds beyond. Lonnie Rafael Alacraz’s lighting ranges from subtle to appropriately stagey. And George Ye’s background music and sounds are tops, though in my mind I kept wanting to hear Frankie Avalon singing “Hey, Venus.”

The staging’s so expert — so choreographed — you could follow the story with ears closed by watching the abrupt shifts of status levels: now he’s in charge, now she. But Ives has serious points to make as well.

As Meek deftly reveals, Thomas has major control issues. Whether he’s dominating or submitting, he’s found a way to remain in charge. “We’re all easily explicable,” he has Severin boast, “What we’re not is...easily extricable.” He’s more prophetic than he knows. And as long as he’s defining the terms, he’s okay. But when Vanda enters, as boisterous as a young Mama Rose in Mame, Thomas gets the ideal he wished for — and should have been more careful in the defining. ■

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability.

Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

A Christmas Carol
Cygnet Theatre presents its popular yuletide show. It’s 1944, and WCYG radio tells the story of Scrooge live. Sean Murray directs.
CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 24.

Ching Chong Chinaman
San Diego Asian American Repertory Theater (SDAART) presents Lauren Yee’s comedy about the Wong’s, an indentured ser-

She-Rantulas from Outer Space invades Diversionary Theatre through November 23.

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THE OLD GLOBE
Lamplighters Community Theatre presents an anti-holiday Christmas show based on the popular children’s story of the Green Meanie’s attempt to thwart Christmas at Whoville. NEW GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

The Game’s Afoot PowPAC presents the San Diego premiere of Ken Ludwig’s farce. Directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg. BYRD’S, 13250 POWAY RD., POWAY. 858-549-2496. 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, TUESDAYS, & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings New Village Arts reprises its holiday show, in which the four Plaids get to do the yuletide “concert of their dreams.” Jason Heil directs. NEW VILLAGE THEATRE, 2778 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 3PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 15.

The Gift Teller Scripps Ranch Theatre presents the world premiere of Stephen Metcalfe’s story, based on O’Henry’s The Gift of the Magi, that offers “an answer to the holiday season’s supposed disappointments.” Lisa Berger directs. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 14055 POMERADO RD., SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-587-7728. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 8.

Hairspray The Welk Resort Theatre presents the popular musical about a girl who wants to dance on the Corny Collins Show, even if it takes a social revolution. THE WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 1PM & 8PM THURS., 1PM & 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 7:30PM & 9:45PM SATURDAYS, 7:30PM SUNDAYS, OPENENDED RUN.

Night Stage to Big Shaft The other third, stage right, is occupied by the professor’s office, where an asteroid of a lifetime, not knowing the story of Zinnia’s, a community of skinless people living in a nearby forest, and a curse on the Wells sisters. The other third, stage right, in the professor’s office, where an ongoing academic debate takes place. It’s an important (should this generation of feminists conceal women injuries other women?)

Lamplighters Community Theatre presents Doris Apel and Carolyn Myers’ comedy about a woman’s life as she is about to enter menopause. Judy Hughes directs. LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 3510 S NORTHRIDGE BLVD., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 858-489-2496. 7:30PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY. SATURDAYS, OPENENDED RUN.

Rustic Dinner Theatre: Rustic Dinner Theatre: Much Ado About Nothing SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS 5760-15TH AVENUE THEATRE, 3510 S NORTHRIDGE BLVD., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 858-489-2496. 7:30PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY. SATURDAYS, OPENENDED RUN.

Mary Zimmerman’s ARGONAUTICA NOV. 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22 TORREY PINES HIGH SCHOOL 760-746-4444. 7:30PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, OPENENDED RUN.

Auditions by Tracy Letts directed by Claudia Raugio Performances begin Jan 1-29, 2014. 7TH AVENUE THEATRE, 7TH AVENUE, LA Jolla. 858-550-1010. 7:30PM FRIDAY, 2PM & 7PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY. SATURDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

Schoolhouse Rock Live A nerve-wrecked school teacher tries to relax by watching TV when various characters representing facets of his personality emerge from the set. They show him how to win his students over with music. The cast is 8 to 18 years old. GREENFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL, 1495 GREENFIELD DR., EL CAJON. 619-588-3103. 7PM FRIDAY, 2PM & 7PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

School-Rantulas from Outer Space in 3D First and foremost. Phil Johnson and Ruff Yeager’s “fantasy (a combination of farce and satire)” is a send-up of the ’50s B-movies, where monsters from who knows where threaten to obliterate the white-bread status quo. The piece, and Johnson’s amazingly over-the-top performance as added Betty, has truly funny bits and evokes the “skinless,” and when her sister wants to join the “skinline,” and when her young sister decides to reveal a secret, and when the girls decide to end their curse, spines will tingle and quake. Worth a try. MOXIE THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BL., SUITE N, ROLANDO. 858-598-7620. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 8.

