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Cover story on page 2
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NEWS & FEATURES

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Ballot battle begins
One Paseo development rights
bring in L.A. money
Pioneered by San Diego Republican ex-mayor Jerry Sanders and his allies in the local ship-building, hotel, and restaurant industries, big-money referendum campaigns have become the device of choice to thwart the will of San Diego’s city council.

“Signature gatherers will likely be the foot soldiers in the next phase of the war for and against Kilroy’s interests.”

Viewed by critics as ineptly staffed — and of late a rubber stamp for Republican mayor Kevin Faulconer and his wealthy benefactors — the council now faces yet another challenge to its faltering reputation in the form of a ballot drive to be financed by Donahue Schriber.

The Costa Mesa–based real estate investment trust is seeking to overturn last month’s approval of One Paseo, the commercial and residential complex in Carmel Valley.

The February 23 vote on the project was 7-2, with Democratic councilwoman Marti Emerald and council president Sherri Lightner opposed.

Rumblings of a referendum began shortly after the council vote, reaffirmed March 9, with reports that One Paseo developer Kilroy Realty of Los Angeles was spreading plenty of its own cash around to make sure that referendum signature gatherers wouldn’t go to work for the anti–One Paseo measure.

Now the battle has been officially joined, with the launch of a political committee called “Protect San Diego’s Neighborhoods, a coalition of neighborhood residents, community planners, taxpayers and small businesses. Major funding by Donahue Schriber.”

According to its March 9 initial disclosure filing with the city clerk’s office, the group has been established specifically to wage a referendum battle opposed to One Paseo’s approval. Donahue Schriber owns Kilroy competitor Del Mar Highlands Town Center.

Terrorism by rail?
Homeland Security finds gamma ray inspection holes
While federal investigators continue to probe the troubled operations of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System’s so-called Desert Line railroad through Mexico to the Imperial Valley, a more immediate concern involving the safety of cross-border rail traffic has come to light.

According to a March 3 audit by the Inspector General’s office of the Homeland Security department, railroads carry-

Cops don’t like students’ social media app
Angsty teenage threats waste time
A new social media app served as the plat-

You can find a lot of things online these days, including stuff that, in decades past, could only be obtained by combing through dusty folders or peering through micro-fiche viewers. If you want to stare down a cold-eyed con in safety or skulk around the neighborhood playing “Who’s the child molester?”, mug shots abound, courtesy of Megan’s Law. And if that’s not lurid enough, there’s always “The Faces of Meth,” exported from the redoubtable gendarmes of the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Department up in Oregon. But if you long to keep your voyeurism local, the OpenDSD database, which covers the entire city, allows you to cruise and peruse code-enforcement cases going back to 2011.

As befits a metropolis of its size, the City of San Diego has a passel of codes that lead to a multitude of violations, real or alleged. Presumably, the bulk of the bellyaching emanates from pissed-off neighbors who carp about everything from yapping pooches to

Someone’s living in a container at the cemetery
Mostly mundane, sometimes hysterical complaints on the city’s website

You can find a lot of things online these days, including stuff that, in decades past, could only be obtained by combing through dusty folders or peering through micro-fiche viewers. If you want to stare down a cold-eyed con in safety or skulk around the neighborhood playing “Who’s the child molester?”, mug shots abound, courtesy of Megan’s Law. And if that’s not lurid enough, there’s always “The Faces of Meth,” exported from the redoubtable gendarmes of the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Department up in Oregon. But if you long to keep your voyeurism local, the OpenDSD database, which covers the entire city, allows you to cruise and peruse code-enforcement cases going back to 2011.

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As befits a metropolis of its size, the City of San Diego has a passel of codes that lead to a multitude of violations, real or alleged. Presumably, the bulk of the bellyaching emanates from pissed-off neighbors who carp about everything from yapping pooches to
non-complying porches. When you click on an icon on the OpenSDS map, you’ll find that each case has been assigned a number and has a claimed source, often a “citizen complaint.”

As one pores over the maps and clicks the violators designated by triangle-encased exclamation points, certain patterns emerge: complaints of building without permits, homes without occupants, homes with too many occupants.

If you want to learn the official highlights or, as sales types might say, the features and benefits of a part of San Diego, you can ask the local chamber of commerce or perhaps an eager real estate agent. But if you long to sound out the character of a neighborhood, a more efficacious method, and certainly a livelier one, is to check out what turns the neighbors livid.

At 12715 Heritage Glen Court in Carmel Valley, the lament reads, “Neighbor has 25 chickens within 25 [feet] of my bedroom/property line, in a coup. We have flies and fowl odor.” (Case 221887)

Meanwhile, over at 1871 Palm Avenue at the edge of National City, we’re informed that a “Vacant lot has a trailer with speeding boat and traisets [sic] hanging out there.” (Case 224027)

And in Clairemont, someone reports that a neighbor has “Hired unlicensed subcontractors, druggies and criminals to turn his two car garage into two bedrooms.”

Myers states that the intent is to “let members of the community know what’s going on in a neighborhood, and if they see something, find out whether a complaint has already been made and if the City is working on it.” To be fair, a lot of it’s pretty mundane stuff, couched in city-speak like “RHOP” (Residential High Occupancy Permit) and “BMP” (Best Management Practice) deficiencies presumably generated by neighbors with a lot of time or grudges on their hands. And barking dogs are commonplace across the city. In some cases disgruntled residents are ratting on their landlords for rats, roaches, and toilets that don’t work.

Myers notes the frequency of bedbug complaints, such as the one lodged against Room 317 at 1835 Columbia Street (downtown) that reads, “Someone vacationing from out of state woke up and found bed bugs all over the room.”

For a glimpse of how the “other half” lives, the map facilitates a sociological sojourn that can be conducted from the safety of one’s den. In the Southcrest neighborhood at 3652 Z St., Unit 56, “Multiple people have moved into a dilapidated shed in the back of an apartment complex. The people are always drinking and having loud profane arguments. The worst thing is that they are disposing of their human waste on onto vacant property adjacent to our apartments.” (Case 223317)

In La Jolla, it apparently takes a lot less to torque the toques of the locals: “The home at 1950 Lee Lane in La Jolla has very loud AC close to our bedrooms at the adjacent condo. It cycles on for five minutes up to several times an hour night and day, to the detriment of our comfort and health.” (Case 219618)

If there’s a recurrent theme that courses through the complaints, it’s the juxtaposition of the rural with the urban, where pastiches of San Diego’s agrarian past linger to the displeasure of some. At 5188 Streamview Dr. off Chollas Parkway, we learn, “Pig being kept in front yard. Has grown fairly large.” (Case 221874.) At 6045 Reo Place in Paradise Hills, we’re informed, “Ducks running wild on property and very loud.” And at 7119 Lisbon street (Skyline), simply “2 roosters and 3 goats.”

Some of the dispatches read like late-night comedy. (continued on page 42)

UNDER THE RADAR

Zipping right along Though he’s not disclosed exactly how much he’s worth, North County Republican Darrell Issa is estimated by many observers to be the wealthiest member of Congress, with minimum assets of $432.25 million, according to a January report in Roll Call. “Issa lists seven high-yield bonds as being worth more than $50 million — the highest disclosure category,” notes the publication. “How much those bonds are actually worth is unknown; they could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars each.”

But the congressman also has liabilities, including a personal loan exceeding $50 million from Merrill Lynch. “That loan could be many times more than Issa is obligated to report. His true rank on our list depends greatly on how much he actually owes to Merrill Lynch.”

Issa earned his fortune by setting up car-alarm maker Directed Electronics and now “appears to make his money through the bond market and high-end real estate.” Thriftiness also might have played a part, based on an account of a conference the mega-millionaire recently took courtesy of the Heritage Foundation.

Issa got free lodging worth $282.50 and gratis food and drink valued at $383.24 at the Salamander Lodge in Middleburg, Virginia, from January 28 through 29, according to his February 11 travel disclosure report; $53.59 in miscellaneous expenses included a folio worth $24.66, $16 in notecards, and $2 luggage tags. “This is an opportunity for me to discuss with other conservative Members of Congress and policy experts pressing policy issues,” wrote Issa. The event, called “Restoring the Shining City on the Hill,” featured receptions, dinners, an “off-site dinner,” and panel discussions; further details were not provided. “Salamander Resort & Spa features 168 luxurious rooms and suites, a luxury spa, full-service equestrian center,” and other high-end amenities, says the resort’s website.

“Converse with visiting winemakers, enjoy a tasting flight and you will leave Gold Cup Wine Bar with a wealth of knowledge about Virginia wines, Middleburg wine country, and why it has earned its place among best wine regions in the US,” adds NBC’s Washington TV station: “Look to the Tree Top Zip Tour for five different zip lines and two suspension bridges with lengths varying from 90 to 670 feet. The 20-acre course allows guests to fly over the resort and offers beautiful views of the Virginia landscape.”

According to Issa’s disclosure, the Salamander was chosen because “Heritage limited the search for a venue to locations with a three-hour perimeter driving, but more than 35 miles away from Washington, D.C. The expected size of the group further restricts Heritage’s options, as some hotels did not have adequate space.” … Democratic state senator Marty Block has reported that his November trip to Maui courtesy of ex-senator Steve Peace’s Independent Voter Project was worth $3215. It wasn’t all fun in the sun, according to Block’s disclosure; he “made a speech” and “participated in a panel.” The trip to Peace’s annual legislative blow-out, financed by a variety of special interests having business with the legislature, was the biggest gift reported by Block. In September he participated in a three-day conference run by San Diego’s chamber of commerce, where he did similar speaking duties and got a gift consisting of “conference registration” and “food” worth $495.

Drunk with power The online home-vacation stay service known as Airbnb has been making a lot of local news lately, thanks to a city regulatory crackdown that has threatened some bedroom renters with back-tax bills. To the rescue have come city councilman Chris Gage, ex-lobbyist for the San Diego Taxpayers Association, and his Republican colleague Lorie Zapf with various would-be reform measures to be considered by a council committee next month. Into the mix has jumped Airbnb itself, which has tapped California Strategies, the Sacramento-based lobbying powerhouse run by ex-Pete Wilson aide Bob White, to look after its interests at city hall, according to a recent disclosure filing. Republican White’s (continued on page 42)
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LETTERS

Serendipitous

I just finished reading Tam Hoang’s article on his experience of growing up American while being Vietnamese (March 12 cover story: “When Vietnamese People Say American They Always Mean White”). What an interesting perspective — great descriptions of his feelings and the contradictions he faced in trying to be clear about who and what he is.

Serendipitously, I had just finished Le Ly Hayslip’s second book, Child of War, Woman of Peace, where she faced similar issues, but in a whole different way, and with some different answers.

Thanks for the great article.
John Sanguinetti
Mt. Shasta, CA

Consequences of Neglect

Don Bauder considers the issue of H-1B visas for foreign tech workers through the lens (City Lights: “A Scheme to Lower Engineers’ Wages,” March 12). This perspective may have merit, though it is backed by dubious claims such as Norm Matloff’s “the average quality of the H1-Bs is lower than that of the Americans.”

I’d like to suggest viewing the issue from a different perspective. For decades we have all been seeing evidence that the U.S. seriously under-invests in higher education, particularly in science and engineering. Now, even many developing countries’ students are surpassing ours, according to international surveys. Eventually we have to face the consequences of this neglect.

I have worked for many years alongside a diverse mix of U.S. and foreign engineers. The mix of U.S. and foreign students is critical for our economy.

John Sanguinetti
Mt. Shasta, CA

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SAN CARLOS
Park abusers won’t be getting cake
Fence project protecting Mission Trails soon to begin
Nearly nine months after a driver crashed through a guardrail at the end of Cowles Mountain Boulevard, residents of the Cottages condominium complex have a timeline for the installation of a fence to close off a portion of the street that ends at Mission Trails Regional Park. The Cottages own some land to the right of the dead end.
Delivery of materials is expected “in the next week or two,” Ryley Webb, a policy analyst in District 7 councilman Scott Sherman’s office, said in a March 9 email interview. “This particular project serves a public benefit by helping prevent crime and illegal dumping.”
Living next door at the Cottages since 1991, Brett Weiss has seen both.
In addition to the “day-to-day intrusion” of discarded debris (including condoms), Weiss sees people, including a man with three dogs, walk past the city sign stating the area behind the sign is closed and public entry is prohibited.
“I tried to tell” people they weren’t allowed in the sensitive area, she said. They responded with abusive language “or they showed me the middle finger.”
Weiss is looking forward to the fence installation.
“I’ve been planning a great celebration. I’ll bake,” she said and began listing some of those she’ll invite. Not on the guest list? “The park abusers.”
LIZ SWAIN

TIJUANA
Where have all the squatters gone?
Mexican government destroys dwellings of the deported
I nicknamed the pedestrian bridge, the one near the vehicle bridge as soon as you come into Tijuana through San Ysidro (Puente el Chaparral), “The Bridge of Doom.” Because if you found yourself underneath it, you would be in one of the worst places on Earth.
It is underneath this bridge where deported people first arrive after being booted from America. With no papers, money, belongings, and many with no idea of where they are, deportees usually find themselves stuck living under the bridge and succumb to drugs.
Local sources say that 70 to 90 percent of the homeless inhabiting El Bordo used to live in the United States.
During the rainy weekend at the end of February, the government “rescued” the homeless out of their improvised shelters.
Once evacuated, the government destroyed all the dwellings.
Since then, El Bordo has been patrolled by police who won’t let any of the former residents back into the area.
El Sol de Tijuana reported that the evacuated homeless now roam downtown Tijuana and Zona Rio. The daily paper also stated that the homeless were evacuated from the area by force and were sent to rehab centers. If the rehab centers were full, the homeless were thrown into “La Veinte,” the nickname for the prison situated by the river.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEWS

This year’s Girl Scout Thin Mint cookie shortage was unprecedented.
$1 a box — to $5. And perhaps the biggest controversy, a shortage of Thin Mint cookies.
Overall sales might be lower this year because of the Thin Mint shortage. “It had never happened before,” said the San Diego council’s director of communications, Mary Doyle.
Generally, local troops receive 75¢ to $1 per box sold. The council, which provides leader training and camps, receives $2.68 per box.

