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Philip Glass, visualized — page 88
Three’s a Charm
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123

Last week’s contest results — page 104
NEWS TICKER

Chief Zimmerman: four years and out
New police chief signed up for tenure-limiting DROP pension a year ago
The term of San Diego mayor-elect Kevin Faulconer’s quick pick to be chief of police may be limited to four years.

According to a pension-board document, assistant police chief Shelley Zimmerman opted to participate in the city’s so-called Deferred Retirement Option Plan, also known as DROP, as of March 2 of last year.

The program allows an employee to retire officially but continue working for five years, during which he or she receives a salary and a pension. The pension builds up in a separate account that can’t be collected until the person retires.

An executive in the human-resources department of the San Diego City Employees’ Retirement System says that the employee is required to retire after five years.

After looking into the matter, retirement spokesperson Christina Di Leva stated in an email: “Chief Zimmerman entered DROP on March 2, 2013 and will exit DROP on March 1, 2018. DROP is irrevocable and as such, a DROP participant must exit DROP at the end of the designated period. A DROP retiree may return to work as a provisional employee for a maximum of 90 days per year.”

According to a personal statement of economic interest Zimmerman filed yesterday with the city clerk’s office, her only reportable asset is stock valued at between $10,000 and $100,000 in cell-phone giant Qualcomm, Inc., which she acquired in March 1994.

Matt Potter (with Don Bauder co-reporting)

Are you afraid of guns?
Attorney General appeals restriction ruling
On February 27, California Attorney General Kamala Harris asked the Ninth U.S. District Circuit of Appeals to review and reverse a February 13 decision in which a panel of the court ruled that San Diego County’s requirement that people show “good cause” in obtaining a weapons permit violated the Second Amendment.

San Diego sheriff Bill Gore did not challenge the decision, disturbing law-enforce-

ment officials throughout the state who worried that concealed gun permits would proliferate.

Harris asked that the full 11-person court review the ruling. Harris is concerned that sheriffs throughout the state could be required to issue permits based simply on the applicants’ wish to carry a gun for self-defense.

Don Bauder

Man accused of being a gang member denies murder
Told girlfriend to “forget him” and throw possessions away
On February 19, Rene Sanchez was brought into a San Diego courtroom, where he denied killing a man during a Halloween party at an Escondido home in 2007.

Sanchez pleaded not guilty to one count of murder and two counts of attempted murder; he also denied gang affiliations.

Last month, the district attorney’s office unsealed documents that reveal information about the cold-case murder.

According to prosecutor Geoff Allard, authorities in Mexico captured Sanchez and handed him over to Escondido police in September of 2013. Sanchez is described as an American citizen.

On a Saturday night in October of 2007, just before midnight, Escondido police responded to a home in Pueblo Glen.

Witnesses told police that a group of strangers arrived and went into the backyard; the hostess of the party asked the group to leave. Next, a male host approached the group, a fight broke out, and then shots were fired.

Don Bauder

Goat noises and howling
By Eva Knott

“H e attempted to punch me in the face as he ran towards me,” said Carlsbad police detective Scott Stallman. The murder suspect had become increasingly “agitated” and “animated” after detectives confronted him with evidence that contradicted his story, the detective told a judge.

The detective said he had swung at his head. That ended the recorded interview, according to the detective. A still photo of the confrontation was presented as evidence in San Diego Superior Court on February 5.

David Diaz has been in custody in lieu of $5 million bail since August 7, 2013, when his housemate, 24-year-old Asher Freeman, was found stabbed to death in the home they shared at 3550 Sierra Moreno Drive in Carlsbad.

Freeman had responded to a room-for-rent ad six to eight months before his death, police said. Freeman moved into an upstairs bedroom, and his housemate Diaz lived downstairs. Freeman was an art student who kept to himself and did not interact or socialize with Diaz, according to witnesses.

Police found Freeman face-down on the carpet in the middle of his bedroom, his head and hands were a bloody mess. The medical examiner later declared the cause of death to be multiple stab wounds to the head and neck. There was a separate pool of blood near the body;

Neal Obermeyer

A surveillance camera caught suspect David Diaz trying to punch Carlsbad detective Scott Stallman.
it appeared the victim might have been moved or rolled over. Black ink was spilled and mixed with blood spatter around the room; more ink and blood were on a set of broken headphones found near the body. The deceased was lying near a little drafting table; investigators said they found many drawings and artwork in the room.

Cops followed blood droplets down the carpeted stairs, which led to a downstairs bathroom. There were blood smears in the shower stall and around the bathroom sink; blood from the sink was DNA-matched to Diaz. A black polo shirt found on the bathroom floor had a mixture of DNA from both Diaz and the deceased man, according to prosecutor Paul Myers. Blood spots found near the kitchen sink were matched to Diaz. Under the kitchen sink, investigators found two knives described as “extremely clean” and “placed oddly” on top of cleaning supplies. Despite the cleaning, one of those knives had Diaz’s DNA on it.

Police said it was Diaz who dialed 911 to report a shooting, and it was still daylight when they arrived before 6 p.m. that Wednesday afternoon to find Diaz on the phone, in the driveway of his home. Diaz was “emphatic” that he did not go into the room where the body was found, according to detective Scott Stallman. “He told me he never entered the room.”

“He was nervous and high-strung,” said officer Adam Bentley. Diaz was shirtless, and cops quickly noticed scratches on his body and that Diaz was bleeding from one hand. “He said that a drug dealer had shot his roommate,” officer Bentley testified. Diaz told police that a drug dealer made a swipe at his belly with a knife before he fled, and when Diaz deflected that attack his hand got cut.

Parts of Diaz’s story changed over time, according to police. At first, Diaz reported hearing a gunshot, but no evidence of a gun or shots fired was found. Eventually, Diaz said that he saw a man stabbing his housemate. He also said he saw two tall black men come to the front door and then go upstairs with his roommate. When the two men fled, Diaz claimed they escaped in a red Porsche or Ferrari that had been parked at the end of the driveway, witnesses said.

Cops collected surveillance video from a neighbor whose property overlooked Diaz’s home. Detective Stallman said he reviewed that video and did not see two men enter nor exit the residence; nor did he see a red sports car. The detective said he did see David Diaz exit the front of the house shortly before police arrived.

A neighbor told investigators that she heard a man’s voice that day, yelling, “Turn that shit down!” The witness understood the comment to be related to loud music playing in the backyard. The neighbor said she knew Diaz’s voice and that it was not Diaz demanding the volume be lowered. She also said it was a little after 5 p.m. that same day when she saw Diaz make a small fire in his backyard and then he danced around the fire and made “goat noises” and “howling.”

Investigators interviewed the Diaz’s father, Manuel Diaz. The elder Diaz told police that he owned the home where his son and roommate lived. The father told investigators that his son David liked to watch DVDs of Al Pacino movies. During cross-examination, defense attorney Matthew Roberts suggested that Diaz did not enjoy full mental health defense. He noted that investigators found 11 medications that had been prescribed to Diaz. Roberts also suggested Diaz’s irrational behavior might be attributed to drugs. Investigators confirmed that toxicology tests were ordered for Diaz but the results of those tests were not revealed.

Diaz pleads not guilty to one charge of murder and one felony charge of threatening violence on a peace officer.
Ticket to Park
I just had to respond to “Ticket to Ride” (Letters, February 20) and the comment, “There are No Smoking signs posted everywhere in El Cajon, and a person smoking under each one of them.”

I live across the street from Valhalla High School, and every school day there are parents parked right next to the No Parking - Bike Lane signs. I have lived there for 13 years and have never seen the Highway Patrol ticketing them. I’m sure if they did do that, there would be a loud scream from the parents. How dare they ticket me!

By the way, the students there do a better job of obeying that law than their parents. I have yet to see a student do that. Those who do park on the street are always within the legal parking areas.

Dale Dickerson
Rancho San Diego

Perch Wars
My name is Red C. Perch, and I am writing in response to Old Mackerel Breath (Letters, February 6). I take offense to your comments. My family and the few friends I have left live on the reefs outside of the Children’s Pool, Seal Rock, and the cove and its shoreline to the east.

You have eaten half of my family and lots of my fish friends. I have to breathe your crap every day to survive, which makes my fins rot and ache. We face constant pressure from you sea lions and your buddies, the harbor seals. And let’s not forget those evil fishermen, who usually let us go these days. We try to be smart as we swim in schools to avoid you, but it is getting harder to survive every day.

It’s a fact that you lions live and migrate to the Channel Islands, the Coronados, etcetera, and can even survive without the need of land. You have miles and miles of protected shoreline to live without the humans bothering you.

Who don’t you go vegan and eat only kelp and moss like we do? Maybe you also might think about safe sex, in an attempt to control your out-of-control population. At least my buddies, the great whites, are enjoying that.

As far as the wall making the Children’s Pool, I agree with Gary Gieselman of O.B./Point Loma (Letters, February 6), and the words of former President Ronald Reagan, who said to the former Soviet Union, “Tear down this wall!”

I hope to swim another day.

Red C. Perch
Children’s Pool Reef
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

TIJUANA

Remembering hundreds of dissolved bodies

Art project constructed on site of human remains

The story of Santiago Meza López is one of the most gruesome and well-known narco stories to come out from Baja.

Meza earned his nickname of “El Pozolero” because he dissolved more than 300 bodies inside barrels filled with acid. Pozole is a traditional Mexican chunky soup; Meza was the soup-maker.

The place where El Pozolero dumped his remains is known as “El Gallero,” an empty lot roughly 50 feet by 230 feet. The RECO project, which stands for reconstruir, reconocer y reconciliar (rebuild, recognize, reconcile), was finalized on February 22. The project helped transform the empty lot into a dignified place where affected families can mourn.

The two pits are covered with mosaic murals done by Mexicali artist Ramón García Vásquez. “This is one of the most important experiences I have had in my artistic career,” commented García.

MATTHEW SUÁREZ

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Save the building...can we have a library?

Historic site “sits in a state of demolition,” but it’s not too late

For several years, the University Heights Community Development Corporation has been pursuing to acquire the old Teachers Training Annex 1, owned by the San Diego Unified School District. The development corporation’s plan would renovate the 1910 structure and make it the new University Heights Branch Library.

The building is on the National Register of Historic Places and currently part of the school district’s education-center complex along Normal Street.

Also advocating to save the Italian Renaissance Revival–style building is Save Our Heritage Organisation. Bruce Coons, executive director of the organization, is skeptical that progress on the acquisition is being made. He previously stated that the building “sits in a state of demolition by neglect. The powers-that-be appear to simply be waiting until it’s conveniently too late to save this uniquely grand piece of local history.”

Ronald V. Johnston is chair of the University Heights development corporation’s library task force. In an email, he said he has “done all of the negotiations and reached agreements with the school board and school district. The city is not, and never will be, buying the land or building.” Johnston added: “The land and building is owned by the school district, and the library is to be a JOINT USE library as well as a shared-use space for the community and school district.”

The renovation cost would be substantial. Johnston said, “The extensive evaluation of the building, which was done by the architectural firm of Fields Devereaux, estimated the cost to approach $10 million. That was a few years ago, so that number could be higher or lower now.” As for funding, Johnston said their “current goal is to get the project included in the city’s infrastructure bond issue funding.”

DAVID BATTERSON

ALLIED GARDENS

Parking problems

People are dressing in the street

People who park on streets near Kaiser Hospital/Medical Center on Zion Avenue may find “a friendly reminder” from District 7 city councilman Scott Sherman on their vehicles.

Sherman’s reminder advises the recipient “to be aware” about parking “in a residential neighborhood. Please be courteous to the neighbors...by not speeding, blocking driveways, or littering. If you are visiting Kaiser Permanente, please be aware that there is ample FREE parking on-site or through their FREE valet parking service.”

The parking-permit plan to prevent street parking in the neighborhood would start with a petition drive in the affected area. If approved by the city council, a household could purchase four permits, each priced at $14 annually.

A packet containing the reminder (printed on yellow cardstock), a vehicle-tracker spreadsheet, and a parking fact sheet was distributed at the February 25 Allied Gardens Community Council meeting.

LIZ SWAIN

Councilman Sherman asked if anyone was interested in a permit program; no one raised a hand.

Tanah Lorah, Kaiser community and government relations manager, said that although it was legal for people to park on public streets, that her company was reminding employees and contractors about parking policies. She said Kaiser listened to residents’ concerns. “A new one is people dressing in the street.”

Lorah advised people to call the police when they observe an illegal activity.

CARLSBAD

Lassie safe from Korean dog butcher

Collie flown to Southern California for adoption

On February 22, the annual San Diego Collie Club dog show took place at Magee Park along Carlsbad Boulevard. The show helps raise money for the Southland Collie Rescue organization.

In addition to the judging of over 25 collies from around the southwestern U.S., both smooth and rough coats (like Lassie), most people were talking about the rescue organization’s recent rescues from Korea.

The group got an email from a Korean dog-rescue group recently, saying a purebred collie had been found in a meat market, ready to be slaughtered. Southland Collie Rescue, based in Orange County, put out a call to its donors and quickly raised $2000 to save the dog and continue on page 40

Rescued collies and their owners at Magee Park
A blog for my French bulldog Bleu. Since I got him, I've been saddled with thousands of dollars’ worth of vet bills. Sinus infections. Viruses. Skin and food allergies. Head tremors. Papillomas. Ear infections. Conjunctivitis. You name it, he’s had it. And he’s only three. While my vet has tried her best to keep his bulldog baggage at bay, his problems keep coming back and new ones keep surfacing. I decided to try an alternative medicine route. I went to the Animal Healing Center and saw Dr. Diana Drum, a certified vet acupuncturist, chiropractor, and herbalist.

Be prepared to spend $175 just to get your foot in the door, and also to wait week up to a few months to see one of these specialists; it’s worth it. Dr. Drum listened patiently as I recounted Bleu’s saga. She prescribed Thuja occidentalis for Bleu’s papillomas that were forming all over his body. Thuja tincture comes from a tree and is a natural treatment for HPV (human papilloma virus), or in this case, CPV (canine papilloma virus). Warts are small growths on the skin caused by a viral infection in the skin’s top layer. Bleu had a strong reaction to the meds and it scared me; he threw up the first time I administered it. But after a few weeks, only one small visible wart could be seen.

Before dog food, dogs ate wild meat. Since we’ve introducedibble, dog cancer and inflammatory diseases like arthritis and allergies have skyrocketed. Why are we feeding are dogs stuff we would never touch? We all like convenience, and Americans are unfortunately culprits for easy fixes. If something is too much work, we look for an easy way out. Hence, prepackaged dog food. But I’m not taking the easy way out with my dog anymore. I can’t afford to. Neither can his health.

The best thing about crockpotting is you can make an entire batch of food for Fido that lasts all week long. You can refrigerate your food up to four days and freeze-dry any leftovers. The slow-cooker allows all the nutrients to stay in while thoroughly cooking your meat through. There’s even a rack on the top for your veggies if you want to keep them separate. I opted for the smaller size (3.5 quarts) because my kitchen is tiny and my dog is only 30 pounds.

The vet made sure to tell me that I have to slowly transition Bleu to a whole-foods diet. But in one month, he should be eating ground bison meat from Whole Foods, organic spinach, and sweet potato twice a day. What a lucky dog! Once I know Bleu can tolerate this diet, I can start adding in other veggies and starches and proteins, like sardines, radishes, parsnips, etc. It’s important to feed your dog veggies and fruits with low glycemic indexes. Surprisingly, carrots are high in sugar and not the best treat for your pup, although they like the crunch.

Who would have thought that a non-cooking vegetarian would be whipping up ground bison meat on a weekly basis in a crockpot for her doggy? I sure hope Bleu appreciates the effort. Bon appétit, mon chien!

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So now she is gone, and we’re looking afresh
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We need to reduce that by ten points, at least!
Over forty percent have roots in the East
And too many Itos, Tanakas, and Wangs
But UCSD has too many Nguyens
We can’t quite explain all the whys and the whens
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Stay with Us, San Diego

UT-TV Hires Ron Burgundy for New Web Venture

THINKING WHAT COULD BE DONE AT SD ON THE QT WITH $5 MILLION — When word came down that UT-TV was closing its cable-TV operations, U-T chief operator John Lynch-Mobbe “couldn’t help thinking what a waste it represented. We invested almost $5 million in that newsroom. State of the art all the way. We had the machinery; what we lacked was the manpower.”

Lynch-Mobbe toyed briefly with the notion of molding a web-news operation from a crack team of seasoned, professional TV journalists, but quickly realized that no such thing exists. What did exist, however, was a crack team of fake TV journalists.

“And, best of all, right at the top of the heap was a guy who’s already famous for working in San Diego: the Anchorman himself, Ron Burgundy.
I reached out, and he jumped at the chance; we’re working out the details now.”

The character of Ron Burgundy has appeared twice on the big screen, portrayed by actor Will Ferrell. “Will’s already got a house in Orange County,” noted Lynch-Mobbe, “so geography wasn’t a problem. Neither was money; we were already losing $500,000 a month on this thing. I figured, why not spend half of that and give my favorite comedian a day-job? Remember, he’s 46, and though you probably haven’t noticed, he’s slowing down. Lots of cameos and voice-acting these days, fewer and fewer features. A brief, regular send-up of our company’s industry was exactly the kind of thing he needed right now.”

Reached for comment, Ferrell said that the move was “a natural for Ron. He started in local TV news, made it to network, and then broke through on cable [in Anchorman 2]. But it’s pretty clear that the future of news is on the web, and Ron Burgundy is a man who lives in the future. The fact that I’ll be broadcasting from inside the ruined husk of a real-life daily newspaper only makes the joke that much funnier.”

Mammalian Mudslinging!

Sea World Sends Much Maligned Whale to Debate Young Local Activist

TRYING TO TIME MY CAMERA TO CATCH THAT FIRST SPURT OF BLOOD, SEA WORLD — When young Max Guinn sees a problem, he sets out to do something about it. The cofounder of Kids Eco Club has helped to start environmental clubs in more than 100 schools. So, when he saw the documentary Blackfish, which documented the problems surrounding Sea World’s policy of orca captivity, he set out to do something about it. He invited Sea World to debate the makers of Blackfish, with kids asking questions and himself, Max Guinn, as moderator.

Initially, Sea World declined to participate on the grounds that Blackfish was “dishonest and manipulative.” But as controversy continued to spread — several performers pulled out of the park’s annual Bands, Brew & BBQ shows at Sea World Orlando this year — the park changed tactics. “So much abuse and slander has been heaped on Tilikum,” said Sea World “director of moral crises” Connie Schenzt, referring to the 12,000-pound Sea World orca who has been blamed for three human deaths. “And everybody is talking about these whales’ ‘right to be free.’ Well, we decided to grant him another right afforded every American and let him confront his accusers directly. Plus, he just has a way of getting his point across, you know? I mean, we can talk about killer whales all day, but until you’re staring into the open maw of an apex predator like Tilikum, it’s all just talk.”

“I’ve had a rough go of it, that much is true,” said Tilikum in his opening remarks. “I was abused pretty badly as a child, and as a result, I’ve always had problems with authority. In my case, that means trainers. I’ve made mistakes, and I’ve had more than my share of bad luck. I mean, it’s not like I asked that one drunk dude to go swimming with me. Frankly, I think I’m doing pretty well, all things considered. I’ve got a family, a job, and a place to stay. And now you people are trying to take all that away from me. Tell me why again?”

As of press time, an awkward silence was prevailing at Shamu stadium, site of the debate.
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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

“It’s the best value per square foot for a house with this build quality and view, anywhere in San Diego,” says Berkshire Hathaway agent Polly Rogers, describing her listing at 2645 Obelisco Place in Carlsbad. Still, the nearly $5.4 million price tag hanging from the 10,618-square-foot custom estate is probably sufficient to chase off most bargain-chasers.

Constructed in 2000, the property sits on a half-acre gated hillside lot overlooking Batiquitos Lagoon. “Panoramic Pacific Ocean views & breathtaking sunsets over San Clemente Island greet you as you walk through the dramatic custom pecan wood front doors, a grand rotunda foyer, and view over Batiquitos Lagoon and the Pacific to San Clemente Island are among the features of this Carlsbad estate.”

In addition, the main level also features his-and-hers private quarters with kitchenette and private entry. The property is equipped with a “smart home” electronic control system including a full complement of security cameras, as well as on-site water filtration and air purification systems. There’s also a climate-controlled wine cellar with storage for up to 3000 bottles and an adjacent tasting room whose walls are adorned with hand-painted murals.

The living room, formal dining area, and great room all have vanishing doors that open onto a veranda and outdoor living area that features a pool, a spa, bronze statuary, waterfall, fire pit, and several levels of terraced entertaining areas.

Tax rolls show the current owner of record as David Rosenaur, who operated Beermann’s Brewing, a pair of defunct brewery/restaurants in the areas.
vice records show that the northeastern Sacramento area. Multiple listing service records show that the property last sold in a 2005 all-cash transaction for $5,150,000, but tax records indicate the sales price was only $4,020,500.

The Obelisco estate was first offered for sale in February 2013, with an asking price set at $5,995,000, which was reduced to a value range with the sellers seeking offers between $4,995,000 and $5,395,000 last June. The listing has bounced between “active” and “cancelled” status a few times since then, most recently going active with the same list price in late January of this year.
GREAT SCANDALS. The world is agog. The world moves on. The world forgets. How many of the following scandals do you remember?

Where is Tim Donaghy, the corrupt NBA referee? August 2007, Donaghy pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and transmitting betting information across state lines. He was paid by a professional gambler to provide inside information on NBA games. Donaghy eventually served 11 months in a federal prison.

Many great leaders write books while in prison and Donaghy was no different, penning his cheating memoir, Personal Foul: A First-Person Account of the Scandal That Rocked the NBA, in the midst of his incarceration. VTI-Media published his book but failed to pay royalties. Donaghy sued, won, and in June 2012 was awarded $1.62 million by a Pinellas County (Florida) civil court.

These are happy days. Indeed, Donaghy has done one better than Tonya Harding. Harding worked the freak circuit (wrestling, porn film, boxing, singing, commentator on a TV tabloid show), living off the notoriety she earned from the classic spilling of the gut. Lance Armstrong's life collapsed during January of 2013, after he went on Oprah to perform the classic spilling of the gut. Lance admitted doping during all seven of his Tour de France wins. At the time his net worth was estimated at $125 million.

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Eight sponsors walked. Financial pundits said he lost $100, $150 million in future earnings in one day. He lives in Connecticut now, in a guest house on the grounds of the David Williams estate. Landis was born five and a half miles from the arts center. He drew 300 people that day. His people.

“TIm didn’t have to go to the place where he was born, to the place where he was raised, to the place where his mother, father, brother, and sisters still live, lie to family, friends, neighbors, and then ask for their money.”

Landis copped a deal with feds that kept him out of jail and has promised to return $480,000 to, presumably, individuals who made small donations, provided he can earn the money. He lives in Connecticut now, in a guest house on the grounds of the David Williams estate. Williams is a financial trader and pro-cycling enthusiast.

Assessment: Things will never be good for Floyd.

Lance Armstrong’s life collapsed during January of 2013, after he went on Oprah to perform the classic spilling of the gut. Lance admitted doping during all seven of his Tour de France wins. At the time his net worth was estimated at $125 million.

Eight sponsors walked. Financial pundits said he lost $100, $150 million in future earnings in one day. He lives in Judicial World now, dealing with a mind-numbing number of lawsuits. The foundation he founded, Livestrong, asked him to leave. He received a lifetime ban from competitive cycling and was stripped of his seven Tour de France titles. Armstrong owns one coffee shop and one bicycle shop in Austin, Texas.

Assessment: Bidding his time.

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After the finding comes the testing. “We have 15 team members,” said Conlon, “ranging from animal-behavior analysts from the humane society to veterinarians. We also have seven office dogs that eat the treats and play with toys all day. If all the dogs like a toy or treat and it also stands up to our specifications, then it’s something we keep for our members.”

For food products, those specifications demand American sourcing and manufacture. “They have to be made here in the USA, and the ingredients have to be from here, too. The edible stuff must be extremely healthy.”

In the toy department, “One of our favorites is the Floaty Dolphin by Aussie Naturals. It’s made of neoprene, which is the same stuff that wetsuits are made of. Inside, it has a rope and tennis ball; there’s nothing stuffing. It’s all natural material, so if the dog should ingest any of it while chewing on it, there will be nothing toxic. For cats, our catnip sprays, catnip collection of toys, and even just catnip are extremely popular.”

When it comes to grooming, “Daily grooming wipes are great. You use them to wipe down your dog or cat’s coat. We also have shampoo from John Paul Pet, which is by Paul Mitchell; or Pethead, from the makers of Bedhead products. Their lemongrass shampoo for pets smells amazing.”

Right now, said Conlon, “Petbox is the only pet-subscription series that lets you choose the items that go in the box. You can either specify what you want or be surprised — though you can still give us general guidelines like small, medium, or large cat box or dog box. Eventually, you’ll be able to be more specific: say, an eight-year-old dachshund hound with hip and joint problems and an allergy to chicken. We’ll then let you know what specific products are best for that dog.”

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Petbox deals in treats; for basic food orders, I called Russell Blauert, who co-owns San Diego Pet Food Delivery (619-655-4363; sandiegopetfooddelivery.com) with his wife Lori. Blauert told me, “Anything a pet needs, we can offer a large selection for sale online and shipping is always free.”

San Diego Reader March 6, 2014

1. Russell and Lori Blauert of San Diego Pet Food Delivery
   2. Sean Conlon of Petbox

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The $100 Grand Prize goes to BERT!

Anonymous surf street artist BERT painted his favorite 2014 ASP World Championship Tour locations on his cover submission. He removed his favorite painting and installed it somewhere in the streets of San Diego, challenging the Reader to find it. We found it near our office in Golden Hill. Can you?

Go to sdreader.com/artcover to see these entries and more!

We can't possibly print it here, but special mention goes to “Farts in San Diego.” You know who you are!
“They still play mah-jongg?” a New York native asks me. “I always wondered how an ancient Chinese game got into the hands of suburban Jewish women.”

Mah-jongg’s American origins interweave two immigrant cultures — Chinese and Jewish — then separate them by rules, styles, and traditions. What remains is the connection: the camaraderie and the constancy that give the game its glue, whether you’re playing with Hong Kong rules or with rules handed down by the National Mah Jongg League in New York.

When articles appeared two years ago in the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal heralding mah-jongg’s resurgence, hats were tipped to the group with whom the game is closely associated: the grandmothers — or “bubbes,” as they are known in Yiddish (“It’s pronounced BU-bee! Not bubba!” admonishes one player in a 2001 Jewish Daily Forward article) — who congregated in post-war living rooms across the country to “bam” and “crak” their way through a gabby afternoon with the girls. These women, now in their 70s and 80s, learned to play as young mothers, when their children were small.

But the articles weren’t just a backward glance to a fading pastime. It was mah-jongg’s current allure that made headlines: “Mah jongg takes the 30-somethings by storm,” “Gen-X and Web Spurring a Revival of Mah Jongg,” and “Not Your Mother’s Mah-Jongg.”

“If you had told us five years ago that we’d be sitting around playing this game every Tuesday night, we would have said, ‘No way! That’s an old ladies’ game!’ ” offers the attorney, Tara, as she and her four friends shuffle the tiles, facedown, on the extra table that Trophy’s has accommodated them with.

“b” and “cr” their way through a gabby afternoon with the girls. These women, now in their 70s and 80s, learned to play as young mothers, when their children were small.

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“…and now we meet here every Tuesday,” Heidi continues, stepping over the spousal praise. “My mom taught us a year ago,” she continues. “We’re finally good enough that my mother lets us play with her group at the country club.”

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only seems a long distance from a Brooklyn tenement. Not much has changed in what bonds mah-jongg players. “I’m sure we talk about sex more than our mothers did,” says the recently engaged Penny. “I don’t know, you guys,” argues Barbara, the real estate agent. “My mom is pretty frisky. She likes to say, ‘Barb, you girls didn’t invent anything.’”

What they didn’t invent was their love and loyalty to this game and to each other, nor the intensity of their commitment. “I’d play three times a week if I could,” says Barb. “Sometimes we play Fridays and Sundays, too.” “Now we’re addicted,” adds Penny, whose ring flashes prettily against the ivory tiles as she grabs someone else’s discard and furrows her brow in strategy.