The 39 Steps Due to popular demand, Lamb’s Players Theatre has moved its production to the Horton Grand. In the classic Hitchcock movie, Richard Hannay’s caught in a web of international intrigue and becomes wanted on three continents. In Patrick Barlow’s parody, Hannay goes through a warped looking glass and enters the Actor’s Nightmare: He has a clue about a vital secret but not what he should do next. The Lamb’s Players show, brisk and beautifully timed, is goofy fun. David S. Humphrey, Kelsey Van De Velde, and Robert Leveck bring a fresh, new take to the story. These supposed mishaps skewer the campy stuff the way the script skewers the movie. They also underline the dexterity of the cast and Deborah Gilmour-Smith’s spot-on direction. Worth a try. Horton Grand Theatre, 444 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-234-5948. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS, & SUNDAYS. 2PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM THURSDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 8.
Interview with *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* actors Meta Golding and Bruno Gunn

You won’t see too much of Meta Golding or Bruno Gunn in *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*. Directors and editors have to make choices, and I fear that a number of their scenes as Enobarbia and Brutus didn’t make the final cut (which is still two and a half hours long). It’s a pity. But you know what did make final cut? Their interview with the *Reader*.

*The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* picks up where *The Hunger Games* left off. After our heroine Katniss and her ersatz lover Peeta win the 74th Hunger Games, political unrest starts to spread through the nation of Panem. To quell it, President Snow declares that the 75th Hunger Games will draw its tributes — who have to kill each other to win — from the existing pool of previous victors. Both Brutus and Enobarbia hail from Panem’s military-minded District Two.

Matthew Lickona: Meta, your character is pretty savage — in the book, she had her teeth sharpened to commemorate the fact that she won her Hunger Games by tearing out someone’s throat with those teeth. Did you have any misgivings about portraying her?

Meta Golding: Everybody who is a victor in the world of Panem and the Hunger Games has had to survive. I think of the Capitol as the villain. I think Enobaria is just the ultimate survivor. Just using her fierceness and her physicality and her competitiveness to win. Yes, it’s vicious, but I think it’s also a commentary on war and survival and the human spirit. It’s in our DNA to survive.

ML: What do you hope that your character would add to a conversation that people might have after seeing the film?

MG: I think it would be great if people thought about strength, female strength. I know you said before that Enobaria is this vicious person, but she’s also a very empowered, strong black woman. I think that’s important. I also think the games are about survival: how you use your strength and intelligence and your alliances. I think that’s kind of why *The Hunger Games* book series is so popular, because it’s kind of like high school — surviving high school — only in a much more violent way. Or even in the workplace — how do you survive in corporate America? Or in the university or whatever you are in, because we are all a part of a community. This is just a super-super-heightened and exaggerated [example]. You can make parallels with everything from high school to international politics.

Bruno Gunn: Just to elaborate on that...yes, there’s a parallel between the Hunger Games and life. It’s exaggerated — Someone please start a petition for Stanley Tucci to host the Oscars in this suit.

**MOVIES**

The Capitol is the villain

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ated, but life really is a game that’s being played all the time. We make alliances. We use our strengths. We know what our weaknesses are.

MG: I think if people have any takeaway from seeing Enobaria, I would want it to be, first and foremost: see a strong woman who has dedicated her life to seeing the children from her district survive. Our district makes the weapons. We train the Peacekeepers. Our society raises its kids to be warriors and soldiers. I’m probably training those kids. I’m teaching them how to survive.

ML: What would you have to say to a kid to form him as a killer from the get-go?

BG: It’s one of those things where, as a soldier, you say, “It’s either you or the person standing across from you.” It’s that simple.

ML: What would you say is the chief difference between the first film and this one?