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CARLSBAD
The last bookstore opening, ever?
Garage shop in Carlsbad has low-low overhead
Bucking the trend of old-school small businesses being killed off by technology and the internet, Sean Christopher recently expanded his love of books into a freestanding garage bookstore, named Lhooq Books.
For the past eight years, Christopher sold antiquity books online. During that time, outside the old garage, along the whole wall facing Carlsbad Village Drive were shelves filled with books: hard cover, paperback, even art and coffee-table books. The wall became known around town as a “take ‘n’ trade” community library of sorts. The racks were well organized, but when books ran low, Christopher would add books from his surpluses, filling up the numerous outdoor shelves.
The wooden garage, located at 755% Carlsbad Village Drive, can be found tucked away down an alley, just off Carlsbad Village Drive.
On March 10, Athena from Camp Pendleton was browsing books on health. “Most of my favorite bookstores have closed down,” she added.
Christopher acknowledged that the only way his business can stay open is because he owns the land. Once the make-up of a coastal community’s downtown, the few remaining mom-and-pop stores will soon be gone.

CARLSBAD
Church chief discloses
apologies
Pastor asks robber for advice on raising kid
On March 8, 19 days after St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in Carlsbad was broken into and robbed of dozens of silver and gold chalices, cruets, and ciboria, the items were found by a sheriff’s deputy in the trunk of a car pulled over on Shadowridge Drive in Vista. The cost of the stolen items was placed at more than $40,000. Every piece was returned, though many were damaged.
Jerry Rayburn, 24, was charged with burglary and vandalism to a place of worship.
St. Michael’s pastor Doran Stambaugh describes the face-to-face meeting with Rayburn as “otherworldly.”
“I got a call saying, ‘We have a person in custody, we have a lot of your stuff, and the person wants to apologize in person.’ They asked me if I could come get the stuff and speak to him....
“The cops told us they usually don’t see this kind of thing too often. They said it was very unusual, that most of these guys are hardened criminals, but that this guy actually might have a light left in him. He told them he wanted to say he was sorry. It was all pretty moving.”
Stambaugh continued, “He seemed like he was full of shame. He seemed like he didn’t feel that good about himself. He said his dad was a pastor at a big Baptist church. I think that’s why he doesn’t want to face his family. They asked me if I could come get the stuff and speak to him....

[continued on page 6]
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Dear Hipster,

Am I crazy, or does a pour over coffee set up do exactly what my grandfather Mr. Coffee does? What am I missing?

— LAZARUS

True, it’s a similar process, inasmuch as both methods deliver hot water to ground coffee, but there are what I like to call “minor” differences.

On the one hand, Grandpa Lazarus’s Mr. Coffee dribbles near-boiling water over stale Yuban from an industrial-sized container. On the way to its date with destiny, the water passes through ancient passageways, each more scale-encrusted than the last. The plastic funnel surrounding the filter has more stains than the canvas surface of the boxing ring at Mickey’s gym in Rocky. The brew isn’t ready until the simmering heat of the hot plate under the glass carafe has concentrated the coffee to drinkable nitromethane, the preferred beverage of only the manliest men who strain out the errant grounds via their bristling mustaches.

Contrast that with the product flowing through the sparkling-clean pour-over funnel at your local, third-wave coffee boutique. More delicate than fair-trade birdsong. So refined, it makes a tailcoat and a monocle seem vulgar. The only thing the barista keeps cleaner than his perfectly manicured mustache (which never filters anything baser than the occasional whiff of frothed milk) is the pour-over equipment.

As they say, it’s not so much the tools as it is how you use them. For examples of the former, please visit your local gas station around 4:30 p.m. For examples of the latter, please visit the Reader’s "Pour

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Dear Hipster,

I don’t doubt you per se, but how are we supposed to accept your word as THEhipster? Are there not other, perhaps more authoritative hipsters? If my doctor couldn’t show me a diploma from med school, I wouldn’t invite him to perform open-heart surgery. Get my drift?

—ALAN, LA MESA

As it happens, I come from a long line of hipsters. Both my grandparents survived the Depression by pickling onions and artichokes at their roadside stand made out of a converted 1922 Chevy panel truck. They tried making sales to the Okies who were coming into California. They didn’t really make any money, but the stand kept their hopes and dreams alive. Old family photos show them standing by the truck next to a chalkboard sign that reads “Sustainably grown, Hawley-Smoot Tariff-exempt Produce.”

Going back in the family tree, there’s old Kittredge Stevens, who always complained that Scott Joplin “sold out” with “Maple Leaf Rag.”

Back in Colonial Times, William Jasper Stevens IV didn’t take part in the Boston Tea Party, but only because he was too busy attending a cupping seminar at a small coffee shop in Quincy.

I don’t know if it’s true, but my father always told me that the first hipster in our family was a 13th-century French artist named Villard de Honnecourt. Apparently, “Great Uncle Villard” pretty much did everything Leonardo da Vinci did, but, like, a hundred years before.

Records get pretty spotty before then, but I’ve always liked to think that we Stevens have been hip since the dawn of time. Somewhere back there, my ancestor, Oog the Cavehipster, figured out how to sharpen antelopes bones into primitive razors, with which he cultivated a cave mustache to woo the pretty Neanderthal girls at the local cavebar.

—DJ Stevens
Get Happy Hoppy, San Diego!

Stone Brewing introduces Old Sludgebucket Ale, “The beer you eat with a spoon!”

LISTENING FOR THE ANGELS, ESCONDIDO: Today, Stone Brewing unveiled the latest saint in the hop heaven that is San Diego brewing: Old Sludgebucket Ale, so named for its thick, stewy texture and unique container. Yes, it really is a bucket. Yes, it really is that thick, thanks to the abundance of hops that have been used in its production, then pureed and blended into the final product.

“If there’s one thing San Diego beer lovers love, it’s beer,” says Stone spokesman Stone Beerman. “And if there’s another thing San Diego beer lovers love, it’s hops in their beer. I’ll be honest with you: Sludgebucket Ale started out as a dare. It all started when we started selling more of our Hopped Up Double Hops IPA than our regular IPA. Which was already pretty hop-forward. Eventually, we made a small batch of Bunny Hop Triple Hops IPA; I liked that we put bunny ears in place of horns on a small batch of Bunny Hop Triple Hops IPA; I already pretty hop-forward. Eventually, we made a small batch of Bunny Hop Triple Hops IPA; I liked that we put bunny ears in place of horns on our signature gargoyle for that one. It sold out in days. Our Hop-Frog Quadruple Hops IPA was something of a joke: who wants to drink a beer with ‘frog’ in the name, even if it is a hipster-friendly Edgar Allen Poe reference? But it sold out on pre-order. That’s when someone in product development made a crack along the lines of ‘Why don’t we just serve ‘em up a big bowl of hops and be done with it?’ That was silly, of course — a big bowl of hops wouldn’t have any sweet, sweet alcoholic content. Though we did start offering it as a breakfast selection at our brewery restaurants in Escondido and Liberty Station, and it does outsell the granola. Anyway, it started a conversation about delivering Maximum Hop to the customer in a format that could still legally be called beer. Old Sludgebucket is the fruit of that conversation. Consider it our personal assertion that it’s impossible to have too much of a good thing. It’s not for everyone, but that’s only because we made just 500 buckets. I’m guessing that by the time your readers have finished this story, they’ll already be gone.”

Rescue Me

SeaWorld suspends sea lion show

Earlier this week, SeaWorld Chief of Amusing Animal Antics Ed Waddle announced that the park’s San Diego location would be suspending its sea lion show so that trainers could focus on the species’ increased need for rescues in the wild. “The future of our local sea lion population is really up in the air,” said trainer Kelly Punner in a recent interview. “Already this year, we’ve rescued twice as many sea lion pups from California beaches as last year. They’re dehydrated and underfed; some of them are just hanging by a thread. We’re hoping that our shift in approach will get people to look up and take notice of this deepening crisis. Part of the problem is that the ocean temperatures are being raised up above their normal levels, making it harder for the moms to find food. Ha-ha — I said ‘raised up’! Anyway, we think that suspending the shows will help visitors to the park gain a new perspective on just what it is we do here at SeaWorld. By which I mean, help animals in trouble.”

Think of the Children!

National City AMC denied liquor license after concerned parents speak out

The National City City Council voted 3-2 last week to deny the AMC Plaza Bonita movie theater a liquor license. At a hearing before the vote, parents stressed the importance of maintaining a family-friendly atmosphere at the movies. Here is a completely unrelated list of some of the movie stars depicted on the enormous mural above the entrance to AMC Plaza Bonita.

1. Paul Newman as Brick in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Newman was regarded as an all right guy, thanks to his charity work and long marriage to Joanne Woodward (for whom he left his first wife and three children), but Brick is a horrific drunk and repressed homosexual who keeps swilling bourbon until he hears that “click” that means he’s finally drowned out all the pain of his horrible family life, including a father who terriﬁes him, a mother who failed to protect him, and a brother who disgusts him, not to mention some truly awful nieces and nephews.

2. Mel Gibson as Mad Max. Max abandons a life of law enforcement and goes on a revenge murder spree following the death of his family, but it’s Gibson who merits special attention here. Famous for making outrageous statements about Jews while pulled over for drunk driving, and also for rage-fueled obscene phone conversations with his (then) girlfriend that were later leaked to the media.

3. Judy Garland, a wonderful entertainer and four-time divorcée whose long struggle with drugs and alcohol ended with death by barbiturate overdose at the age of 47.

4. Marilyn Monroe, a wonderful entertainer and three-time divorcée whose long struggle with drugs and alcohol ended with death by barbiturate overdose at the age of 36.

5. Looks a lot like David Caradine, a ﬁne actor and four-time divorcée whose interest in unusual sex practices led to his death by erotic asphyxiation in a Thai hotel closet at the age of 72.

6. Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan in Rush Hour, a film that is impossible to enjoy while sober.

7. Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz, and Lucy Liu in Charlie’s Angels, another ﬁlm that is impossible to enjoy while sober.

8. Drew Barrymore, a showbiz kid who started drinking at 11, smoking pot at 12, and snorting coke at 13. She was in rehab by 14 years of age. (Happily, she seems to have come through all that.)

9. Julia Roberts in Pretty Woman, a story about a prostitute who ﬁnds the man of her dreams.

10. Uma Thurman in Pulp Fiction, shortly before her character snorts heroin, dies, and must be resuscitated by having a needle full of adrenaline jammed into her heart.
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POST TITLE: Object Permanence
POST DATE: February 8, 2015
The “Mongoloid” card gets played despite ground rules and — across the table — Jenn and I meet glances. Finn’s asleep in Jenn’s lap, thumb resolutely in mouth.

In slumber, Finn’s almond eyes close along sinuous lines; the seams of his lids resemble tildes, those accent marks that give flourish to Latin n’s: tildes make “en-ye’s” out of “ni’s. Finn’s eyes are different, as is he, and: do we call this exotic?

When the “Mongoloid” card is played — we are playing “Cards Against Humanity,” something I’m suddenly regretting — I feel a particular blunting. The table is still friendly, and this is Christmas Eve, but I turn to my friend John-Paul, who’s sitting next to me, and say: “I think I’m done.” The “Mongoloid” mention has its certain hurt.

John and I are sharing a barrel-aged stout, something fourteen points, so me saying “done” is appropriately camouflage of a near-finished pint. I could be done by nature of what I’m imbibing, but that’s not why I quietly say “uncle.” (Since we’re talking numbers and points, Finn has 47 chromosomes, not the usual 46. The 21st chromosome was doubled somewhere in the early and meiotic phase; it turned Finn’s eyes almond and troubled his heart so that it needed surgering three months following his introduction into the world.)

Another hand is dealt, and with my son sleeping — a slur having just been played and re-shuffled with Finn deep in Nod — I tell John-Paul that “I’m just gonna amuse myself, here.” I’m uncomfortable. Finn sleeps...

“Mongoloid” is a word that’s shocking to see still in circulation.

Wait — why am I playing this game?

The game asks that I play two associative cards. I lay down: “Heaven.” “Object Permanence.”

I amuse myself. The point of this game is to play despicable cards when given a prompt — to be as devilishly clever as possible. I start playing cards to not win. “Heaven, object permanence.” On a pizza sauce-stained tablecloth, and where the “Mongoloid” card receives a laugh, my combo fails to even get a chuckle. But I’m happier for it.

Then, it’s Christmas morning. The sky is impossibly blue, weather having lifted. As if cards played the night prior are something predicative, there’s a feeling of permanence. Like this sky could last forever, and unchanged.