Playing mah-jongg every week gives these women a break from their own busy lives and lets them learn about each other’s. When the five of them met — before mah-jongg, marriages, and maternity — it took a Jewish singles event to get them together; months would pass without contact. “Now we go two weeks without seeing each other,” Julie says.

“There’s always a problem that someone needs input on,” says Heidi, “and everyone has a different suggestion.” “We talk and eat,” says Barbara, as she throws back a tile. “Those two things are never a problem.”

A hush falls over the table as another game begins and the tiles are divided. Tara recalls an ad that read “Seeking mahj player. No talking.” They all laugh, recalling that it took them four years to find out all five of them had the same middle name: Lynn. What took so long? “We all talk at the same time,” Tara says.

“We talk and eat,” says Barbara, as she throws back a tile. “Those two things are never a problem.”

As the game ends, Penny confesses she was after Barbara’s Red Dragon and Tara confirms what she suspected about Heidi’s hand. Though it’s all friendly and lighthearted, you sense the eagerness to play has as much to do with besting your best friend as it does with securing your suits.

The next game starts and the girls follow the now-familiar steps of setting up—racking the wall, rolling the dice, dealing, turning over tiles. These are the same gestures I will notice when I later visit the Wednesday-morning mah-jongg game at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, just a mile and two generations down the road. Wouldn’t their mothers be pleased?

The four-person game, similar to rummy, is played with 152 tiles (once bamboo, bone, or ivory; now plastic or Plexiglas...
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made to look like bamboo, bone, or ivory) similar in size to dominos, arranged in suits: circles or buttons (dots), Chinese characters (craks), and bamboos (bams), plus dragons and winds, jokers and flowers. The colorful, engraved tiles are drawn and discarded, announced aloud — “one bam,” “two crak,” “four dot” — until a player completes a winning hand — a certain combination of tiles — and declares “Mah-jongg” (loose if not literal translation: “That’s it!”).

Well, that’s not all of it; this is the way “American” (or “Jewish”) mah-jongg is played. That combination is provided on the three-panel laminated cards studied at any game where Jewish women, young and old, play mah-jongg today. The rule cards, issued and updated annually by the National Mah Jongg League, arrive every April, as eagerly anticipated as fall fashions. They offer the year’s standard hands and winning combinations, organized by suits and status. (By comparison, in Chinese mah-jongg — also known as Ma Cheuk and still considered the national game of China — winning hands do not change.)

If you’re not Jewish or Chinese, what do you know from mah-jongg? The game has worked its way into the culture through films and television, but its insider nature leaves even those within the Jewish and Chinese cultures confused. Maybe you’re recalling Amy Tan’s Joy Luck Club, the book or the movie (1993). At least in that case, the sets matched: Chinese name, Chinese game, Chinese players. A few years before that film’s release, the very goyische Jessica Tandy impersonated a Southern Jewish mah-jongg–playing matron in Driving Miss Daisy (1989). In the ’90s, TV’s assorted Jewish characters discussed mah-jongg among themselves, but unless you were Jewish or from New York, how could you make sense of George and Jerry’s joking about the game on Seinfeld? Or Fran Drescher’s Queens-nasal foursome playing mahj on The Nanny? Even diehard Woody Allen fans who’ve committed Annie Hall to memory might appropriate a punch line — “My mother locked herself in the bathroom and took an overdose of mah-jongg tiles” — without understanding the setup.

The “ancient” Chinese game of mah-jongg — “mah” means flax plant; “jongg” means sparrow — dates to the time of Confucius, say some legends. Historians claim the game a 19th-century invention once reserved for the ruling classes and played only by men. When China became a republic, access to the game opened up, such that in the 1920s American oil executive Joseph Babcock, who became hooked on mah-jongg while in China, did his Yankee duty and pirated the game back home with him, translating the Chinese characters’ numerical values for Americans and setting off a game craze that crossed the country. Mah-jongg was played feverishly in the ’20s and ’30s, but the variety of rules and styles — as many as 21 — made it difficult for consistent play. In 1937, an enterprising group of German-Jewish women took out an ad in the New York Times, inviting interested players to meet. They formed the National Mah Jongg League, the arbiter of rules and regulations,
the collector of dues and donations. (Mah-jongg is played many ways by many rules. In The Mah-jung Manyal, published in 1923 by Henry Snyder, hands do not change annually as they do in Jewish-American mah-jongg; nor do they change in “military” mah-jongg, played by the Ohio Air Force base’s Wright-Patterson rules, written in the late ’40s.)

What started as a 32-member league now estimates membership at 200,000. Over its 65 years, the nonprofit National Mah Jongg League has donated thousands of dollars to charities and cultivated a Jewish-domi-

nated board of directors and membership (though non-Jewish groups and individuals also belong). In 2000, recognizing the Internet’s capacity to fertilize the game’s popularity, the organization set up a website. As a result, the game has resonated with a computer-conscious younger generation, whose all-hours online play has helped foster a growing trend among older players and new fanatics: mah-jongg marathons, tournaments, and cruises.

** * * *

Roberta and Steve Last sit at desks on opposite sides of their small travel office, Travel Wizard, in La Mesa. Our talk is periodically interrupted by a ringing phone, which cues one of them to pick up the call, while the other continues the conversation. Mah-jongg esoterica overlaps with airline reservations in the fluid exchange of long-married, practiced multitaskers. Both are experienced mah-jongg players and partners in the tournament (and tourism) business; they’re used to playing the left-brain–right-brain symphony. Steve, a mathematician and practicing accountant, learned to play ten years ago; Roberta learned when she was ten years old.

“It’s summer in Brooklyn, and we don’t know what to do with ourselves. So my girlfriend’s mother says to us, ‘I’ll teach you a game.’ We continued to play on and off for years. But then I stopped, and I didn’t play again until after I was married. It was a good way to get out at night; I left the kids with Daddy, and my girlfriends and I played at each other’s house.”

This isn’t much different from her mother’s generation, women who would have left the kids at home for a night out with the girls. “Except maybe she just walked down two floors or across the street…,” Roberta says. “Whereas we get in the car and drive.”

I ask Roberta how she picked up the game again. “It was a rainy Saturday night about ten years ago; we were going to go to the movies with another couple, and we thought, No, let’s play a game instead. Let’s teach the husbands how to play. At first, they don’t want to play mah-jongg; they think it’s a woman’s game…”

“…Even though,” Steve interrupts, “in the Orient it’s a man’s game…”

“So, we teach the husbands how to play — and, of course, they think they...
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San Diego Reader March 6, 2014

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Since that time, online play has been streamlined, and, as anticipated, the site has engaged a new audience: the “young and techno-savvy,” according to the November 2000 New York Times article. This merging of skills — “typing and talking, clicking and picking” — is a perfect match for mah-jongg’s sensibilities and for those of the players it attracts.

The internet’s success is worldwide, encouraging all manner of play: Chinese or American, against human or computer, with friends from the old neighborhood or folks from the old country.

But Roberta insists that modern technology can’t take the place of the game she learned in a Brooklyn tenement. “You have a routine,” she says. “I play Tuesday nights and have for at least ten years. We talk about the same things — ah, we had a terrible this…ah, you couldn’t believe what happened — it’s our venting time, our weekly support group.”

I ask Steve how it’s different for him. “Look, we’re married,” he says. “Do you wanna give us a divorce?” Roberta rolls her eyes and picks up the phone. “The tournament is more structured,” Steve continues. “There’s no crosstalk. But at the home games? Women are women…” If he had it his way, Steve would play more like the Asians, where the hands don’t change every year.

“By the end of the month!” Steve says. “The most important thing,” counters Roberta, “is that it makes people think. We get a lot of widows — it gives them something to look forward to. That’s where the cruises come in…”

“But,” Steve interjects, “instead of just a single person sitting down for lunch by herself…”

“Whaddya mean, ya gotta change?” protests Steve. “Why change?”

“Either way,” Roberta adds, “by the end of the year, I’ve memorized the card…”

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vision’s early years. “My mother was really ahead of her time,” Troum tells me over coffee at Nordstrom’s café in University Towne Centre. “She was doing a mail-order business for mah-jongg supplies in the ‘40s!” After Myerson’s death in 1971, her daughter took over the business, supplying mah-jongg sets and other related items around the world. (She also maintains an affiliation with the Officers Wives Club at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, and acts as the liaison between the National Mah Jongg League and San Diego mah-jongg-playing groups.)

When Troum moved from New Jersey to Coronado in 1990, she brought her Mah-Jongg East tournaments with her. In 1993, she met Steve and Roberta Last, who sponsored their own tournaments. East and West met again when, at a Newport Beach tournament, Troum asked the couple, “Are you still looking for a partner?” Together they began promoting events, which have grown from 40 in 1993 to 100 in 2002. They also combine forces to organize and sponsor marathon cruises and 20-round tournaments. (The next Marjorie Troum Mah-Jongg Tournament West “Cruise, Schmooze & Mahj” is scheduled for January 26–February 2, 2003, departing from New Orleans to Mexican ports; March 12–14 is in Las Vegas at the Stardust; March 28–30, it’s the Radisson Hotel in Newport Beach.)

“What is so compelling about this game?” She thinks a minute. “It’s a challenge; you have to think on your feet — or, rather, sitting down. It keeps you alert, and you can’t be distracted; you have to focus. It may be the one time of the day when you can. And if you win, you’re so happy — you might win only 25 cents, but you’re so happy!”

A former kindergarten teacher and a mother of four, Troum is convinced that exposure is essential. “If there are young children in the household and they watch their parents play, they want to play. My granddaughter knows how to play.” But in her case, the mah-jongg connection might have skipped a generation were it not for the internet. “Take my daughter. For years she wasn’t interested in playing. But now she’s hooked; she’s on the computer sometimes four or five times a night.
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The internet is fabulous. People are connecting all over the world. And they can meet each other at these tournaments.” So far, Troum’s not worried about being displaced by the internet. “I’m just thrilled to still be a part of it!” she says, as she hands me two mah-jongg–tile key chains, one of which I mail immediately to my mother.

San Diego’s Jewish community is sourced, like most of the local population, from transplants. So tracing the community’s mah-jongg practice means returning to the American cities where Jews first congregated — New York, Chicago, Detroit, Miami, Los Angeles. It was in these inner-city enclaves — and later in the outlying suburban neighborhoods — that Jewish women learned mah-jongg, then taught their friends and families. They watched the game flourish in the ’40s and ’50s, only to send those mah-j sets packing when generations of urban Jews headed west. Many of those Eastern and Midwestern transplants retired to San Diego, where they craved community and yearned to start another game.

I am halfway up the stairs to the second floor of the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center when brewing coffee and layers of perfume point me to the senior center’s mah-jongg game.

Five card tables full of women — many my mother’s age, some younger — regard my entrance. Rita Kahn, the unofficial ambassador, waves me to her table, where I perch to watch this familiar game I know so little about. As I observe one woman sweep tiles in an arc with the edge of her caddy, I sense something familial, like bread-kneading in a house of bakers. When another player stops by to introduce herself, she fiddles with the strap of her blue bra, which has poked out from under my matching top. As this familiar stranger tucks the strap back into place, I am struck by the lack of intrusiveness in her intimate gesture and the matter-of-fact way she grooms me — so second nature and maternal it could be my mother standing beside me. Strap secured, she pats me on the shoulder and moves on to another vantage point.

The game confuses me, no matter how much I observe the tiles, plucked and cupped to hide their elegant, engraved Chinese faces. The elaborate ritual of beginning — the mixing of the tiles (called “table swimming” by Chinese players); the dividing of the tiles into four two-tiered walls; the counting off of the requisite 13 tiles; the cross-table exchange of tiles known as “the Charleston” — all this before the first game begins. For practiced players, this do-si-do is swift and graceful, almost dancelike in its exchange of tiles known as “the Charleston” — all this before the first game begins. For practiced players, this do-si-do is swift and subtle, the movement almost dance-like in its give-and-take grace.

“Don’t make us sound old,” says Sabina, who doesn’t look up from her tiles as she rearranges suits and contemplates possible combinations. I ask how important mah-jongg has been to her. She recalls a game that lasted through New York City’s blackout in the ’70s. “We played with candles! Nothing was going to stop us...” Before long, Kahn, bedecked with mahjong jewelry (tile earrings and a toothy bracelet) shouts “mah-jongg!” It’s a banner win with a kitty of $8.54.

“I’m here 4 years,” says the redhead to Kahn’s right. “And before that, I played for 20 years in Philadelphia.” Trim and wry, she sweeps up the tiles at game’s end; it’s her set they’re playing with today (players rotate sets; many are as old as I am). I find out later that the redhead is widowed only two weeks. “This is her first game since the loss,” Kahn says, pointing out another function of the game: grief therapy. “It takes your mind off things,” Kahn says, “and it keeps your mind agile. You have to pay attention to play on a decent level; sometimes you can’t even really talk that much. And you don’t need a partner; this is social but without having to have a mate.”

Betty Pitlock, who is among the players today, is credited with starting the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center’s Wednesday-afternoon game. She joined the center 18 years ago when she moved from New York to the University City area at her daughter’s suggestion. “We were going to move near the 54th Street center, but my daughter said, ‘No, Mom. This is the up-and-coming place.’ ” Four
players used the children’s art room once a week until Pitlock brought in enough people to upgrade to a bigger room; each new building brought new members, more hands, and more games. “Eventually, they gave me a certificate for bringing in the most members.” Games begin at noon and run till 3:00 p.m., with attendance depending on who’s playing with whom and how far they have to drive. “The original five women are still playing in this group, it must be 15 years now.” When she was a new mother, Pitlock tells me, “You waited until your youngest child was old enough for school. Then you had a little more time and wanted to be sociable.” Some of the talk would be about the children, and that hasn’t changed. Mothers still talk about their kids, young ones or grown-ups. And now, with the advent of the internet, it’s possible to mix the two. “You can call up your mother on the East Coast,” Rita Kahn marvels, “and tell her when you’re going to be online.”

Kahn thinks the internet is one of the reasons more people in their 30s and 40s want to learn the game. To accommodate this group, she began offering a nighttime class at the community center last fall. The Tuesday-night class was organized for working women; the hope was that younger people might come. Most of the 25 folks that show up by 6:30 are at least 35. The big surprise — among the single and divorced and married women — are the two men.

Situated behind my own rack of bams and craks, jokers and dragons, I only half listen to Kahn’s instruction and instead try to make sense of my tiles. The suits. The characters. The sequences. The colors. When it’s my turn to trade, I stall — which combinations should I try for? Which tiles should I keep? And on top of that, I should watch what my neighbor picks too? “Sue, discard.” “Yeah, okay,” I answer, biting my lip. I throw out a tile — one I should have kept. “See what happens when you don’t listen?” Sherrill says, snapping up my discard. When Kahn starts explaining the concept of “stealing” — during the Charleston exchange, when players pass tiles across and to the side and can opt to blindly take tiles — Donna leans toward me and whispers, “Where there’s ‘stealing,’ perhaps there’s ‘cheating’?” We laugh. She’s as confused as I am.

But not everyone is. Andy, one of the two men in the class, is in his mid-30s. Though he’s Jewish, neither his mother nor grandmother played mahjongg, but he did have a friend in high school whose mother played, “and I heard him com-

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plain about how long she would play and how much money she would lose." He was curious about the game but didn’t pursue it till he heard about the class. I ask him why he thinks more men don’t play. “I think it’s mainly a cultural thing. Women tend not to play poker and men tend not to knit.” He figures it has something to do with women not working when the game was first popular. “Being at home, mah-jongg was something they could play with other women.” He doesn’t seem to care whether he plays with men or women, though he admits the conversation might be different. Ultimately, he’s most interested in the game: “I like the fact that it requires quite a bit of thought. The hands can be fairly complex, and depending on the circumstances it may be necessary to change the hand you are trying to go for in the middle of a game. As with many games, there is an element of luck, but skill is certainly very important.”

Andy and the three women he plays with in class will go on to have a few private lessons with Kahn and then play every other Tuesday. But the foursome are too new at the game to be among the 32 players who signed up for the center’s first mah-jongg tournament in December; maybe this year.

When I ask my mother about her early mah-jongg memories, she, like most of the longtime players I speak to, culls anecdotes that she’s affixed to the game the way barnacles are affixed to the hull of a ship.

“It was my entrée,” my mother reminisces, as she pulls another foot of packing tape around the edge of a cardboard box. It’s the spring of 2001, and she’s moving out of her Rancho Bernardo condo, where she’s resided since 1978, to live near my eldest sister in Knoxville, Tennessee. Though this east Tennessee college town is not the first place you imagine to be a hotbed of Jewish life — let alone of mah-jongg — Knoxville, it turns out, has a thriving Jewish community, an active Conservative temple of 250 families, and plenty of women who want to learn mah-jongg. (“I can rattle off the names of 40 women in the synagogue who play now or want to learn,” my sister Ellen reports. “My age, your age — even younger, in their 30s.”) This will be the fourth time in her adult life that my mother will seek out, locate, attach to, and thrive in a weekly game. It has become her social ticket, and she’s been pulling out that stub since she was a newlywed.

“Do you know I started going into labor with Jeff while playing mahj?” (Her firstborn son, my brother, turns 55 next month.) “And I think I finished the game!” At the time, my parents lived in a small town near Indianapolis, and like many young Jewish women new to a community, my mother made her contacts through the temple sisterhood. “At the beginning, I became a substitute. Then I became a regular. I was 24; everyone was older than I was, probably in their 30s, and much more sophisticated. We played in the afternoons, once a week. And the luncheons they put on! Two women in particular always hosted the game…they were very competitive. They were both Austrian and had married brothers — I think they were Holocaust survivors. They competed over who could fix the most elegant meal — and these were gourmet lunches, let me tell you.”

Ten years and three children later, my parents headed west to Northern California and Marin County, where again my mother made mahj her connective tissue. “Through the temple I got in with a five-handed game — a betting game; every fourth hand someone would sit out. We met once a month — remember those Monday nights, Susie?”

I remember the clutter and the cakes. When I was young, monthly Monday mah-jongg night meant the good china, the big coffee urn, the carefully cut melon, and many desserts, including a pumpkin bundt cake with drooping dollops of cream-cheese frosting dotted with walnut halves. My wandering finger would be met with a quick pitch in the tuchas (“Don’t touch that cake, Susie!”), so I’d wait till they were bamming and cracking in the living room before I pilfered my piece.

My memories of those games are not unlike what author Hope Edelman (Motherless Daughters) calls “sensory images” in the 1998 film Mah-Jongg: The Tiles That Bind. The award-winning documentary, which has made the rounds of Jewish film festivals from San Diego to Boca Raton, chronicles the odd overlap of two cultures that forged this game as a centerpiece for Jewish female leisure life. The half-hour film mixes Chinese with American-Jewish play, the two cultures’ scenes intercut and cued by musical contrast, Asian string plucking versus klezmer reed intoning.

As the movie’s mah-jongg enthusiast — many of them players for 30, 40, 50 years — explain their “addiction,” it becomes clear how often the game has been a response to the times. As one woman notes about her early years of play, “The men were away at war; our social life was nil.” They needed something to do with those weekend evenings that didn’t involve subway rides into the city. These were mostly middle-class, stay-at-home mothers; the game was often the highlight of their week. Edelman speaks about the memory of her mother, captured inside the mah-jongg set resting on her lap. She opens the case on camera, breathing in the “plastic and perfume” that she associated with the game as a little girl. Though my mother worked throughout my childhood, as did most of the women she played with, the game’s late hours — on a weekday, yet! — didn’t exhaust her. Instead, mah-jongg entertained and engaged its players, energizing them. For several hours, everything was suspended but the tinkling of the tiles and the call of the craks.

When my mother retired five years ago, the number of weekly mah-jongg games increased. Many an evening I would call her in Rancho Bernardo only to be stopped mid-sentence. “We’re just starting a game, Susie; I’ll call you when it’s over.” It always surprised me when the phone rang after 11:00 p.m. (this, from a woman who often went to bed at 8:30) and my wide-awake mother kept her promise.

It might have been the tiles that kept her up. In The Tiles That Bind a Chinese woman talks about the pressure points between the thumb and index finger — digits used to turn mahj tiles — and
how, in Chinese medicine, they are thought to energize the brain. Another Chinese woman mentions that the sparrow, for which the game is named, is considered an intelligent bird, “and this is a game for intelligent people.” When Hope Edelman talks about memories of her mother, who died when Edelman was 14, she speculates on the dearth of outside interests for a wife and mother in the early ’60s. “I don’t think there were many stimulating challenges for women like my mother. This game might have been a substitute for something more intellectual or academic.” Edelman suggests that weekly mah-jongg games might have been her mother’s only social gathering that didn’t involve children.

But the children were watching and listening (and eating). Ask any Jewish man or woman, 25 to 65, about mah-jongg, and out pour the details of some stored-away memory, often fleshed out in five senses: The crashing of upended racks of tiles; the click-clacking of the polished ivory; the cool rectangles, smooth on one side, engraved on the other. The sound of female gossip and giggling, punctuated by bursts of “two crak,” “one bam,” “three dot.” The smell of coffee and cigarettes and perfume — in my case, Shalimar, Albert Nippon, Tigris, and that green-bottled Emeraude Mrs. Kaldor always wore. Next to each player’s rack of tiles: a plate of fruit, a napkin of cake crumbs, a small leather change purse whose contents of quarters and dimes, collected at evening’s end, totaled a paltry sum that mattered little when compared to what it lent.

“As a little girl my assignment was sticking the fancy toothpicks with the maraschino cherries into the pineapple chunks,” Randy recalls. Originally from Brooklyn, Randy, 50, lives in La Jolla now but used to live in Rancho Bernardo. “I started a game 20 years ago, when I was in my 30s. We shared everything in that game — our simchas [celebrations] and our sorrows. It was an anchor; when everything around was changing, this stayed the same.” The group played weekly, and though its members didn’t socialize outside of the game, they remained loyal to the group lo those many years. “When I moved to La Jolla, I knew that playing mahj would be a great way to meet new people.” When she didn’t find a game to join, Randy started one herself, by teaching. “They’re catching on and getting faster and faster,” she says of her students. “But it’s not easy: one gal used to come with a bottle of aspirin.” (Distressed by the difficulties of a new card’s hands, one woman in New York told National Mah Jongg League president Ruth Unger that if she were looking for frustration, she would have stayed home with her husband.) Randy’s hope for mah-jongg’s future is tentative. “I keep saying to the women at my games, ‘We all have daughters; if we don’t teach our children, this game is going to die.’ I did teach it to my daughter, but it didn’t really click. Now she lives in New York, and when she comes home, sometimes she plays with us. I hope she picks it up.” I tell her to be patient; it could still happen.

— Sue Greenberg

First published in the Reader January 2, 2003
武装帮派袭击非法移民在帝国谷

在奥科蒂洛附近爆发枪战

武装袭击者在边境巡逻队附近拒绝接受检查

武装袭击者在边境巡逻队附近拒绝接受检查

如果边境巡逻队行动失败，武装袭击者可能会继续前往下一个地点，甚至可能攻击边境巡逻队的工作人员，以投掷所有他们拥有的物品。

下一页：城市之光

东区圣迭戈县附近

根据2月26日的一份报告，边境巡逻队于2月26日报告称在奥科蒂洛非法越境，一名武装袭击者被击毙。在追捕过程中，边境巡逻队和袭击者在边境线上交火，造成许多人受伤并逃离。

这些不幸的事件展示了穿越边境的危险，”边境巡逻队官员卡拉·洛夫说。此外，边境巡逻队和袭击者的交火导致一名医疗补给人员被击毙。交火期间，边境巡逻队和袭击者的交火导致一名医护人员被射中面部。据称他们被关押了几个小时，然后被逃离。

Dorian Hargrove

Scott Barnett

退出学校董事会竞选

Incumbent says he’s done at SD Unified district

Scott Barnett, longtime political consultant, journalist, and onetime head of the GOP Lincoln Club, has decided not to seek re-election to the board of San Diego Unified School District.

He posted the announcement on Facebook Sunday, March 2:

“After much thought I have decided NOT to run for re-election to the school board.

“In trying to be a responsible and productive Board Member on behalf of the students, employees and taxpayers, I have been required to use much emotional, intellectual, and physically energy, which has interfered from meeting my personal, family and professional goals.

“I need to put my own life first again. These are not the only reasons for my decision NOT to run, but certainly the most important.

“30 years ago in April 1984 when I was elected to the Del Mar City Council at age 21, I started my odyssey of public service and community activism.

“Serving on the school board and working with many wonderful parent and community volunteers and so many dedicated staff has been a true inspiration and honor and a wonderful capstone to [the] last three decades.

“Today is not the time to recapture my successes and failures, but to thank you for the opportunity to allow me to serve. While there is much great work and much reform still to be done, I am confident that Superintendent Cindy Marten will lead..."
us forward in improving the rigor of education for all of our students, and toward our goal of a quality school in every neighborhood.”

In 2005, Barnett wrote here about the Voice of San Diego online news and opinion nonprofit operation cofounded by the late Neil Morgan.

During his term, Barnett has unsuccessfully argued against a sell-off of district-owned real estate.

Matt Potter

On the run in Detroit
San Diegan owes bankrupt city $11,000 in unpaid parking tickets
Detroit-area media are reporting that the bankrupt city is trying to collect $82 million in unpaid parking tickets, including late fees and court costs.

The media list nine egregious offenders. One is Michelle Marlo-Klims of San Diego, who reportedly owes Detroit more than $11,000.

Don Bauder

La Jolla seals win
They can now mate in peace
Seal-protection activists achieved their main goal on February 24 when the San Diego City Council voted 6-3 in favor of closing the La Jolla Children’s Pool between December 15 and May 15.

The ruling, which accommodates the harbor seals’ mating and “pupping” season, can only take effect if the California Coastal Commission issues a permit for the closure. The coastal commission has already stated in a memo that it favors seasonal closure as a solution for the controversy surrounding Children’s Pool.

Opponents of the closure proffered a wide variety of solutions to the problem, but the majority acknowledged the controversy required some solution. Many favored the “Life-guard Plan,” which would see the beach more divided and monitored to encourage separation of beachgoers and seals. Some would prefer to see the Children’s Pool restored to its original purpose of access for children and the disabled.

Ken Hunrichs, with the Friends of the Children’s Pool, stressed that his group will continue to fight the closure. He said, “It’s wrong, what they’ve done. There’s protection in the trust, there’s protection in the Constitution, there’s protection in the coastal act to prohibit exactly what the city council did today…. We may challenge [the city council’s ruling] in court, and we may have to go to the coastal commission.”

Ian Pike

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bring it to the U.S. for adoption. However, a Korean veterinarian was able to help the dog and get it back to decent health; an American military family stationed in Korea who fostered “Kobe” for three weeks ended up adopting him.

The collie rescuers’ Sue Baldwin said that her group received another email on February 4 from an animal shelter in Pohang, South Korea, about a starving and emaciated purebred collie taken into their shelter.

“ShinBi” was found on the streets weighing 37 pounds. Since he was so skinny, he was of no value to the meat markets, which is why he survived on the streets.

The rescue group decided they would spend the $2000 raised for Kobe on ShinBi, to bring him to the U.S.

ShinBi will remain quarantined, by federal law, for the next 30 days before being available for adoption. He is staying in Baldwin’s home.

SOUTH PARK
Woman in yoga pants attempts dognapping
Getaway thwarted at Grape Street park
On February 19, what seemed to be an attempted dognapping at Grape Street Dog Park was thwarted by park regulars.

The dog’s owner, who declined to have his name published, was sitting at a picnic table within the park when a young woman walked up, attached a leash to his small, white terrier mix, and told him, “I’m taking your dog and keeping her,” then hurried away. Witnesses say she took the dog directly to her car, which was parallel-parked for a “quick getaway”—facing the parking lot’s exit on Grape Street.

At that moment, a different dog-park regular arrived in the parking lot and, recognizing the terrier, blocked the suspected dognapper’s exit until the owner was able to retrieve his pet.

Witnesses describe the suspect, who was dressed in a knit cap and yoga attire, as being in her 30s, with brown hair, and driving a Honda with Oregon plates. When confronted, she claimed to have been concerned with the welfare of the dog in question, accusing the dog’s owner of negligence.

When the woman approached his dog and leashed it, the terrier’s owner said his first assumption was that she was “making a point” about not letting his dog wander off on its own. Instead, he watched in shock as she beelined for the exit. “When the girl reached the fence, I realized she wasn’t kidding,” he said. “I keep my dog on a leash at all times now.”