MG: The first one is kids versus kids. It was a smaller story — even geographically. In this one, it’s all victors, from 18 to 80 years old — different kinds of people. Geographically, you travel to all the different districts. Visually, it’s a little bit more spectacular.

BG: Everything is on a grand scale. The tributes are all seasoned veterans. We know what winning is. We know what killing is. It’s going to be an intense fight.

ML: On that note: in the book, Brutus is a Career — someone who trains all his life to be in the Games, and then volunteers. Now, after winning years earlier, he volunteers to go back. He’s just turned 40. I’ve just turned 40, and I’m seeing what’s happening to my body. Why would Brutus want to get back in the arena with 20-year-olds?

BG: I spent a lot of time building a backstory about who Brutus was — did he have brothers and sisters? What happened to his mom and dad? I put a chip on his shoulder and made that part of the process. Something might have happened to one of my family members that made me eager to get back into the game. Or the fact that the District Two tribute, Cato, was one of the last people to die in the 74th Games. It could be about justice, or revenge, or trying to bring some glory back to District Two. We’ve been trained since birth. We’ve had the best of everything. It’s our job to stay fit, to stay strong, to be the backbone of Panem. And to bring that warrior mentality to the Games. — Matthew Lickona

INTERVIEW WITH THE BROKEN CIRCLE BREAKDOWN DIRECTOR FELIX VAN GROENINGEN

Tales of toddlers dying on film is generally not my genre du jour, but when you present the material in musical form, it’s difficult to resist.

But don’t expect wet-eyed characters to break into song in the middle of an E.R. Belgian director Felix Van Groeningen works hard to preserve the realism and lack of sentimentality inherent in playwright Johan Heldenbergh’s tale of a bluegrass singer and his tattooed cowgirl dealing with the loss of a child.

Given the film’s decidedly downbeat subject matter, I’m delighted to report that its creator is anything but gloomy. Belgium’s official submission for this year’s foreign-language Oscar opens Friday at Landmark’s Ken Cinema. Hopefully this snippet will be the incentive needed to lure you to Kensington.

Scott Marks: I’ve seen a few movies in my day, and while watching Broken Circle Breakdown the question came to mind, “Is this the first film musical to deal with childhood mortality and the subsequent grieving process?”

Felix Van Groeningen: I don’t know. I don’t watch that many musicals, so you tell me.

SM: At its core, in addition to being a melodrama — and I do not use the term disparagingly — this is also a musical.

FVG: Yeah, but in a very unusual way, I guess. One of the inspirations for Johan was All That Jazz. I saw that one, and I watched...what is the musical with all the Beatles’ songs?

SM: He didn’t make you sit through Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band?

FVG: No.

SM: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Uhh... Evan Rachel Wood...Across the Universe.

MOVIES

The Toothpicks $2.99

This is the chilling story of a kidnapping and ransom drop that led to the arrest of two Mexican cartel leaders currently on trial for a string of brutal murders in San Diego. It started when Eddy Tocardo gave the architect who was remodeling his patio the gate code. The architect shared the code with another member of Los Palillos—the Toothpicks—and the gang decided Eddy should be their next San Diego target.

Tour de Cheesesteak 99¢

Ian Pike, restaurant critic at the San Diego Reader, travels the length and breadth of San Diego county in search of Philly cheesesteaks. Over the course of several weeks, Pike devoured ten distinct cheesesteak subs from the county’s best (and worst) steak sandwich shops. His travels, recounted in detail, prove that there’s a lot of Philadelphia style in San Diego.

The Film Reviews of Duncan Shepherd $2.99

For 38 years, Duncan Shepherd served as the film critic for The San Diego Reader. 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. The Five-Star Reviews collects those relatively few films that merited his highest indicator of priority, from 1924’s The Last Laugh to 2009’s A Serious Man.

A BAD, BAD, boy $4.99

The little known Southern California underworld of the mid-Twentieth Century comes to life in this unique, never before told story of San Diego Mafia hit man Frank Bompensiero. Born in Milwaukee to Sicilian parents, the Bomp, as he came to be known, was one of the most fearsome Caporegimes of the Los Angeles crime family.


There is no place like San Diego when it comes to craft beer — nearly 80 operating brewhouses and roughly 40 in the planning stages. Whether you’re looking for a brewery restaurant, lush beer garden, brewpub, or tasting room, all of San Diego’s options are here.