We’re at a park near Lindbergh Field. It could always be this blue, and, to announce the fact, the planes take off, their perfect paint jobs illuminated by the sun. Jenn pushes Finn on the swing and he’s laughing. Cayden — my oldest — clack-clacks the sidewalks that loop the greenbelt on his skateboard, and I soak up this Christmas sun on a concrete bench.

There are other dads — that guy with the cargo shorts and gray beard, kid astride a skateboard; the other guy with a palsied face one-handedly flying a kite with his son. Cayden inexpertly stops in front of me. He received kneepads from Santa and is now invulnerable, and don’t we all wish for that.

“Soccer, Daddy?” Cayden suggests. I’m in a loose-knit scarf, suede penny-loafer, and a cardigan but, “Sure,” if only to add to this panorama. Different dads, different children.

Cayden declares goal-markers—“From here to here, Daddy” — but we wind up not keeping score. There are no points, and no point sometimes to numbers. Before, I would introduce the fact of Findlay’s diagnosis as “Trisomy-21.” The dash and mathematical embellishment meant I didn’t have to say “Downs,” nor — certainly — “Mongoloid.” But now. 21, 47. There are numbers on the underside of the airliners that are currently taking off, and they mean as little to me.

Numbers suggest perpetuity. Also a constant countdown to a something, nothing: a dwindling arithmetic.

Suede-footed, I bend a kick Cayden’s way. “Mongoloid” cards are a threat to me, and I meet glances. Finn’s asleep in Jenn’s lap, thumb resolutely in mouth.

Yes, this is a game. And sometimes you draw a card that hurts.

WAIT — why are we talking about cards?

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BLOG DADDY, MEDIUM-WELL
AUTHOR: Thom Hofman
FROM: North Park
BLOGGING SINCE: March 2013

POST TITLE: NCAA Tournament preview
POST DATE: February 8, 2015
Before we get to the column, the Box would like to offer helpful relationship advice. If you live with someone who loves college basketball and you don’t care for it, that person owes you one month of his/her life. I attempted to find out how many college basketball games were broadcast over the past 30 days on ESPN, ESPNU, ESPNU, Fox, FS1, FS2, CBS, CBSSN, NBC, NBCSN, Pac-12 Network, SEC Network, Big East Network, Big Ten Network, Mountain West Sports Network, and so many more. Wasn’t long before I realized this was a job for staff. Sports on TV is out of control. But now: 21, 47. There are numbers on the underside of the airliners that are currently taking off, and they mean as little to me.

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Built in 2008, the home was "executed in a timeless Art Deco style" with the intention of creating an "ultimate entertainer’s estate." The main residence includes three bedroom suites (master, guest, and maid’s quarters), with an additional two-bedroom guest house, another two optional bedrooms, and eight total baths.

“Af ter entering through the walled courtyard, past a lovely swimming pool, spa, and cabana, you’ll find an estate like no other,” promises the listing. Luxury amenities include a “rich, paneled office,” yoga room, a private theater with seating for 12, and two full bars — one in the billiards room with large porthole-style windows looking out onto the ocean and another in a second game room outfitted with a two-lane bowling alley.

Interior finishes include “exotic millwork and stonework” with “exquisite public rooms all in Tiffany’s quality with sumptuous lighting and sound, and state of the art security.” A spiral staircase leading down from the lower level is flanked by a semicircular aquarium. The high-ceil inged “open, airy rooms with walls of glass that open to lovely patios and heated balconies” are set to take advantage of views spanning La Jolla Cove and Scripps Pier.

A breezeway connects the main residence to the guest house with two bedroom suites, each outfitted with a kitchen-ette and private sitting area.

While enjoying privacy afforded by the bluff-top location, the Spindrift estate is a stone’s throw from La Jolla Shores and only eight doors down from the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club, home to the tony Marine Room restaurant.

Public records show the owner of the property to be George Krikorian, a Torrance, California-based real estate and movie-theater mogul who built a chain of theaters (including several across San Diego County), sold them to competitor Regal Cinema in 1996, and immediately formed another theater chain. None of his theaters operate under the Krikorian name in the San Diego market. The sole local outlet, a 15-screen prop-

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The home movie theater owned by a guy who builds movie theaters.

The home in Vista, was taken over by the Cinepolis chain last month.

The half-acre parcel upon which the home was constructed was last sold in 1998 for just shy of $2.6 million, when a 3200-square-foot home built in 1959 was sited there. An attempt to sell that home for $7.75 million fizzled in 2001, resulting in the demolition of the former building and construction of the current residence. The property spent another five months on the market in 2010, beginning with a listing price of $33,900,000, which was eventually reduced to $26,900,000 with no takers.

After several years off the market, the Spindrift property was listed again in late February with an asking price of $27,900,000, which remains unchanged to date.

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I NEVER WANTED TO BE A CARTOONIST. And yet, I’m about to draw the 1000th weekly edition of Overheard in San Diego.

Sure, I loved and collected comic books as a kid, and even drew cartoons for my middle- and high-school newspapers. But my focus from the start was on writing, first for those publications, then with self-published fiction zines, and eventually freelancing for newstand magazines, mostly writing about film and pop culture (Starlog, FilmFax, Cult Movies, and others).

I pretty much stopped drawing after I first arrived in San Diego via Greyhound in the late ’70s, though not before earning my first California cash with a paper pad and colored-pencil kit pulled from my backpack that afternoon. My buddies at school had always liked my comic caricatures — funny cartoons about friends and frequently unsavory ‘toons concerning school administrators — so I thought I’d go to Balboa Park and earn some scratch drawing tourists and locals, as I’d witnessed during my first visit to the city. I even brought some of those high-school sketches to use as display samples.

Unfortunately, rendering familiar friends and foes is different from drawing complete strangers who glare at you impatiently from atop the drawing pad. At least half the people I drew that day refused to pay my (crudely) handmade sign’s "suggested" five-dollar donation. One couple gave me a quarter. Nobody tipped me.

Pretty much everyone looked at my artwork like it was something they couldn’t wait to scrape off their shoe.

I was mortified. And broke. But I stayed in San Diego and eventually found paying work in the comic-book publishing biz at Miramar’s Pacific Comics, home of the Rocketeer, Jack Kirby’s Captain Victory, and more. Not as an artist; I worked in the shipping warehouse. It would be several more years
before I scripted my first comic book.

Even then, for the entire time I wrote and edited titles like Rock 'N' Roll Comics for Hillcrest’s Revolutionary Comics (1989–1994), the company never published a piece of my artwork (though I did occasionally draw embarrassingly rough thumbnails as artist guidelines). Ditto the period I served as publisher for Carnal Comics (1994–2000), where I scripted something like a hundred issues, two stories per, without drawing a single panel.

By late 1995, I was already writing for the Reader, usually for the music section. When the “Blurt” column ran short one week, I spent around an hour or so mocking up my idea for a one-shot filler cartoon, using artwork from an earlier strip I’d done with Kiss comics artist Scott Pentzer. Unpublished before now, that pilot strip featured a stressed-out bus driver.

The editor was enthusiastic, and soon the paper commissioned the strip as a weekly “Blurt” feature. I immediately teamed up with Rock ‘N’ Roll Comics artist Joe Paradise, whose established skill at drawing recognizable people and places made him the ideal penman. Over the next couple of years, our work appeared in the Reader every seven days. The dialogue usually came from nights I spent on the town working on Reader stories, and then tipsters began submitting their own bits of overheard chatter.

Until the strip became known around town, I ran into problems at a few venues. Velvet, on Kettner (which came to occupy the Casbah’s first location after that club moved down the road), wouldn’t let me photograph the place, especially the sticker-covered door, even after I explained that the artist needed photo references and the club would be getting free publicity in the Reader. The operator accused me of some sort of industrial espionage, so only the exterior of the place appeared in the final strip, with word balloons pointing inside the door.

Empire booted me after someone in a comic called the goth club’s patrons “airheads and pinheads,” something I may have overheard but would never have agreed with. I loved that place and its adventurous playlist, and didn’t mind the patrons at all, at least the ones I could espy through all the dry-ice fogbanks.

The Boulevard in La Mesa banned me after their stage was referred to in a character’s derogatory comment (“the size of a postage stamp”), and that was particularly disappointing for me, it being my favored neighborhood bar, just half a block from where I was living. Casbah honcho Tim Mays wrote a letter of complaint to the paper about my “silly little comic strip” after I

---

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OVERHEARD

Two years into Overheard’s run, though, I began seeing cutout copies of the strip mounted behind the bar and on cash registers at several places around the city. Few knew I was the “Overheard Guy” — all I did in public was jot down notes — I was still just writing the strips. One time, I actually overheard someone at Rudford’s saying, “Someone needs to send that one to Overheard in San Diego.”

Then, Joe Paradise was no longer available to draw the comic. I was stuck with the task of either hiring a new artist or drawing the thing myself. Which at first seemed a ludicrous notion.

Of course, once I realized that drawing it myself meant I no longer had to split the paycheck, my choice was clear.

And thus, at the age of 38, I became a cartoonist. My crash tutorial included books on the art form, such as Understanding Comics, by Scott McCloud; Comics & Sequential Art, by Will Eisner; and a series of how-to-draw books by Tarzan artist Burne

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Have you been diagnosed with osteoarthritis of the knee? If so, and you are between 40-75 years of age, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study.

If you qualify, you may receive study related medical exams and study medication at no cost.

Please call Artemis Institute for Clinical Research at 1-855-DoStudies to see if you qualify today!

Do you have General Anxiety Disorder (GAD)?

Is your medication giving you relief from your symptoms?

Many people experience the constant burden of anxiety to the point where their excessive worrying can negatively impact the quality of their lives. If your medication isn’t supplying relief from the symptoms of GAD, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of GAD.

The purpose of this clinical research study is to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of an investigational medication, in tablet form, for GAD.

To participate in this clinical study, you must meet all study entry criteria, including the following:
* You are between 18 and 65 years old,
* You have been taking a stable dose of an FDA approved GAD treatment for at least two months.
* You are willing and able to comply with scheduled medical visits, a study treatment plan, laboratory tests and other study procedures for the duration of the study—approximately eight weeks.

If you are eligible to participate in this study, an investigational medication, study-related tests and study結束のvisits will be provided at no cost to you. Study participants may be reimbursed for study-related expenses.

For more information about this study, please contact:

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Depression still bringing you down?

If you or a loved one is taking an antidepressant but still feel like your symptoms are not under control you may qualify for a research study of an investigational medication for depression.

Qualified participants will receive:
• Compensation for time and travel
• No-cost study related medication and study related medical care

To learn more about this study, please visit or call toll free to see if you qualify today!

If you are 18 or older with Type 2 Diabetes and treated with Metformin you may qualify to participate in a research study.

Compensation may be provided to those who qualify.

Please call Artemis Institute for Clinical Research at 1-855-DoStudies to see if you qualify today!
Hogarth. I recycled a lot of Paradise artwork (still do, actually), as I studied how to render in a similar style.

My first solo Overheard comic debuted in 1998. No, it won’t be reproduced here. I’m still amazed the Reader didn’t fire me.

Once I got comfortable with the tools of my new trade, particularly after I mastered digitizing backgrounds from photos, the comics grew from barely competent to halfway decent to, I think, not at all terrible.

So, basically, Overheard in San Diego is about taking odd excerpted slices of reality and rendering them into black-and-white linework that both maintains and magnifies while (ideally) entertaining. I believe the old saying, “Truth is stranger than fiction.” It’s certainly more interesting.

As you may or may not know, I depend on tipsters to email me stuff they’ve overheard around town. Whoever sends me a tip that gets illustrated gets to keep the original artwork for that week’s comic, often a mix of digital and hand-drawn art. At this point, I’ve given away the majority of Overheard artwork (which made it hard to come up with enough artboards to display at recent gallery showings).

For tipsters, the things I look for are:

1. The strip should be music related (ideally), and it must be local.
2. A local setting that’d be fun to draw (club with unique decor, an iconic local landmark or building, lots of interesting-looking people, etc.).
3. Dialogue that comes across as either funny, head-scratching, utterly inexplicable, or so perfectly suited to its locale and/or the speakers that it’s almost like illustrating a cliché.

RESEARCH STUDIES

HAVE YOU BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES IN THE LAST 2 YEARS?

If yes, Dr. Robert Henry and his research associates are conducting a study at the VA San Diego Healthcare System to evaluate the safety and tolerability of a drug being tested as an effort to preserve insulin production in adults recently diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes.

The study drug is an investigational drug that has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Duration:
• Approximately 5 months

Inclusion Criteria:
• Males or females aged 18 years and up
• Diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes within the last 2 years
• Volunteered who qualify will be compensated up to $2000 for completed scheduled visits.

To learn more please contact Catherine DeLue at 858-552-8585 x6740
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Volunteers who qualify will be compensated up to $2000 for completed scheduled visits.

Patient funded study, must qualify to participate.*

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Do you have TYPE 1 or TYPE 2 DIABETES?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE BETWEEN 18 AND 65 YEARS OF AGE WITH TYPE 1 OR TYPE 2 DIABETES TO TAKE PART IN A NEW CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY.

The INSTRIDE Studies are looking to see how well an investigational insulin works to control blood sugar levels. The investigational insulin has been designed to be as similar as possible to insulin glargine (Lantus®), which has helped many people with diabetes worldwide. However, the investigational insulin may provide a more affordable treatment option that could benefit many more people.

For patients with Type 1 Diabetes, the study will last for 66 weeks with 22 study visits (six of these may be conducted by telephone rather than at the study center). For patients with Type 2 Diabetes, the study will last for 32 weeks with 14 study visits (five of these may be conducted by telephone rather than at the study center). All study medications and study-related healthcare will be provided at no cost to you.