A witness said the young woman claimed the dog could not be considered the man’s personal property because it was a living creature with its own wants and needs.

IAN ANDERSON
ENCANTO
And the trolleys will run on time in San Diego
Upgrade to provide better control
At approximately 6:00 a.m. on February 27, at the corner of Woodman and 69th streets, a project to deliver and set in place a new power substation had begun.

A massive crane had been erected to lift the substation off of the truck, and crews from the general contractor (Schimmick), Metropolitan Transit System, Siemens, SDG&E, office dogs, and other subcontractors were working together to get it in place.

According to an MTS superintendent/consultant, the power substation generates power to the trolley lines/cars and will replace the current substations at the Encanto and Massachusetts Street stops. This will serve to upgrade the lines (which are 30 years old) and provide better control of the speed and traction of the lines and cars. The substation will also provide increased quality of monitoring the traffic signals and safety crossings.

The substation was built by Siemens in Fontana. SDG&E will have to complete trenching before lines can be laid and electrical service can be initiated.

Once in place, the system will undergo testing day and night through all periods of traffic to ensure that everything is operating correctly. SANDAG is overseeing the project and providing funds that come from a pool of various sources.

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Thursday | 6

PRINCESS PROJECT RUNWAY
A fashion event to provide free prom dresses and accessories to San Diego high school girls who cannot afford them. With live entertainment, music by DJ JoeMama, local craft beer and wine, a gourmet food menu, complimentary hors d’oeuvres and signature cocktails, and a silent auction with items donated by local businesses. $25–$30.

WHEN: 7 to 10 p.m.
WHERE: La Jolla Brewing Company, 7536 Fay Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-6279; princessprojectsd.org

Friday | 7

LUMINOUS: LIGHT AND TRANSPARENCY ON PAPER
Opening reception for Monotypes, by Nancy Walter, and Cyanotypes, by Greg Brown. Working on paper, these two printmakers animate their work with the effects of light and transparency. The result is a stimulating mix of symbols, textures, images, and ideas.

WHEN: 5 to 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Civic Center Art Gallery, 505 S. Vulcan Avenue, Encinitas. 760-633-2600; gmbcyanotype.com

Saturday | 8

KELLY VIVANCO: CURIOUS GARDENS
Featuring Vivanco’s newest creations, typically revolving around young, innocent girls, boys, and animals in playful and curious settings. Vivanco will be in attendance at the opening reception to meet and greet. Complimentary Stone beer and wine will be served.

WHEN: 6 to 10 p.m.
WHERE: ArtHatch, 317 E. Grand Avenue, Escondido. 760-781-5779; kellyvivanco.com

Sunday | 9

19TH ANNUAL UGLY DOG CONTEST

WHEN: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Venissimo at Headquarters, 789 W. Harbor Drive, downtown. 619-358-9081; venissimo.com

Monday | 10

ITALIAN FORMAGGIO
Buongiorno from the land of the world’s most popular cheese: Italy. Take a tasting tour around the country that modernized the production of cheese, with samples of the finest formaggio and complimentary Italian wine. $50.

WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-570-1100; sandiegotheatres.org

Tuesday | 11

BILLY CONNOLLY: THE MAN LIVE
Connolly is a standup comedian, actor, musician, TV presenter, and artist, hailed as the UK’s most influential comedian of all time, voted best comedian of all time by the UK's Channel 4 and included as one of Huffington Post’s favorite UK comedians. $32.50–$52.50.

WHEN: Noon to 6 p.m.
WHERE: Escondido Library, 239 South Kalmia Street, Escondido. 760-839-4839; digitalbookmobile.com

Wednesday | 12

EBOOKMOBILE
The Digital Bookmobile National Tour showcases Escondido Public Library’s free eBook download service. Readers can board the high-tech, 18-wheel tractor-trailer and learn how to download eBooks from the library through interactive demonstrations, high-definition instructional videos, and a gadget gallery.

WHEN: Noon to 6 p.m.
WHERE: Escondido Library, 239 South Kalmia Street, Escondido. 760-839-4839; digitalbookmobile.com
Georgia (the country)
By Alice Diamond

Google “Georgia,” and you are much more likely to get recipes for peach pie than to learn about the unique ex-Soviet republic where wine was invented and a special language and culture survived a thousand years of foreign occupation. Today, it celebrates its links with Europe and America more than its association with the Orient.

In its capital city, Tbilisi, we saw something truly unique in the world: a major avenue named after George W. Bush! This country of Georgia is a small swatch of land about the size of West Virginia (but with higher mountains!) at the far eastern end of the Black Sea, the bottom of Russia, and the top of Iran. Other neighbors include Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Chechnya. All in all, a dicey neighborhood (which is why they cozied up to George W.).

This country is Georgia is a small swatch of land about the size of West Virginia (but with higher mountains!) at the far eastern end of the Black Sea, the bottom of Russia, and the top of Iran. Other neighbors include Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Chechnya. All in all, a dicey neighborhood (which is why they cozied up to George W.).

So, why go to Georgia? The country is definitely under-touristed. In our two weeks there, we were never even able to locate a map of Tbilisi. But just because the rest of the world hasn’t found it doesn’t mean that there aren’t some good reasons to visit.

Foremost on our list was the fabulous cuisine. Tasty, rich, and piquant, Georgian cuisine is the natural result of a fertile, mineral-rich landscape and a parade of interloping cultures trading or invading between the East and the West. Staunchly proud of their culture, the Georgians have developed unique foods that are not available elsewhere. Think khachapuri, with oozy cheese enveloped in a yeast bread, 14 varieties to choose from, and each 50 cents or less (things were generally very cheap). Or yummy eggplant with walnut sauce. Or bean stew with a delicious corn muffin sitting on top. Instead of teaspoons of spices, Georgians are apt to add a fistful of coriander or basil and often use a blend of spices called khmeli suneli that is a complex, fragrant mixture of sour, grassy, and nutty flavors.

And the best place to sample the agricultural products is at their source. To do so, we traveled to the wine country of Kakheti in a spiffy 20-year-old Mercedes, powered by clean and economical compressed natural gas, which seems to be the fuel of choice here.

Under the gaze of the snowcapped Caucasus Mountains, we stopped at a number of monasteries — another reason to visit Georgia. One was Ikalto, established by Syrian missionaries in the 500s A.D. and the site for the next 1000 years of the only real higher-learning academy in the region. It was burned by Persians in 1616 but still contains the remains of three churches. But even more prominent than the churches are the brothers’ wine vaults, which provided the perfect venue to learn how the Georgians produce this nectar. Many archaeologists believe Georgia to be the first to cultivate grapevines over 8000 years ago, and it is still a major source of domestic and export revenue.

Grapes are grown on every square inch of soil, and, it seemed, in the yard of every home — city and countryside alike. Although about 400 varieties of grapes are grown, only about 38 are produced with any frequency. But that still leaves a lot of tasting to do! We did our tasting at the Gurabi Wine Tunnel complex, where we were ushered into a four-mile-long Soviet tunnel in the mountains that used to house heavy-duty missiles and tanks to protect the southern flank of the USSR. Abandoned in the 1990s, it was recently repurposed when it was discovered that it was the perfect temperature (about 55 degrees) for storing wine.

Later that night, we partook of one of the highlights of the trip: a many-course banquet called a supra. In between each course, our wine glasses were refilled and the tamada offered toasts, starting with general tributes and becoming more and more specific as the evening wore on, with an elegance that evoked the finest of poetry. The final toast was to “everything else we forgot to mention.”

Food, wine, and monasteries are definite reasons to make a visit, but we were surprised to find yet another reason: distinctive new public buildings. This was particularly unexpected, since the country seems quite poor and so many of the old buildings were sorely in need of restoration. Although the people have little money, the government has quite a lot. That’s because Georgia has the only pipeline route out of the huge Caspian Sea’s oil patch not going through Russia or Iran.

One of the things they’ve used the funds for is reforming the police force away from the corrupt practices it had fallen into. Almost all existing police were fired, pay was raised, and new police stations were built in exotic, futuristic designs. The huge glass expanses symbolize how nothing should happen in back rooms and that the police are there to help the public, not harass it.

Get yourself to Georgia and you’ll find that the people are proud, enterprising, good-humored, and high-spirited. What’s more, guests are considered blessings.
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ROAM-O-RAMA
San Diego Outdoors with the Museum Canyoneers

ELEPHANT TREE TRAIL – ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK
Hike to a rare plant once thought to be the only one in the county

Distance from downtown San Diego: About 103 miles. Allow 2 hours and 15 minutes driving time (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park). From SR-163N, exit onto I-8E. Take SR-79N/Japatul Valley Rd. (Descanso), turning left, toward Julian, at the end of the ramp. After just under 3 miles, turn left to follow SR-79N to SR78. Turn east on SR78, away from Julian, and drive 33.6 miles to Split Mountain Rd. and turn right/south. Follow Split Mountain Rd. for 6 miles and turn right/west onto the signed dirt road leading to the trailhead, about 1 mile, and park.

Hiking length: A 1.1-mile loop. Allow about an hour. Difficulty: Easy walk with less than 100 feet gain/loss of elevation. No facilities. The well-marked trail is in a rocky and sandy wash. No dogs allowed on the trail.

The elephant tree (Bursera microphylla) is rarely found in the United States. It is found in the Gila Range of Arizona and, more commonly, in Baja California and Sonora, Mexico. For many years it was thought not to exist at all in the United States. It is found in the Gila Desert State Park). From SR-163N, exit onto I-8E. Take SR-79N/Japatul Valley Rd. (Descanso), turning left, toward Julian, at the end of the ramp. After just under 3 miles, turn left to follow SR-79N to SR78. Turn east on SR78, away from Julian, and drive 33.6 miles to Split Mountain Rd. and turn right/south. Follow Split Mountain Rd. for 6 miles and turn right/west onto the signed dirt road leading to the trailhead, about 1 mile, and park.

The tree is usually found in rocky areas and on slopes. The common name derives from its swollen trunk, which stores water and has the resemblance of an elephant’s thick, massive leg. It stands 6–10 feet tall and can reach heights of 20–30 feet. The tree has low spreading branches, a yellowish paper-like shedding bark, copper-colored upper branches, green leaves, white flowers, purple fruit, and exudes a pinkish/red resin. It has a strong pungent smell reminiscent of turpentine, pine needles, and tangerines and is in the same family as incense and perfume. In Mexico it is known as torote, from the Spanish verb torcer, “to twist” — referring to its gnarled branches.

The trail is well-marked and has 13 numbered posts that relate to a free interpretive nature trail guide available at the turnoff to Elephant Tree Trail from Split Mountain Road or at the park’s visitor center. The guide is a good way to learn about common desert plants and strategies they have to survive in the desert. For those interested in annual wildflowers, this is the first place to check each season, as annuals will flower at the lower and hotter elevations first.

The trail has changed from previous years due to flash-flooding in the wash. There is now only one elephant tree on this trail, and it is actually a shorter hike now than it was previously. Large piled rocks and boulders on the sides and in the wash testify to the force of running water and its ability to reshape trails that are in washes. At about the half-mile point, note the many downed ocotillos that were toppled over in a flash-flood. Also look to the north west for a tall tree that stands out on the side of the wash. That is the only elephant tree found on this hike a little further at mile 0.65. The tree is large, standing almost 15 feet in height. Other plants that will be noted on this hike include creosote, burrobush, desert lavender, cheesebush, ocotillo, indigo, smoke trees, acacia, and cholla. The trail continues to loop around the wash, rejoicing almost at the trailhead at signpost number 2.

Since this is a short hike and a long distance to drive, it could be combined with one or two other short hikes by Tamarisk Grove, off SR-78, that appeared in this column last year. See Cactus Loop (2/21/2013) and Yaqui Well (2/28/2013).

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

Find more Roam-O-Rama columns online at SDReader.com/roam
HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5pm Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Submit information online at SDReader.com/events.

Blue titles indicate sponsored events. To place a sponsored listing, call 619-235-8200.

ART

#U Can’t Cage Color Explosive art event featuring award-winning artists. Barbara Preston + Diane Hattula join forces in a thought-provoking and entertaining color riot. Food and drinks will round out the experience. Saturday, March 8, 5:30pm; free. Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Aesthetics & Authenticity Aesthetics & Authenticity presents different perspectives on the authenticity of place and how art, design, and culture play a significant and important role in the infrastructure of our cities and regions. Each of the seven conversations and sessions will demonstrate how intentional planning and implementation for art and culture on a civic scale has a positive impact on how we live and how we experience our communities. The San Diego Airport Authority has made an intentional effort to integrate art into its day-to-day operations. Friday, March 7, 5:30pm; Saturday, March 8, 9am; Sunday, March 9, 9am; $65. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

Art Reception & Open House Join local artists in a meet-and-greet reception while learning about your La Jolla community center. Several of the talented Allied Artists Association artists currently displaying at the center will be present to discuss their art or answer questions. Jackie Zucker and Valerie Grischy are the month’s featured artists. Light refreshments will be provided. Saturday, March 8, 1pm; free. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Biggest Gallery Walk in San Diego March at NTC means Malashock Dance, exhibitions of Creative Madness, and celebrating Women’s History Month. Enjoy Friday Night Liberty with two free performances from Malashock Dance, hands-on art making with local printmaker Laurie Kmen, new exhibitions from the Watercolor Society, and visit numerous galleries and meet artist in their studios. See new works celebrating the Latino Film Festival at La Onda Arte Latino where unique works from Baja artists will inspire you to decorate. The Women’s Museum of California has three big exhibitions celebrating Women’s History Month. Friday, March 7, 5pm; free. NTC at Liberty Station Arts and Culture District, 2640 Historic Decatur Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

Boomboxes, Boots, and Femmes Art Show Celebrating National Women’s History Month with music you would proudly bump through your old school boombox, boots, femmes, and gentlemen that support the ladies and arts. Bid on original art, take a spin, and tip the cup up while you indulge a craft cocktail. Artists: rawdss, Claudia Maestre, Travis Crosby, Mandy Egdleed, Michelle Guerrero, Gabriela Rubio. Music: Cali Cam, Ricky Gut, DJ Costanza, DJ Canvas. Thursday, March 6, 8pm; free. 21 and up. El Dorado Cocktail Lounge, 1030 Broadway. (EAST VILLAGE)

Janine Free: Opening Reception From abstract to documentary, a French street photographer presents images taken in cities of Europe and the United States. The show features a series of mannequins taken for the past six years in store windows. Those photographs seem collaged, but they show the reflections off the glass that we see every day as we walk by the city streets. Through March 17. Saturday, March 8, 12pm; free. Gallery 21 in Spanish Village Art Center, 1770 Village Place. (BALBOA PARK)

Luminous: Light and Transparency on Paper Opening reception for MONOTYPES by Nancy Walter and CYANOTYPES by Greg Brown. Working on paper, these two printmakers animate their work with the effects of light and transparency, each artist finding a distinct voice. The result is a stimulating mix of symbols, textures, images, and ideas. Exhibit runs through April 16. Two printmakers met last year at an evening event at the Encinitas Library. Nancy Walter overheard Greg Brown talking about CYANOTYPES and asked if he would teach her how to make them. In exchange she offered to teach him how to make MONOTYPES, her specialty. They struck a deal, and an instant friendship was formed.

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Opera News

English translations displayed above the stage.
All performances at the San Diego Civic Theatre.
Rhyme & Verse
My Niece
A poem by Krista Lukas

Born on the first day of spring the first year of the millennium. Imitator of waitresses and magicians; unpredicatable thrower of tantrums; connoisseur of Gummy Bears, vanilla yogurt, and orange juice with calcium; dislikor of onions; wearer of snowsuits, heart-shaped sunglasses, and undone braids; speaker of nonsensical phrases; expert snorter; constant storyteller; voracious imposer of the impossible; backyard roller coasters, airplanes in the living room. Oh, these are my taxes, she says when asked about paper.

Moderate taper of naps in the backseats of cars; mess-maker of any room in her path; blue-eyed, fair-haired angel quick-to-turn-miserable scowler; tough-footed sprinter on beaches and lawns, climber of slides; blover of bubbles in bathtubs and swimming pools; granddaughter, great-granddaughter, cousin, and big sister; turner into her mother’s shoulder, turner into her mother’s legs; frequent requester of big tickles and little tickles; answerer of telephones real and pretend; self-appointed CEO of seating arrangements at all tables; drawer of a line in the sand around beach toys and her brother and me. Hey, guys, she says, this is our property line, okay?

A former elementary-school teacher, Krista Lukas is now a Chancellor’s Distinguished Fellow and a Gluck Fellow at the University of California, Riverside, where she is pursuing her MFA in Creative Writing. Her poems have been broadcast on The Writer’s Almanac and previously published in The Best American Poetry 2006, Creative Writer’s Handbook (5th edition), New Poets of the American West, and in literary journals including Turtle, 5 AM, and New Millennium Writing. “My Niece” appears in her recent collection Fans of My Unconscious, published by Black Rock Press, and is reprinted by permission.

Find more poetry online at SDrader.com/poetry
from the 17th Century. No partners required. Held in Room 203. Thursdays, 7pm; free. Casa del Prado, 1800 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Simone de Beauvoir's The Second Sex Book discussion. Sunday, March 9, 2pm; free. 18 and up. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

FOOD & DRINK

An Urban Winery & Wedding Festival! Wines, wine and cheese pairings, salad shakers, dessert shots, gourmet foods, live cooking shows, gifts for brides, wedding cakes, VIP carpet photos, and many prizes including a honeymoon cruise. Sunday, March 9, 10am; free. 87.21 and up. San Diego Wine and Culinary Center, 200 Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Cooking Class: Authentic Pizza
Have you ever wanted to learn how to make pizza in the authentic style from the renowned city of Napoli? How about a tasty slice from Sicily or focaccia from Liguria? Here is your perfect opportunity! Pizza chef Brian and chef Accurso will guide you through each step, starting with making the dough from scratch. Each student will take home a pizza made to their liking! Time: 10:30am at Solare with an Italian-style coffee of your choice and a pastry. Italian wine is served for students interested in cooking with wine. Limit of ten. Contact us for details. Saturday, March 15, 10:30am. Solare Ristorante Lounge, 2820 Roosevelt Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

2nd Saturday w/New Belgium Brewing Hey ho. New Belgium, one of America's most fun and eco-friendly breweries, visits us and we have a plethora of amazing beers including a special collaboration beer we are brewing with Pat Murlin (if it is ready). There is no better brewery showcase than 2nd Saturday and having New Belgium apart of it again is spectacular. The list is outstanding and rocking hard with mega-sour variations. Can't underestimate how good this beer looks at Cask: Rampant Imperial IPA. Saturday, March 8, noon. Hamilton's Tavern, 1521 30th Street. (GOLDEN HILL)

Cherry Blossom Festival! The Japanese Friendship Garden of San Diego presents its 9th annual cherry blossom festival. Enjoy 150 cherry trees in bloom. See cultural entertainment and demos. Taste authentic Japanese street foods and drinks including a beer/sake garden sponsored by Asahi, Gekkeikan Sake, and Stone Brewery. Try fun crafts and kids activities. Shop unique gifts and plants. Saturday, March 8, 10am; $5-$6. Japanese Friendship Garden, Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

FOR KIDS

Miracle League of San Diego Opening Day! The Miracle League of San Diego provides children with special needs the opportunity to play baseball in an organized league at two locations in San Diego County: Engel Family Field (a Little Padres Park in San Diego Park) and Green Field at Coronado High School. Spring 2014 season begins with Opening Day. Registration closes January 31. Info: 858-964-2222; info@miracleleaguesandiego.org. Saturday, March 8, 10am; free. San Diego County Park, 1628 Lomas Santa Fe Drive. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Nighttime Music School Nightingale Music will visit NCM to introduce children to a variety of music types. From traditional nursery songs to rock-n-roll with percussion instruments, the experience is designed to enhance learning and share the magical world of music with children. Ages 4 and under. Friday, March 7, 10:30am; New Children's Museum, 200 W. Island Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

Target Free Second Sunday Enjoy NCM for free, thanks to Target. All ages. Sunday, March 9, 12pm; New Children's Museum, 200 W. Island Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

LECTURES

The Architecture of the Future of Mankind Join us for installment 1.2.1 of the Library South Series: "The Architecture of Future Mankind: How People and Technology are Shaping Cities.” Francesco Lipari and Mark Muckenheim will discuss the theories behind the Beijing Cityvision Competition. The competition presents three scenarios for the future of cities shaped by technology: evolution, involution, or extinction. The Library South Series is a more intimate offshoot of the main lecture series meant to foster a one-to-one dynamic and promote critical thinking through discussion. Friday, March 7, 6:30pm; free. Woodbury University School of Architecture, 2212 Main Street. (BARBRO LOGAN)

LIFE at Miracosta College Lectures 1pm: “The Mysterious Easter Island” with Ceri Sowell, Ph.D, UCSD faculty. Learn more about one of the most fascinating cultures in the South Pacific, including the mysteries behind the iconic stone giants that dominate Easter Island’s landscape. 2:30pm: “Space Exploration” with Lyford Rome, NASA/JPL Ambassador. The Kepler Mission is a NASA Discovery Program launched in March 2009 for detecting potentially life-supporting planets around other stars in our galaxy. All of the planets detected so far...
SDR: What’s your main concern as a member of the clergy? PJ: As human beings, we are not centered in our relationship with God. Either God is not at all a part of our lives or just a peripheral part of our lives. God created us to be centered on him and that’s where true life comes from. So, I hope my prayer for the people I speak to is that I draw them out and they stay centered in their relationship with God and with Christ Jesus.

SDR: Why did you become a minister? PJ: I never wanted to, but the more I got to know the Lord and spent time in his work, the more I felt the call in my heart that that was where the Lord was leading me. Now, looking back on it, I can’t see myself doing anything else, but at the time — I was a young adult — that was not the direction I was planning to go. I was looking at computer science or meteorology even at one point. But God has a sense of humor in how he works.

SDR: Why Libertarianism? PJ: I grew up in a Lutheran home, so it’s my heritage and foundation. But in studying both in Bible school and college, I identified with the story of Martin Luther, who had a rebirth in his spiritual life when he got to know the scriptures. I identified with that rebirth myself and came into a place where I got to know God’s amazing love and amazing word through his mercy.

SDR: What is the mission of your church? PJ: Our mission is simply to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ. First, we must be disciples, know Jesus and his words. We also want to help others to know Jesus by reaching out in both spiritual and physical ways, especially to the poor, the oppressed, and those in bad situations.

SDR: Where is the strangest place you’ve found God? PJ: In my own spiritual walk, when drew me to God and his work, I wrestled with anxiety and fear. In wrestling with these things, I was drawn to a place where my confidence was not in my surroundings and circumstances, but in God, who does not change.

SDR: Where do you go when you die? PJ: Jesus said he came so that we might have life, eternal life, but he also said that eternal life is an invitation we have as human beings. I think everyone will have an afterlife, but only those who have embraced the life God has given us in this life go to heaven. He invites everyone to that life, but we don’t necessarily have to go there. On the other hand, I don’t believe God sends anyone to hell. I believe we go there because we refuse to receive what God wants for us.

Joseph O’Brien

OUTDOORS

Go Skydiving This Weekend!
Free video of your tandem skydive this Sunday for people who read the San Diego Reader. Just tear out our half page ad in this week’s issue and bring it with you. Skydive San Diego is San Diego’s newest and oldest operation. Scenic views of the ocean, downtown skyline, the mountains, and more. Gift certificates are available and make great presents — assuming they want the experience! Must be 18 years of age and weigh less than 230 pounds! Visit skydivesan diego.com for details or call 888-391-0251. Saturday, March 8, 8 am; Sunday, March 9, 9 am; Skydive San Diego, 1353 Otay Lakes Road. (OCEANA)

SHEEP AND GOATS
I ANSWERED THE CALL

Christ the King Lutheran Church
Contact: 1860 S. Stage Coach Lane, Fallbrook 760-728-325; ctklb.org
Membership: 1200
Pastor: Mark Johnson
Age: 46
Born: Minneapolis, MI
Formation: Lutheran Bible Institute, Anaheim; Concordia University, Irvine; Lutheran Seminary, St. Paul
Years Ordained: 17

San Diego Reader: What is your favorite subject on which to preach?
Pastor Mark Johnson: It would have to be the simple message of God’s grace, God’s mercy in Christ Jesus. That’s the heart of the gospel and has made me a follower and believer in Jesus.

by other projects are giant planets. Kepler is poised to find planets 30 to 600 times less massive than Jupiter. Is there life on other planets? Friday, March 7, 1 pm; free; 18 up. Mira Costa College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANIDE)

Palomar College Night Jazz Band
This 90-minute presentation lets the audience in on great conversations and live performances by Southern California musicians. Listen to jazz, learn about jazz, and talk about jazz: part performance and part conversation, each session lets the audience head backstage to take five in the green room. Palomar College boasts two 17-piece jazz ensembles for day-time and nighttime students. Night Ensemble director Paul Koikawa has toured the world playing trumpet and singing at famous locales including Carnegie Hall. Saturday, March 8, 4 pm; free; Schuman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dome Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Why Did our Ancestors Leave the Pale? Joseph O’Brien will provide some context to those of Jewish ancestry who lived in the Pale, and their decision to leave everything they had known to make new lives the West. Sunday, March 9, 1 pm; free; Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Special price for listings of this size on these Sheep & Goats pages. 50 words or less, 50 cents for each additional word. Call Lauren Bishop. (619) 235-3000 ext. 200 or email her: Bishop@SDReader.com Dr - easiest of all - go to SDReader.com/SheepAds and place your ad automatically any time of day or night.

TEMPLE BET SHOLOM
Silent Auction and Fundraiser Items from San Diego’s top attractions and restaurants are being offered. Founded in 1958, Temple Beth Shalom of Chula Vista is the cornerstone of Jewish community and culture in the South San Diego County. Take this opportunity to support our continued mission of providing a home to all Jews and those who seek the knowledge of the Jewish way of life. Sunday, March 3, 16-7 pm.

CHURCH SERVICES

SDSU Choirs: Spring Choral Concert
SDSU’s Chamber Choir and Aztec Choir, under the direction of Patrick Walders, and three local high school choirs, come together for an inspiring concert of choral literature. Saturday, March 8, 7:30-9:30 pm.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF SAN DIEGITO Karen Drucker
March 8th at 7:30 pm. Join us for an inspirational evening of music and laughter as Karen Drucker weaves her magic spell. To order tickets go to krucker concerts2314.eventbrite.com. Send questions to Vicki at suenevents@gmail.com
SOLANA BEACH 1036 Solana Drive (858) 739-9205

1ST SPIRITUALIST CHURCH First Spiritualist Church Karen Drucker
March 8th at 7:30 pm. Join us for an inspirational evening of music and laughter as Karen Drucker weaves her magic spell. To order tickets go to kruckerconcerts2314.eventbrite.com. Send questions to Vicki at suen.events@gmail.com
SOLANA BEACH 1036 Solana Drive (858) 739-9205

COLLEGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH SDSPU Choirs: Spring Choral Concert
SDSU’s Chamber Choir and Aztec Choir, under the direction of Patrick Walders, and three local high school choirs, come together for an inspiring concert of choral literature. Saturday, March 8, 7:30-9:30 pm.

SERRA MESA 2906 Melbourne Drive (858) 277-6772

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Christian Vocation Lenton Worship Services Ash Wednesday Mar 5-7 pm Wednesday 7 pm. Holy Week Worship Palm Sunday Apr 13-3 am Thursday 14, 4 pm, 16, 14, 15, 16, 14 Mundy -Thursday Apr 17, 7 pm. Good Friday Apr 18, 7 am. Easter Vigil - Apr 19, 7 pm. Easter Worship 9 am www.princeofpeacedotnet.net ALLIED GARDENS 6801 Easton Court (858) 583-1408

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SSPX

ST. JOHN BOSCO MISSION SSPPX Catholic Traditional Latin Mass

CHURCH SERVICES

CHURCH SERVICES

AWANA Club AWANA Club: Christ centered learning through lessons, games, and team building activities. Tuesday nights Call for more information. awanaclub@church.com (858) 422-7747

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF LA MESA Forgiveness Journey The United Church of Christ of La Mesa presents a special Lenten program: a four-week study of the transformative power of God’s grace in our journey in, with, and for forgiveness and, on the fifth week, an opportunity to walk the labyrinth, a circular, unicursal, winding route to a sacred place of healing for all ages. Must be 18 years of age and weigh less than 230 pounds! Visit skydivesan diego.com for details or call 888-391-0251. Saturday, March 8, 8 am; Sunday, March 9, 9 am; Skydive San Diego, 1353 Otay Lakes Road. (OCEANA)

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH Cajon Valley Jamboree A large, festive, annual community gathering in the heart of El Cajon. The Jamboree is filled with local merchants, live music, auctions, raffles, games, rides, food, and more. An event for the whole family. Friday, May 16, 5-10 pm. Saturday, May 17, 9 am-10 pm. Sunday, May 18, 9 am-5 pm.