Calendar

THE SAMMY DAVIS JR.
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Sammy Davis Jr. was one of the greatest entertainers of all time and he defined an era. He was the ultimate triple-threat singer, dancer, and actor who could do it all.

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FVG: Pretty old, I guess. The first time my parents told me that someone died I must have been eight or nine. It wasn't someone I knew very well. But it touched my parents deeply because the guy committed suicide. They told me this and asked if I knew what it meant. I did. “It’s okay, Felix,” my parents told me, “because he wasn’t well.” I thought this was a strange thing to say to a kid and later asked my mom if she really thought it was okay that he committed suicide. “No,” she said, “I just didn’t want you to feel bad about it.” (Laughing.) It’s a strange concept of death they gave me.

SM: Anyway, she took me on the porch, pointed at a star, and said, “there’s a terranda.” (At this point, Felix bursts out laughing. See the movie, get the reference.)

SM: It’s a heavy-duty material. At any point during the creative process did you ever stop and ask yourself if there’s an audience for a film about a bluegrass singer and his tattooed cowgirl dealing with the loss of a child?

FVG: Yes, I did. I would never have come up with a story like this. I saw the play and fell for it. It took a long time to decide if I was going to do it and a lot of that had to do with the subject matter. The experience of seeing the play at some point made me decide that it was too beautiful not to do. It’s not easy, but it’s a part of life. And when I walked out of the play I didn’t feel sad. I felt relieved.

— Scott Marks

These are excerpts. The complete text from both interviews will be posted to SanDiegoReader.com.

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by David Elliott, Matthew Luckena, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDReader.com/movies.

All Is Lost — Viewers of a certain age may remember Robert Redford as one of the great handsome men of cinema. The sun-kissed skin, the wind-tousled hair, the little-boy smile that let you know he couldn’t lose. Like the title says, all is lost. Disaster roves an solo yachtsman from comfortable sleep: a drifting shipping container has punched a hole in his boat. Skillful efforts at repair and recovery eventually give way to a grueling struggle to simply survive. The sun blisters, the wind rages, the face twists and sags. The metaphor — we’re all on a journey, people — is kept mostly in the background, but the lack of dialogue and singular focus make it impossible to miss. (Just about the only time writer-director J.C. Chandor takes the camera off Redford is to give us gradually deepening shots from below the life raft: first minnows, then a school of fish, then predators, and finally, sharks.) 2013. M.L. ★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

The Armstrong Lie — Director Alex Gibney makes cinematic lemonade from lemons whose flavor was most likely enhanced through prohibited methods. Gibney had to shelve his documentary on seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong’s miracle comeback in 2009, because, of course, it turned out it wasn’t a miracle. Rather, it seems it was one last desperate lie from a cyclist who had built a legendary career out of them. You don’t have to care about cycling to be captivated by The Armstrong Lie; Gibney uses the sport to provide dynamic visuals and a solid framework, but the story is very much about Lance Armstrong, hardly repentant fallen hero. Angry, driven, testy, intelligent, and, a fine example of Shakespeare’s “lean and hungry look,” he savagely defended his deception even as he built a charitable foundation for fellow cancer survivors. And to hear him tell it, he’s just the poster boy for a culture where competition invites corruption. M.L. ★★

The Broken Circle Breakdown — “He’s a romantic atheist, she’s a religious realist.” How’s that for an incentive-filled tagline? Working from a play by Johan Heldenbergh and Miek Dobbels, the last thing Belgian director Felix Van Groeningen and writing partner Carl Joos wanted was to transform...
The story of a bluegrass singer (Johan Heldenbergh) and his excessively inked cowgirl wife (Veerle Baetens) dealing with the loss of their child. A quiet, plausible grief turns to the-week-end laughter.

On the surface, it presents everything I’ve come to detest in movies — issues of childhood mortality, the subsequent grieving process, a natural animal death, and a third-act sermon, this one on the virtues of stem-cell research. But when wrapped in song, sans the pretty pink bow of sentimentality, the result is a compelling, intensely moving musical melodrama that will leave you feeling encouraged, not bereaved. With Nell Carter and George W. Bush as himself. 2012. ★★★

——Capt. Phillips——

This has to sink in. On the one hand, we’re fighting to keep the lifeboat that is trying to reach the shore start with the massive Navy gunships trailing behind a tiny boat. On the other hand, we’re fighting to slow him down and (b) keep him from getting to the shore. Eventually, the lovely long shots of the something he hopes will come after the monologue. Cameron Diaz gets the role of a lifetime as the well-scrubbed sanit print of a well-preserved specimen bent on fecundity. Scarlett Johansson gives her finest performance in Man Holiday.

Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R) Fri-Sun (11:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30) 10:30. Call theater for program information.

——Captain Phillips——


The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) Fri-Sun (1:10, 4:10, 6:10, 9:10) 11:30. Call theater for program information.
order to make the small screen joke-reciter feel at home, supporting characters are each assigned one trait to hammer home. Instead of the sharp, observational material one generally associates with the director, we’re asked to endure something comparable to a non-stop Neil Simon farce. As the lovelorn divorcee-and only likeable adult character belongs), the good-natured Stanley Tucci as the game-show host from the architects and, to keep him quiet, he’s blocked by a cut-throat exec (Amber Heard) who believes his innovative soft-drink idea will be a top seller. His pitch to cola glory is in this case, Erin Harvey—to make it look appetizing. Levy focuses his lens on the trials and tribulations of three restaurants and our relationship to the land. — S.M.

Shored Up
This documentary asks tough issues? The soggy romantic entanglements, as the alcohol-soaked mentor.) The worst reason? The soggy romantic entanglements, followed closely by the CGI-ridden Games themselves. Director Francis Lawrence (Water for Elephants) brings a steadier hand to the proceedings than his predecessor, and there’s some fun political playmaking, but the series still stumbles over its brutal, bloody centerpiece. 2013. M.L. ★★

The Hangover
A vengeful cop (Anthony Hopkins even rouses a shame because it’s the best teen-centered show-off send-off than playing a cuddly target for the brain behind Timerkali’s rummy dad—always great to see

John Heard, but did it have to be here? in exchange for his soul silence plus the stench of familiarity generated the first of many glances at my watch, somewhere around the 40 minute point. Ravishing Emma Roberts as Alice Artefact continues her portrayal of a Bond Girl, while Affleck’s shipshape profligate simply isn’t bad enough to dissuade director Brad Forster (The CoBoy; CoBoy) lawyer makes promises he has no intention of keeping. If you see a swamp filled with crocodiles in red two, they had damn well better be done bit on player in red Eva. 2013. S.M. ★ (ULTRASTAR CHULA VISTA)

Spinning Plates
Like something from the pages of Gourmet magazine or, better still, the Food Channel (where it rightfully belongs), the good-natured Spinning Plates is lovely to look at. In other words, first-time directors Jon Turtletaub (Phenomenon, National Treasure) and screenwriter Dan Fogelman (Cur, the Gadfly Trip) would produce one, let alone a dozen or so intelligent laughs! (For fans of inadvertent amusement, that’s Bobby D’s bewildered “WWOOPOOF!” breakdown.) One look at lounge chanteuse Diana (Mary Steenburgen, in effect playing a rehashed version of Melvoin and Hayden’s Lynda Durn) and you’ll understand why the four oldsters are instantly infatuated. You really can’t go wrong with this rare example of a film both good and enough to recommend. 2013. S.M. ★★ (IN WRITING RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

RamLeela—At long last, Sanjay Leela Bhansali gives us the Hindi Romeo and Juliet we have so ardently longed for. (AMC PASADENA VALLEY, REGAL HORTON PLAZA)


Tracks and an occasional stab at gritty authenticity. But disaster strikes. He’s planning a reception for some visiting VIPs and a marketing hot shot. His pitch to cola glory is in this case, Erin Harvey—to make it look appetizing. Levy focuses his lens on the trials and tribulations of three restaurants and our relationship to the land. — S.M.

Shored Up
This documentary asks tough questions. Levy focuses his lens on the trials and tribulations of three restaurants and our relationship to the land. — S.M.

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This documentary asks tough questions. Levy focuses his lens on the trials and tribulations of three restaurants and our relationship to the land. — S.M.
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**RULES OF THE GAME**

1) Submit your completed puzzle to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each entry that is correctly completed, and the winner is selected by random drawing. The winner is notified by phone or e-mail and appears in print to the following Thursday at Reader.com. We cannot accept your entry without the following:

- Your name and address.
- Your contact information.
- The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months.