You may be able to take part if you have been taking Lantus® for at least 3 months (patients with Type 2 Diabetes may also be able to take part if they have never taken insulin before).

DEPRESSED? Current Medication Not Helping?

HAVE YOU BEEN TREATED FOR DEPRESSION FOR MORE THAN 6 WEEKS AND NOT GETTING THE RESPONSE YOU WANT?

If you are between 21 and 70 years of age, you may be interested in this clinical research study. Local doctors are conducting a clinical trial to measure the safety and effectiveness of an investigational formulation of a naturally occurring molecule when added to your current antidepressant medication. Study medication will be provided at no cost. You do not need health insurance to participate.

Are you ONE OF THE PROUD who has served or is currently serving your country or community?

Have you also experienced A TRAUMATIC EVENT that has caused lingering effects like anxiety, insomnia, or nightmares?

IF SO, YOU MAY WANT TO VOLUNTEER FOR OUR CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY OF AN INVESTIGATIONAL NEW DRUG.

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Study participant information is confidential. Study-drug and study-related medical care are provided at no cost. Other compensation may also be available.

Have you been diagnosed with SCHIZOPHRENIA? Do you have problems thinking?

Symptoms of schizophrenia can make it difficult for you to concentrate and perform activities of daily living, such as:
- remembering an appointment
- planning your day at work or with family
- concentrating on a conversation
A clinical study of an investigational drug to treat the cognitive symptoms of schizophrenia is currently being conducted. Study participation will last approximately 20 weeks. If you are between the ages of 18 and 55 years, and have been diagnosed with schizophrenia, you may qualify.

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

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4. “Guest star” caricatures from the actual event, including well-known/recognizable locals or visiting celebs.

If you think you have good bits of overheard chatter, feel free to email me at jas2669@aol.com.

Overheard by Little Fish

I recently took a batch of unused Overheard tips to Alonso Nunez at O.B.’s Little Fish Comic Book Studio, an artist co-op where students from preschool age through their teens study and practice cartooning. Nunez also hosts workshops at area schools like Wilson Middle School, as well as heading student field trips to local comic conventions.

Nunez tasked several Little Fish students (age 10 to 19) to draw their own versions of Overheard, based on those unused tips. We were so delighted with their creativity that we want to share the student strips with readers and invite you to vote for your favorite.

The student whose comic strip receives the most votes will have that Overheard comic published in an upcoming issue of the print edition, with their solo byline that week’s paycheck.

See the students’ Overheards at SDReader.com/overheard. Voting lasts until March 25, 2015. The winner will be announced online and in the Reader on April 1.

Glad to be a cartoonist

As I near my 20th year of being San Diego’s Overheard Guy, I can’t even tell you how often I’ve seen the comics displayed around town or how many hysterical/weird/scary/head-scratching tips and comments I’ve received from readers.

I once mentioned to a lovely woman on a flight from Atlanta to San Diego that I was the artist behind Overheard. She reached into her purse to pull out a wallet where she kept one of the comics about a blues club she used to manage.

My goddaughter Christie, already a far better artist than I was when I drew my first solo Overheard, wants to apprentice on the strip and eventually take it over, whenever I decide to put down my pen (when that may be depends on how tight I’m up against

RESEARCH STUDIES

NOT SEEING THE RESULTS YOU WANT FROM YOUR ANTIDEPRESSANT?

Please consider our depression research study.

Our office is conducting a research study to evaluate whether adding an investigational medication to an approved antidepressant therapy might give relief from the symptoms of major depressive disorder (MDD) when added to a current medication.

You may be able to take part in this study if you:

- Are 18 - 65 years old,
- Have been diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder (MDD),
- Have been experiencing symptoms of depression for at least the past 2 months,
- Have been taking at least one antidepressant medication as prescribed but it is not helping you enough.

Additional study criteria will be assessed by the study doctor.

The study lasts 19 to 28 weeks. Participants will receive either the investigational medication or Seroquel XR or a placebo (an inactive substance) in addition to a standard antidepressant therapy medication.

All study-related medications, office visits and examinations will be provided to you at no cost.

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**TO POSSIBLY QUALIFY, MUST BE:**
1) Women, 18-45 years of age
2) Must have documented history of 2 or more previous treated episodes of BV and presently have an active infection again
3) Willing to take oral metronidazole to treat the present infection before entering the application phase of the study

**PARTICIPANTS WILL POSSIBLY RECEIVE AT NO COST:**
1) Exam and consultation with a board-certified physician
2) Labs, cultures, study-related medication at no cost to participant
3) Compensation to $675.00 For your time and travel

---

**Could Menopause Be Different...Without Those Hot Flashes!!!**

A clinical research study is underway for menopausal women who are suffering from hot flashes and night sweats. If you suffer from the embarrassment of hot flashes and the nightly interruption of sleep by night sweats, this study may interest you. The 12-month study uses an investigational oral hormone medication for hot flashes and night sweats.

**TO POSSIBLY QUALIFY:**
1) Women, 40-65 years of age, who are menopausal for at least 1 year
2) Must have a uterus
3) Having daily hot flashes and night sweats
4) Smokers; less than 15 cigarettes per day

**PARTICIPANTS MAY RECEIVE AT NO COST ALL STUDY-RELATED:**
1) Exam and consultation with a board-certified physician
2) Labs, EKG, and all study-related drugs at no cost or need for insurance
3) Compensation for time and travel

---

**Constipation Does the Restroom Seem Like Torture?**

Straining, baring down, with poor results....Is this all too common an occurrence for you? A 12-week medical research study using an investigational clot of a presently-marketed oral medication, linzess, for men and women with chronic constipation, is underway. Tired of laxatives, enemas, and special diets for your constipation? You may want to consider this study.

**TO POSSIBLY QUALIFY:**
1) Men and women, 18 years and older, with chronic constipation
2) No surgical or medical condition which might explain your infrequent and uncomfortable bowel movements
3) Not currently participating in another research study

**PARTICIPANTS MAY RECEIVE AT NO COST STUDY-RELATED:**
1) Exam and consultation with a board-certified physician
2) Labs, colonoscopy (if 50 or older only), all study-related medication at no cost or need for insurance
3) Compensation for time and travel

Compensation and Transportation may be available for those who qualify.

---

**Too Many Years of Sun, Sun, & Sun.....Now You’ve Got Sun-Damaged Skin (AK)**

A clinical research study is underway comparing a presently-marketed gel and a generic gel for actinic keratosis, or sun damaged skin on face and scalp. You former sun-worshippers, who have areas of thickened, scaly, or crusty skin on face or scalp, should consider this study.

**TO POSSIBLY QUALIFY:**
1) Men and women, at least 18 years of age
2) Have a history of AK in the past and no present skin cancer
3) No recent use in the last 6 months of chemical peels, dermabrasion, PUVa, UVb, or retinoids

**PARTICIPANTS MAY RECEIVE AT NO COST ALL STUDY-RELATED:**
1) Study related exam and consultation with a board-certified physician
2) Study related medication and visits require no insurance
3) Compensation to $300.00 For time and travel

619-521-2841
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the next deadline when you ask). As someone with no children of my own, it’s hard to describe how solid, how successful, how immortal that makes me feel.

And to see the Little Fish students’ interpretations of the comic, the next generation, San Diego’s upcoming and ongoing cartoonists of the future... I’m honored and humbled. Amazing, really, to think that one single hour spent mocking up a filler graphic in 1995 has led to 1000 strips and counting, which I hope you’ve enjoyed.

I may not have wanted to become a cartoonist. But I’m glad I did.

— Jay Allen Sanford

A large archive of downloadable Overheard comics can be found at SDReader.com/overheard
Tired of Foot Pain?

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An evening at Villa Montezuma
Between 1887 and 1889, Jesse Shepard gave musicales at his Villa Montezuma. He had an international reputation as a singer/pianist. Others called him a charlatan. To bring instant culture to the pioneer town, San Diegans built Shepard a gaudy Victorian mansion at 20th and K Streets. Here he performed and, some said, conducted musical séances. What follows is an imagined evening at the villa — Tuesday, February 14, 1888 — based on eyewitness accounts.

The tour
Horse-drawn carriages and buggies arrive at 1925 K Street around 8:00 p.m. The villa stands on a hillside. Backlit by city lights below, the whimsically unsymmetrical building sports two towers with conical domes, two chimneys, and a cross-gable roof. Sculpted serpents twist around metal finials. The waterspout's a dragon's head. As if startled by their arrival, or determined to ward off demons, a winged, reptilian gargoyle spews invisible flames at the guests, all dressed for a night at the opera. They are familiar with the Villa's freelance, Queen Anne style. Even bigger...

QUOTATIONS
1. T.S. Van Dyke: "There is something very peculiar, something so very striking, about even the exterior of the building that the passerby cannot but stop and admire its extreme, unostentatious eccentricity."
2. The Weekly San Diegan (June 21, 1888): the guest "will find 'a perpetual feast of nectared sweets where no crude surface reigns'; where sweet and gracious thoughts come to smooth down the sharp corners worn by life's rasping contact."
3. Jesse Shepard: "Nothing better can be wished than to greet [you] some day at the Villa Montezuma, when ad oculos evidence shall sanction that 'tis truth what I say."
4. Nandor Fodor: "He did not mention his psychic gift except to sympathetic audiences. Those who accepted his spirit inspiration ran the gauntlet of disfavor."
5. Vine Hill: "He was an artist — not a great one, but an artist never the less. He played brilliantly. How accurately I wouldn't know. But mother, who understood music, said he played well."
6. Matt Marble: "Genius or not, [Shepard's] intuitive drive, techniques of illusion and love of mystery, and the idiosyncratic expression of his mystical perspective were unprecedented and ahead of their time, anticipating numerous influences and advances that would be realized in 20th century music and art following his death."

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mansions have sprung up from here to Florence Heights. The mammoth structures proclaim bulging bank accounts in carpenter's gothic.

Someone said that in Classical architecture, the whole is greater than the parts. In the Queen Anne, the parts are greater than the whole. And each part competes for attention.

People who have seen it say the villa isn't just another Victorian extravagance. In fact, when they describe it, and Shepard's mystical concerts, adjectives blur their words.

The carriages park on both sides of 20th. The dirt street runs north-south and was graded last summer. After taking in the view — the city like a floor of stars — guests search for the main entrance.

It's not where they thought. Instead of a grand portico and wide steps rippling down to the street, the door's around the corner to the right. You must walk past the three-story, northeast tower, erect as a soldier at attention, and up concrete steps. Compared to the ornate edifice, the humble porch looks like a servant's entrance, or an afterthought.

We knock on the Dutch door. Maybe four feet wide, it has a glazed upper panel and dull brass hinges. The sky-blue ceiling's a letdown. Every porch in town has that color.

The door swings open silently; waves of bright warmth flare out to greet us. Two men and a woman stand in the soft glow of a five-foot-tall brass lamp with a jeweled shade. A man, mid-20s, says he's Lawrence Tonner. He presents the man next to him, also wearing black pants, elegantly cut waistcoat, and a white shirt with a U-shaped front. The sides of his winged collar curl like breaking waves over his black cravat.

“Mr. Jesse Shepard,” the young man announces as if for royalty. Shepard looks like Tonner in 15 years. Both are tall, well over six feet, with large physiques, black hair, waxed mustaches, but no beard, and melancholy, inward-looking eyes.

“You are most welcome,” Shepard says in a Bostonian accent. He has a courtly grace, open but reserved. When he gently shakes your hand, his fingers engulf yours. So, it’s true: they say that stretched out together, one of his hands can touch piano keys an octave and a half apart. The only other known pianist with such a reach was Franz Liszt, who died 11 years ago. People used to check if he had an “eleventh” finger.

Shepard introduces the woman on his right: Kate Field, the guest of honor. She’s the 50-year-old renowned writer/lecturer and champion of women’s causes — and, some say, the lover of British novelist Anthony Trollope.

She's touring California for the first time, to “become acquainted,” she says. When she arrived here February 7, the San Diego Bee asked her impressions thus far. She said she didn't like hearing boastful Californians belittle the East Coast. "Don't grow conceited and think because you are a wonderful child that your parents can teach you nothing," she told the reporter. "California will be more sympathetic when she allows the rest of the world to possess a few attractions. It is a miserable bird that fouls its own nest."

Field's outfit also raises eyebrows: white brocaded satin, pale blue trim, a flowing train, and a low neckline. Her dark hair swirls into a bun. She nods, smiles; her eyes are wide awake.

“Mr. Shepard will perform at 10:00 p.m.,” says Tonner. “Feel free to roam about.” Shepard adds politely, “We're so glad you've come.” It's only after the greeting that we notice the bold staircase rising from our right and climbing overhead, the bannister carved in diagonal rectangles. In fact, everywhere we turn looks sculpted, from the dark walnut wainscoting, to the deep brown, interlocking patterns on the ceiling: circles and diamonds within connected squares.

Come to think of it, the round entryway window has a tiny circle within a square. Isn't that an alchemical symbol for the Philosopher's Stone?

The bas relief ceiling design rises from a bed of silver-gray Lincrusta-Walton, pressed canvas covered with linseed oil. In the flickering gas- and candlelight,
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Hallway doors cast pools of color on the ornate Smyrna rug. From the reception room to our left, pale pink spills through gold and light blue portieres. The drapes and fabrics, even the clusters of candles, are pink.