EL CAJON 405 Ballard Street (619) 444-9425
San Diego Challenge
Nation is coming to San Diego. Participate in an urban adventure race, “Amazing Race” style. Teams of two or more dashes around the city solving clues, exploring new parts of the city and compete for a chance to participate in the National Championship race in Las Vegas this November. Sunday, March 9, 2pm; $35-$55.

Sunday, March 9, 11am; $6-$12.
Beautiful, Most Handsome Male. Owner, Best Trick, Cutest Puppy, Dog, Dog Who Looks Most Like Its Adult’s Cutest Dog, Child’s Cutest Dog, Best St. Patty’s Day Costume, Including ten categories: Ugliest Dog, Best单项冠军,
National Geographic: Best Overall Dog.

Sunday, March 9, 4:00 pm.
Choir Concert with The Ugandan Choir. 5:30 pm, Service at 6:30 pm. Phone: (619) 265-2411 • Fax: (619) 265-2484
5465 El Cajon Blvd • San Diego, CA 92115
Phone: (619) 265-2411 • Fax: (619) 265-2484
www.cvcoc.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

19th Annual Ugly Dog Contest
Including ten categories: Ugliest Dog, Best单项冠军,
Lakeside Community Presbyterian Church
The Ugandan Children’s Choir
Sunday, March 9, 4:00 pm.
LAKESIDE
9908 Channel Road
(619) 442-1021
9908 Channel Road
LAKESIDE
Sunday, March 9, 1pm; Marcc Academy, 330 A Street.
619-795-4509. Thursday, March 6, 6-9pm. A limited number of spaces are available, so register soon.

2008 Spring Valley Community Festival
The Annual Spring Civil War Re-Enactment, exploring an eclectic array of composition styles and highlighting past winners of the Annual Contest. Sunday, March 12, 7pm. AWAKEN Higher Brain Living Center, 2831 Camino Del Rio South #308. (MISSION VALLEY)

Order of the Good Death
Caitlin Doughty, the hilarious Los Angeles mortician, will share her irreverent observations about America’s attitudes toward death, stories from the mortuary, unusual ideas about burials, and more. Presented by the Hemlock Society of San Diego. Info: 619-233-4418. Sunday, March 16, 1:30-3pm. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

Powerhouse Park Cleanup
San Diego Coastkeeper hosts a beach cleanup and stewardship event. Saturday, March 8, 10am; Free. MakerPlace, 1022 W. 4th Street. (ITALY)

Go Green & Get Lucky, Ages 8-60ish
Simply The Best Singles, Go Green & Get Lucky, Ages 8, 10am; Sunday, March 9, 10am; 1pm; Marcc Academy, 330 A Street. (DOWNTOWN)

MakertPlace Two-Year Anniversary Open House The free all-day event, celebrating the workshop’s two years of operation, will include interactive demonstrations, meet and greets with members, tours of the facilities, special membership pricing, and lunch. Attendees are invited to view a special hydroponic challenge where participating students from various San Diego County high schools will compete in a timed hydro-boat construction and presentation. Saturday, March 8, 10am; Free. MakerPlace, 1022 W. Morena BL, Suite H. (OCEANA VISTA)

Easter, April 20, 9 am and Good Friday, April 18, 7 pm April 17, 7 pm, “Tapestry of the Passion’” 5:30 pm, Service at 6:30 pm, Wednesday Soup Suppers until Easter
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Life underwater
Scott McGee’s photography exhibition, a collection of dive and dry land photography called Adventures in a Cafe, opens at Vinaka Cafe in Carlsbad (300 Carlsbad Village Drive #211) with a reception on March 9 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. McGee’s collected images depict life beneath the waves of Southern California and Baja.

“A lot of people have no idea what’s out there,” says McGee of the lush environment that he’s been exploring since his youth as a scuba diver in San Diego. The reefs, kelp forest, and near-shore canyons within sight of the local coastline host a diverse array of marine life and underwater structure that most San Diegans don’t get to see. Getting to share the amazing things that he sees beneath the waves is McGee’s main motivation in staging the show.

Apart from wildlife photography, McGee likes to photograph divers in the water and on the beaches, inserting a human element into an image of raw nature. He hopes to raise people’s awareness of ocean ecology. It can be difficult for people to sympathize with something that’s hidden from view, and McGee believes that seeing the underwater world captured in its beauty will raise awareness of issues that threaten the vibrancy of our coastal seas. A recent Reader story on La Jolla Cove’s sea-lion population demonstrates, by the exuberant responses from its readers, that people identify more strongly with an issue health of our kelp forests and underwater reefs, on the other hand, is more secret, partly because those environments aren’t easy to see.

In part, the closeness to real-world political concerns gives Adventures in a Cafe a sense of topical relevance. Certain beaches in San Diego are threatened with closure due to the clumsy intersection of laws. Ideas about sustainable fisheries have influenced local businesses and the minds of consumers alike. There’s no doubt that Blackfish caused a stir.

Life underwater may be hidden from view, but it’s all around us, all the time. McGee invites people to come and take a look without having to get wet. ■

—Ian Pike

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The Revolution? It started here. Like, who needs sushi chefs when you can be your own sushi chef?

Michael Broder and Jennifer Duarte, two San Diego locals, came up with the idea for a self-service, invent-your-own sushi joint that turns all sushi’s formalities upside-down.

Sounds kinda good to me. Truth is, I’m intimidated by sushi. I don’t know enough. You sit there at a sushi bar gazing at lists of stuff you vaguely recognize as fishy, and you try like hell not to utter the only two words you know, the words that will drive any self-respecting sushi chef crazy: “Uh, California roll, please.”

So, the revolution? I first noticed it downtown at Sixth and C. I saw that Submarina, the sandwich place, had closed. Brown paper had gone up behind the office dog windows and a new sign was already on the wall outside: “Sushi Freak.”

I wandered in and found this guy César Tin, the sushi chef is waiting. Of course they have “old school” rolls, like, California ($5.95), Snap Dragon (krab mix, avo, cream cheese, $6.50), or “new school” rolls like the Snap Dragon ($9.95).

Actually, the Snap Dragon is what this other guy has. It’s a snake of rice filled with cream cheese and crispy shrimp and wearing these orange clown hats, eight pieces — in two minutes. Plus, teriyaki and wasabi-soy I mixed in a little bucket, with the ginger-cucumber side. I pay $6.37, including tax. And it’s a pretty tasty combo, if I do say so myself.

“That’s the thing,” says Emilio, munching his Snap Dragon at the next table. “When you do it yourself, you learn so much more. And pretty soon you become an expert. This place is like the Subway of sushi. It’s your choice, and it’s way quick. Cassandra and I have been coming in since they opened.”

He says the whole sushi explosion is a bit of a generational thing. “Like, I can’t get my dad to come in. When he was young, seafood was the cheap thing. Free, if you fished off the pier. Now seafood’s expensive, kinda chic with this Asian presentation, and chicken is the cheap thing. But Dad still sees it the old way.”

So far they have had three rolls, two Sapporo beers, and a bottle of sake, and their damage is still under $40.

“We might have two more beers,” says Emilio. “Heck, they’re only two bucks apiece.” Sapporo beer at $2? Dang! Now I’ve got to come back.

The downtown Sushi Freak is due to open about now.

The Place: Sushi Freak, 5175 Linda Vista road, suite 105, 619-296-2500
Prices: Create your own sushi roll: $6 up; “old school” rolls, like California ($5.95), Snap Dragon (krab mix, avo, el sauce), $9.95; “new school” rolls include Mango Tango (tangy mango, cream cheese, $6.95), Pink Cadillac (el, shrimp, avo), $8.95; “kitchen” dishes include Teriyaki Solo (teriyaki chicken on rice) $5.95; udon noodle soup with fish cake, $6.50, $8.50 with shrimp tempura or teriyaki chicken
Hours: 11a.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Thu 8:00 p.m. Sunday)
Bus: 44
Nearest bus stops: Linda Vista Road at Napa Street (northbound); Linda Vista Road, near Morena Boulevard (southbound)
Trolley: Green Line
Nearest Trolley Stop: Morena/Linda Vista

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**Primal image**

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**Civilized BBQ**

2302 El Cajon Boulevard — When the short-lived branch of the Barbecue Pit on University Avenue closed, North Park remained without cue for a good while, until BBQ 81 opened up with the promise of ribs and tri-tip on El Cajon Boulevard.

When all is said and done, BBQ 81 makes a bid to own the "mesquite grill" category of barbecue. The big, smoky grills behind the restaurant impart good flavor to the ribs and tri-tip, but the end product doesn’t quite measure up against Southern-style pit barbecue that’s been smoked for hours. The tri-tip remains very good because the grill can create flavorful roast beef.

One vexing issue is that BBQ 81 uses baby-back ribs.

In part, the popularity of baby back ribs (which are cut from the ribs near the spine of a small hog) is due to the insanely popular jingle from a certain fast-casual restaurant, which isn’t even a barbecue joint. It's not entirely undeserved, since the back ribs are more tender and easier to cook than spare ribs (which are cut from the belly side of the rib cage). Back ribs can yield a more consistently tasty product, especially under sub-optimal barbecue conditions. The problem is that spare ribs have more potential flavor and, while they represent a bigger challenge to the pit master, they yield a more delectable finished product when done correctly.

Baby backs tend to be more expensive, and, on BBQ 81’s menu, they’re really the only item that’s overpriced.

The petite bones of meat in a rack of baby backs represent a more civilized kind of barbecue; a barbecue that doesn’t want to see you gnawing at bones for the last shreds of meat; a barbecue clean enough for ’N Sync.

But barbecue is cooking at the edge of civilization, and the neat package of baby-back ribs doesn’t fit the primal image.

*by Ian Pike*

**Cheezers’ market**

A certain La Jolla resident/presidential candidate made the wrong kind of headlines a couple years ago when he suggested not enough Americans have the entrepreneurial spirit required to borrow 20 grand from their parents to start a business. Now, I don’t say so to trudge on anybody — rather to point out how much said spirit it takes to succeed in post-recession America for people without a blank check stapled to their birth certificate.

Even south of Nautilus, $20K isn’t considered enough seed money to start a proper restaurant, but over the past several years, young upstart chefs have found cheaper means of getting their businesses up and running — namely, food trucks. But even food trucks can be cost-prohibitive when you haven’t the means to borrow the means to get started in an industry considered one of the world’s riskiest investments.

Probably the cheapest way to establish a food-service brand may be found at your weekly farmers’ market.

Baby back ribs may be tidy and flavorful, but they don’t match the primal spirit of barbecue.

Munchers’ greatest love is the breakfast Croissant. Cheezers are not to be denied. So, I go to Yoshino’s. I’ve driven past it for years and pretty much the entire time a banner out front has declared, “Now Serving Sushi.”

I mean, how do you consciously choose to eat a fried pork cutlet when a dozen varieties of fresh fish may be ordered instead?

So, I go to Yoshino’s. I’ve driven past it for years and pretty much the entire time a banner out front has declared, “Now Serving Sushi.” I can’t say how long it’s been since “now,” but the place is supposed to have been there for decades, so for all I know they strung it up on day two.

Nevertheless, I’ve often assumed this was first your stomach responds to dairy. These are basically grilled cheeses with bells and whistles, and if anything the “Mad Munchers’” greatest innovation is the offer to slice your cheezers into dippable slices when you order a side of tomato soup.

I opted for the Bat Out of hell, if only to see how well mashed potatoes succeeded in sandwich format. Honestly, it just tasted like filler and reminded me I haven’t made it to the gym in far too long.

But I have to admire the effort and the intent. Mitt might never hold up this sort of outfit as a relatable role model for young people looking to make their mark in an increasingly tough marketplace, but I, for one, would love to see the man turn up one day to find out what being a go-getter in America means for those born with plastic spoons in their mouths.

*Katsudon mission*

1790 W Washington Street — I spent a disproportionate number of my high school days eating katsu from a small, family-owned restaurant just outside the gate of a military base on Okinawa.

Attempts to replicate the experience in San Diego have largely failed. Even when I can find it on a menu, something usually seems to get in the way, and that thing is usually sushi.

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*by Ian Anderson*


**San Diego Reader**

March 6, 2014

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**Sunrise Buffet**

3860 Convoy Street, Suite #121 858-715-1608
and foremost a traditional Japanese restaurant that added sushi to its menu back when eating raw fish first caught on state side. Therefore, I could safely focus on the katsu and not feel as though I were greatly missing out on the fish.

I grabbed a booth and opened the menu, pausing just long enough to appreciate how typically Japanese the place is — not some cartoonish TGI Fridays take on Japanese, with all kinds of kitschy decorations, but simple and understated, a family-style spot with just enough shotō to represent.

As anticipated, the menu did feature plenty of typical non-sushi dishes, including tonkatsu, the deep-fried pork cutlet I craved. Better yet, they offered katsudon (ot-suē-dōn), which is what you get when you put tonkatsu on a bowl of rice with fried egg. For reasons I shouldn’t have to point out, this makes it better.

The high-school nostalgia would not be complete without asking for an ice-cold Sapporo to accompany the pork, whereas the know-better adult version of myself ordered a seaweed salad to at least present the illusion of healthy eating.

New York water in Coronaondo pizza
1206 Orange Avenue — It’s a huge expense financially and environmentally it’s a disaster, but nine out of ten people prefer it,” says David Spatafore, owner of two Village Pizzerias in Coronado.

The “it” he is referring to is the decision to make all the pizzas using only water that he’s had shipped from New York, something he’s been doing shortly after opening the first pizzeria on Orange Avenue in 2002.

“The whole thing started when I was talking with the kitchen manager and two other employees about the pizza, bialys, and bagels from New York,” says Spatafore, a lifelong resident of Coronado. “They said the baked goods were better there because of the water.”

In order to — pardon the pun — test the waters, Spatafore started importing gallons of water shipped to Ontario by train for storage, and we receive shipments as needed.

Whether it’s the water or the real estate, Village Pizzeria’s pies aren’t cheap. Prices range from $9.99 for a 10-inch cheese pizza up to $49.99 for a 28-inch pie with multiple ingredients. But, to paraphrase Cervantes, the proof of the pizza may be in the eating.

Pizza is a subjective thing, but Village Pizzeria does have a nicely crispy crust that goes especially well with their roasted-veggie pizza called the Hippie; and the New Yorker, a delicious blend of salami, sausage, red pepper, and garlic.

The dough is also used to great effect in the garlic knots and the Zeppoli, which is deep-fried pieces of dough covered with powdered sugar and served with caramel and chocolate sauces for dipping.

Because Coronado gets a decent chunk of San Diego’s tourist dollar, it could be argued that Spatafore is making the pizzas better than is necessary.

Of course, make that argument to Spatafore at your own risk.

“The biggest insult anyone could make to me is to call it a tourist trap,” he says. “There are tourists here, but they’re the whipped cream of Coronado. You can’t build a business on them alone.”
Stone-crab potstickers bulge with ample crab and crispy swiss chard lining the plate. “Burnt orange sauce” could easily be oversweet but isn’t. Rather than being a cheesy wasteland, faro ‘n’ cheese surrounds kernels of boiled grain in a light, albeit very buttery, sauce for a reserved rethinking of mac ‘n’ cheese dishes. It’s not exciting, but that doesn’t make it good.

“Grilled Romaine hearts” misleads some with language. What sounds as if it should be an attractive plating of whole lettuce “finished Cardini style” simply isn’t. It’s a much more typical Caesar salad, though not a bad one by any stretch. Ample dressing and above-average anchovies elevate the salad to sufficient heights.

“Huevos diablos truffled duck eggs” sounds exotic but is really just a plate of deviled eggs incorporating the earthy burst of truffles in an attempt to buy loyalty...which completely succeeds despite the puny size of the “duck” eggs. It’s not the eggs (which could just as easily be from chickens) but the frisée salad soaked in truffle oil that gives the dish its charm. Who knew truffles were the secret to making dull, bitter, chokesome frisée look like a champion vegetable?

If SEA180 has a weakness, it’s the overzealous, yet somehow ineffective, service provided by a bevy of waiters trained to obviously corporate standards. People like to harsh on Cohn restaurants, citing claims of perceived imperialism and the stench of corporate restaurant style, but there’s little to hold against the group’s newest offering. Not in terms of cuisine, at least. The price of entry gets steep. Expect to pay $50+ per person for dinner and two drinks, but the sum feels justified when the checks are totaled and the appetites are satisfied.

Imperial Beach finally has a restaurant worth driving for.
not just on the patio but actually inside Salt & Cleaver. I doubted it enough to call ahead.

“Oh, we’re very dog friendly,” said the girl who answered the phone, “come on by.”

Don’t need to tell me twice. I leashed up my dog, Loki, and we braved the midday traffic and parking nightmare otherwise known as central Hillcrest in search of locally made sausage.

On a typical sunny day, the large sliding garage doors on either side of the entrance would be open to the patio seating, so the concept of inside or outside might be up for grabs. Since we showed up on a drizzly afternoon, they remained shut. The patio still looked pretty inviting, but I still wanted to see how it would do on a rainy day.

Pretty well, it turns out. The bartender offered to produce a saunt in.

I had further adventures ahead and out of the way of foot traffic. At Salt & Cleaver, with restrooms on one side of the bar and the kitchen door on the other, someone’s always walking by, wherever you happen to sit.

Of course, any dog will make room when your server brings out a plate of Nürnberg bratwurst. An authentic, German Nürnberg typically run the size of a breakfast sausage. Here, it’s scaled up about 800 percent to fill out a grilled bun. This actually makes them hard to compare to the real thing, which is arguably the most popular wurst in all of Bavaria. It tasted great, though, so I’m going to call it close enough for San Diego, in competition with the brats of Ocean Beach’s Kaiserhof, and the grill-your-own links of Siegels Iowa Meat Farms.

Of course, here you get the benefit of local craft brews on draught. I didn’t try any on this midweek afternoon — Loki and I had further adventures ahead that day — but I did appreciate that one tap at least was given over to a German beer, the world’s oldest brewery, Weihenstephaner — an obviously ideal sausage pairing.

As for being dog friendly, sitting inside will do on a rainy day when options run slim, but I get the feeling my dog would rather be on that patio, taking advantage of Fifth Avenue’s always-rewarding people-watching opportunities.

__Duck egg: cure for happy hour blues?__

326 Broadway — I swear. If I see the word “cured” one more time I’m gonna scream. “Curated,” “hand-crafted” “flights” of booze, food, you name it... The hand-wringer pretentiousness has swept like a virus through the menus of the world.

This time I’m sitting at the bar of the Grant Grill, here among the massive columns, wood-paneled walls, and the baby grand pianos of the U.S. Grant Hotel, reading the “hand-written” menu about the history of the famous watering hole.

“Through this journal we present what is the latest chapter in a curated experience that spans over ten decades.”

Uh, curated experience? I’m hoping they’ll cure some deals I can afford here. Even the appetizers (“small plates”) go from, like, $14 to $18. (Okay, they have one at $8. Traffic fries.) Because this is the land of expense-account Johnnies. On my right I’ve got a bunch of doctors at a convention on heart health and weight loss, by the sound of it. And on my left, a clutch of reps from eHarmony.

But the good news is, yes, they do have a happy hour (Sundays to Thursdays, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.). And it’s on now. Deal is half price on each of the six small-plate items.

They have fried calamari ($14), charcuterie plate ($18), Niman Ranch beef sliders ($18), crispy duck egg ($14), grilled flatbread with chicken and goat cheese ($14), and the eight-buck truffle fries.

So, right now, cut all those prices in half. Good deal. Sliders are the kind of obvious ones. But...what was that about “crispy duck egg”? Bruce, the very suave barman, says not that many people choose this one. “It’s a pity, because it has carnaaroli rice, charred onions, pancetta, and boulion. So, it’s tasty. And when you get it, you break open the egg and its yolk ooze over everything. It’s quite a performance!”

Huh. And all that for $7.50, happy-hour price. I decide to go for it. And, boy, it’s a heckuvu dish. Bruce brings it and, yes, looks a little small, like a crater lake that’s shrunk down into the crater.

But turns out there’s plenty. The crispy duck egg sits on this creamy moat that’s bobbing with raisins and pancetta, and when you puncture it, golden lava ooze out all over. So cool, and so-o-o tasty. But the kicker comes when I ask if they have any bread to help mop everything up. The gal from the kitchen says it could take a couple of minutes, but when she returns she has this magnificent round focaccia bread in its own metal pan. The bread’s cut into six steaming hot wedges, and it comes with a nice big chunk of unsalted butter. “We bake it every morning,” she says.

And it’s free, but you have to ask for it.

Bottom line: now we’re talking a pretty decent, belly-bulging meal. All for $7.50. Yes, I paid another $6 for a Green Flash Double Stout. But I waddle outta there fat and happy. Back to nuts and twigs tomorrow. Perhaps they’ll have a curated flight of hand-crafted salads at lunchtime.

__Good butchery__

9040 Campo Road — Part of the Valley Farm BBQ Stand’s charm is its lack of ambiance. The place is nothing but a shack in a grocery-store parking lot with a few patio tables for “seating.” Hulking smokers lurk behind the unremarkable building, belching the occasional cloud of promising woodsmoke into the air. Yet somehow, even with the sun down and a chill in the air, the barbecue stand remains a welcoming place.

It looks and feels like a fond memory, as though some old-timer should be telling a story that begins, “Well, it sure don’t look like much, but that little stand has some mighty fine ‘cue!”

Or maybe it’s just the humidity. “Some of the best smoked and grilled meats in San Diego,” says the Valley Farm Market website. That’s right, they claim to have some, not all, of the best meats. How’s that for a little good, country sensitivity? And it is some of the best, for sure. The tri-tip is phenomenal. Valley Farm Market is known for good butchery, and they send some of the nicest meats out for smoking. Getting a deep, smoky flavor into beef that’s still served medium to medium-rare is no mean feat!

The pulled pork also commands respect. Tender and flavorful, it wants only for a sharper sauce than the stand’s house brew, which is very sweet and better used in moderation.

Pro tip: Valley Farm’s beans are okay, but lack kick. Splash a healthy dose of that sweet barbecue sauce into the beans and they become mighty fine.

Someone gets a little overzealous with the crutch when it comes time to cook the ribs, and Valley Farm aren’t as barksome as they could or should be. Even so, the dry rub and smoker put plenty of great flavor into the meaty, almost country-cut spare ribs.

Best of all, it’s cheap. A $12.99 sampler plate is enough food to feed two regular humans, and every other combo and sandwich plate is under ten bones. They take credit cards, even though it doesn’t look like they would. It makes you want to celebrate by marching straight into the market, buying a jug of Ole Smoky Peach Moonshine, and passing that sucker around like it’s real country and not just Spring Valley.

__Surplus tofu houses__

4229 Convoy Street — It’s probably best to make something clear up front: I am not reviewing the popular Convoy Street restaurant Tofu House. I visited a different establishment named Convoy Tofu House.

Okay, they’re both on Convoy, both Korean, and each has the dubious judgment to think the word tofu is appetizing.

Anyway, plain-old Tofu House is the one next to O’Brien’s Pub.
This one — Convoy Tofu House — is on the east side of the street, south of Balboa. I’d call it easy to miss, except it’s got a three-story sign that towers over all the adjacent shopping strips.

Each tofu house is named for the dish sundubu jiggae or — as the menu kindly points out in English — soft tofu stew. I’m rarely a fan of tofu on its own merits; I usually see it as a palty meat substitute that, improperly prepared, offers all the charm of eating a cosmetic sponge.

Nevertheless, if it’s worth naming multiple restaurants after, I figure there must be something I’m missing.

Certainly that something’s not the decor, which gave a bit of a cafeteria vibe. A shoji screen in one corner separates it from the sushi counter next door, and another corner had been taped over with a sheet of brown plastic. I’m assuming renovations, either recent or scheduled for the near future.

None of this stopped the place from being at capacity, by the way. A number of families lined up at long tables, sharing short ramps up at the little stage, you watch it cook. I’m not even cracking a raw egg into it and just so you get the pleasure of looking at a Jackson. But then the rush. The service came a bit slower with meat substitute that, improperly prepared, offers all the charm of eating a cosmetic sponge.

But, I ain’t giving up on the quest for a 200-pound waistline (5.2 pounds away!), so I order a salad. Problem: none on the HH menu. They go from $9 to $17.

Blackened shrimp salad’s $16.99, Caesar’s $9.99, but $4 to add if you want chicken on top, or $5 for steak or shrimp adds.

The two cheapest are the wedge and the House of Blues salad, $8.99. The House of Blues one has “field greens,” red and yellow tomatoes, spicy pecans, and feta cheese crumbles with a vinaigrette.

I go for that, mainly to try the yellow tomatoes.

And, really, okay, no protein like chicken, whatever, but this is a feta-savory, pecan-sweet, totally filling ensalata. How filling? I have to go and order a second $2 Bud Light to help it down.

Like Humphreys Backstage, the live music at Crossroads is a fantastic plus that you don’t have to pay no cover for. I come out, ears ringing, $13.71 poorer.

But you’ve got to time it right. The trick is, get here about 6:30, grab a couple of Buds, and be settled into the Latino-goth atmosphere they’ve got going around the walls, in time for the 7:00 show. Once the live music ramps up at the little stage, you feel, well, hot and cool at the same time.

Local bands on Wednesdays.

Cheap Buds, saintly salads

1055 Fifth Avenue — Will somebody please tell me where there is a better happy-hour deal than here at the House of Blues’ Crossroads Bar? Two-dollar pints of Bud Light! Five-buck quesadillas. Free live music!

So, okay, the standard menu food ain’t the cheapest. New York Strip’s 30 bucks, French-dip sandwich goes for $15.99, jambalaya with chicken’s near enough to a Jackson. But then Brock the bar guy points out the special HH menu that starts off at $5 for corn bread with maple butter, jalapeno peppers, and cheese. Also, and this may be the best deal, the Crossroads Quesadilla, $5 with cheeses, poblano chilies, red peppers, onions, salsa.

Also good: chicken tenders for $6, two tacos (your choice of blackened chicken or “char grilled citrus marinated” steak) in corn tortillas with Cotija cheese and avocado lime cream, $6. Two pork sliders are $6, too, and chicken wings go for $7. So there’s quite a choice for poco dinero.

Certainly that something’s not the decor, which gave a bit of a cafeteria vibe. A shoji screen in one corner separates it from the sushi counter next door, and another corner had been taped over with a sheet of brown plastic. I’m assuming renovations, either recent or scheduled for the near future.

None of this stopped the place from being at capacity, by the way. A number of families lined up at long tables, sharing short ramps up at the little stage, you watch it cook. I’m not even cracking a raw egg into it and just so you get the pleasure of looking at a Jackson. But then the rush. The service came a bit slower with meat substitute that, improperly prepared, offers all the charm of eating a cosmetic sponge.

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Local bands on Wednesdays.

by Ian Anderson

Now Serving Beer!

San Diego Reader, March 6, 2014
Elephants in the room.

“After splitting ways with our old label,” says Hills Like Elephants frontman Sean Davenport, “we were told, even though it was them saying they didn’t want to work with us, that we were ’in breach of contract’ if we put out another full-length. Since the band has no intention of stopping, we decided to keep putting out music anyway. ... We’ve been sitting on these [songs] for a while, so we are going to start putting out EPs. ”

Putting out EPs.

Full-length. Since the band has no intention of stopping, we decided to keep putting out music anyway. ... We’ve been sitting on these [songs] for a while, so we are going to start putting out EPs. "

That’s why their upcoming Bedroom Colónies EP is subtitled Volume 1; it’s just a sampling of tunes originally intended as a full album. For the March 8 release gig at the Casbah, “All attendees will get a copy of the EP just for coming out,” says Davenport of the show, an all-local bill that includes Wild Wild Wets, Boy King, and Jimmy Ruelas. “The name Bedroom Colónies is a reference to how and where we made the EP. It’s a compilation of home recordings that we did out of Greg [Theilmann’s] room.”