2) Late entries will not be considered. Counted or viewed.

3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months.

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**SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:**

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10 winners a week!
Win a Reader hat or t-shirt 10 winners a week!

THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:

RULES OF THE GAME
1) Submit completed puzzle of any difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard) to Reader each week for our contest! We will keep track of which entries you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online at SDRreader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle and get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name. Clearly mark the puzzle that you want to enter this week by crossing off the other completed puzzles. All puzzles that are cut into pieces will be disqualified.
3) We will draw 10 names from weekly puzzle winners; no clever words or limericks required.

EASY:

HARD:

EVIL:

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

REAL ESTATE

East County


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Rebecca Jade
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Normandie Wilson
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Jeanne Mailet MacKenzie
Just saying “thank you” when I hold a door open for them. It seldom happens that they do, but I really appreciate it when someone does say “thank you.”

Pat Thumper
Moving over to the right when on the freeway so I can pass them on the left.
San Diego Reader
November 21, 2013

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(1 blk east of Park Blvd.)
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November 21, 2013

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IMPERIAL BEACH, $5959


Jbrown785: This tattoo represents many of my travels to various corners of the world. Over a four-year time period, this piece was completed by four different artists, one in New Zealand, one in Australia, one in the Philippines, and one here in San Diego (Rory Keating at Guru Tattoo). My body is somewhat of a living passport. I like to collect art from around the world to remind me of the places I’ve been and the people I’ve met. I’m 29 years old, currently living in Ocean Beach and working as a herpetologist.

mjorishin: My tattoo of Jim Morrison, Jim Hendrix, and Janis Joplin. I love their music and love the era of the ‘60s. This tattoo puts them together as the “27 Club,” having all died at the age of 27. I am 41 years old and live in Encinitas. I had it done at Saint Hilisi Tattoo in North Park.

/Tattoo You

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LEAD STORY
— In the public libraries of Seattle (as in most public libraries), patrons are not allowed to eat or sleep (or even appear to be sleeping) or be shirtless or barefoot or have bad body odor or talk too loudly — because other patrons might be disturbed. However, in Seattle, as the Post-Intelligencer reported in September, librarians do permit patrons to watch hard-core pornographic videos on computer screens, and if some patrons don’t like it, they just walk away or sit down elsewhere.

Cultural Diversity
— Japan and Korea seem to be the birthplaces in the quest for youthful and beautiful skin, with the latest “elixir” (as usual, based on traditional, centuries-old beliefs) being snail mucin — applied by specially bred live snails that slither across customers’ faces. The Clinical Sa-lon in central Tokyo sells the 60-minute Celeb- treatment for $45 (including far-infrared, ultrasonic face massage and body and scalp massage.

Recent Religious Messages
— Iran’s INSIA news service reported in January that officials in Shiraz had acquired a fir-angiulation machine to perhaps streamline the gruesome punishment often meted out to convicted thieves. (A masked official referred to a guillotine-like wheel to slice off the finger in the manner of a rotary saw.) Iran is already known for its reliance on extreme Islamic Sharia, which prescribes amputations, public lashings, and death by stoning, and Middle East comm-

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Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WrdNewsTips@yahoo.com

by Chuck Shepherd

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of about $250 and even convinced a reporter to try one in July.

LEAD STORY
— Australia’s chief diplomat in Taipei, Taiwan, said in August that he was sending local veteran Yang Dong-sheng for fraud because Dr. Yang backed out of euthanizing the diplomat’s sick, ten-year-old dog. Instead, Dr. Yang “rescued” the dog, who is now thriving after he patiently treated her. Magee’s law-

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classified ad index

Antiques & Collectibles 107
Appliances 107
Automotive 107
Business 98
Opportunities 98
Career Training 93
Classes/Lessons 104
Computers 107
Counseling/Support 106
Electronics 107
Furniture 107
Garage Sales 108
Help Wanted 91
Jobs Wanted 92
Massage 105
Miscellaneous 105
For Sale 108
Music 104
Natural Health & Fitness 105
Notices 106
Pets 110
Real Estate 98
Rentals 98
Roommates 98
Services Directory 100
Sports 107
Stage Notes 107
Wanted/Trade 107
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