Straight ahead: the drawing room beckons like an open treasure chest. One of the guests, Thomas L. Fitch, the noted orator, joins us and opines: “the effects of universal culture are everywhere; it becomes apparent that nothing is copied here.”

Also known as Colonel Tom, the former Nevada congressman is a lawyer and one of San Diego’s most avid boosters. A rotund man around age 50, strands of white hair combed over a bald spot, Fitch defended Brigham Young against criminal litigation in 1871, and the Earps and Doc Holiday after the O.K. Corral ten years later. Now he edits the Bee and pens rabid advertising copy for Howard & Lyons, the real estate company. (Of his unabashed boosterism, folks say, “No boom really starts until Fitch shows up.”)

“San Diego has a population of 150,000 people,” he wrote late last year, “only they are not all here yet.”

Given the city’s economic havoc of the past six weeks, Fitch’s famed, “silver tongue of the Pacific” has a perceptible tarnish.

Muffled voices from other rooms: bursts of “ooh” and “ah,” and “come see this,” but never footsteps. The guests walk on Persian rugs thick as double horseshoes, soft as clouds.

The large drawing room’s floral Eden: orange blossoms on a mahogany cabinet inlaid with flowers of mother of pearl and ivory; Louis Phillipe roses in two yellow Satsuma vases; tea roses in another; a tall spray of calla lilies next to the tiled fireplace. Above the mantel: a round mirror inside a square of molded walnut. That symbol again. Circles within squares flow through the villa like a musical motif.

“Come look at the bay window,” says Fitch, now our self-appointed docent. On the south-facing wall, curving windows span 18 feet. The upper sashes have art glass portraits of literary greats: Shakespeare, Johan Wolfgang von Goethe, and Pierre Corneille. Each looks as if about to speak.

“John Mallon of San Francisco created them,” says Fitch. “He painted enamel on small fragments and framed the figures with bevel-edged jewel pieces.”

As Fitch continues, first impressions of the villa mute his words. The place feels timeless. Or, as in a museum, of time suspended; centuries come together. You walk not only among objects of beauty but within one: the entire villa feels like a work of art.

Another impression: the Douglas fir floors and waxed woodwork gleam; stained-glass windows shine like speckled rainbows — yet nary a spec of dust in myriad nooks and crannies. Everything’s immaculate.

The most dominant impression is security, as if the villa were a sanctuary from the panic down the hill. Until last January, San Diego enjoyed a real estate boom so reckless many likened it to San Francisco during the Gold Rush. Tens of thousands of speculators bought land, traded lots, mapped out towns. They promised fresh water, churches, schools, the skies. Last year the San Diego Building and Loan Association loaned money at 34 percent interest.

The bubble burst New Year’s Day. Pounding ham-mers ceased. Thousands left, and are leaving still. Lumber warps in rain-soaked piles. Many who remain are destitute. Tonight’s guests are among San Diego’s civic leaders. Creased foreheads show the strain, the eyes, uncertainty. Their world may be coming apart.

The villa feels outside of time. But there’s also the nagging sense of no time at all. There’s too much to take in. Details, so plentiful, so exact, are far greater than the whole. So, what to choose? Where to start? Combine this urgency with the shifting floral fragrances from room to room, an infinity of fascinating objects, light pulsing off colored glass and glossy wood — and the effect is dizzying.

Fitch ushers us through sliding doors to the red room.

“Mr. Shepard’s bedroom,” he proclaims, his right hand sweeping in a half-circle, as if conjuring up the scene. The walls, gold fleur de lis on Lincrusta-Walton, have a dull gray hue. Everything else — quilt and shams with art needlework, the large Ouschek Turkish rug — is a shade of red, from ruddy to reddish-brown, but subtly so, since other colors, blues especially, enhance the dominant hue. Unlike the drawing room, the bedroom is spare. The vases, bronze statuettes, and jeweled candelabra feel subdued. “Notice,” says Fitch, “that unlike most Victorian homes where the master bedroom is upstairs, the red room’s on the first floor.”

As he leads us through the dressing room we find a rarefied atmosphere. The large drawing room’s dressing room is upstairs, the master bedroom is downstairs, the red room’s on the first floor.”

“The Bee advocates women’s suffrage. Foltz has been giving a guided tour to her daughter Trella, judges Moses Luce, George Puterbaugh, W.E. Robinson, and their wives. Smart woman, Foltz: hobnobbing with the crowned heads of the legal system. She’s been here less than a year and almost got run out of town. The town’s other three newspapers and a consortium called the International Company ganged up against her over a land-grant dispute in Ensenada. She eventually had to sell the newspaper. “Tom,” she grabs Fitch by
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the arm, “you must show them the gallery before the concert starts!”

She used stairs next door. But we can’t. They’re the “down” stairs; the “ups” are back at the entryway. We scurry past the Blue Room to our left — Mr. Tonner’s all-blue sleeping quarters — and through the dining room with no time to appreciate the silver and bronze walls, sprawling tapestry rug, elegant candleabra, or shelves sparkling with silver service and porcelain plates from China and Japan.

We’re back at the entryway. The massive, carved newel at the base points upward, as if assuring us we’re on the right track. As we ascend, no riser creaks.

The second floor’s a revelation. Along with 10 windows offering views from east to west and 12 vases exploding with flowers sprouting from east to west and 12 vases exploding with flowers, it’s an art gallery: at least a hundred paintings, prints, statues, and busts. Plus, letters to Shepard from artists and European rulers framed on the walls. One is from his pen pal Walt Whitman. Among the sculpted figures: Beethoven in a special niche, Wagner nearby, George Elliot, Mrs. Siddons the great tragedian, and Rossini. Guests marvel at original etchings of Pascal, Rousseau, Racine, Madame de Sevingne. That steel engraving over the organ is of Giacomo Meyerbeer, one of Shepard’s favorite composers.

“Mr. Shepard’s sanctum,” Fitch tells us, with his now familiar, and unnecessary, note of awe. “Mrs. Foltz says it’s ‘doubtful there’s another room on the continent that can compare.' You could spend a lifetime in this room, but, “ he waves at a Spanish cedar staircase, “it’s ‘doubtful there’s another room on the continent that can compare.'

The concert just began. More felt than heard, the bell vibrates inside the walls.

As if surrounded, the dazed guests don’t budge, uncertain where to begin. A good time to climb the narrow stairs. They make a tight spiral up to an observation tower. And — Oh, mercy me!

Everything else in the villa points inward. The four-story, onion-domed, Arabesque tower enjoys an unobstructed view in all directions: mountains, mesas, Mexico, the city, Coronado, Point Loma, the Pacific. Shepard’s writing desk faces southwest, but a high-backed, black-leather, revolving chair lets him change vistas at will.

A little bell tinkles downstairs. The concert, already?

Mr. Shepard performs.

The bell signals 10:00 p.m. — time for one of Jesse Shepard’s legendary “musicales” at the Villa Montezuma. In a way, the concert just began. More felt than heard, the bell vibrates inside the walls.

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or rap on a table and commune with departed relatives. Instead, the “musical medium” plays the piano and sings. According to the San Diego Union, Shepard once played the organ at the great cathedral in Baden, Germany, and “sang at the same time, something never before attempted by a singer.”

Shepard sings in different voices and languages. And, they say, he conjures the spirits of the great masters. Mozart, Chopin, or Franz Liszt guide his immensely long fingers and perform their works through him — even scores composed after they died.

Shepard’s enormous hands strike chords most pianists cannot (his feet are large too, size 13). He had only two years of formal training, he says. He can’t read music and never practices. Instead, he plays “intuitively.” The music just comes to him — or through him. He can’t repeat it or even remember it after.

He never performs in daylight, and large groups make him “nervous to the point of exhaustion.” He prefers 10 to 12 “sympathetic” listeners in near darkness. He senses the “waves” in the room and interprets “what is in the air.”

If Mr. Shepard prefers small groups, tonight is an exception. Besides guest of honor Kate Field, at least 25 of the city’s upper crust are here. “Invitations were the town’s biggest social prize,” publisher Foltz whispers to Field as guests assemble in the entry hall. In a slightly louder voice, Foltz adds, “Here you have gathered a large portion of the beauty and wealth of the city.”

And all dressed as ornately as the villa: Colonel Fitch and Bryant Howard in elegant black with diamond cufflinks and lapel pins; Mrs. Fitch, black silk with diamond ornaments, wears a corsage bouquet of bonacline roses; Isabella Stewart, wine-colored silk with steel passamenterie; daughter Belle’s seal brown velvet dress sports an old gold polonaise; and pearls stud Mrs. J.C. Sprigg’s pink satin gown.

Today is St. Valentine’s Day, but several husbands are absent. The brand new Hotel del Coronado is having another “unofficial” opening tonight (they had one February 1 and plan another, April 19). Maybe the men dine at the hotel while the wives prefer to feast on culture.

In either case, all have earned a diversion. They buried Louis Rose this afternoon at the Jewish cemetery in Old Town. The entrepreneur spent the last 38 of his 80 years helping to build San Diego.

Today saw more signs that the great real estate boom has ended. Less than a year ago, Fitch proclaimed that San Diego could become the biggest city west of the Mississippi. Now, wagons, stuffed with family posses-
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sions, flee in droves. Construction has ceased. Banks teeter. Only the gambling halls and nickel-beer saloons along the waterfront thrive.

The day after the Hotel del Coronado opened, wrote T.S. Van Dyke, "In the gilded saloons, the generals, colonels, mayors, judges, doctors and professors whom boom money had evolved from very common clay went from French champagne to California Riesling without tarrying at the half way house of Sauterne."

The guests file into the reception room through thick, gold and pale blue portieres. Everything inside — everything — is a shade of pink: drapes, furniture fabrics, wallpaper, wax candles. Precise arrangements of camellias, heliotrope, and winter Daphne range in hue from pale champagne pink to bold magenta. The combination makes for a heady, almost overpowering fragrance.

No one would say this out loud, but the room also feels like a womb: the rosy warmth, an embracing sense of security.

Or the passageway to another dimension, since the entrance to the music room — a glazed, pediment-like gable and pilaster columns — is the façade of a Greek temple. Paddleboats rustle and silk squeaks as guests edge single file through narrow maroon portieres and into radiant light.

The music room takes up the east side of Villa Montezuma. Dozens of multicolored candles, clustered like choirs of light, cast dancing sheens on art glass windows. Everything's so bright that a first, sweeping glance can be dizzying. Even the large candelabra — eight blue wax candles in an outer circle and a white one in the center — seems to spin like a blue halo or a little solar system.

As the eyes adjust, that furry white sprawl beneath the candelabra — a giant polar bear hide! Long sharp teeth jut in a carnivorous snarl. Amid all the art and antiques of camellias, heliotrope, and winter Daphne, the servants complete their task. As they exit through curtains to the music room, they leave the guests in the fetid, inky darkness of a pharaoh's tomb. Feet shuffle on Persian rugs; nervous coughs assure each other that they are not alone.

But Shepard's subjects are not alone. Darkness creeps toward Shepard's square grand Knabe piano. It's a gift from William Knabe, whose "noble instruments of sterling merit" are the piano of choice for Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Camile Saint-Saens. Knabe's instruments also graced the homes of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Francis Scott Key, and Brigham Young…and the White House.

Two vases and a single lamp stand atop the rectangular rosewood cabinet. As the company grows quiet, it's clear that the music room has excellent acoustics. Even silence feels more silent.

It's also clear that Shepard had the room designed for darkness. There are no paintings and, unlike the other walls of the villa, where the wainscoting goes halfway up, the Music Room features finished redwood from floor to ceiling.

The servants complete their task. As they exit through curtains to the drawing room, they leave the guests in the fetid, inky darkness of a pharaoh's tomb. Feet shuffle on Persian rugs; nervous coughs assure each other that they are not alone.

On the piano, the lamp gradually awakens. Shepard stands behind it, his back to the audience. He doesn't move, as if waiting for unseen invitees to enter his
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small globe of illumination. He turns and sits. His watery eyes gaze at the north wall, where art glass portraits of white-wigged Mozart and stormy Beethoven wave like ghosts in the cool, dim light.

Shepard remains immobile, as if under a spell. His eyes don't blink. He doesn't seem to breathe.

Then fingers flash in the solitary light. A single note jumps from the piano like a gunshot. As it lingers in the air, Shepard mutters “A fantasy.”

Progressions of chords, haunting, primitive, almost monotonous, build an airy, whimsical impromptu. Dazzling chromatic runs, lighter than snowfall, zigzag off the walls.

Shepard never looks at the keys and has no sheet music. He stares straight out, head cocked slightly to the side, as if listening. The fantasia concludes. Shepard pauses, not long enough for people to fidget or give full vent to their astonishment.

“An andante,” he says in a distant voice. The piano rolls into a stern and somber mood piece. Clouds of chords improvise a “penseroso” — in contrast to the fantasia’s “allegro”? Shepard rocks back and forth, as if nudging reluctant notes forward.

Sounds resonate from the fireplace and its elongated mantel and from within the walls.

The piece concludes. Shepard pauses, waits. Instead of announcing the next number, he begins a soprano solo. The words are unclear. They say he only knows English and French. The lyrics sound vaguely Russian — some foreign spirit speaking through him?

Shepard told a reporter that he “intuits” the music with no preparation. He doesn’t hear himself singing or understand the language. “I cannot account for it any more that I can explain how my effects altogether are produced. The thing is as great a mystery to me as to others.”