Recorded, mixed, and mastered by band guitarist/keyboardist Theilmann, the EP features new drummer Michael Hams, who replaces Juan Carlos Ortiz. Says Davenport, “We’re screen-pressing these ourselves and packaging them in a DIY limited edition sort of deal.”

Davenport founded the group in 2011, just as his previous band Gun Runner was splitting up. Their debut album The Endless Charade, which earned them a Best New Artist trophy at the 2012 San Diego Music Awards, was followed last year by Feral Flocks. A nationwide support tour kicked off at the annual SXSW music fest in Austin, Texas, but Davenport says the band’s best gigs tend to happen at home. “Our best local show is kind of a toss-up. We had a really good time playing Boy King’s CD release a while ago at the Casbah, but I think it’s tied with our last show at Soda Bar on New Year’s, opening for Scarlet Symphony.”

As for drive-to downers, “The worst show was at the Constellation Room up in Santa Ana, or wherever the hell it is. People were showing up, the audience had a great vibe, and due to a scheduling conflict, our set got cut short and the soundman turned our mics off in the middle of a set... we drove two hours to play for maybe 15 minutes.”

“If all you care about is the music, it is worth the trip,” says Davenport, who is a part-time musician and part-time university professor. “It’s a lot to do to make music, and the music is worth it.”

Davenport went on to say that he is working on a spirit quest and re-invented himself as flute-tooting techno-shaman Rancho Shampoo. The cosmic mischief-maker dropped his debut El Vuelo del Golondrino LP (“The Flight of the Baby Swallow”) last May. Joint-released by Mexicali label Indian Gold Records and Tijuana’s Static Discos, the album conjures a cyberpunk peyote powwow at the behest of La Indian Gold Orchestra — Rancho Shampoo’s backing supergroup of Baja experimentalists from projects such as Fax, Maniqui Lazer, Trillones, Letters From Readers, and punk-rock prankster Julian Gonzalez of Los Nuevos Maevans (itself named after a Mexican brand of shampoo).

“It was on one of my trips to purgatory that I could begin to make music with the flute, which I inherited from my ancestors,” Rancho Shampoo says during our interview over Facebook message. An 11-minute YouTube mockumentary, “Panocha: Cerro Sangrado,” explores the tongue-in-cheek mythology of the small Tecate mount, which is crisscrossed by an access road, crowned with radio towers, and cut short to the north by a rusty border fence.

“Cerro Sangrado is a Tower of Babel in the cosmos which is situated in Baja California,” explains Shampoo, now a resident of El Cajon. “That is why I’m going. Because there, all the souls are released to the Cosmos and those souls return to the Cerro like a boomerang.”

Donning a long-haired wig, a ceremonial staff, and mysterious vernacular, Rancho Shampoo has created an elaborate persona of living performance art, not unlike Kumaré or Ziggy Stardust before him. But when he’s not summoning psilocybin soundtracks of flute, field recordings, hypnotic drums, faraway saxophone, primal post-punk bass lines, and cir-
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Founded by David Miano in late 2010, Aural Gravy has released new local music from the Very, New Kinetics, Kelsea Little, the Peripherals, and, most recently, Miano’s band Cut (formerly known as PostCrush), with two releases already nominated for San Diego Music Awards. According to Rose, “So far, our best-selling releases have been our last two, Kelsea Little’s Personal Myth and the Peripherals’ Declarations.”

Miano has a volunteer staff of between four and ten people (“depending on how much help is needed at any given time”) who take care of production, publicity, and college-radio promotion. “The website has a music store that offers not only the music of Aural Gravy artists, but also the music and merch of any other San Diego artists who want another outlet for sales.” — Jay Allen Sanford

Sex Pistols salute. The Super Bowl halftime show got close to punk with the once-revolutionary Red Hot Chili Peppers. The founder of local Sex Pistols salute Rotten Johnnies maintains that all threatening rock eventually becomes safe.

“Even if some passes, the edge wears off anything,” says singer Dan Neighbors. “In 1964, parents didn’t want their daughters to go to Rolling Stones shows. Now Mick Jagger is knighted. Anarchy becomes gentrified.”

Neighbors was in an all-original, straight-ahead rock project called Shaft, which played at the Casbah and at now-closed clubs such as Bodie’s, Velvet, and the Spirit during their 1990–95 life-spans. “We opened for the Dragons many times. Rock from the Crypt and Lucy’s Fur Coat were hot then.”

But he was different from his Shaft bandmates. “They were waiting on tables just so we could quit at any time and go on tour. I was just in it for fun. I never wanted to make a career of it.”

Neighbors, 43, started teaching at Granite Hills High School while still in Shaft. He’s still there.

But he’s also playing again, launching the Rotten Johnnies last year with three Guitar Center employees.

“We all grew up loving punk, even though we are of wildly different ages.” Guitarist Zippy Zimmerman is 50, bassist Tony Hayse is 28, and drummer Jerreca Ojeda is 25.

Don’t expect any “filth and fury/safety-pin costume shite.”

“We think it’s possible to have the energy and excitement of punk without dressing up,” Neighbors told the Reader. “We take the music part very seriously. But, no, we don’t spit on people and we don’t head-buttpuppies.”

Neighbors says he’s never heard of another Sex Pistols salute. “The Sex Pistols aren’t usually a band that pops to mind when people think of obvious choices for tribute bands. We thought this could be our niche. Along with the Ramones, they started the whole punk movement. We actually played with local Ramones band Hey! Hey! Let’s Go! a couple months ago. They were great. Those guys are a full tribute with wigs, leather jackets, sunglasses.”

I asked Neighbors what the late Joey Ramone or Johnny Rotten might say about their local imitators.

“Joey would appreciate Hey! Hey! Let’s Go! because they are spot-on and he was such a mellow guy. Johnny would probably call us a bunch of bloody wankers because he calls everybody that. But I would have to say he’d have to give us a grudging nod for our musicianship.”

The Rotten Johnnies appear April 19 at Shakedown. — Ken Leighton

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Thursday 6
From Oakland, producer-musician Matthew Melton (ex-Bare Wires) and his latest “lo-fi-glam-garage-pop” project Warm Soda pour their slicky goodness on the Hideout stage Thursday night. Warm Soda’s 2013 set. Someone for You, arcs from the Sweet to the Stokes (check out lead single “Reaction”), according to Brooklyn Vegan, which rated that record a year-end fave. This month’s upcoming collection, Young Restless Hearts, due to drop March 11, is one of the Vegan’s most anticipated records of the year. They’re the experts. Burger band Peach Kelly Pop will open the show with their branded “minim-alist bubblegum.” Peach Kelly’s Alle Hanlon says her white Wires offshoot is “more of a mutiny than a side project,” comparing Peach Kelly’s joy-joy to her full-time band’s incendiary garage-punk. The Hideout, by the way, is the ex-Void, -Eleven, -Radio Room, in case you missed that bit of local music news. If you miss the door to that delicious, the self-described “gender outlaw” J.D. Samson and her electro-agit-pop feminist group Men (ex-Le Tigre) will be at Bar Pink behind this year’s well-received Labor. They are a political dance band that hit back quick when Russian female punk band Pussy Riot was jailed in 2012, by releasing protest track “Let Them Out or Let Me In.” Give a listen to Labor lead single “All the Way Thru” for what’s in store at the North Park bar....

Friday 7
At the House of Blues on Friday night, from Anderson, Indiana, pop-punk four-piece the Par- atis jack in with their 2003 big-label Billboarder So Long, Astoria. They’ll play the platter from front to back, including their hit cover of Eagle Don Henley’s “Boys of Summer.” Someone had to beat that track up, and the Atariis did it without prejudice. Catch up with Alari guitarist John Collura and his take on the band’s reunion in this week’s “Of Note” interview. Authority Zero, Drag the River, and Versus the World set it up.... This year’s Gravelace Records roadshow (produced by Ryan Graveface of Casket Girls, who are touring in support of this year’s True Love Kills the Fairy Tale. Stargazer Lillies, Dott, and Dreamend are also on the bill, meaning “electronic sound-shapers” Gravelace will be onstage shaping sound all night long.... Else: from Salem, Oregon, earnest indie-rockers Typhoon hit the Irenic with Phox and Line & Circle...Two... in that squall of “70s guitar rock Radio Moscow after Golden Void, the Freeks (Fu Manchu), and Rising Sun, all of whom will perform before a Mad Alchemy liquid light show...dean- pop locals the Donkeys clip into Soda Bar after Drag City duo New Burns (that’s acid-folies Ben Chansey and Donovan Quinn).

Saturday 8
San Diego psychonauts Blackfeet Braves took off for L.A. a couple years back and return as Mystic Braves to play Soda Bar Saturday night. The Mys- tics specialize in mid-’60s organ-backed reverbers and easy-listening rondels. The new collection, available at mysticbraves.com, is very recom- mendable for fans of the brand, but it lacks the punched-up variety of similar acts such as Allah-Las and Blank Tapes. It’s a little...lil. Stillländ, with like-minded locals American Bear and Muscle Beech opening the show, it’s a breemingly triple bill on the City Heights stage....

Sunday 9
From Chicago, heady-metal trio Rus- sian Circles spin into Casbah Sunday night. The post-rock instrumentals are touring in support of last year’s critical hit Memorial, a record that out-explodes Explosions in the Sky, pummels the Fucking Champs, and gives Godspeed a run for their plucked arby nuance. Spend the seven-plus minutes with “1777” and hear all your favorite post-rock touchstones propped up to die at the hands of these tech- nical wizards. And there in lies the rub: a touch too technical, and leave my Mogwai alone! With Helms Alee and Ken Mode opening the show, this one’s a solid nongin’ noder. Don’t forget your ear plugs.... Another mentionable’s b Portland experimental-pop band Rare Monk at Bar Pink behind their modest, moody new seven-inch “Splice”!/“Sleep Attack”, and another Northwest notable, Mirah (a K Records player who’s worked with Phil Elverum’s Microphones and Thao Nguyen), who will be at the Loft at UCSD. She’s touring in support of this year’s Charging Light, a set that finds the often odd-popayer in Cat Power’s cat box...across campus at the U, local death-grind dudes Cattle have split with their label and retreated to home base to record a series of EPs that sort of circum- vents their agreement not to release a full-length record. Read Jay Allen Sanford’s interview with Elephants head Sean Davenport in this week’s Blur for more on the story. They’ll play a CD-release thing at Casbah behind the first in the series, appropriately titled Bedroom Colonies Volume I. This is a big-time locals-only bill with Boy King, Wild Wild Wels, and Jimmy Ruelas opening the show....

Monday 10
Seattle garage-pop act Tacecat ("Go Gos meets the Monkees. Kurt meets Courtney.") and lo-fi locals Teenage Burritos split a delicious-sounding bill at Soda Bar. I haven’t tasted much of the music, but I do love me some late-night Mexican num-nums, which that neighbor- hood is full of, sooooo....

Tuesday 11
SanFran strings band Kronos Quartet takes the stage at UCSD’s Mandeville Auditorium Tuesday night. I don’t know what they’re bringing these days, but I’ve heard these contempom-light UP some classic rock — Television, Bob Dylan, Hendrix!

Wednesday 12
Another classical fah-reak, Yo-Yo Ma, will be throwing down at Copley Symphony Hall on Wednesday. The master cellist has 75 recordings to his credit and 15 Grammy awards. Not too shabby. And dude likes to party after a show, so mind his tweets if you want to hang.... And there’s an Indian Gold Records showcase at Casbah, as borderland bands Fax, Machi- no, Vampire Slayer, Al. Schem, and Rancho Shampoo bring the Mexical sound to the Middletown mainstay. Chad Deal us on to Rancho Shampoo’s primordial ooze in this week’s Blurt section, and I’ll have a clip up on the Crawler podcast, so go get some!

— Barnaby Monk
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Decapitation hit Porter’s Pub...while up at the Belly Up, L.A. big band Vaud & The Villains play-act their cajun cabaret Every Saint Has a Past and Every Sinner Has a Future.

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Thursday, 8pm — Freako Suave. Friday, 8pm — Club Musae. Saturday, 8pm — Sterling Syler.

Brick by Brick:
Saturday, 8pm — The Untouchables. $12-$15.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:
Sunday, 6pm — Civic Youth Orchestra. Around the World. $10-$20.

Carmel Valley Library:
Wednesday, 7pm — Patrick Berrogain. Free.

Friday, 8pm — Karl Denson’s Tiny Universe. Saturday, 8pm — Greensky Bluegrass. $18-$32.

Sunday, 8pm — The Vaud & the Villains. $15-$27.

Tuesday, 8pm — Oliver Trelloy and Tyson Motsenbocker. Wednesday, 8pm — Paul Cannon, Lee Coulter, Luke Williams. $12-$21.

By Dave Good

“I got a call from the band’s manager,” guitarist John Collura tells the Reader.

“I’d been out of the band for, what, six years? He said, ‘What do you think about getting the band back together?’” The result is that for the first time in a decade the original Ataris agreed to get back together for one tour. Bonus if you’re a fan of So Long, Astoria. That’s what they plan to perform at each stop along the way, start to finish. Chances are you’ve heard the radio hits off the career-defining album: “So Long Astoria,” “The Saddest Song,” and a cover of Don Henley’s “Boys of Summer.”

Collura says that from the time of the manager’s phone call to booking shows, it took a year to hammer out the details. “It would have been the ten-year anniversary of the record,” he says in explanation of why they elected to tour behind it again. He laughs. “Instead, we’ll be doing it during year 11.”

The Ataris started in 1996. Their brand of post-punk power-pop was an instant winner on Warped Tours. It still sounds fresh; the beauty of power-pop is that it never gets old. When the original lineup parted company in 2004, Collura started a new band. “It’s called Morning District. We’re finally gonna release some music on Bandcamp.” He also built himself a recording studio. “It was a great way to transition out of many years with a touring band.” He lives an hour outside of Manhattan in Orange County, New York. As for what the future holds, Collura says he just wants to get through the tour and see what happens. Might the Ataris record something new in his studio? “If they do, I’ll give them a discount.”

Authority Zero, Drag the River, and Versus the World also perform.

The Ataris: House of Blues, Friday, March 7, 8:30 p.m. 619-299-2583. $20 advance/$23 at the door (all ages, under 18 with an adult)

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

THE ATARIS

THE ATARIS

At the Peter Sprague Trio. $15.

Saturday, 6pm — Chasing Norman. Friday, 6pm — The Brokers Band. Saturday, 6pm — Bill Magee. Sunday, 2pm — Half Moon Portrait. Free. Sunday, 6pm — Too Rude For Sunday. Wednesday, 6pm — Northstar.

Dick’s Last Resort:
Friday, 8pm — Flock of 80s. Free.
Saturday, 8pm — House Rockin’ Blues. Free.

Dirk’s Niteclub:
Friday, 8:30pm — Nemesis. Saturday, 7pm — Zone 4.

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**EVERYONE’S A CRITIC**

**Wig Out at Jagbags**
**Stephen Malkmus & the Jicks**
By Gerardo Perez Torres

California native Stephen Malkmus has added a deep-cut notch to his indie-rock belt with the release of *Wig Out at Jagbags*. Jagbags is SM’s sixth release with the Jicks and it reveals a certain comfort level with its laidback, catchy tracks. Opener “Planetary Notion” kicks off the 12-song set with wailing guitars and off-beat drumming played into a comfort jam and then broken up with a screaming guitar solo. On “Rumble at the Rainibe,” Malkmus begins “Come and join us in this punk-rock tomb,” which describes the nostalgic mood of the collection, reconfirmed when he quips, “We are returning, returning to our roots! No new material, just cowboy boots... No one here has changed, and no one ever will.” “Lariat” reads like a tossed-off afterthought from an aging rock star, as “Chartjunk” is a comical homage to Piston point guard Brandon Jennings. Throughout the album, the Jicks show their experience with mellow-yet-engaging instrumentation and bright songs that are a breath of fresh alt-pop air. Jagbags is a win for any listener longing for the lo-fi, fuzz-guitar riffs and free-form lyrics that Malkmus made a name with at the beginning of his 22-year career. Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks will perform on March 29 at the Casbah.

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Thursday, 8pm — Darkwave Garden DWG.
Friday, 8pm — Lazy Crazy, Night Crawlers, Throw the Goat.
Soma:
Thursday, 7pm — We Butter the Bread With Butter.
Saturday, 7pm — Aer.
Sycuan Casino:
Thursday, 8:30pm — Johnny Gill.
Saturday, 8pm — Bronco.
Til-2:
Thursday, 8:30pm — Old Firm Caution and Rat City Riot.
Friday, 8pm — The Freeks, Golden Void, Radio Moscow.
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Thursday, 8pm — Machines Learning, Beaucoub, Crooked Ruler.
**Tower 13**
Thursday, 6:30pm — Joe Cardillo.
Friday, 8:30pm — Santana Ways.
**Tower Bar**
Thursday, 8pm — Mystic Braves.
**True North Tavern**
Thursday, 9pm — DJ Demon.
**U-31**
Friday, 8pm — The Pizza Underground. Free. Sunday, 5pm — Gardens & Villa and Tropical Popiscle.
**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Diego**
Saturday, 7:30pm — Karen Drucker.
March 8th at 7:30pm. Join us for an inspiration evening of music and laughter as Karen Drucker weaves her magic spell. To order tickets go to kdruckerconcert34.com. Send questions to Vicky at sauron.events@gmail.com.
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**CLASSICAL MUSIC**

**An Afternoon of Harp Music**
This concert, free to the public, is dedicated to San Diego Harpist JoAnn Dickinson Ford. Local Harpists Elena Maskovtseva and Tasha Smith Godinez will perform both duo and solo harp repertoire. Saturday, March 8, 4pm; free. Liberty Hall Theater at Paradise Village, 2700 E. 4th Street.

**UPCOMING SHOWS**

**710 Beach Club**
710 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844.
March 13 — Rock Out Karaoke.
March 14 — Black Salt Tone, Sono Vero, City Reef.
**Bar Pink**
3829 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194.
March 13 — Light Thieves and Smoke Season.
March 14 — Euphoria Brass Band.
March 15 — Neon Beat.

**Belly Up**
143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8494.
March 13 — El Ten Eleven.
March 14 — Common Sense.
March 15 — Tommy Castro & the Painkillers.
March 13 — This Will Destroy You, Silent Land Time Machine.
March 14 — Larry & His Flask and Scott H. Biram.
The Coyote Bar & Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-729-4699.
March 13 — Ecoponic.
March 14 — Slower.
March 15 — More Sol.
El Camino II: 2400 India St., Little Italy.
March 13 — Fessway Wings & Claws.
March 13 — Willie Nelson, Lukas Nelson & P.O.T.R.
March 14 — The Coyote Bar.
Infinity at Pala Casino: 11154 Highway 76, Pala, 877-946-7252.
March 14, March 15, March 16 — Rockin’ Elvis Fest.
March 13 — Noise Pollution with Jeff Phillips.
March 14 — S.H.A.F.T. with Blackass Ringleader.
March 15 — Boogie Invasion.
Martinis Above Fourth: 3940 Fourth Avenue #200, Hillcrest, 619-400-4500.
March 13 — An Evening with Coco Peru.
The Merrow: 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372.
March 14 — Kitten with a Whip.
March 15 — SD Union.
March 20 — DJ Axle.

**Relax at the air-conditioned AERO Club**
Where bartenders come for a cold beer
Great Beer Over 650 Whiskeys
3365 India St. • Since 1947
aeroclubbar.com
619.297.7211 • WiFi

**Music Reviews from Our Readers**

A salute to the rock gods!

**Wig Out at Jagbags**
By Andrew Perez

Thud! Thud! Monstrous footsteps echo throughout the room. “Oh no, can it be,” singer Eric Bloom’s voice quivers. “Rising out of the Pacific Ocean, he lurches his way toward San Diego!” The footsteps grow louder as a monstrous roar pierces the air. Cheers and screams erupt from the rapt audience as their horror and anticipation grow too much to handle. “Who is it?” Bloom asks. Unable to keep their shit together the crowd screams in ecstasy. “Goddamnit!” and all hell breaks loose — Blue Öyster Cult has arrived at Sycuan Casino and they aren’t taking any prisoners. The quartet, which has been active for more than 40 years, went on to play crowd pleasers “Burnin’ for You” and “The Golden Age of Leather,” which had all the audience members raising their cans of beer on high to salute the rock gods. Those starving for face-melting solos were rewarded as every song ended up turning into a seven-minute jam session. Closing with the hit (“Don’t Fear the Reaper,” these rockers proved that they’ve still got it.

**Concert: Blue Öyster Cult**
Date: January 31
Venue: Sycuan Casino
Sections: a, row F

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

**Bancroft**
9143 Campo Rd. Spring Valley
Thu 3/6 Status Soundwave (80’s D.J.)
Fri 3/7 Pentagamers and Daisies
Sat 3/8 The Sleepwalkers
**Sun 3/9 Habits (LA) Prayers Hot Nerds (DJ set) Batwings Late Nite Owl**
**Fri 3/14 Lose Control (LA)**
**Sat 3/15 LOC-JAW Brain Fragment Subject to Citation**
619.445.BEER

**San Diego Reader March 6, 2014**
GOBLIN
PINKISH BLACK
MAY 2 | ON SALE FRIDAY! | ALL AGES

THE ATARIS
SO LONG ASTORIA REUNION TOUR
AUTHORITY ZERO / DRAG THE RIVER / VERSUS THE WORLD
MARCH 7 | ALL AGES

FROM INDIAN LAKES
THE AMERICAN SCENE / GENEVA PINA / NAIVE THIEVES
MARCH 7 | 5TH AVENUE SIDE STAGE | ALL AGES

SIMON POSFORD PRESENTS
THE BRAND NEW SPHONGETRON 3.0
DEsert Dwellers
MARCH 8 | 21+

NECK DEEP
KNuckle PUNK / LIGHT YEARS / LAST CALL HOME / CUT YOUR LOSSES
MARCH II | 5TH AVENUE SIDE STAGE | ALL AGES

LOCAL BREWS, LOCAL GROOVES: ALL ACCESS
COWBOY ANGELS / PLOOK / TERRY MATSUOKA / THE BARBER
BULLY BLINDERS / SPACESHAG / GLENN THOMAS BAND AND MORE
MARCH 13 | 21+

Riviera Supper Club &
Turquoise Room: 7777
University Ave., La Mesa, 619-
713-6777.
March 14 — Sure Fire Soul Ensemble.
Second Wind (San Carlos):
8515 Navajo Rd., San Carlos,
619-665-1730.
April 3 — Collage Menage.
Seven Grand: 3054 University
Ave., North Park, 619-269-3819.
March 13 — The Parmesans and
Erik Canzona.
March 14 — Lexington Field.
March 15 — Soul Organization.
The Shakedown Bar:
3048 Midway Dr., Midway District,
619-487-0373.
March 14 — The Fooks.
March 15 — Iron Maidens.
Side Bar:
536 Market St.,
Downtown San Diego, 619-696-
0946.
March 19 — DJ Scooter.
Sleep Train Amphitheatre:
2050 Entertainment Circle,
Chula Vista, 619-671-3600.
March 22 — Kings of Leon and
Local Natives.
Soma:
3350 Sports Arena Bl.,
Midway District, 619-226-7662.
March 15 — We Are the In
Crowd, William Beckett.
Spin Nightclub:
2028 Hancock St.,
Midway District, 619-294-
9590.
March 15 — Mega Tek, Dynamq,
King Bonafide, Full Watts.
Sycuan Casino:
5469 Casino Way, El Cajon,
619-445-6002.
March 15 — Glenn Miller
Orchestra.
March 15 — Ronnie Milsap.
March 22 — Fuzzy Rankins Blues
Band.
Valley View Casino:
16300 Nyemii Pass Rd., Valley Center,
866-843-9946.
March 15 — Ronnie Milsap.
March 22 — Sara Petite & the
Sugar Daddies.
The Tower Bar:
4757 University Ave., City Heights,
619-284-0158.
March 14 — Qui.
Valley View Casino Center:
3500 Sports Arena Bl., Midway
District, 619-224-4171.
March 16 — Tool and Failure.
Wave House: 3125 Ocean
Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-
228-9283.
March 17 — St. Patrick’s Day:
Brady Spear & Beefam.
Winstons: 1921 Bacon St.,
Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
March 14 — Natural Vibrations,
Sandollar, Krooked Treez.
March 15 — Natural Vibrations,
Summer Down, Dirty Rice.
March 16, March 23 — Jose
Sinatra hosts OB-oke.
Nobody knows Happy Hour in San Diego like Ed Bedford
The man has been chasing cheap chomps and chugs around San Diego (and telling you all about it) for over 20 years. Ed, we raise our discounted-drink glasses to you.

1887 On the Bay
1701 Strand Way, 619-435-0155
CORONADO
This place is where Stevie Wonder, the Breaking Bad crew, and Marilyn Monroe have all hung out. Also, it’s been around even longer than its neighbor, the Hotel Del. The great thing: At Happy Hour you can usually see yachts swooping past your Crew’s Lounge window. HH cocktails, $7, good selection of wines at $6, beers start at $3.50. HH food’s limited, but good. Asparagus soup, $5, six oysters, $9, ribs, $8, prime rib sandwich, $12. Great sunset rendezvous unchanged since, well, 1887.

Happy Hour: 4-6pm daily, and all night Thursday.

The Joint
4902 Newport Avenue, 619-222-8772
OCEAN BEACH
Cozy, buzzy atmosphere. Menu’s not all cheap (burger $14, rib eye $17) so be sure to hit HH. Menu includes great tapas, but try sushi; with names such as “Dr. Eel Good” they can’t be bad. Salmon skin roll ($5.50) is lush, savory, sweet, gingery, with caviar eggs popping in your mouth. Also try the Joint (soft shell crab, avo) normally $13, $6 HH, or the O’Beef (with seared filet mignon on top). “Sushi chefs’ d freak at some of this stuff,” says Big John, the owner. Best HH grog deal: jar-size glass of “One Cup” Ozeki sake, $5.50. Cocktails vary. Beers from $4. HH cocktails, $7, good selection of wines at $6, beers like Green Flash Double Stout, $6. House wines $6. Cocktails $6. Happy Hour: 4-7pm Sunday-Thursday.

Grant Grill
In the U.S. Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway, 619-744-2077
DOWNTOWN
Dress up for this hangout of judges, politicos, convention-goers, old-money rich, and the famous. Albert Einstein dined here, as have FDR and 12 other presidents. But the HH is surprising. Like, half price on their six small-plate items: Fried calamari $7, charcuterie plate $9, beef sliders $9, crispy duck egg $7.50, grilled flatbread with chicken and goat cheese $7, truffle fries, $4. My choice: duck egg. Break it and it floods the surrounding can-}

Humphrey’s Backstage Live
2241 Shelter Island Drive, 619-224-3577
SHELTER ISLAND
Behind the massive curved Hawaiian prow is one heck-}

Chasing cheap chomps and chugs around San Diego

Hexagone
495 Laurel Street, 619-236-0467
BANKERS HILL
At this very French Hexagone (named after the shape of France), they keep it simple. All HH dishes cost $7. Frog legs Provençales, snails, baked brie and apple, moules marinières, fried artichokes, the cheese plate, seven bucks. But the kicker is you can also get half-size versions of regular entrées like steak frîtes or coq au vin ($10 instead of $20) or sea bass ($13 instead of $26). Beers are $3.50, house wines $5, cocktails $6. Just be careful to stay on-message because the regular entrées average $25. Happy Hour: 3:30-7pm daily.

The Field
544 Fifth Avenue, 619-232-9840
GASLAMP
For looks, this is about as real as it gets. The owners collected all the Irish paraphernalia that’s crammed in here, from plows to blacksmith’s bellows. Happy Hour is generously long and includes corned beef and cabbage croquettes ($5), lamb sliders ($2.75 each), and, my favorite, the sausage rolls (“Irish sausage wrapped in puff pastry,” $5.50). The pastry is incredibly light, like a croissant, and the honey mustard dip is perfect. A 20oz pint of Guinness costs $5.50, house wines $4, well cocktails $3.50. Fridays, they have a free buffet of, say, wings, from 5 till 6:30pm.