Someone whispers “angelic” as the voice hits a high C with pristine clarity, and the brief solo fades away.

The piano whirs into Persian music so intricate one andante, “he says in a distant voice. The piano starts as a violin — then splits into two, far apart, their brittle harmonies in slow march time. Trumpets blare to our left and right. Drums pound the angry cadences of distant armies marching as to war.

A harsh trumpet peals the order to “charge!” Fero- cious flurries of inhumanly quick notes bombard the room. The invasion of dissonance is so immediate you hear missiles and spears and clanks of swords on shields, and last-breath shrieks of pain.

The roars retreat. Another charge! — tambourines and trumpets and swellings of rage so intense the noises vanish, replaced by mind’s eye images of unthinkably savagery — and the growing terror that the walls are closing in.

From deep within the havoc, the suggestion of — what? — a harp, strumming ripples and ripples of notes far away? As they approach they dispense the clamar, which dissipates and surrender to the calming flow of a river — the Nile?

Shepard stops, but has he concluded? His long fingers remain arched over the keys, perfectly still. Time passes, at least a minute, in unbroken silence.

Then Shepard begins his famous “double solo.” He sings in two voices, a soprano and a bass, at the same time. Both are bewilderingly clear: the soprano like a kite soaring aloft, the grounded bass giving the long kite string free play.

The voices blend at last into one and vanish. Shepard doesn’t move. Somehow the lamp goes out. Total darkness and, except for occasional gasps of wonderment, silence.

The lamp comes back on. Shepard stands next to the piano. As he makes a slow, graceful bow, roars of approval, amplified by the acoustics, break the spell.

Kate Field rises and claps. “Mr. Shepard has the ability to arrest the fleeting beauty of the mystic world.”

Newspaper reviews are unanimous:

Daily San Diegan: “Never in San Diego, perhaps never in the whole course of Jesse Shepard’s musical career, was such vocal music attempted. Every note was clear as a silver bell, sweet and powerful, full of fire.”

San Diego Union: “At the conclusion of the music, Mr. Shepard was congratulated by several who had heard him before, as having fairly outdone himself.”

Thomas Fitch in the San Diego Bee: at the “exceed-
ingly brilliant reception... all enjoyed the evening, which was extended some distance into the night. — Jeff Smith

SOURCES


Davis, Erik, The Visionary State: A Journey Through California’s Spiritual Landscapes (San Francisco, 2006).


Van Dyke, T.S. The City and County of San Diego (San Diego, 1888); “Villa Montezuma,” Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, NABS No. CAL-432.

Under the radar
continued from page 3
mission: “Adoption of a policy that supports Airbnb’s continued operation in the City of San Diego.” Another client recently acquired by the lobbyist is the Hillcrest Business Association, which is seeking to “minimize loss of parking to Hillcrest businesses” due to a regional bicycle plan. Meanwhile, former GOP city councilman Byron Wear, who has also become a lobbyist, is lobbying on behalf of Blue Sky Capital, described on Wear’s disclosure statement as involved with “breath alcohol content machines operations.” The company is looking to get permits for installing the gizmos in the public right-of-way.
— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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

Living in a container
continued from page 3
fare. “This is a cemetery and someone is living in a container and there is rugs being sold out of it” (2127 Iris Ave, nestled near Nestor) “They carpeted their front yard and use it as a driveway. Don’t tell them who complained because it will cause problems for me.” (2917 Webster Ave, Logan Heights)

Wacky complaints?

Myers laughs, “You should work for the government sometime. Unlike the private sector, we can’t pick and choose our clients; we help everyone. So, we get a wide spectrum of issues.” And as for the roosters? “I have nothing against our winged friends.”

NEWS TICKER
continued from page 2
import cargo to the U.S. from Canada and Mexico have been inadequately inspected for radiation and other terror threats.

As a result, the audit says, customs agents “may have failed to require examinations of rail shipments that were at a higher risk to contain contraband, dangerous goods, or weapons of mass destruction.” In addition, federal agents “may also have failed to detect potential instruments of terrorism or dangerous materials from entering the United States.”

— Matt Potter

City attorney slickness no match for First Amendment

Contents of deceased man’s computer still private

A last-ditch effort by the Tourism Marketing District to get a lawsuit dismissed for a lack of standing looks as if it will be shot down in court, further jeopardizing hundreds of millions of dollars in hotel taxes for use by the Tourism Marketing District, whose boardmembers include San Diego’s wealthiest and largest hotel owners.

In a tentative ruling, judge Joel Wohlfeil rejected the district’s request to confiscate and search now-deceased activist Ian Trowbridge’s iMac computer; it is alleged by the defendants that one of San Diegans for Open Government’s membership forms may have been doctored using his machine. The local activist group sued the Tourism Marketing District over the legality of charging a hotel tax without a public vote.

Trowbridge’s partner, Dell Cunamay, is now in possession of the computer. Cunamay, however, is not a member of San Diegans for Open Government, nor is he a party to the lawsuit challenging the legality of a hotel tax without a two-thirds public vote, as required by the California Constitution.

Wohlfeil stated that although challenging the membership is “relevant,” it does not outweigh First Amendment rights.

— Dorian Hargrove

High-need students, get in line

Several underfunded schools in Orange and San Diego counties

Significant numbers of “high need” students (who come from low-income backgrounds or are learning English as a second language) are attending schools that may not be receiving the extra funding they need to provide services critical for those students’ development, a new study finds. San Diego is among the regions in the state hit the hardest.

According to data released on March 12 from the Public Policy Institute of California, the state has identified 677 high-need schools in 154 districts that do not receive the high-need designation and its attendant “concentration grants” from the state, with a disproportionate share of them in Orange and San Diego counties. In order to qualify for funding, the overall district population must be composed of 55 percent or more students with one of the qualifying circumstances.

The Mountain Empire Unified School District, which covers the eastern extremities of the county, has a 53.6 percent high-need population, placing it just below the threshold for receiving extra funding. But at Mountain Empire High School, over 77 percent of the 3549 students are identified as high-need.

North County’s San Marcos Elementary makes a separate list of facilities with the highest number of students above the 55 percent threshold, with 899 qualifying pupils versus a qualifying population of 507.

— Dave Rice

No homeless camps in my canyon

Transients’ trash angers neighbors

Residents of Kensington and Talmadge are asking the City of San Diego to clear out illegal encampments along Aldine Drive.

In recent years the canyons along Aldine Drive near Fairmount Avenue have provided temporary dwelling space for homeless people. Increased numbers of encampments mean increased trash and debris in canyons as well as potential fire hazards to homes above.

While City of San Diego crews have been successful in clearing out some encampments, it doesn’t take long for the illegal lodgers to find a new site.

“The City has made a much appreciated effort to remove the reported encampments. Unfortunately, the transients did not move very far,” a resident of Talmadge wrote to a code-enforcement officer, later posted on Nextdoor Talmadge, a community social-network site. “This email is to notify you that transients are now located in the ravine along the north side of Aldine, east of Fairmount [Avenue].”

According to recent sta-

tistics from the San Diego Housing Commission, there are an estimated 2400 people living without shelter, many of whom find solitude and escape hassle from police officers in San Diego canyons or along the San Diego River, the act of which presents a threat to natural wildlife and habitat, according to the city’s Multiple Species Conservation Program.

— Dorian Hargrove

Thomas Edison might be ashamed

Electric company: We don’t have to tell you anything!

Energy-industry watchdogs are still wrangling with former San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station operator Southern California Edison over the release of communications both internal and between the utility and its state regulator in the buildup to the plant’s demise.

Last month, the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility filed a motion with the California Public Utilities Commission requesting that Edison be ordered to make public any communication regarding the plant since its January 2012 shutdown. The motion came following the belated disclosure of a Warsaw, Poland, meeting between executives and former commission president Michael Peevey, which itself was preceded by a police raid on Peevey’s home.

The undisclosed communications are important because the topics discussed have included a much-maligned settlement proposal that would place financial responsibility for San Onofre’s premature failure on utility ratepayers, rather than on shareholders, of Edison and Sempra Energy, parent company to San Diego Gas & Electric.

Still, Edison officials balked at the request for disclosure, terming the proposal an “extraordinary remedy” for their breach in a February 25 response.

— Dave Rice
Thursday | 19

FAREWELL, KENSINGTON VIDEO
The Kensington-Talmadge Community Association is throwing the Hanfords a send-off party in honor of their 50 years. Scott Marks, San Diego Reader film critic, will discuss what the store has meant to San Diego film lovers. $12 per person includes a catered dinner by Ponce’s.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive, Kensington. 619-284-0162; kental.org

Friday | 20

PHOTOGRAPH WILD ANIMALS
Join internationally published wildlife photographer, instructor, and author Kathleen Reeder for an exclusive wildlife photography workshop. Includes a copy of Capturing the Moment: The Art & Science of Photographing Wild Animals. Also on Saturday. $249–$319.

WHEN: 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
WHERE: Lions Tigers & Bears Big Cat Rescue, 24402 Martin Way, Alpine. 619-659-8078 x2; lionstigersandbears.org

Saturday | 21

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING EXPO DAY
A day of hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) exhibits and activities for budding K–12 science lovers, but everyone is welcome.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
WHERE: Del Mar Fairgrounds, O’Brien Hall, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161; junkbonanza.com

Sunday | 22

JUNK BONANZA
This vintage market from Minnesota comes to California with displays of antique wares from carefully chosen vendors. No reproductions allowed, and every item must be at least 40 years old. Runs Friday through Sunday. $10.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
WHERE: Del Mar Fairgrounds, O’Brien Hall, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161; junkbonanza.com

Monday | 23

KITCHEN COLLABORATION
Jsix’s Chef Graves partners with Carlos SanMartano of Searsucker and Gabardine fame with the focus on American regional cuisine and whiskey. $40 includes four courses.

WHEN: 6 p.m.
WHERE: Jsix, 616 J Street, downtown. 619-531-8744; jsixrestaurant.com

Tuesday | 24

TIJUANA AND SAN DIEGO: CULTURAL EXCHANGE
A panel discussion on the stigmatization of Tijuana. Entrepreneurs from Tijuana will share their perspectives on deconstructing stereotypes. In the J. Keith Behner and Catherine M. Stiefel Auditorium.

WHEN: 6 p.m.
WHERE: Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad. 760-602-2049

Wednesday | 25

CARLSBAD FILM SERIES: BIRDMAN
A washed-up actor (Michael Keaton) who once played an iconic superhero battles his ego and attempts to recover his family and career in the days leading up to the opening of the Broadway play that he has written, directed, and stars in. Nominated for nine Academy awards, including Best Picture.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-5200
Tepotzotlán, Mexico’s “magical town”  
By Miriam Aguilar

Hidden in Mexico City’s northern outskirts is the town of Tepotzotlán. Despite how close they are to one another, Tepotzotlán is about a two-hour drive from Mexico City due to traffic.

When I arrived, I had to get my hands on some tasty pulque, a traditional alcoholic drink that’s made by fermenting nectar from the maguey plant. For an inexpensive price, brew houses around the neighborhood sell what the Aztecs called “the drink of the gods.”

With a liter of pulque successfully procured, we enjoyed the drink on a rooftop overlooking most of Mexico City.

I learned an interesting fact about the name of the small town. The náhuatl word tepotzotlán means “aside the hunchback,” and the town is named for a local hill that resembles a hunchback. Rumor has it that thieves built an underground tunnel that ran from the hill to the San Francisco Javier church to steal gold. Others say they have seen lights rising high above you testify to the violence of the flash floods that have carved this canyon. Most of the trail up the canyon is through soft sand or skirts around large granite and metamorphic boulders. The Santa Rosa Mountains are well marked with frequent cairns. The Santa Rosa Mountains and Rattlesnake Canyon are directly ahead, but they look closer than they are. The trail crosses the easternmost end of Lute Ridge after 0.65 mile. Lute Ridge is a two-mile-long fault scarp composed of unconsolidated alluvial sand, gravel, and boulders that are being pushed up by movement along the Clark fault in the San Jacinto Fault Zone — it is said to be the largest fault scarp of this type in North America.

Rattlesnake Canyon is a large, deep canyon at the southern end of the Santa Rosa Mountains and one of the few canyons that flow north to south. It is a major conduit for alluvial material eroded from the Santa Rosas flowing into the Anza-Borrego desert. Here, one gets a look at the power water has to erode stone and rearrange the landscape. Begin hiking north across a sandy alluvial plain dotted with large ocotillo, creosote bush, and clumps of galleta grass. Initially the trail is not well marked except by footprints of those who have hiked this way before. Further ahead, the trail will be well marked with frequent cairns. The Santa Rosa Mountains and Rattlesnake Canyon are directly ahead, but they look closer than they are. The trail crosses the easternmost end of Lute Ridge after 0.65 mile. Lute Ridge is a two-mile-long fault scarp composed of unconsolidated alluvial sand, gravel, and boulders that are being pushed up by movement along the Clark fault in the San Jacinto Fault Zone — it is said to be the largest fault scarp of this type in North America. The Clark fault is one of many highly active faults in the Anza-Borrego area.