Primavera
932 Orange Avenue, 619-435-0454
CORONADO
Condoleezza Rice eats here. PGA bigwigs eat here. So, yes, tiny Primavera’s not for the faint of wallet. But even they have a Happy Hour. Most HH items are between $8 and $13. Mac and cheese is $7, steamed clams are $13, bacon-wrapped scallops go for $12. Best surprise: Crostini Florentina ($10). They’re “toast points smothered in goat cheese and topped with filet mignon, spinach, and porcini mushrooms.” Totally delish, surprisingly filling. Glass of New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc costs $6. All drinks are $3 off during HH. Not the cheapest, but if it’s good enough for Condi… Happy Hour: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm

Romesco
Mexiterranean Bistro
4246 Bonita Road, 619-475-8627
BONITA
This restaurant is our nearest window to the Baja-Med locavore phenomenon. Lots of HH choices, and every one interesting, even the three short-rib sliders, not much more than a buck each. The ahi tostada ($5.85) is a beautiful combo of spinach leaves, tuna, peppers, avo, and cream, drizzling down to the corn tostada. All-time fave: lengua en pipian (tongue in pumpkin-seed sauce) in an iron cazuelita. What’s great: owner Javier Plascencia is making it up as he goes along. HH wines include Guadalupe Valley Merlot, earthy, tasty, $5. Dollar off beers, $2 off wines, $6 margaritas, $7 house martini. Happy Hour: 3-7pm Tuesday to Saturday, all day Sunday.

Cosmopolitan Hotel & Restaurant
2660 Calhoun Street (in the plaza), 619-297-1874
OLD TOWN
Yes, it’s in the eye of the tourist storm, but the Cosmopolitan, the old Casa de Bandini, has a truly beautiful patio and...
Happy Hour deals that make it easy to soak up the atmosphere without getting soaked. Like, $3 draft beers, half-price wines, $4.50 cocktails, $4 fish tacos, $6 burgers and fries. Among $5 HH appetizers, the mushroom, artichoke, and spinach bowl is a great dipper, and the steamed mussels go on forever. Do this at dusk so you can settle in to the courtyard and talk with employees about the ghosts they’ve felt, the chairs they have seen moving. Happy Hour: 4-6pm Monday-Friday

**Croce’s Park West**
2760 Fifth Avenue, #100, 619-233-4355

**Bankers Hill**
Croce’s is reborn a mile up Fifth, after being ousted from the Gaslamp. Their HH menu has just two serious dishes: ancho agave glazed chicken dummettes with a blue-cheese dressing ($7 for 6 pieces, $11 for 12 pieces), and Jamaican jerk baby-back ribs with a creamy polenta and mango/papaya mint salsa ($8). This is the dish. The ribs are tender and a nice contrast to the fruit-laden salsa. Also great: HH draft beers are all $3, for quality offerings like Lost Abbey’s Lost and Found, Acoustic Ales’ Mad Dub. And specialty cocktails are all $6. This Happy Hour feels like a keeper: 4-6pm and 10pm-closing

—— ED BEDFORD

**Ian Pike’s beachtastic Happy Hour spectacular 2014**

**Sea 180**
800 Seacoast Avenue, 619-631-4949

**Imperial Beach**
The view from this bar is so good, it makes IB worth driving to. Happy Hour, which fills the gap between lunch and dinner service, runs 2:30-5:00pm every day. There are half-price cocktails from the tiki-esque menu, the same deal for wines by the glass, and small plates starting at $5. Sit inside or out. It doesn’t matter. You’ll still get a great view of the IB pier and the not-so-distant distant Coronado Islands.

**Raglan Public House**
1851 Beacon Street, 619-794-2304

**Ocean Beach**
Raglan breaks with a tradition shared by many theme bars of being lame. Maybe it’s the delicious lamb burgers, but instead of kitschy, the New Zealand-themed bar and grill manages to come off as a solid neighborhood joint. Happy Hour, which the bar skips on holidays, is Monday-Friday, 3-6, and the deal is simple: half-off munchies and select drinks. Try the Shandy, a beer “cocktail,” if you want to keep the alcohol consumption moderate, for whatever reason. If not, trust in the power of the tap list. It’s a burger place, after all.

**OB Noodle House**
2218 Cable Street, 619-450-6868

**Ocean Beach**
It doesn’t have the very best pho in town, but it’s close! Moreover, the Noodle House is a dark-horse contender for “best noodle shop” just because it has a better location than anywhere else that plays in the same league of tastiness. Also, it turns out that chamoy-flavored sake and Belgian beer go very well with noodle soup. Half-price beer from 3-6, discounts on sake infusions and beer pitchers. Slurp slurp. Brandon Hernández adds: Of all the Happy Hours in town, this is probably the best for a beer hound like me. And we’re not talking typical Asian macro-lager garbage. There’s a
JOIN US FOR SOME
DARN GOOD
HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS
3-6pm  MAR 5th-14th
$3 Lucky Bastard Ale
OR
MAKE IT A COMBO
$10 LBS Burger
+ LBS Ale
For A Limited Time Only!

Regular Happy Hour at Lucky Bastard Saloon: 3-6pm M-F,
1/2 off pizza, $3 select beers & well drinks
reason this place has a line out the door come 3pm. Owner Steve Yeng is a beer nerd’s hero, going to great lengths to get specialty suds offerings ranging from sours and Belgian trappist ales to triple IPAs and imperial stouts. Sweetening the daily deal, he even throws in select brews for just $2 per pint, That leaves plenty of dough for a warming bowl of pho or whole sizzling fish.

**Pacific Beach Ale House**
721 Grand Avenue, 858-581-2337

Nobody really knows why a glut of kebab shops opened up all over San Diego in recent years. Perhaps a secret society of London and Berlin ex-pats longing for the kebab shops of their youth instigated a ploy to turn Americans on to the joy of the Anatolian burrito. Either way, Cali-Kebab is definitely the only kebabery with its own in-house microbrewery, Amplified Ale Works. Weekday Happy Hour runs Monday through Thursday, 3-6, with half-price on most beers and most shared plates. To keep things rolling, daily specials start up around the end of Happy Hour. Tuesday has $10 pitchers and $3 kebab tacos, Wednesday is $5 stein night, and Thursday has $4 pints with an Amplified Ale Works beer koozie.

**California Kebab and Beer Garden**
4150 Mission Boulevard, 858-270-5222

Nobody really knows why a glut of kebab shops opened up all over San Diego in recent years. Perhaps a secret society of London and Berlin ex-pats longing for the kebab shops of their youth instigated a ploy to turn Americans on to the joy of the Anatolian burrito. Either way, Cali-Kebab is definitely the only kebabery with its own in-house microbrewery, Amplified Ale Works. Weekday Happy Hour runs Monday through Thursday, 3-6, with half-price on most beers and most shared plates. To keep things rolling, daily specials start up around the end of Happy Hour. Tuesday has $10 pitchers and $3 kebab tacos, Wednesday is $5 stein night, and Thursday has $4 pints with an Amplified Ale Works beer koozie.

**Surfside Sushi**
4527 Mission Boulevard, 858-273-2979

It’s hard to beat the allure of cold beer and hot sake. Surfside’s daily Happy Hour, from 5 until 7:30 or 8 (depending on the day and, apparently, the management’s whims), means discounted sushi rolls and $1 sake with the purchase of a beer. Feel free to pig out on mayonnaise-covered rolls, but more careful sushi eaters may go for the 16-piece “chef’s recommendations,” which gets toro, uni, Spanish mackerel, live shrimp, clam, and yellowtail for a reasonable $38.

**Thrusters Lounge**
4633 Mission Boulevard, 858-483-6336

Whomp out at the quintessential beach bar and save a bit of loot at the same time during “happy as sh!t hour” Monday to Thursday 5-9, and Friday 5-10, with $3 well drinks and beers. Thrusters has daily specials, too, like $1.50/$2.50 drafts on Mondays and Wednes-
$2 Happy Hour Week

It's the happiest week of the year! Stop by any participating restaurant March 5th-14th to try a signature drink for just $2!

La Gran Tapa
$2 Sangria or Pirate Grog

Bluefoot Bar & Lounge
$2 Sapporo

Proud Mary’s Bar & Grill
$2 Bourbon Slushie

Cafe Bar Europa, The Turquoise
$2 Sangria or Pirate Grog

DiMille’s Italian Restaurant
$2 Sangria Calabrese

Kous Kous
$2 Moroccan Kiss

Lucky Bastard Ale
$2. Lucky Bastard Ale

Crossroads at House of Blues
$2 Bud Light

Bar Pink
$2 Shots of Cream Peach/Strawberry

Martins Above Fourth
$2 Key Lime Pie Martini

Coyote Ugly
$2 Coyote Ugly Whiskey

Cardiff Beach Bar at Tower 23
$2 Frozen Strawberry Daquiri

710 Beach Club
$2 JD on the Beach

Giorgino’s
$2 All Craft Bottled Beers

Nunu’s
$2 All Craft Bottled Beers

Brewski’s Bar & Arcade
$2 Margaritas

Splash Wine Lounge & Bistro
$2 “Cinco Horas” Wine

Cali Comfort BBQ
$2 Solvitski Vodka

Society Brewing Co
$2 “The Pugilist” Dry Irish Stout

Shogun
$2 Assorted Shots and Sapporo

Sevilla
$2 Craft Sangria Flights

Vinavanti Urban Winery
$2 “Cinco Horas” Wine

La Bella Pizza Garden
$2 Red Trolley

Bamboo Lounge
$2 Bourbon and Coke

T-Deli
$2 First Long Island Tea

Twisted Manzanita Ales & Spirits
$2 Iron Mountain IPA

El Nuevo Puerto Nuevo
$2 Specialty Margaritas & All Beers

Aquí es Texcoco
$2 Pulque & All Beers

Benchmark Brewing Co
$2 Brown Ale

Dedos Food’s
$2 Jameson Shot

sdreader.com/hhw

Try them all and let us know on Facebook (facebook.com/sdreader) or Instagram (@SanDiegoReader) which one you liked best using #ReaderHappyHour!
days, and other ways to get good and liquored up just a block away from the sand. Don’t be a tool “buying bottle service with your rent money.” Do enjoy occasional dub-step and dancing. Don’t get in a fight. Do get rad.

**Latitude 32**
5019 Cass Street, 858-273-0501
PACIFIC BEACH

Part of this bar’s charm is the random sports playing on the array of TVs when the regular stick-and-ball games aren’t on. It’s probably the only PB beach bar that has ever showed the Criterium du Dauphine (a cycling race.) The cheesesteak subs at Alex’s Brown Bag (attached to the bar) are downright salivatory, but the cheesesteak-covered fries are even better. Lat’s also gets bonus points for starting Happy Hour at 11am every weekday, running it until 6, and letting it go all the way to 9 on Tuesdays. They’d be mad if we posted the details here. It’s a neighborhood place. They want you to go find out yourself. Respect that, and you’ll like it here.

**Cusp**
7955 La Jolla Shores Drive, 858-551-3620
LA JOLLA

Sitting at the top of the Hotel La Jolla, gazing out to where the ocean drops off into Scripps Canyon, sipping a cold drink… what could be nicer? A little restraint works wonders, and barmeister Nate Howell is a student of booze history. The bar at Cusp actually bothers to make classic cocktails properly, rather than overdoing it with syrups and bitters to the point of farce. Happy Hour daily from 4-7 includes $5 bar bites, $7 cocktails, and $5 wine and beer.

**George’s at the Cove**
1250 Prospect Street, 858-454-4244
LA JOLLA

This place has a sunset clock right on the website. That’s how important the view is. George’s may seem far too fine for your champagne tastes and beer budget, but you can actually afford to go here. Sit at George’s Bar or the Ocean Terrace during Monday to Friday Happy Hour from 3:30-6:30 with $7 cocktails, $7 wine, and $4 beers. They also run daily specials — Throwback Thursday, whatever that is, anyone? Go find out. Stay for Thursday’s all night Happy Hour. See. George’s isn’t out of reach. —IAN PIKE

**South Park Abbey**
1946 Fern Street, 619-696-0096
SOUTH PARK

Attention, sports fans! It doesn’t matter your game, South Park Abbey has 36 taps of super-select beer (seriously, you’ve never heard of 50-peso cagaumas at Tahiti Felix’s)

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**50-peso cagaumas at Tahiti Felix’s**
at least half of these) to accompany five-buck burgers (coming from a burger dude, yes, they rule) every weekday from open ’til 5pm. Check it out. All day Monday (rejoice!) and 3 to 7pm Tuesday through Friday, take $3 wells and pints and buck-fifty 8-ounce tasters. Sporting men like ourselves like to live on the edge, so try your luck with the daily $3 pint, which — along with everything else — sends 3 percent of proceeds to your choice of the Abbey’s-endorsed foundations.

**Yard House**
1023 Fourth Avenue, 619-233-9273
GASLAMP
Okay, the Yard House is a nationwide franchise, but make no mistake. This isn’t Applebee’s. The Gaslamp tap house offers over 130 brews, including more than a few San Diego favorites. In the name of science, let’s indulge the fact that a yard of beer is approximately 1.4 liters (i.e., a rite of passage). Anyhow, you won’t find the classic bulb-ended yard glass at this tap house, but, from Monday through Friday, 3 to 6pm and Sunday through Wednesday from 10pm to close, you can take domestic pints at $3.75, crafts and imports from $4.25 to $6.75, half-yards from $7.50 to $10.50, wells for around $4.50, plus a heap of half-off appetizers.

**The Merrow**
1271 University Avenue, 619-299-7372
HILLCREST
Yep, the former Ruby Room now goes by a name that 99 percent of us will mispronounce upon entry (it’s “mur-OH,” after the Gaelic mermaid, so ya know). Happiness runs weekdays from 5 to 8pm, with $3 wells, $1 off their many and magnificent drafts (16 crafts), and $5 beer flights. But the true treasure is Ryan Roots Cocktale Confessionals (Thursday through Sunday and Mondays after 9) when the mixology you receive is dependant upon the best erotic tale you can tell. Anticipate John Waters and Jodorowsky on the screen as you jockey for a drink with parables of the peen. If you’re just getting your feet wet with the drink, ask Mr. Roots to surprise you. You won’t be disappointed.

**The Bancroft**
9143 Campo Road, 619-469-2337
SPRING VALLEY
It’s hard not to appreciate what the Bancroft has done. In a space that looks like a scene cut from *Back to the Future Part III*, a handful of hardcore kids have turned a foreboding Spring Valley dive into a raucous nightlife venue and all-day (6am to 2am) pub. So! From 3 to 7pm every day, you get $2.75 wells, $2 Tecate bottles, and $3 Heinekens. Of course, un-Happy Hours are just as good, as owner Rob Logic regularly has free crockpot snacks by the door and perpetual punk-rock tall boys (PBR, Schlitz, Colt 45) at four bucks a pop. Breakfast boozers will appreciate the San Diego Sunrise or a Sunday Bloody Mary Sunday, both five bucks.

**Elbow Room**
5225 Kearny Villa Road, 858-874-3526
KEARNY MESA
Kearny Mesa and the surrounding areas (hello, Mira Mesa) have become the de facto home to San Diego’s craft-beer lumi-
naries thanks to ample warehouse space and laximus zoning regulations. So what better place to sample America’s Finest than this mesa alehouse, which highlights 20 taps on the hoppier side of San Diego with happy time running Monday through Friday from 3 to 7pm. Take a buck off all drafts, bottles, and food or come on the weekend from open to 7pm for wells at $2.75, any draft for 3 bucks, and a dollar off all food. Super discount wings every Monday from 5 to 8.

Tahiti Felix’s Tattoo Shop and Tiki Bar
8379 Calle Septima, 664-638-1192
Tijuana
Sure, you know Tijuana: Zona Norte, Playas, Revu — but hidden behind a bamboo façade on Septima and Negrete lies a wonderland of anachronistic culture that will shake the very foundations of your concept of this strange bordertown. Enter Chino, your dedicated Argentinian tattoo artist and bartender who offers: Hungover Sundays with a caguama (40 oz.) of beer at 50 pesos ($3.80) and Bloody Marys at 35 pesos ($2.65); Crappy Tuesdays (50-peso caguamas); Classy Wednesdays (tiki drinks 2-for-1); Tropical Cumbia Thursdays (50-peso caguamas and the special of the day); and Sailor Jerry Fridays, when the sailor’s ink sinks (tattoos!) for 50 bucks apiece and tiki drinks are 40 pesos.

Shōgun
San Diego
5451 Kearny Villa Rd., San Diego, CA 92123
858-560-7399

BREWSKIS BAR & ARCADE
FREE PLAY CLASSIC ARCADE GAMES POOL TABLES AIR HOCKEY
SHOWING ALL UFC ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP

HAPPY HOUR 4PM-10PM
MON $1 TACOS, $3 CORONA & DOS XX, $5 PATRÓN SHOTS
TUES $2 MARGARITAS $1 OFF ALL BEERS DRAFT & BOTTLES
WED $5 VODKA ROCKSTARS
THUR $4 FIREBALL
FRI $4 JAGER BOMBS
SAT $2 OFF ALL BEERS DRAFT & BOTTLES

The Salty Frog
992 Palm Avenue, 619-429-3764
Imperial Beach
Imperial Beach can be a perplexing sector to navigate, but between the dirty dives and thuggish caverns, there exists...
a sanctuary of spirits and suds where, every day from 4 to 8pm, you can guzzle well and imported bottles for an easy $3.50. If you’re lucky, a local band like Whiskey Circle will be playing on a Tuesday, when the bartender will flip a coin and, if heads is up, you take your grog for 25 cents. Herald the dawn with an Avokalypse Sunday, when 4 bucks grants access to the Bloody Mary bar of every hangover’s dreams, the Bloody Mary bar of every weekday, you can stroll into the lounge and order Dan’s Daily Drink, a well cocktail, or a glass of Lisa’s Mule. Happy Hour bites range from $4 to $7, all of them perfect snacks for your sips.

**Finch’s Bistro and Wine Bar**
7644 Girard Avenue, 858-456-4056
LA JOLLA
Sample from an eclectic selection of wine from around the world at $2 off per glass between 3 and 6pm every day at this charming bistro nestled between two shops in La Jolla.

### Where the diva gets happy

**Counterpoint**
830 25th Street, 619-564-6722
GOLDEN HILL
Counterpoint is a perfect destination for that right-after-work stop-by for a quick few drinks on the cheap, with the welcoming option of staying and lingering while sharing scrumptious plates from the starters section of the menu (such as the duck puppies, mac & cheese, and spicy brussels sprouts). From 5 to 6pm every weekday, you can choose from a short list of wines and drafts for only $3 each. Aside from the attractive drink deal, one major thing that makes up for this short, actual-hour-long happy hour during the week is that on Saturdays and Sundays, that happy “hour” is expanded from noon to 6pm.

**Donovan’s Steakhouse**
570 K Street, 619-237-9700
DOWNTOWN
The martinis are a more reasonable $9 instead of the usual $15, glasses of wine start at $7, and the 4 to 6pm Happy Hour is every day (a nice bonus for those of us who like to get the party started early on Saturday nights), but it’s not just the drink deals that have the most appeal at Donovan’s. It’s also the free food. And we’re not talking pretzels and nuts here, but fresh prime-steak sandwiches and mini filet burritos, for real, at no charge. All that, and the bites are as delicious as you’d expect from a steakhouse king — sautéed peppers, onions, and cheese on the steak sandwiches, and delectable meat and sour cream in the simple but satisfying burritos.

**Marine Room**
2000 Spindrift Drive, 866-644-2351
LA JOLLA
The Marine Room doesn’t just have an “ocean view” — it’s situated right on the shore, where waves lap against the sand, sometimes all the way up to the giant windows of the dining room. A big romantic dinner here can be expensive, but a drink or two and some bites at the bar offer the same gorgeous views at a slightly more casual fraction of the price. Every day (except for Sunday) from 4 to 6pm, you can stroll into the lounge and order Dan’s Daily Drink, a well cocktail, or a glass of Lisa’s select wine for $8 each. All appetizers, devised by one of the best chefs in town, are a flat $10 (marked down from up to $18).

**The Prado at Balboa Park**
1549 El Prado, 619-557-9441
HILLCREST
The only thing better than one Happy Hour is two Happy Hours! At the Prado, you can get happy on Tuesday through Friday from either 4 to 6pm or 8 to 10pm. Or both, if you’re extra adventurous — there’s plenty to do in Balboa Park in the two-hour gap between fun times. During the 8pm Happy Hours — and on Saturdays — the lounge features live music. Let’s talk bevies: for just $4.50, you have your choice of well drinks, the house margarita, draft pale ale, white or red wine, and, my favorite, the Prado Mule. Happy Hour bites range from $4 to $7, all of them perfect snacks for your sips.

**Bamboo Lounge**
1475 University Avenue, 619-291-8221
HILLCREST
The garden patio at Bamboo Lounge is a zen-tastic place to gather with friends. It’s a tiny oasis hidden within the Hillcrest hubbub, replete with bamboo trees and water features. From 4 to 7pm Tuesday through Saturday, share a bottle of wine at half off, or specialty shots for only $3 each, as well as $4 well drinks and $5 glasses of sangria. As for food, you can get street tacos (3 for $7), grilled-cheese panini with dipping sauces (for $5), white or red wine, and, a whole lot more. Check for additional daily specials.

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“The lamb is amazing, and comes with all the salsas, broth and accompaniments of classic Texcoco barbacoa.”

— Andrew Zimmerman host of Bizarre Foods on the Travel Channel
Jolla. The bar has a Parisian feel, but the owners are from South Africa, and their well-traveled palates are reflected on the Happy Hour menu.

Try small plates, such as Baja shrimp and mushroom pâté ($8 each) or share plates, which include avocado fritters, stuffed squash blossoms, and ahi poke wontons ($10 to $18). Your taste buds will feel like they've flown first class.

**Solace and the Moonlight Lounge**
25 East E Street, 760-753-2433

Encinitas

Oyster lovers won’t be able to resist the $1.50 oysters served Monday through Friday from 3 to 6pm at the seafood-centric Solace in Encinitas. The drink specials change with the seasons, but the prices are consistently low. For $6, you can choose between the daily selection of white, red, and sparkling wines. Specialty cocktails, such as the Moscow mule or wine and whiskey punch, start at $5. Drafts of local craft beer are made available starting at $2.50. If you’re not into oysters, you might want to opt for the warm cheddar-and-chive biscuits (5 for $4) or steamed black mussels ($8.50). Or go with friends and try it all.

**The 3rd Corner Wine Shop and Bistro**
2265 Bacon Street, 619-223-2700

Ocean Beach

At this wine shop and bistro, you can relax from 3 to 6pm Tuesday through Friday in a comfy-casual seat with a view of rows of wide-ranging wine bottles offered at retail prices. Enjoy local draft beers ($3 each), house red or white wine or red or white sangria ($4 per glass) and well cocktails or martinis ($5 each). The Happy Hour menu (also available late night, from 10pm to 1am) offers some snacks and several entrée-style dishes (such as the beef Bolognese, burger, mac and cheese, and mussels) for $10 each. Just be sure not to leave without sampling the fresh bread and butter.

**The Oceanaire Seafood Room**
400 J Street, 619-858-2277

Downtown

Oceanaire is another local treasure that offers two Happy Hours — deals at the bar are available between 5 and 6pm, and then again from 9pm to close (8pm to close on Sundays). The bar is always packed, and everyone seems friendly and agreeable when it comes to sharing the space. Discounted drink options are more extensive here: choose from four bottles of beer at $4 each, six types of wine at $5 each, two $6 specialty drinks, and five $7 specialty martinis. Once you have a drink in hand, you can begin deciding what to get from the dozen or so fantastic food options (e.g., fish tacos, truffle fries, oysters, filet mignon sliders) priced at only $5 to $7.

**Davanti Enoteca**
1655 India Street, 619-237-9696

Little Italy

If you’re not looking for a bar scene so much as a chill place to share a few drinks and snacks while catching up with a friend, this is the place. For after-work post-gaming, heart-to-heart talks, or a romantic prelude to an evening, sit on the patio, beneath the olive tree and sparkling lights, and enjoy a Davanti spritz, well drink, or Moretti draft for $5, or a classic martini or glass of house red or white wine for $6 between 4 and 6pm. Snacks for sharing range from chicken liver pâté ($4) to shrimp, calamari, and oyster fritto misto ($9).

— BARBARELLA

**Casa De Pico**
5500 Grossmont Center Drive, 619-463-3267

La Mesa

The bar is loud and hopping, even on seemingly off nights. Beers are $1 off normal prices but each $4.50 margarita (served blended or on the rocks), gets you a small paper plate for free appetizers. The goodies are ever-changing and range from chips and salsa to flautas.

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— BARBARELLA

Reader new guy Patrick Henderson refused to be left out of the Happy Hour fun.
or the most lip-smacking chicken drumettes I’ve ever had. The chef braises them in the broth used for the chicken tortilla soup.

**BO-beau Kitchen + Garden**
8384 La Mesa Boulevard, 619-337-3445
**LA MESA**
The term “Happy Hour” is taken literally at this newly hatched bistro in La Mesa’s village. It goes from 4:30 to 5:30, mainly because the place gets packed for dinner during normal Happy Hour times. (La Mesans eat early.) During the 60-minute Happy Hour, diners get half off on select items, such as fried-chicken sliders and roasted jalapeño deviled eggs (highly recommended). Drink specials usually revolve around one wine, one beer, and a specialty cocktail invented that day, such as the “Peach Press,” a combination of Ciroc peach vodka, Sprite, and soda water. The restaurant’s signature cocktail, the La Mesa Lemonade, costs $10 during Happy Hour, but you get to take home a BO-beau-branded mug.

**Saltbox**
1047 Fifth Avenue, 619-515-3003
**GASLAMP**
This dark but cozy bar is like the film noir movie of my dreams — if Sam Spade were a foodie. The cocktails — usually $12 and worth every penny — are half off between 4-7pm. The Cinners ‘N Sage (gin, cinnamon syrup, pineapple, lime, and sage) tastes like a glorious Santa Ana day put into a cocktail. The fried pickles are crunchy, and the San Diego pou- tine (carnitas, fries, salsa roja, jack and manchego cheeses) is a sublime creation that respects the region’s culinary flavor and the community’s ability to adapt outside ideas.

**Bali Hai**
2230 Shelter Island Drive, 619-222-1181
**POINT LOMA**
This tiki culture landmark practically invented Asian fusion cuisine when it opened in 1955. It has a great view of San Diego Bay and, most important, the strongest drinks in town. Seriously. Happy Hour starts at 3pm, when the super-strong mai tai costs only $5. The price goes up with each passing hour. Bali Hai sells its signature coconut shrimp for $9 during Happy Hour, a $6 discount, while the Island Beef Skewers and Wasabi Fries are also discounted. If you want the true tropical vibe, go on Tuesday nights when Desi Relator plays Hawaiian music on acoustic guitar from 4-7pm.

**Cafe Japengo**
8960 University Center Lane, 858-450-3355
**UTC/LA JOLLA**
Considering head sushi chef Gerry Warner is internationally respected, Cafe Japengo’s sushi prices during Happy Hour are pretty damn good, starting at at $3.50 for a California Roll to $7 for his Hawaiian Roll. The hours are 4:30 to 7pm Monday through Friday and all night on Saturday, when the bar offers a huge Kobe beef burger for $18, including a draft beer. The best Happy Hour dish (and one of the best in the city) is the curry-dusted calamari, served with glass noodles, and a seaweed salad in a Thai-lime vinaigrette. Specialty cocktails like the Burning Sun (Absolut Mandaririn with jalapeno syrup and fruit juices) and the White Geisha (Coconut rum with lemongrass and lime syrup) are strong, but don’t necessarily complement the delicious food as well as the great beer or wine menu.

**RA Sushi**
474 Broadway, 619-321-0021
**GASLAMP**
A good Happy Hour has good cheap food, and good cheap drinks. RA Sushi has those and something extra: more women than men — an 8-to-1 ratio on one recent Monday night. Specialty rolls on sale range in price for $2.75 for edamame to $7.75 for the signature Viva Las Vegas Roll (almost a 50 percent discount). Happy Hour lasts from 3-7pm Monday through Saturday, and on Sundays from 8pm to midnight, and there’s a DJ. The cocktails include a variety of margarita and saketinis, but the Umami Punch, made with Southern Comfort, Amaretto, Disaronno, sake, and tropical juices goes best with the sushi.

**Herringbone**
7837 Herschel Avenue, 858-459-0221
**LA JOLLA**
This place gets pretty crowded during Happy Hours, and with good reason: Between 4-6pm, oysters are $1. The Happy Hour menu also includes risotto balls, mussels in white wine, and the best brussels sprouts in the city. Each night features a particular booze that has been infused with a complementary flavor. Thursdays and Fridays have music, usually a guy on piano or acoustic guitar.

**Searsucker**
611 Fifth Avenue, 619-233-7327
**GASLAMP**
Brian Malarkey’s flagship restaurant in the Gaslamp is a bargain in many ways, especially if you love fried pickles, which are only...
The flagship cocktail at Searsucker (and my favorite in San Diego) combines Pimm’s liqueur with bruised basil, pressed lemon, and pickled carrot. The perfect hot-weather drink.

**Puesto at the Headquarters**
789 W. Harbor Drive, 619-233-8880

**MARINA DISTRICT**
This newly opened restaurant near Seaport Village is already a Happy Hour standby between 3-6pm, thanks to excellent tacos, such as the filet mignon and lobster, and mezcal cocktails bordering on brilliant (and only $6 on Mondays). The La Verdad, made with cactus juice, comes highly recommended. Usually tacos come in a three-for-$11 order, but they’re $2 on Tuesdays. Non-drinkers should come on Thursday when the bar makes fresh *aguas frescas*. For an extra fee, alcohol can be added. On Fridays, the Mexican Firing Squad, made with reposado tequila, lime, house-made grenadine, and Angostura bitters is only $6. People expecting a combination plate will be disappointed. This is not a beans-and-rice type of place.

**Blind Burro**
639 J Street, 619-795-7880

**EAST VILLAGE**
East Village is still trying to figure out whether its a tourist attraction or an actual neighborhood, but the Blind Burro manages to feel like a comfy neighborhood bar despite only being open a year. If you’re not drinking beer, the margaritas are strong, and the white hot sangria, which has a slight amount of jalapeño, is the drink to get here during Happy Hour when it’s $6 (a $3 discount). It pairs very well with the Happy Hour specialty, the $7 yellowtail fish collar. The fish collar is a meaty part of fish favored by foodies and chefs but ignored by the masses because its tiny bones don’t make it user-friendly. Blind Burro puts a sweet, smoky glaze on it and it’s one of the best Happy Hour dishes available anywhere.

Another good bet are the bacon-wrapped roasted jalapeño peppers, only $4 between 4-7pm Mondays thru Friday.

— PATRICK HENDERSON

**Before he was @sdbeenews, he was @offdutyfoodie — #brandonhernandez loves good food and drink. Though he’s happy to pay full price for either, he still loves a bargain, which makes #happyhour his favorite hour.**

**The Hake**
1250 Prospect Street, Suite B10, 858-454-1637

**LA JOLLA**
Sequestered below street level on Prospect, this seafood enclave has a broad assortment of mezcal, some of which find its way into tasty signature cocktails like the Oaxacan Old Fashioned — smoky mezcal, tequila, agave nectar, and mole biters — offered for $3 less than usual during Happy Hour (4-7pm and 9pm to close every day) offered along with incredible tuna tostadas, avocado tacos, and serrano ham croquettes (all under $7). Throw in the fact they’re doing their darndest to up their beer game and the future of early-evening imbining looks bright, indeed.

**The High Dive**
1801 Morena Boulevard, 619-275-0460

**BAY PARK**
Daily specials like Wednesday’s assortment of $6 pizzas or the delicious protein-netted web of bacon-studded blue cheese adorning a plate of crisp French fries is enough to get me to this comforting Bay Park hub, but I love the fact that local beers — of which there is a vast assortment from outstanding operations like AleSmith, Ballast Point, and Coronado Brewing Company — are two bucks less (3-6pm, Monday-Friday) than the rest of the board. Plus, from a super-friendly front of the house to the al fresco patio at the back of the house, the place is built to be easygoing and low pressure, just what Happy Hour is all about.

**Karl Strauss Brewery & Restaurant**
9675 Scranton Road, 858-587-2739

**SORRENTO MESA**
For half a decade, every one of my and my colleagues’ promotions, new job offers, or other vocational accomplishments was celebrated at this brewery-owned eatery’s outdoor patio, looking out upon a gorgeous Japanese garden and waterscape. But it was the quality beer, including cask-conditioned “firkin” offerings rolled out every Thursday at 6pm, and discounted-yet-decadent Happy Hour appetizers including fried calamari with chili aioli, spice-dusted fries, and a massive nacho stack (3-6pm, Monday-Friday) that...
along with $4 draft beers.

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The only “strip club”

UTC

858-450-1400

4282 Esplanade Court,

La Jolla Strip Club

4928 Esplanade Court,

858-450-9277

10450 Friars Road, 619-284-2739

MARINA DISTRICT

When I hit wine-cen-

tric spots, I’m looking

for variety. Man cannot

live on a singular house

chardonnay. This wine-

and-health focused chain

gets it, and its Flights and

Flatbread deal provides

it. It’s available daily, and

though it’s not actually a

Happy Hour deal, it falls

in line with one, and

you should know about it.

Fifteen bucks (or $20

for premium wines com-

ing in at over 90 points)
yields a shareable plank of

thin, nicely topped lavash
crust, tasters of three dif-

ferent vinos, plus a full

pour of one’s favorite of

the trio, or as I call it, a

complete evening.

— BRANDON HERNÁNDEZ
Meet Social Jack's Craft Brewing Company, a tribute to a fallen friend

So, this guy walks into a bar, University Heights' Small Bar, (4268 Park Boulevard, University Heights) to be exact, orders a beer, and promptly has it snatched up by a young woman who takes a sip and correctly identifies its contents as Lindemans Framboise. That young woman was Victoria Yakoleva, a member of the quality-control team at San Diego Ballpoint Brewing. The male component of the story was Jeff Rambo, who at the time was a relative craft-beer newbie but has since grown into the type of beerophile so passionate, he's building his own brewery, Social Jack's Craft Brewing Company (961 Laurel Street, Little Italy).

Named for Small Bar's communal seating and the connections that come from such focused socialization, the business was dreamt up by Jeff, Victoria, and their mutual friend and business partner Davin Richmond. Originally, the trio planned to get the brewery going within a five-year time period. But then, their projected "brains" for the project, Victoria, passed away suddenly. The experience opened her friends' eyes to how short life is, prompting them to pound their vague idea into a 23-page business plan and begin amassing funding for the operation. Five months later, they have their space and are working hard to get it up and running by summer.

Working off a five-barrel system, Jeff and Victoria will initially do all the brewing. Obsessed by a creative bent to craft beers similar to the self-proclaimed “off-centered ales” of Delaware’s popular Dogfish Head Craft Brewery, they aim to take stylistic risks and experiment often. Already, they have tap space reserved with a number of bars and restaurants in the Gaslamp Quarter.

Part of the early appeal of Social Jack’s is its owners’ ambition to brew beers to match the feel and offerings at the business’ accounts.

As for the company’s year-round house beers, Jeff and Davin are working on refining a coffee-infused stout described as “Noble ALe Works’ Naughty Sauce (a blonde stout) and AleSmith’s Speedway Stout (a coffee-infused imperial stout) hooking up and having a loving child that gets raised by a bourbon barrel-aged porter that bottle-feeds it maple syrup.” The duo hopes to make this a permanent collaboration with North Park’s Coffee & Tea Collective.

Off-centered, indeed. On the many sides of the spectrum is an American pale ale brewed with grapefruit, agave, honey, coriander, and sea salt going by the working title of “Circus Freak.”

In addition to the brewing component, the duo will run a second business out of their space called Brewed Local, offering tours beginning and ending at Social Jack’s, with trips to other breweries in between. The goal is to educate tour participants on the San Diego brewing community versus simply the beer that binds its members. Tours will run on weekends, and space will be allotted at Social Jack’s for serving partner brewing companies’ beers on tap and in bottles, as well as collaborative events with those businesses. It’s another social facet of the business, which is fitting, considering that if Small Bar hadn’t been packed the night Jeff and Victoria met, this business may never have materialized.

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

Happy Hour
1/2 PRICE COCKTAILS • BEER SPECIALS
1/2 PRICE SELECT APPETIZERS

Meet Social Jack’s Craft Brewing Company, a tribute to a fallen friend

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Named for Small Bar’s communal seating and the connections that come from such focused socialization, the business was dreamt up by Jeff, Victoria, and their mutual friend and business partner Davin Richmond. Originally, the trio planned to get the brewery going within a five-year time period. But then, their projected “brains” for the project, Victoria, passed away suddenly. The experience opened her friends’ eyes to how short life is, prompting them to pound their vague idea into a 23-page business plan and begin amassing funding for the operation. Five months later, they have their space and are working hard to get it up and running by summer.

Working off a five-barrel system, Jeff and Victoria will initially do all the brewing. Obsessed by a creative bent to craft beers similar to the self-proclaimed “off-centered ales” of Delaware’s popular Dogfish Head Craft Brewery, they aim to take stylistic risks and experiment often. Already, they have tap space reserved with a number of bars and restaurants in the Gaslamp Quarter. Part of the early appeal of Social Jack’s is its owners’ ambition to brew beers to match the feel and offerings at the business’ accounts.

As for the company’s year-round house beers, Jeff and Davin are working on refining a coffee-infused stout described as “Noble ALe Works’ Naughty Sauce (a blonde stout) and AleSmith’s Speedway Stout (a coffee-infused imperial stout) hooking up and having a loving child that gets raised by a bourbon barrel-aged porter that bottle-feeds it maple syrup.” The duo hopes to make this a permanent collaboration with North Park’s Coffee & Tea Collective.

Off-centered, indeed. On the many sides of the spectrum is an American pale ale brewed with grapefruit, agave, honey, coriander, and sea salt going by the working title of “Circus Freak.”

In addition to the brewing component, the duo will run a second business out of their space called Brewed Local, offering tours beginning and ending at Social Jack’s, with trips to other breweries in between. The goal is to educate tour participants on the San Diego brewing community versus simply the beer that binds its members. Tours will run on weekends, and space will be allotted at Social Jack’s for serving partner brewing companies’ beers on tap and in bottles, as well as collaborative events with those businesses. It’s another social facet of the business, which is fitting, considering that if Small Bar hadn’t been packed the night Jeff and Victoria met, this business may never have materialized.

For more breaking craft beer news, follow San Diego Beer News on Twitter (@SDBeerNews) or keep an eye on Facebook.
GRANTVILLE
Tio Leo’s: Monday–Friday, 3-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints; $4 house margaritas, wells; $5 street tacos; $7 hot dogs, carne asada fries, buffalo chicken tacos & more.

HARBOR ISLAND
C-Level: Monday–Friday, 3:30-3:30pm: $4 beers, $5 specialty drinks, $6 appetizers.

MILLCREST
Busalacchi’s A Modo Mio: Monday–Friday, 4-6:30pm: Drink specials. Live music.

Martins Above Fourth: Monday–Thursday, 4-6pm: Everything discounted! $6 Svedka Martinis, $2 off any food/drink item $10 or less $3 off any food/drink item over $10.

The Merrow: Monday, Wednesday–Friday, 4-6:30pm: 1/2 off bottles of wine. Tuesday, Friday–Sunday, 4-6:30pm: Drink specials. Live music.

Whisknladle: Daily, 3-7pm: $8 cocktails, $25 pitchers of sangria, 25% off all bottles of wine. $4 tapas (bar/lounge only).

LA JOLLA
Su Casa: Monday–Friday, 5-7pm: $3.25 mug or Bud Lite draft, $3.50 house wine glass, $4.50 margarita, single well drinks. 1/2-off select appetizers.

Whisknladle: Daily, 3-7pm: $8 cocktails, $25 pitchers of sangria, 25% off all bottles of wine. $4 tapas (bar/lounge only).

LA MESA
Mr. G’s Tavern: Monday–Friday, Noon-7pm: $3.50 wells; $4.25 premium pints.

LAKESIDE
Coo Coo Club: Monday–Friday, 6-8pm: $2.75 wells, domestic bottles, drafts.

LEMON GROVE
Dirk’s Niteclub: Monday–Saturday, 4-7pm: $.50 off all drinks $4.50 or less. Sunday, 6am-2pm: $1 off bloody marys.

LINDA VISTA
Bull’s Smokin’ BBQ: Daily, 2-6pm: $3 pints, $9 Bud & Coors Light pitch.

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

LA JOLLA
Su Casa: Monday–Friday, 5-7pm: $3.25 mug or Bud Lite draft, $3.50 house wine glass, $4.50 margarita, single well drinks. 1/2-off select appetizers.

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**HAPPY HOUR**

ers, $2.50 bottled beer, $2 PBR, $12 select pitchers. $2 pulled pork or beef brisket sliders, $4.95 1/2-sandwich & sides, $3.95 pulled pork fries.

### LITTLE ITALY

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

### MIDWAY DISTRICT

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

### MIRA MESA

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

### MISSION BEACH

Barefoot Bar and Grill: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: $5 cocktails and $4 beers on tap for SD locals only. All draft beers are San Diego and California craft brews.

### MISSION HILLS

The Aero Club: Daily, 2-7pm: 50¢ off beer, wells, and calls. Starlite: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $4 drafts, wells, $1 off other drinks. Snack specials.

### MISSION VALLEY

Dave & Buster’s: Monday-Thursday, 4:30-7pm, 10pm-close: 1/2 price cocktails, beer specials, 1/2 off selected appetizers. Friday, 4-7pm: 1/2 price cocktails, beer specials, 1/2 off selected appetizers. Sunday, 10pm-close: 1/2 price cocktails, beer specials, 1/2 off selected appetizers.

### NATIONAL CITY

Pier 32 Waterfront Grill: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: $4.50 well drinks, $1.50 off all open wines. Friday, 3-7pm: 1/2-price well cocktails.

### NORMAL HEIGHTS

Mother’s Saloon: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 wells, domestic beers. $3.50 Jager shots.

### OCEAN BEACH

Postcards American Bistro: Monday-Wednesday, 4-7pm: $2.50 drafts, $8 pitchers, $2.50 bottled beer, $2 PBR, $12 hoo- kahs/$10 hookah refills.

### POINT LOMA

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

### PACIFIC BEACH

Tremont Street Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-5pm: 1/2-price well drinks, beers, wine, and appetizers. $1 tacos & cheese steak bread.

### OLD TOWN

Old Town Mexican Café: Monday-Wednesday, 3-7pm, 10pm-close: 1/2 off well drinks & selected appetizers. Tuesday, 3-7pm, 10pm-close: 1/2 off well drinks & selected appetizers. Taco Tuesday all day!

### OCEANSIDE

Davina’s Cabo Grill: Daily, 4-7pm: 2-for-1 drink specials. Food specials.

### RANCHO BERNARDO

Firewater Saloon: Monday, 3:30-6:30pm; 10pm-midnight: $5 Jager bombs, Long Island Ice Tea, $1 off all pitchers, $1 off drinks & wells.

### RANCHO PENASQUITOS

Deli Stop Sports Pub: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: 1/2-price well drinks, beers, wine, and appetizers. $1 tacos & cheese steak bread.

### RANCHO SANTA FE

Boll Weevil Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off drinks and drafts. Food specials.

### RANCHO SERRA MESA

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

### RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Press Box Sports Lounge: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm, 10pm-close: 1/2-off appetizers, $1 off drinks, house wine, and wells.

### RANCHO SANTA FE

Big Kahuna’s: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2.50 beer, wine.

### SORMENTO VALLEY

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Thursday, 3-4pm: $4 pints, flights, house wine, and well drinks: $5 wings, hummus, calamari, chilli lime sweet potato fries and spinach dip.

### SOUTH PARK

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

### UCSD

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

### UNIVERSITY CITY

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

### VALLEY CENTER

Casa Reves Mexican & Sea food Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: $2 domestic. $3 imports, wells. Discounted appetizers.

### VISTA

Chili Coast Burgers: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $5-$7.75 off tap beer. 

### VISTA Entertainment Center: Monday-Wednesday, Friday, 11am-6pm: $2 pints, house shots; $2.50 domestic bottles, $3.50 wells; $9 pitchers. Thursday, 11am-6pm, 9pm-close: $2 pints, house shots; $2.50 domestic bottles, $3.50 wells; $9 pitchers.
Before I can talk about Lisa D’Amour’s blazing comedy-drama Detroit, I should say a few words about lawns.

In drought-plagued Southern California, a healthy lawn’s an eyesore, a waste of precious water. In the Midwest it’s the opposite. Your lawn — and the bigger, the better — says who and where you are. A bounding span of weedless green, kept trim by one of John Deere’s vehicles — the bigger, the better — and you’re on the fast-track of the middle class. You handle economic duties, provide for family, etc., and have time to manicure a mini football field.

A few years back, a friend moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and rented a house with a lengthy lawn. When a neighbor introduced herself, she spooked and begged my friend not to be like the former residents. “They just let their lawn run wild!”

The playwright chose Detroit for her title because the name evokes “a particular anxiety”: Detroit “is a symbol...of the American Dream drying up.” But the first stage direction says the locale is “not necessarily Detroit.” Could be Cleveland, Madison, whatever. And she says Ben and Mary were raised “somewhere inland, Kansas City, maybe Denver.” The nonchalance is curious. No big whup. Whatever.

But this, in a way, is how Ben and Mary have lived. They have trod the proscribed path: college, marriage, no beer-drinking in the front yard. Whenever a doubt nagged, they dismissed it with “whatever.” Numbing alcohol and internet addiction kept doubts at bay. But when Kenny and Sharon move in next door — wild-eyed, tattooed, and carefully treading up the 12 steps — Ben and Mary’s “whatevers” come home to roost.

Kenny and Sharon met in rehab. Or was it before? Whatever. They rode “that glossy motorcade of substances” and now combat it in different ways, says Sharon: “He’s all, ‘I’m trying to be proactive,’ and I’m all, ‘Today sucked.’” Though starting from scratch, both have jobs; unlike Ben, recently laid off, and Mary, soon to be. After five weeks, Mary notices no changes to Kenny and Sharon’s weedy yard: “Not even a single FERN. You’ve made no effort.”

The playwright is quite specific about one thing: the adjoining homes are in a once-thriving “first-ring” suburb, which is now a no-person’s land between foreclosure and “starter house” gentrification — a space, in effect, of uncertainty.

Dionysus was the god of the grape, among other things. At a backyard party, the suburban quartet evokes the god of Bud Light. The “beer-wasted” par-tay metamorphoses into a ritual out of Greek drama. It’s a “truth fall,” says Sharon, “a healing ritual.” It looks more like mania, but when Ben and Mary fall, their free-spirited, off-the-wagon neighbors are there to catch them.
The playwright said Detroit feels like a “surreal fable.” Though quite good in many ways, San Diego Rep’s production doesn’t always sustain that balance. Director Sam Woodhouse has tweaked some scenes for comic effects. But the humor often glosses over the rabid desperation, as when Shara craves her crack pipe and gets a laugh — or when Kenny admits to a lack of hope, and it comes as a surprise.

D. Martyn Bookwalter’s set solves a major problem: how to put two very different backyards on the same stage? Simple: use a turntable and Jekyll becomes Hyde. Detroit has a running visual theme: things and people are accentuated, as if the world itself were breaking down. The set functions quite well here: at once stumpy and fragile, and in the end, flammable.

Bookwalter’s lighting, however, overstates contrasts. And it implies a judgment when he bombards Kenny and Shara’s backyard with a red aura so obviously satanic it looks cartoony.

Though at times oversized, the performances always impress. Lissel Gorrell-Getz unpeels Mary’s defenses with arias of angst. Summer Spiro makes antsy Sharon a der- vish on speed. Jeffrey Jones’ Kenny taps into the play’s darker reaches to good effect. And Steve Gunderson shines as Ben, a nerdy phoenix whose cartoony.}

Across Worlds: A Tale of Two Lives of Adventure

Performance chronicles the story of two adventurous lives: an American mountain climber and a Lost Boy of Sudan. This multimedia, living-documentary event uses storytelling, music (live and recorded), photography, and video.

CARLSBAD VILLAGE THEATRE, 2828 STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-720-2460. 8PM SATURDAY.

Antigone

The Old Globe/USD Graduate Theatre Program presents Sophocles’s tragedy of civil disobedience. Antigone will bury her brother, no matter if it costs her life. Ray Chambers directs.

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, 5998 ALCOLA PARK, USD. 619-260-4600. 7:30PM THURSDAY.

Anything Goes

The great Cole Porter musical been called fluffy and silly, but it’s about escape, from restrictions and the manicures of Depression. And when you sail on the S.S. American with Reno Sweeney, Moonface Martin, and Billy Cocker, the score will absolutely blow as long as the ship’s afloat, and maybe even longer.

The Welk Resort production, ably directed and choreographed by Ray Limon, is a slow starter. But once Natalie Lucchi (Reno), Shaun Leslie Sands (Moonface), and Joshua Carr (Billy) sing “Friendship,” they take charge and the ship sails smoothly after that. In particular, Lucchi’s renditions of “I Got a Kick Out of You” and “Blow, Gabriel, Blow” are quite good. And the big production number, “Anything Goes,” with 26 tap shoes clacking away, is worth the price of admission.

World’s a Hotel Resort Theatre, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ENCONDO. 888-802-7495. 7PM THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS, 8PM THURSDAY & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS & WEDNESDAYS. THROUGH MARCH 23.

Boy, the Musical

Featuring Liz Callaway who earned a Tony nomination for her role as Lizzie Fields. Baby tells the story of three couples, each newly expecting a child, that have different but fascinating stories. Lizzie and Danny are university juniors who have just moved in together. Athletic Pam and her husband, Nick, a sports instructor, have had some trouble conceiving. Arlene, already the mother of three grown daughters, is unsure of what to do, contemplating abortion while her husband Alan is thrilled with the thought of a new baby. Throughout the show, these characters experience life’s stresses and triumphs, the desper- ate lows and the comic highs, that accompany the anticipation and arrival of a baby.

AUDITORIUM AT THE SCRIPPS RE- SEARCH INSTITUTE, 10460 JOHN HAY HOPKINS DR., LA JOLLA. 858-626-2000. 7:30PM THURSDAY & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS. THROUGH MARCH 9.

Boys and Girls

Diversionary Theatre stages Tom Donaghy’s “chacky comic” about two couples attempting to “pull away from their past childs” to “tackle the challenges of adult hood.” Shana Wride directs.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4454 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-220-0540. 7PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS. THROUGH MARCH 23.

Blitehe Spirit

Moonlight Stage Productions opens its winter season at the Avo with Noel Coward’s most celebrated comedy. Madame Arcati is far from the quack spirit-medium people claim. Ask Charles Condomine, the ghost of whose first wife comes in from the ethereal. Eric Bishop directs.

AVO PLAYHOUSE, 303 MAIN ST., VISTA. 760-252-4100. 7:30PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS. THROUGH MARCH 9.

LADY IN THE STREET

The Ira Aldridge Repertory Players present a “soulful celebration of Soul Music,” conceived by Calvin Msson and Eric Overstreet, who co-direct. Among the artists celebrated: Sam and Dave, Aretha, the Temptations, James Brown, Al Green, Whitney, and more. EDUCATIONAL CULTURAL COMPLEX, 4343 OCEAN VIEW BL., MOUNTAIN VIEW. 650-577-2526. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2:30PM SUNDAYS. THROUGH MARCH 23.

Detroit

Reviewed this week. Critic’s Pick of San Diego Repertory Theatre. 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIgnO, 619-239-2200.
The Who and the What

Ayad Akhtar’s steampunk-drama is worth seeing even though the ending sweeps burning issues under the rug. Zarina believes in “who” a person is, not in their “what” (culturally determined attributes). She’s a feminist Muslim, but they don’t define her, in her mind at least. They do in her strict father’s, though. And when she writes a “gender politics” book about who the real Moham med was, and marries a white man who converted to Islam, the family clashes. The ending favors the “who” of the theme, and wipes out all the nagging “whats” with two catch-all announcements. The playwright frames different scenes with melodrama, psychological thriller, and other genres from popular culture. Under Kimberly Senior’s faithful direction, the four person cast keeps the comedy going, though at times at the expense of the pain. Worth a try.

The Winter’s Tale

The Old Globe’s staging has some arresting images, and some capable performances, but overall it’s a restless, heavy-handed take on one of the Bard’s masterpieces. In a fit of rage, King Leontes destroys everything he holds dear. Sixteen years later, a mystical healing restores almost everything. Director Barry Edelstein resets the play to today. The choice reduces the King’s sphere of influence, and Billy Campbell’s uneven performance makes him a psychopathic CEO. It doesn’t help that a melodramatic piano’s stabbing Turf give the piece a soap operatic tone (and make many of Campbell’s choices draw laughs).

A majority of the cast pushes emotions full bore (and some, like Paul Kandel’s grotesque Autolycus, push even harder) as if the way to play Shakespeare is to turn up the volume and ram an intricate, nuanced play home.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, THURSDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 16.
Godfrey Reggio uses precisely 74 shots to tell his story. With only four behind me and 70 left to go, the film’s thesis was already stated and its conclusion long foregone. Do I grab a coffee refill in the lobby and hunker down or head straight to the parking garage? Walking out is seldom an option, and when my right to make an early exit is exercised, it’s generally during something I never should have stepped into to begin with. Reggio, purveyor of fine coffee-table movies that he is (Powaqqatsi, Koyaanisqatsi), is an acquired taste I have yet to acquire. His documentaries are the stuff domed IMAXes are made for, not multiplex art houses.

Visitors intercuts black-and-white, dialog-free, unbroken, close-up ‘Scope long-takes of faces — with allegorical inserts of abandoned amusement parks, disjointed hands moving a computer mouse (or is it close-up magic?), enough accelerated clouds to make one time-lapse into a coma, and children as credulous symbols of hope.

It’s Paranormal Activity for eggheads, a staring contest during which my eyes practically bled from focusing on so many fixed images for such long periods. The camera takes aren’t the only thing Reggio sustains. Wait until you get a load of the great lengths he goes to state the obvious. Wouldn’t the point be better taken in a story that unified people as opposed to the cold, splintering effects of a clinical drill? At least he had the wherewithal to use a tripod.

According to this highfalutin’ technical exercise, since humanity spends so much of its time staring into a computer screen, why not turn things around and situate an audience inside a laptop and force them to look out. Why would anyone disrespect a viewer enough to want to trap them inside a computer for 87 minutes?

Reggio should have cut it down to seven minutes and allowed his Film Tech 101 class to lounge in the brilliance, not clog art-house arteries with its pretense. What one critic referred to as “a tedious Rorschach test” has forever cemented a black spot in my heart as, quite simply, one of the worst movies ever made.

— Scott Marks

EARL STIFF’S OSCAR RECAP
From the opening strains of “Hooray for Hollywood,” viewers knew they were in for something wonderfully original when Alan Degenerate took to the stage of the Raymond & Dottie Chandler Pavilion to host last night’s Oscar giveaway.

This reporter was on the beat at Hollywood and Highland, covering the show live off the big screen inside a jam-packed Mal’s Drive-In. (My press credentials must have been lost in the mail.)

Sadly, I saw only one of this year’s nine Best Picture nominees, and the
Supporting Actress. She is the only actress on record to appear in an Air-
port sequel before bad career decisions forced her to cash in on her trophy.

I can understand overlooking Jon-
athan Winter in the parade of the dead;
a little of his mental-patient routine went a long way. But Eleanor Parker? Was I the only one who wanted her to press a Luger to Junie Andrew's temple and fire in The Sound of Mucous? And who will ever forget Sophie Cantero, the old lady twice surprised by Frank Fane in The Oscar? Someone deserves to be shot for this heinous oversight.

Oscar?! They should award the
gentlemen who came up with a new way
to overturn cars the Noble Prize

How much did it cost Harvey to buy this year's Best Doc award? Good
work! I was 20 seconds away from
boredom during The Act of Killing.
Too confusing!

Kate Blankett gave a better perfor-
manence last night than she did imita-
ing Gene Rowlans in Jasmine Blew.

Why didn't the clothes hanger
miss the holy clothes hanger
thank Mia Furlough for her Golden
Globes promotional boost? I happen
to agree with Mia. Woodrow Alan
married one daughter and molested
another. Blankett didn't deserve to win!

According to the little woman,
Eugenia Stiff, "Somewhere between
Laugh-in and laff lines, Goldie Hahn's
gold got scrapped off and was replaced
by rubber tin." She also quipped, "A
facially upholstered Beth Meddler
reached her anthem, "You Are the Gas
From Over My Ass," as if it were a com-
nand performance for the Pope." Why
now sequel to Four the Boys? WHY? WHY?