In another 0.4 mile, the trail drops into Rattlesnake Canyon Wash, now headed west, carrying alluvial debris toward Clark Valley. Rattlesnake Canyon itself is entered at about 1.25 miles from the highway. The high walls of unconsolidated alluvial material rising high above you testify to the violence of the flash floods that have carved this canyon. Most of the trail up the canyon is through soft sand or skirts around large granite and metamorphic boulders. The Santa Rosa Mountains are well marked with frequent cairns. The Santa Rosa Mountains and Rattlesnake Canyon are directly ahead, but they look closer than they are. The trail crosses the easternmost end of Lute Ridge after 0.65 mile. Lute Ridge is a two-mile-long fault scarp composed of unconsolidated alluvial sand, gravel, and boulders that are being pushed up by movement along the Clark fault in the San Jacinto Fault Zone — it is said to be the largest fault scarp of this type in North America. The Clark fault is one of many highly active faults in the Anza-Borrego area.

Other Adventures

sherilyn87: Sunset in Phuket, Thailand
vivian6: Morning Glory Pool — hot spring in the Upper Geyser Basin of Yellowstone National Park

Win $25 for your travel tips or a Reader T-Shirt or hat for the best travel photo of the week. Go to SDReader.com/travel for more information.
Art Opening Broker's Building Art Gallery presents new artwork by Artist Gretchen Weidner and featuring artists Rebecca Freeburn and Andrew Seaton. It is a free event featuring live music by musician Bobby Gordan and accepta Group Bent Pitch. Free refreshments, food, live raffle, and all work on sale. The show’s theme is “Dancing with Romance,” cocktail attire suggested. Saturday, March 21, 7pm; Brokers Building Gallery, 402 Market Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Art Opening Kim Ogburn The San Diego Sculptors Guild presents featured artist Kim Ogburn. Kim’s nature-driven sculptures inspire feelings of oneness, peace, and appreciation for this planet and for humanity. This event coincides with Kim’s 60th birthday and everyone is invited for a fun filled evening with live music, refreshments, and art. Saturday, March 21, 4pm; free. Spanish Village Art Center, 1770 Village Place. (BALBOA PARK)

La Mujer: Women’s Art Show Opening La Mujer: Simple Compositions on exhibit March 17 to April 5. Opening reception features dance, song, and spoken word. Free and open to the public in honor of National Women’s History Month. Saturday, March 21, 6pm; free. Centro Cultural de la Raza, 2125 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

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Latin American Art Festival Under the banner of “Let your art represent your country,” artists from Latin America will showcase and sell their works under 100 tents. Prominent international chefs such as Javier Plascencia and Chad White will offer fine Latin American cuisine. With a performing arts stage. Gallery owners and art collectors welcome. Saturday, March 21, 10am; Sunday, March 22, 10am; free. 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barraic 16 #101. (LIBERTY STATION)

Makers Arcade Spring Show Please join us for Makers Arcade’s Spring Fair at the North Park Post Office Lofts, a mixed use project by FoundationForForm. Over 50 artists will gather to show off their one-of-a-kind handcrafted goods. $2 admission comes with free opportunity drawing ticket and a swag bag for first 100 in line. This all-day event also features craft cocktails and beer, live music, photo booth, free make-and-take crafts, and food trucks. Saturday, March 21, 11am; $2. North Park Post Office Lofts, 3077 North Park Way. (NORTH PARK)

Safari: Opening Reception Thumbprint Gallery’s first art exhibition at Geographie, with safari animal art by local artists. Exhibition runs March 21 to April 21. Saturday, March 21, 4pm; free. Geographie, 2879 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Spring Fling Craft Fair The fair will feature an assortment of boutique-style fine arts and handicrafts as well as one-of-a-kind items. 877-226-7350. Friday, March 20, 10am; Saturday, March 21, 10am; free. Mount Miguel Covenant Village, 125 Kempston Street. (SPRING VALLEY)

Strings and Things Art Show This art and craft showing features Owen Burke’s diminutive hand crafted guitars, banjos, and ukuleles that you have seen on the walls of Java Joe’s. Also on display will be some of Owen’s art and furniture. Carol Minear’s paintings of musicians will be on display too, and some of her subjects are locals such as bluesman Robin Henkel and jazz singer Whitney Shay. Friday, March 20, 6pm; free. Java Joe’s, 3536 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Structure of Water: Closing Reception The abstract oil paintings of Anita Lewis incorporate the classical with modern in a harmonious fusion of design and fine art. Underlying structure dissolves into abstraction in her harmonious water-evoking compositions. Exhibit runs through March 26. Saturday, March 21, 6pm, L Street Fine Art, 628 L Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Illumination: A Light & Contour Recording Volume with Cross Contour Presented by Centro Cultural de la Raza, this show explores the concept of seeing from a different perspective. Friday, March 21, 7pm; Dolphin and Hawk Fine Art Gallery, 7742-M Herschel Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

It’s Elemental: Water, Air, Fire, and Earth Reception showcasing the diversity of the Spanish Village Art Center Members, this show at Gallery 21 will explore the four elements which inspire these works of art. Show runs through April 13, 2015. Saturday, March 21, 11am; free. Gallery 21 in Spanish Village Art Center, 1770 Village Place. (BALBOA PARK)

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Rhyme & Verse

Brother

A poem by Marg Wafer

It was a kiss on the go, I was leaving. Back to college for the semester.

Your cheek rough with acne, the small blond hairs on your chin just sprouting.

I didn’t know then how important that kiss was.

How I would remember it my whole life.

After our hearts were broken, crying still in this sad room, after all these years.

After all the poems and the long, dark journals. And why shouldn’t I cry?

The so-called experts say it’s not right to grieve for more than a year.

I say bullshit.

Maybe they haven’t lost a younger brother. Maybe no one

they love has been killed by a drunk driver on the wrong side of the road.

I sometimes think there is nothing left to write about, Tom. But something always comes.

It was 1981. I kissed you on the cheek as I left your small room, surprised myself

when I told you, my little brother, that I loved you.

The poet Marg Wafer grew up in Rochester, New York, and married her husband David nine years ago at Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park. She is a lover of the natural world and a sports fan and has been a physical therapist for the past 30 years. Her poems have been published in Muddy River Poetry Review, Cityworks, NAMI Journal, and Serving House Journal, among other publications. She has published two chapbooks: No Shortcuts and, more recently, Firmly in Mid-Air, in which collection the poem “Brother” appears.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry
COMEDY

Christopher Titus  Christopher Titus is currently touring with his new one-man show “Angry Pursuit of Happiness.” Not happy to just do the same old comedy, Titus makes sure every new show covers a theme and takes the crowd on a ride. Friday, March 20, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, March 21, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Sunday, March 22, 8pm; $22. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWN TOWN SAN DIEGO)

Comedy Open Mic  Hosted by the beloved Dan Bublitz Jr. Thursday, March 19, 9pm; free. 21 and up. Shooters Cocktails, 10761 Jamacha Boulevard. (SPRING VALLEY)

Twistered: The Wickedly Ridiculous Wizard of Oz  A twistier hits the classic tale for a fast-paced, ridiculous retelling by seven actors with tons of audience participation. Created by Marc Warzecha at Second City Hollywood; directed by Amy Liseswki. Featuring Christine Fairfax, Kat Brown, Erica Clermont, Chris Salazar, Chris George, Kevin Six, and Brain Teng. Saturday, March 21, 8pm; $10. 18 and up. Finest City Improv, 4250 Louisiana Street. (NORTH PARK)

DANCE

Argentine Tango with Colette  Learn tango now. If you have ever been curious about tango and want to try it, this is the time! Take a first free class Monday, March 23 at 7pm or Wednesday, March 25 at 7pm (or any Monday or Wednesday at 7pm thereafter). No need for a partner. We will introduce you to the passion and magic of tango. tangowithcolette.com; 514-726-5567. Dance Place San Diego, 2650 Truxtun Road, Studio #106. (POINT LOMA)

Contradancing  No partners needed, and no experience necessary. Calling by guest caller James Hutson, with live music by The Old Twine String Band. Instruction from 7:30-8pm. Dance starts at 8pm, with a break for refreshments at 9:30pm. Please wear soft-soled shoes to protect the dance floor and comfortable clothing, as dancing is quite aerobic. Discount price for students, full-time college students, and active-duty military with current ID. Friday, March 20, 7:30pm; $12. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

Mixed Up Little Boxes and Other Stuff  Kids Danz Company, the first and only Children’s Modern Dance Company in San Diego, stages their second concert “Mixed Up Little Boxes and Other Stuff” an evening of varied works set on them from such choreographers as Elyssa Dru Rosenberg (artistic director of isadoraNow), Ramon Montes (Visionary Dance Theatre}
Lectures

A Look at the Toxins Surrounding Us

Presented in anticipation of the U.S. Society of Toxicology’s annual meeting on March 22 in San Diego, this free course offers an easy to understand, eclectic tour of toxicology, the science of poisons. Learn about the history of poisons and poisons and some fundamental principles of toxicity including the effects of dose and exposure as related to drugs and other chemicals. The most common plant poisons and venomous animals in California will also be reviewed. Learn about how toxic pollution in the San Diego Bay is being tackled. Other perspectives in an effort to deconstruct information we often take for granted.

Ecology of the Endangered Light-Footed Ridgway’s Rail

Michelle Barton, Biology M.S. Candidate, California State University Long Beach, speaks for Tijuana Estuary Estuary Speaker Series. The Tijuana Estuary is home to a number of endangered species, including the Light-footed Ridgway’s Rail (Rallus obsoletus levipes), formerly the Light-footed Clapper Rail. Although it is easy to hear the distinctive clapping call of this rail in the early morning or late afternoon, the bird is quite secretive and sightings are rare. This is your chance to learn the bird’s secrets — foraging habits, nesting preferences, and its chance of survival in the face of impending sea-level rise. Saturday, March 21, 10am; free. Tijuana River Estuary, 101 Capstan Way. (MISSION VALLEY)

Food Stories of India

Culinary Historian of San Diego will present “Food Stories of India,” featuring Prem Souri Kishore. Prem Kishore is an author, lecturer, audio professional and travel writer who was raised in India. Her presentation will cover the food traditions and rituals she recalls from the kitchens of her mother and grandmother. She will take her audience throughout the diverse landscapes of her native land as she describes the spices, origins and ingredients and explores the deep connection between food and people. Kishore is the author of Indian Cuisine. Saturday, March 21, 10:30am; free. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

Roig Quigley: Post-Modernism

Bill Roig Quigley, FAIA, will speak to Friends of San Diego Architecture on “Post-Modernism: Everyone Visits San Diego Eventually.” Rob has had a practice in San Diego since 1974. His latest projects include San Diego Children’s Museum, UCSD Student Services Center, the Main Library in downtown San Diego, and Torr Kaelan. Saturday, March 21, 9:30am; free. SD-New School of Architecture and Design, 1249 F Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

Sustainable Construction

The San Diego Green Building Council hosts an evening discussion focused on how manufacturers respond to the latest environmental challenges. Hosted by the Existing Buildings Committee of the San Diego Green Building Council, an environmentally focused 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to providing education, outreach, and advocacy surrounding green building in the San Diego community. Info: 858-357-3011. Friday, March 20, 8am; free. SDGE Energy Innovation Center, 4760 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (CLAREMONT)
Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center, Saturday, March 21, 9am; first and third Saturday. No pre-maintenance and restoration every other day. Way.

Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. March 21, 11am; $11-$17. Birch Aquarium SEA Days: Turtle Tracking. If you’ve ever spotted a turtle in local waters, it has likely been a Green Sea Turtle. This species has inhabited San Diego Bay since the mid-1800s, enjoying the warm water and foraging in the eel grass beds of the South Bay. Ever wondered what these turtles do all day? Find out from an area scientist who tracks their daily movements. Included with admission and free for aquarium members. Saturday, March 21, 11am; $11-$17. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Bird Lake Murray Join Mission Trails Regional Park borders Jeanne Raimond and Milly Basden for an avian adventure along Lake Mur-ray’s shores. Teaming with land and water species both resident and migratory, the varied habitats provide a wealth of sightings. Bring binoculars and bird book if you’ve got ‘em. Meet at north side of the lake, Murray Park Drive and Belle Glade Avenue. Park in dirt lot by baseball fields. Saturday, March 21, 8am; free. Lake Murray Community Park, 7001 Murray Park Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

Hummingbird Paradise Mission Trails Regional Park is home to three hummingbird species, and their antics are always entertaining. Join a MTRP trail guide on a fun and informative walk. Meet inside Visitor Center. Saturday, March 21, 9:30am; Sunday, March 22, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Babyfest BabyFest is an expo bringing the latest in products, services, and information to new and expectant parents and families. In addition to over 60 booths, panel discussions include January (Birth Without Fear), January Moore, and Abby (The Badass Breastfeeder). Sunday, March 22, 10am; $5. Quanten Learning Network Conference Center, 1938 Avenida del Oro. (OCEANSIDE)

Daffodil Show Enjoy a Julian daffodil show, 11th annual event. Saturday, March 21, 12pm; $5. Julian Town Hall, 2129 Main Street. (JULIAN)

Farewell, Kensington Video The Kensington-Talmadge Community Association is throwing the Hanfords a send-off party in honor of their 50+ years of service to the neighborhood and video lovers throughout the county. With guest Scott Marks, San Diego Reader film critic, who will talk about what Kensington Video has meant to San Diego film lovers. $12 per person includes a catered dinner by Ponce’s. Seating is limited and informative. Pre-purchase required: 858-726-8940. Ages 6–13 must attend with a paid adult. Kensington Community Center, 1938 Avenida del Oro. (OCEANSIDE)