Finally, from Mrs. Stiff, "Merle Street preening at every mug-ham
chance from her front aisle seat. Jack
Nichlaussen did that schtick better."

— Earl Stiff

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lickona, and Duncan Shepherd.
Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot.
Unrated movies are for now unreviewed.

12 Years a Slave — Hollywood
continues to pay reparations for Gone
With the Wind with this elegiac adaptation of
Solomon Northrup's autobiographical saga
of a free black man forced into bondage for
decades by a sadistic Southern plantation
owner. What's with the best editing award?

The Butler did it to it. How fit-
ting that Mr. Pibbs himself, Sid Porter,
the man who signed Hollywood
memorabilia as Let's Do It Again, Hinky
Panky, and Ghost Dad, was on stage at
the Agfa Theatre to hand out the Best
Direction award. Thank goodness he
was able to rely on lanky Angie Jolly
as his walking stick.

I didn't know Prof. Irwin Corey
was still alive...oh, that's Bill Murray.

Wasn't it nice of Jesus Leto — who
was kind enough to thank Alan Dege-
neres before acknowledging anyone
who actually worked on the film —
to bring Kevin Space's mother as his date?

Pretty balmy of lesbian Degener-
ate to crack wise about Jonas Hall's
prospective wand in Wall Street Wolf.'

"You showed us something we haven't
seen in a long time," quipped the perni-
cular-talk-show host. She must not
have seen Bad Grandpa, a film, which
by the way, was robbed in the Best
Makeup category! How did they ever
got 63-year-old Jackson Nicoll to look
so young?

Jim Cary imitating Bruce Darn —
the first time the comic has made this
reporter laugh in over a decade. Not so
funny was the Disney-centric animated
tribute he introduced. What gives, doc?

Ferral Williams and the Crosby
Kids were robbed by that Fridgil wast-
eland!

Funniest line of the night: movie-
star wannabe Degenerate referring to
Woody McConnaughy as "My co-star
from ED-TV."

As smashing as Degenerate looked
modeling this year's Siegfried and Roy
seamless, I actually missed Seth MacFar-
land.

According to Facebook friend
John Schiltz, "Judging by the numbed
look on Kim Novack's face, it's highly
appropriate that she announced Frozen
as Best Animated Feature.

"Where do you get your balls big
enough to call this pizza? Get that
fa$ing toast with catsup and yellow
cheese away from me. Give it to
Hill. He'll eat anything. Now that you
should see!"

Why did they playing the theme
from To Kill a Hummingbird as walk-
on music for Bradley Copper? And
when since does Morris Jarre do com-
mmercial endorsements for Sprint?

Who did John Stamos fellate to get
a seat in this full house?

The studio's gamble on unknown
Lupino Moran'O paid off as the
Kenyan-American actress took home this
year's Haing S. Nor award for Best

2014 Oscar Nominated Docu-
mentary Shorts — This year's lineup
includes brief looks at a digger of art
caves, a meeting between a Neo-Nazi
and the gay he once went after, an attempt at peaceful
regime change in Yemen, a terminally ill
prisoner and the volunteers at his hospice,
and maybe the most bizarre offering from the 'world's oldest pianist and Holo-
cast survivor.'

2014 Oscar Nominated Live Action
Shorts — Another Oscar season, another
problem to wonder aloud why it is that,
in this age of supposedly dwindling atten-
tion spans, there has been an explosion of interest in the short film form. The
live-action slate features a trio of heartrend-
ing horrors. It Won't Be (child soldiers in
Africa), Helium (terminally ill child), and
Just Before Losing Everything (wife beating).

The last takes the most artful approach,
 focusing on the mundane complications
involved in pulling out of a bad situation
before it gets any worse — and without interference from the man who shares
her life. The other two aim at the top
brutal (with a dollop of present-day hope
to thin your curdled blood) and outrageously sen-
timental, respectively. Comic relief comes
in two flavors: British black and nasty (The
Voorman Problem) and Finnish sweet and
simple (Do I Have to Take Care of Every-
thing?). It even has a Jewish twist in common:
a willingness to "go there." 2014. — M.L.

3 Days to Kill — No one will ever write
a book titled The Mc Touch, particularly
one based on the time he killed direct-
ing this movie. Here's another Luc Besson
production that appears to have been
 excluded from a shelf in the Cinema Film
saloon since 1977. Who better than McG (Charlie's
Angels, Terminator Salvation) to pick up the
battered baton of clumsy "backdoor" direc-
tors Michael Winner or J. Lee Thompson?

Get ready for a casual blast of movie
cliches, terrible performances (Amber
Heard had better keep her looks if she
plans on pursuing a career in "acting"),
and dopy dialog. Co-writer Besson basical-
ly edges these faults and the film is oddly
much better for it. Nowhere near the Water-
mark set by Besson's previous successes
District B13 and Taken, call it unashamed
nostalgia, when it comes time to compile
the list of 2014's guiltiest pleasures, this
will rank high at the top. 2014. — S.M. ★★

2014 Oscar Nominated Animation
Shorts — For once, Pixar is out of the
picture — The Blue Umbrella was almost 4
out of 10 points) as the feature that fol-
lowed it (Monsters University). That clears
the field for...Disney? Sigh. Look, if you've
seen Frozen (and by this point, what parent
hasn't?), then you know all about the Mouse
House's tribute to its founding Mouse, Get
a Horse. At least it has the guts to attempt
some innovation as it plunges into the past.

Also innovative: Possessions, a brightly-
colored bit of modern folklore about a
fix-it man who takes shelter in a storage
shed during a storm and has a series of
encounters with the stuff that's stored there.
The mix of 2D and 3D gives the feeling of
paper theater sets — limitation transformed
into fitting aesthetic. Also included:
Feral William and the Crosby Kids,
a piece of sweet steampunk about the risks
and rewards of pet ownership, and Room
on the Broom, an overlong, understuffed
animated children's book that can't escape
its source material. 2014. — M.L. ★★★

(LEONARD HILLCREST)

2014 Oscar Nominated Live Action
Shorts — Another Oscar season, another
problem to wonder aloud why it is that,
in this age of supposedly dwindling atten-
tion spans, there has been an explosion of interest in the short film form. The
live-action slate features a trio of heartrend-
ing horrors. It Won't Be (child soldiers in
Africa), Helium (terminally ill child), and
Just Before Losing Everything (wife beating).

The last takes the most artful approach,
 focusing on the mundane complications
involved in pulling out of a bad situation
before it gets any worse — and without interference from the man who shares
her life. The other two aim at the top
brutal (with a dollop of present-day hope
to thin your curdled blood) and outrageously sen-
timental, respectively. Comic relief comes
in two flavors: British black and nasty (The
Voorman Problem) and Finnish sweet and
simple (Do I Have to Take Care of Every-
thing?). It even has a Jewish twist in common:
a willingness to "go there." 2014. — M.L.★

(LEONARD HILLCREST)

3 Days to Kill — No one will ever write
a book titled The Mc Touch, particularly
one based on the time he killed direct-
ing this movie. Here's another Luc Besson
production that appears to have been
 excluded from a shelf in the Cinema Film
saloon since 1977. Who better than McG (Charlie's
Angels, Terminator Salvation) to pick up the
battered baton of clumsy "backdoor" direc-
tors Michael Winner or J. Lee Thompson?

Get ready for a casual blast of movie
cliches, terrible performances (Amber
Heard had better keep her looks if she
plans on pursuing a career in "acting"),
and dopy dialog. Co-writer Besson basical-
ly edges these faults and the film is oddly
much better for it. Nowhere near the Water-
mark set by Besson's previous successes
District B13 and Taken, call it unashamed
nostalgia, when it comes time to compile
the list of 2014's guiltiest pleasures, this
will rank high at the top. 2014. — S.M. ★★

(LEONARD HILLCREST)

2014 Oscar Nominated Animation
Shorts — For once, Pixar is out of the
picture — The Blue Umbrella was almost 4
out of 10 points) as the feature that fol-
lowed it (Monsters University). That clears
the field for...Disney? Sigh. Look, if you've
seen Frozen (and by this point, what parent
hasn't?), then you know all about the Mouse
House's tribute to its founding Mouse, Get
a Horse. At least it has the guts to attempt
some innovation as it plunges into the past.

Also innovative: Possessions, a brightly-
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The mix of 2D and 3D gives the feeling of
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Feral William and the Crosby Kids,
a piece of sweet steampunk about the risks
and rewards of pet ownership, and Room
on the Broom, an overlong, understuffed
animated children's book that can't escape
its source material. 2014. — M.L. ★★★

(LEONARD HILLCREST)
San Diego
March 6, 2014

(PG) Fri-Sun (11:50, 2:10) 7:25; Monuments Men

Dallas Buyers Club
7:00, 9:30, 10:15; Fri-Sat (10:25, 12:50, 2:30, 3:15) 5:45, 7:45,
300: Rise of an Empire
Sun (10:30, 12:50, 3:10) 4:45, 5:45, 8:25, 9:50,

(PG-13) Fri-Sat 11:00, 2:10, 5:15, 8:20, 11:25 Sun 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50
Dallas Buyers Club (R) Academy Award® Winner, Fri, Mon - Thu 1:00, Sat & Sun 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
Oscar Nominated Short Films 2014: (NR) Academy Award® Winner, Fri
Journey to the Unseen World
Sun 12:45pm

Oscar Nominated Short Films 2014: Live Action (NR) Fri, Mon - Thu 9:30, Sat & Sun 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30
San Diego Natural History Museum - Kapoor Theater
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France by her a ne’er-do-well father, and the Indiana Jones films.

The Neverending Story.

Beastly.
began to throw somewhere around the time of *Torque* and the two *We Disintegrated Yer kidpicks. Drive Along is enough to put this any number of the beat up buddy picture. Thankfully that belonging to Mr. Cuba's co-star, chatterbox Kevin Hart. To prove himself worthy of marrying Detective Cubie’s sister, an excitable high school security guard/avid gamer (Hart) spends a day in the passenger seat of his future-brother-in-law's cop car fielding every dirty call on the docket. Hart getsSpringfield's most boring busting line, the rest of his improbable ferociously unfunny. Comatose Cuba’s phonetic dialogue transcription could land him in an upcoming David Mamet production. Even once sly director Tim Story (Barbershop) can’t whip anything fresh into a beat up buddy picture. Wait for television. 2014. — S.M. ▲ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

RoboCop — A tough Detroit cop (Joel Kinnaman) gets blown to bits, and those of the best bits get stuck inside a heavily armed robot. Personal crises and ethical concerns ensue. 2014. — File

*MOVIES 3-6.indd 92*  92/14  5:45 PM

FILM FESTIVALS

**CENTRAL LIBRARY**

American Freethought Freethinkers fought for free speech, women’s rights, separation of church and state, and abolition of slavery. Bradford’s documentary explores the history of secularism and censorship in America. San Diego Freethought Symposium is presenting all year and will be present for a discussion and Q & A after the film. Monday, March 10, 6:30pm

**TINY UNIVERSE**

Cracking performances by Swedes Robert Stadlober and Tom Bachmann's jabbing, witty black comedy bends humor and sadness as it explores the fallout on 16-year-old Wally (Jesse Eisenberg) and 12-year-old Frank (Owen Kline), caught in the fray of an acrimonious divorce between their literary parents. A heaping helping of oddball lunacy. 2011. 83 minutes. Not rated.

**DIQUE MIL PECES**

Valentía Waltz Disney spent over 20 years of his life struggling to bring Mary Poppins to life. This documentary explores the history involving Teller constantly stinking up the act, a复数daily magic duo — narrates and stars in the feature film. It is spun into disarray when they are accused of killing a small boy. Then he fiddles with it. With Richard and Robert Sherman. 2013. — S.M.

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

**San Diego Latino Film Festival**

Expect comedies of all kinds, including wacky, hilaroi- us, and great离散一点 jokes. The story that most people knows about Richard C. Gutierrez’ of the title refers to six walkers who are buried under the herd. It’s Teller’s show; virtually every line that passes from his snarky grin is a gem. For a refreshing change, first time director Tom Gormican presents a trio of well-rounded secondary female characters played to perfection by Imogen Poots, Alice Eve, and Rosamund Pike. 2014. — S.M. ★★★★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

**Visitors**

— View this issue. — S.M. (IN LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Walking the Camino: Six Ways to Santiago — The Camino de Santiago is a Christian pilgrimage that stretches across Spain for 500 miles and ends at the reputed tomb of the apostle James. Back when it was a pagan pilgrimage trail, it continued on to a stretch of beach known as “the End of the World.” Today, the pilgrimage has become a holiday for those who want to walk the "six ways" of the title refers to six walkers with varied intentions and expectations. The journey, while frequently meditative, is a physical and psychological challenge for the traveler who can walk up to 20 miles a day, rain or shine, and this can be an enormous challenge for the way that aesthetic experience can be. Rather, the Camino provides our subjects with a shift in perspective, a slowing down, a break from the need of doing anything but walking, and a chance, in the words of one pilgrim, to leave behind “the need to be something other than what I am.” Director Lydia Sweeney is interested in all of their most essential experiences. ★★★★ (READING GASPALM)

**The Wind Rises (Kazetachinu)** — File under: animation compilation. You see what happens when you start admiring the work of someone who you’ve never heard of. Nothing new, nothing special. You see? Suddenly, you’re forced to confront his admiration for the beautiful work of his countrymen, which work produced much less popular and less popular work, that you’re trying to get your countrymen. If you’re having trouble separating the artistic output of Woody Allen or Roman Polanski from their personal lives, then this film is for you. Are you gonna handle a story about the crazy dreamer who designed the Zero fighter plane? (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

**The Wolf of Wall Street**—Martin Scorsese’s most recent entry in his essay on common denominators living the life of upscale, drug-enhanced, and power-infused businessmen to the men born. Set to the tune of the Master’s metronome camera moves, protagonist and unrepentant jerk Jordan Belfort’s (Leonardo DiCaprio) first day on the job strip off penny stock when he finds him delivering a master class on how to sell garbage to garbage men. The energy level in this film is shocking, but it’s more完善了他的act, time-released Quaalude crawl suggests the work of a director in his early 30s, not that of a man who just turned 71. Belfort is Scorsese’s ultimate surrogate, an auteur, an evangelical trafficker in power, preaching more to his disciples minions. But film remains a collaborative medium, and it wouldn’t have been if screenwriter Terence Winter hadn’t written any scenes whose only purpose was to suck up to the director. Actor-wise, it’s Leos’ show, and the same of the actor to dominate every scene, leaving the supporting cast little to do but bounce off him. It’s the weakest entry in Scorsese’s criminal megacraft, but given that it is a sequel to 2000’s *GoodFellas* and *Casino* — but running third in that company is no mean feat. 2013. — S.M. ★★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)
Classifieds Overlay

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Management/Professional


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Reader

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THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:

RULES OF THE GAME
1) Submit completed puzzle of any difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil) to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online at SDRreader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it in 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:

1 6 2 7 3 9 4 5 8

3 9 7 6 1 2 4 8 5

HARD:

5 9 3 8 2 1 4 6 7

3 6 4 2 7 5 1 9 8

EVIL:

9 8 4 1 5 3 2 6 7

5 1 6 3 2 4 9 7 8

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EASY:

8 7 5 1 2 9 3 4 6

3 6 2 7 4 1 9 5 8

MEDIUM:

8 4 6 3 7 1 9 2 5

6 5 9 2 8 4 7 1 3

HARD:

2 3 5 1 7 4 9 8 6

9 8 6 3 2 5 4 1 7

EVIL:

1 7 2 3 6 8 5 4 9

9 4 5 7 1 8 2 6 3

SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!
Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the “comments” feature, you must be a registered site member.

THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:
Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk from the Thursday your name appears in print to the following Thursday at 5 p.m.

EASY: Bliss Beedle, Encinitas, 9.

MEDIUM: Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 9.

HARD: Patrick Driscoll, Santee, 9.

EVIL: Joe Arbusto, Rancho Penasquitos, 8.

Tom Burgason, San Diego, 8.

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**DOWNTOWN MANOR, $1000**


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**DOWNTOWN, $550-800**


**DOWNTOWN, $650 & UP**


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LEAD STORY
— Ask Americans how they stand compared to their fellow countrymen, and in survey after survey, the vast majority rank themselves “above average” in such areas as driving skill, sexual prowess, and general honesty. A recent study of English prisoners, published in the British Journal of Social Psychology, revealed that those miscreants think they, too, are in the upper half. They rate themselves above average (whether compared to Britons in prison or in society at large) in compassion, generosity, dependability, trustworthiness, and honesty. In fact, the only trait on the University of Southampton survey on which the criminals failed to rank themselves as better than the typical Brit was “law-abidingness.” On that trait, the inmates rated themselves merely as “average.”

Compelling Explanations
— Pastor Ray Scott Teets, 66, of Fallen Timbers Community Chapel in Springhill Township, Pa., arrested in November for alleged “inappropriate contact” with an 11-year-old girl (daughter of parishioners) on at least three occasions, denied to police that the meetings were inappropriate. The girl, he said, requested counseling with him and the meetings were inappropriate. The pastor, acting as his own lawyer.
— The mother and other relatives of William Medina, 24, said they felt hurt by the public’s comments suggesting that Medina and his partner in the November Reading, Pa., armed robbery were “thugs.” William was a “family man” — “no big hard criminal,” his mother said. The two robbers, armed and wearing masks, were gunned down by a Krick’s Korner customer who said he feared the worst when he saw the robbers leading a store employee at gunpoint into a back room. A Medina cousin said he deplored people’s taking the law into their own hands.

Ironies
— A man who won a Hollywood raffle to watch the finale of Breaking Bad with cast members was arrested in Fort Myers, Fla., in January and faces his own intent-to-sell drug charges. Two weeks earlier, unrelated to the show or the rape, a man with the same name as the show’s protagonist (Walter White) was sentenced in Billings, Mont., to 12 years in prison on drug charges.
— Arvind Keriwal, fresh from his electoral victory as chief minister of the state of New Delhi, India, was to report to work on Monday, Dec. 30th, to begin fulfilling his anti-corruption administration — one that promised unprecedented “transparency” to make government visible to constituents. However, the transparency of his first public announcement was perhaps over-the-top — that he was taking the day off because of a bout of diarrhea. Said a colleague, “When the chief minister gives you a minute-by-minute update on his bowel movements, hail democracy.”

Fine Points of the Law
— Michael Robertson, 31, argued via a lawyer before Massachusetts’s highest court in November that his arrest for taking “upskirt” photographs of a woman on the subway should be tossed out — asserting that he has a constitutional right to take pictures of anything that is not covered up in public. Said his lawyer (a woman), noting that the victim’s skirt provided only partial covering, “If a clothed person reveals a body part whether it was intentional or unintentional, he or she cannot expect privacy.” (Robertson’s case had been suspended at the trial court while he seeks a ruling on his legal interpretation.)
— The December federal court decision by Judge William Pauley, dismissing a challenge to the National Security Agency’s phone surveillance program, suggested that even if a citizen might prove that his constitutional right to privacy was being violated, that person could never know it in the first place and thus never challenge, because Congress purposely made the NSA program secret.

Suspicions Confirmed
— University of Alabama football fan Adrian Briskey, 28, was charged in December with the fatal shooting of a 36-year-old woman (also a Bama fan) at a postgame gathering in Hoover, Ala., to commiserate over the team’s last-second loss to arch-rival Auburn. According to the victim’s sister, Briskey was angry at the woman because she was insufficiently distraught at the game’s outcome.

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Private parking for patients
Conveniently located close to the 805 and 15 freeways
United Wellness Center
4284 Market St, San Diego, CA 92102
619-262-0270

Over 50 Strains, check out our menu by typing “united” on:

$69 Pow! Package
11 1/2 Grams • Pipe • Edible
Pre-Roll for only $69!

Daily Delivery
10am - 9pm

Grand Organics
(619) 344-0322
GRANDORGANICS.ORG

Open Vape. It’s what’s inside that counts.
Guaranteed lowest prices in San Diego.

Free 8th
35 Strains with over 20% THC

$40 on all TOP Shelf 8th’s!
$80 Oz’s of Indoor SourD shake
$120 Oz’s of Indoor Popcorn Nug

TOP SHELF $45 CAP

FREE PRIVATE GATED PARKING
TOP SHELF CONNOISSEURS

CROWN COOKIES

OVER 50 TOP SHELF STRAINS AVAILABLE
Providing Safe & Confidential Access to San Diego’s Finest Alternative Medication Discounts for Disabled, Military and Seniors Quality $100 OZ Specials
OPEN 10am - 12am EVERYDAY
DAILY DONATE ONE GET ONE SPECIAL

Point Loma Patients Association
“Home of the Tokyo OG”
619.226.2308
PointLomaPatients.com
Mon-Sat: 10am-9pm • Sunday: 10am-7pm

Veterans receive 10% OFF!

Top Shelf Cap
$45 1/8
All Strains

Donate 1/2 GET 1/2 FREE
Donate 1/4 GET 1/4 FREE
Donate 1/2 GET 1/2 FREE
First-Time Patients Only
100% Special Strains Only

Free Top Shelf Gram
$10 Donation $100 or More

In accordance with Prop. 215, S.B. 420 & H&S 11362.5
Must bring valid CA Doctors Recommendation & Identification

San Diego Reader, March 6, 2014
**Miramar Meds**

**Super Exclusive FTP Special**

1/2 OZ FOR $60

Offer valid for 3/8ths of house strains + $3.5 grams of shake

FREE CLONE!

WHEN YOU SPEND $95

TAKE THE 4 OZ CHALLENGE!

858-224-3585

Seniors, military, disabled get $5 off when you spend over $50

Refer a friend & get a free gram of hash

**North Park Holistic Care**

BUY 1 GET 2 FREE

BUY 1/8TH GET 2/8THS FREE

$60 FTP Special

On house shelf strains

Free dry herb vaporizer attachment when you donate over $99

5 FREE GIFTS FOR FTP!!

Military, senior, & disability discounts.

Free gram of kief when you refer a friend. See store for details.

858-461-9859 11AM-9PM DAILY

3450 EL CAJON BLVD SAN DIEGO, CA 92115

**Medical Marijuana Cards**

**No Hidden Fees**

For 1 Year with this coupon

$30 New Patients

$20 Renewals with this coupon

No Hidden Fees

See a Real M.D.

No P.A.’s or R.N.’s

Get Your Grower’s License Here

**Vista**

1069 S. Santa Fe

Vista, CA 92084

NOW OPEN SUNDAYS

**Santee**

10769 Woodside Ave., Suite 210

**Pacific Beach**

2180 Garnet, Suite 2J

888-552-7970

**O.G. Deliveries**

Buy 1/8th GET 8.5 Grams

**First Time Patient Special**

For only $60!

**Delivery Service**

Free

Buy 1/8th GET 1/8th

Free

On All Mid & 1/8th Shelf strains!

Free

OG Kush keif or hash

Free

During patient appreciation day!

Free

Within 15 miles of SDSU

Free

With every delivery

Exceptional meds for patients on a budget!

Buy 1/8th for $60, get another 1/8th FREE!

Pay less and get more with NO sacrifice in quality!

We do our best to get you your meds within 1 hour!
NATURES LEAF COLLECTIVE

- 5 Gram 1/8 - First Time Patient
- FTP Gifts
- Military Discounts
- $50 Cap
- Free Gram Referrals
- Daily Deals

Large Variety of Concentrates & Vape Products

Bogo Deals

10am to 8pm
7 Days a Week
24/7 Security Providing Safe Access

4 Locations

PACIFIC BEACH
(858) 263-4156
4502 Cass St. #205 2nd Floor
Pacific Beach, CA 92109

LA MESA
(619) 741-8208
7140 University Ave, Ste B
La Mesa, CA 91942

CARLSBAD
(760) 730-9433
2525 South Vista Way
Carlsbad, CA 92008

CHULA VISTA
(619) 934-6497
212 Broadway #B
Chula Vista, CA 91910

$20 Off Any Oz Purchase
$5 Off Any Purchase of $60 or More
$2 Off Any Edible Purchase
San Diego Evaluations
REAL Doctor Medical Marijuana Cards
24 hour online verification
Phone verification 7 days a week

$29 NEW PATIENTS
$19 RENEWALS

Walk In’s Welcome!
MON – FRIDAY 11am - 7pm
SATURDAY 11am - 5pm
SUNDAY 11am - 3pm

Call us for:
ID Cards & Growers License

Spring Valley: 1-855-665-3825
3911 N. Cordoba Ave #F Spring Valley
La Mesa: 1-800-779-1663
7400 El Cajon Blvd., #103, La Mesa
Hillcrest: 1-855-665-3825
4009 Park BLVD #20 San Diego
North Park: 1-858-200-5100
4379 30th Street #5 San Diego
Mission Valley: 1-858-215-0039
7801 Mission Center CT #105A San Diego
Escondido: 1-760-571-7191
135 W Mission Ave #204 Escondido

California’s #1 Medical Marijuana Delivery #1 BEST
Rocketmeds.org
Call 619-417-7869

Delivery to Most of San Diego!
619-417-7869 | RocketMeds.org

10.5 Gram 8ths
Buy 1/8th Bog get 10.5 grams (3/8ths) FTP

2/8ths FREE
Buy 1/8th Get 2/8ths FREE
(5/8ths Total) FTP

12 Grams ReUP
Any Shelf Quality Combined With FREE Shake!

Call 619-417-7869

San Diego Reader
March 6, 2014

1-800-420-7552

San Diego's #1 Medical Marijuana Delivery

#1 BEST

Get 2/8ths FREE FTP!

5 Gram FTP Deals, 3 Gram FTP Deals!
Returning Member Deals!

3677 University Ave San Diego Ca 92105.

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2/8ths FREE
Buy 1/8th Get 2/8ths FREE
(5/8ths Total) FTP

12 Grams ReUP
Any Shelf Quality Combined With FREE Shake!

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#1 BEST

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Buy 1/8th Bog get 10.5 grams (3/8ths) FTP

2/8ths FREE
Buy 1/8th Get 2/8ths FREE
(5/8ths Total) FTP

12 Grams ReUP
Any Shelf Quality Combined With FREE Shake!

Call 619-417-7869

San Diego's #1 Medical Marijuana Delivery

#1 BEST

Get 2/8ths FREE FTP!

5 Gram FTP Deals, 3 Gram FTP Deals!
Returning Member Deals!

3677 University Ave San Diego Ca 92105.
FREE GIFT BAG FTP
FREE GIFT FOR ALL DONATIONS OVER $50
2 grams for $25 and 2 grams for $30 on select strains!!

2603 University Ave San Diego CA, 92104
organicrootsrx@gmail.com 619-255-6409
Open every day from 9:00am - Midnight

10.5 GRAM

BOGO
Buy 1 Get 1 Free!
8ths (3/8ths) FTP DEAL

FREE JOINT
when you refer a friend

3 Grams Saver Shelf $20 FTP
5 Grams Saver Shelf $30 FTP
10.5 Grams (3/8ths) $55 FTP

3 Grams TOP Shelf $25 FTP
5 Grams TOP Shelf $40 FTP
10.5 Grams TOP Shelf $75 FTP

Open 24 Hours
3/8THS $65 FTP
(first time patient deal)
$30 OFF
($30 off any 6/28/13 product)

REWARDS
LEAVE A REVIEW OR REFER A FRIEND TO GET A FREEBIE!

FIRST TIME PATIENT DEALS
3/8THS FOR $65
60+ STRAINS & MORE WAX
1-800-951-3996
OPEN 24 HOURS
936 GARNET AVE SAN DIEGO CA 92109
HAPPY HOUR

MONDAY $5 JACK & JACK HONEY - $3 HEINEKEN  
TUESDAY $2 TACOS - $2 TECATE - $5 EL JIMADOR  
WEDNESDAY $5 JAMO - $3 CORONA  
THURSDAY $5 THREE OLIVES FLAVORS - $5 JÄGER BOMBS & FLAVOR BOMBS  
SUNDAY $5 FIREBALL - $4 SAM ADAMS  
DAILY SPECIALS $5 "BLUE CHEESE", A PBR & A SLICE OF CHEESE PIZZA  
SAKE BOMBS $10 PBR & A SLICE - $12 KIRIN ICHIBAN & A SLICE - $14 ARROGANT BASTARD PALE ALE & A SLICE  

COYOTE UGLY SALOON
820 FIFTH AVENUE | SAN DIEGO, CA | 619.308-8459 | COYOTEUGLYSALOON.COM