New Wave Powersports: Grand Opening Celebrate with us as we re-open our doors. We will have free food, raffle prizes for free services, free riding gear, games for the kids, music, and a riding demo by the pros. Sunday, March 22, 12pm; free. New Wave Powersports, 7949 Mission Gorge Road. (SANTEE)

Save San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy is holding a public rally and hike. On March 11, 2015, the California Coastal Commission denied saving the San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk. Hundreds of San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk supporters—the Boardwalk Brigade—are gathering for a public rally and hike to stand along the 1200-foot Boardwalk to express their support of saving the San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk. Saturday, March 21, 11am; free. San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk. (DEL MAR)

Serenity Gathering The Gathering at La Jolla Indian Reservation is a positive collaboration among like minded individuals specifically geared towards art and music. Performers include Yvok Company, EOTO, Stone Soul, and more. Thursday, March 19, 12pm; Casino Pauma, 777 Pauma Reservation Road. (PAUMA VALLEY)

Spring Fever Garden Event The 2nd Annual Spring Fever garden event will be held at Waterwise Botanicals in Escondido, an interactive and educational day in the nursery with experts in gardening, plants, and landscaping. All are invited to come learn about all gardening tips for the new spring season and have first pick at one of the largest assortment of succulents, cacti, and roses in San Diego. Saturday, March 21, 9am; free. Waterwise Botanicals, 32183 Old Hwy 395, (ESCONDIDO)

SusieCakes: Opening Celebration SusieCakes, an all-American, home-style bakery, announces the opening of its newest location in Carlsbad with a family-friendly celebration. Guests will be treated to complimentary mini desserts, photo ops in a classic car, face painting, a balloon artist, and a coloring contest for kids. The kickoff celebration continues all week long with special promotions including a cupcake happy hour and two-for-one slices of cake. Saturday, March

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**Outdoors**

**Batiquitos Lagoon Trail Maintenance** Batiquitos Lagoon trail maintenance and restoration every first and third Saturday. No pre-registration required, just show up. Gloves, goggles, and tools provided. Bring water and wear a hat, long pants, closed shoes, and sunblock. Saturday, March 21, 9am; free. Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Lane. (CARLSBAD)

**Birch Aquarium Gruinon Run** Watch hundreds of small silver fish called grunion ride the waves onto La Jolla beaches to spawn. Before hitting the beach, see grunion hatch before your eyes during a special presentation about this mysterious fish. Prepare for cool, wet conditions and bring a flashlight. Ages 6–13 must attend with a paid adult. Pre-purchase required: (858) 533-4100 or aquarium.ucsd.edu. Members: $14; public: $16. Sunday, March 22, 10:30pm; $14-$16. Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 8622 Kennel Way. (LA JOLLA)

**Birch Aquarium SEA Days: Turtle Tracking** If you’ve ever spotted a turtle in local waters, it has likely been a Green Sea Turtle. This species has inhabited San Diego Bay since the mid-1800s, enjoying the warm water and foraging in the eel grass beds of the South Bay. Ever wondered what these turtles do all day? Find out from an area scientist who tracks their daily movements. Included with admission and free for aquarium members. Saturday, March 21, 11am; $11-$17. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

**Bird Lake Murray** Join Mission Trails Regional Park borders Jeanne Raimond and Milly Basden for an avian adventure along Lake Mur-ray’s shores. Teaming with land and water species both resident and migratory, the varied habitats provide a wealth of sightings. Bring binoculars and bird book if you’ve got ‘em. Meet at north side of the lake, Murray Park Drive and Belle Glade Avenue. Park in dirt lot by baseball fields. Saturday, March 21, 8am; free. Lake Murray Community Park, 7001 Murray Park Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

**Special Events**

**Babyfest** BabyFest is an expo bringing the latest in products, services, and information to new and expectant parents and families. In addition to over 60 booths, panel discussions include January (Birth Without Fear), January Moore, and Abby (The Badass Breastfeeder). Sunday, March 22, 10am; $5. Quanten Learning Network Conference Center, 1938 Avenida del Oro. (OCEANSIDE)

**Daffodil Show** Enjoy a Julian daffodil show, 11th annual event. Saturday, March 21, 12pm; $5. Julian Town Hall, 2129 Main Street. (JULIAN)

**Farewell, Kensington Video** The Kensington-Talmadge Community Association is throwing the Hanfords a send-off party in honor of their 50+ years of service to the neighborhood and video lovers throughout the county. With guest Scott Marks, San Diego Reader film critic, who will talk about what Kensington Video has meant to San Diego film lovers. $12 per person includes a catered dinner by Ponce’s. Seating is limited and informative. Pre-purchase required: 858-281-0162. Thursday, March 19, 6:30pm; $12. Kensington Community Church, 4773 Main Street. (KENNINGTON)

**New Wave Powersports: Grand Opening** Celebrate with us as we re-open our doors. We will have free food, raffle prizes for free services, free riding gear, games for the kids, music, and a riding demo by the pros. Sunday, March 22, 12pm; free. New Wave Powersports, 7949 Mission Gorge Road. (SANTEE)

**Save San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk** The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy is holding a public rally and hike. On March 11, 2015, the California Coastal Commission denied saving the San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk. Hundreds of San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk supporters—the Boardwalk Brigade—are gathering for a public rally and hike to stand along the 1200-foot Boardwalk to express their support of saving the San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk. Saturday, March 21, 11am; free. San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk. (DEL MAR)

**Serenity Gathering** The Gathering at La Jolla Indian Reservation is a positive collaboration among like minded individuals specifically geared towards art and music. Performers include Yvok Company, EOTO, Stone Soul, and more. Thursday, March 19, 12pm; Casino Pauma, 777 Pauma Reservation Road. (PAUMA VALLEY)

**Spring Fever Garden Event** The 2nd Annual Spring Fever garden event will be held at Waterwise Botanicals in Escondido, an interactive and educational day in the nursery with experts in gardening, plants, and landscaping. All are invited to come learn about all gardening tips for the new spring season and have first pick at one of the largest assortment of succulents, cacti, and roses in San Diego. Saturday, March 21, 9am; free. Waterwise Botanicals, 32183 Old Hwy 395, (ESCONDIDO)

**SusieCakes: Opening Celebration** SusieCakes, an all-American, home-style bakery, announces the opening of its newest location in Carlsbad with a family-friendly celebration. Guests will be treated to complimentary mini desserts, photo ops in a classic car, face painting, a balloon artist, and a coloring contest for kids. The kickoff celebration continues all week long with special promotions including a cupcake happy hour and two-for-one slices of cake. Saturday, March

**Take the Next Step** To learn more, and to see if you might qualify, please call 1-855-878-8390 or visit www.BalloonTrial.com

**Weight Loss Research Study**

- Frustrated with diets that haven’t worked?
- Not considering gastric surgery?

Doctors at Southern California Research Center in Coronado are accepting participants for the SMART Clinical Trial. If you are approximately 30lbs. - 80lbs. overweight, and between the ages of 22 - 64, you may qualify to participate. The SMART Trial combines an investigational, non-surgical medical device with a comprehensive support program designed to help you lose weight.

There is no cost to participate, and study-related care will be overseen by a team of weight loss specialists:
San Diego Reader: What is your favorite subject on which to preach?

Pastor Mike Reed: Love of God. When you truly understand that, it changes everything. He loves us, period, irrelevant of our love back for him. His love is not conditional upon our love, and so when we understand that the fact that I can’t make God love me more — he already loves me as much as he can or as much as I could ever understand or know — it changes the way we view life.

SDR: Why did you become a minister in the first place?

PR: God called me to do it. It was pretty radical. I’ve had a bone marrow and liver transplant, and I was given zero percent chance to live when I was 10 years old. I had 300 transfusions, massive radiation, and hepatitis from the transfusions, so they gave me 5 years to live 12 years ago, after my liver transplant. I grew up and always believed in God but didn’t know Jesus from Adam. On July 6, 1982, after my junior year of high school, was the first time I really heard the gospel. Jesus crashed into my darkness in a radical way and it was one week later at a summer camp that God let me know he wanted me to serve him.

SDR: What is the mission of your church?

PR: Our mission is to love God, love each other, and love the lost. We are first about loving God first and foremost, with all our hearts, souls and strength. We want to focus on the first priority — our individual relationship with God because out of that flows everything else. I always say, you can’t teach what you don’t know, and you can’t lead where you won’t go. So, if you haven’t learned it or God hasn’t taught you it, you can’t teach it to others. Then when you love each other, the world will know we are his disciples by the way we love each other. So there is an emphasis on how we treat each other in everyday life. Then a big part of that comes through loving and loving the lost…. If God asked if Oceanside would weep if we disappeared, my answer would be a definitive “Yes.” They would weep because they know we are gone. This church makes that much of an impact.

SDR: Where is the strangest place you’ve found God?

PR: In my suffering, without a doubt…. I’m convinced that if I hadn’t suffered the way I suffered I would never have come to know God. Not that I want suffering — I don’t say, “Thank you for the suffering,” but I still thank God through it. I’m convinced that it’s not the circumstances in life that make or break you, but what you allow God to do with them.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PR: I believe in a literal heaven and in a literal hell, because the Bible teaches it. So, it depends on whether you have accepted what Jesus Christ has done for you on the cross. If you believe that Jesus died and rose again on the third day, you shall be saved because you have allowed his redemption to cover your sins.

— Joseph O’Brien
**UC San Diego Bus Tour**  Take a scenic ride across UC San Diego with stops at landmarks including the Theatre District, Rady School of Management, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Qualcomm Institute, and east campus medical facilities including UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center, Shiley Eye Center, and Thornton Hospital. The tour also features visits to several Stuart Collection sculptures such as the iconic “Sun God” and 180-ton granite “Bear,” as well as an opportunity to explore Geisel Library. Bus tours present a comprehensive look at how the university, including its history, art, and architectural resources. Reservations are required: 858-534-4414 or visitorsprogram@ucsd.edu. Sundays, 2pm; through June 28, validated. Sundays, 4pm; through June 28, validated. 

**Vintage Volkswagen Car Display** The Volker Rader V-Dub Klub is pleased to present the The 22nd Annual Bob Baker Vintage Volkswagen Spring Festival. Last year we had over 100 vintage VWs. Twelve categories of awards. Sunday, March 22, 10am; free. Bob Baker Volkswagen, 5500 Paseo del Norte. (CARLSBAD) 

**World Water Day Celebration** Join us for a global synchronized water blessing, meditation, and showcase of water luminaries. At 6 pm PST, millions will be joining in a moment of intention for the waters of our world and the creatures that inhabit them. It’ll be a day for people across the world to raise awareness about the sacred nature of water, our most precious resource. Featuring Afro-Cuban dance and percussion, African dance, lectures, and Tibetan bell meditation. Sunday, March 22, 12pm; free. WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Boulevard. (BALboa Park) 

**Spoken Word** 

**Storytelling Festival** Storytellers from full-time, nationally known professional storytellers to local folks with true, extraordinary tales to share will tell you a tale. There will be workshops on telling personal stories and storytelling games, and there will be an open mic for those with a story to share. Info: 858-484-1325. Saturday, March 21, 10am; free. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS) 

**Sports & Fitness** 

**Chair Yoga** Chair Yoga promotes stretching and strengthening, improves balance and increases circulation, enhances mental clarity, and provides peace and relaxation. Please wear comfortable clothes; it is best to practice bare-footed or with socks. Friday, March 20, 10am; free. Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass Street. (PACIFIC BEACH) 

**Navy Wool Walk** Take part in a one-mile dog walk, plus live music, pet expo, doggie obstacle course, and Purina Incredible Performance Team demonstrations. Just want to attend the expo? No problem: register and receive access to all of the festivities. Event raises funds for Navy Quality of Life programs. Saturday, March 21, 8am; $15. Admiral Baker Golf Course and Clubhouse, 2400 Admiral Baker Road. (MISSION VALLEY) 

**Open Heart Buddhist Sangha** Practicing in the tradition of Vietnamese Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh. The group practices sitting meditation and walking meditation, has a short lesson, shares about the practice, and sings. Please bring a cushion or mat to sit on, or chairs will be available. Open to everyone; drop in. Every Sunday. Parking validated. Sundays, 10:30am; through Saturday, June 27; free. First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front Street. (HILLCREST) 

**Get addicted: Chili Lemon Almonds and Pistachios** at Little Italy, North Park, and Pacific Beach 

**We’ve Moved!** 

**Little Italy Mercato** now on CEDAR STREET from Kettner to Front, Every Saturday 8 am to 2 pm 

**Poppa’s Fresh Fish** $1 off Live Sea Urchin with this coupon. Find us on Cedar St, between India and Columbia 

**Green Fix Smoothie** $1.00 off any quart-Limit 1 per customer Valid through March 26, 2015 only. One coupon per customer per booth. www.GreenFixSmoothie.com (619) 241-2414 

**Smit Farms** 

**Vendor 101** 

**Maldonado Flowers** $1 off Spring Gerberas! at Little Italy, North Park and Pacific Beach weekly 

**Free Polito Farms market bag with $10 purchase** Valid through March 26, 2015 only. One coupon per customer per booth. 

**Vendor-101.com**

**San Diego Reader** March 19, 2015 51
**WATERFRONT**

**EVENTS**

**Birch Aquarium Grunion Run** Watch hundreds of small silver fish called grunion ride the waves onto La Jolla beaches to spawn. Before hitting the beach, see grunion hatch before your eyes during a special presentation about this mysterious fish. Prepare for cool, wet conditions and bring a flashlight. Ages 6–13 must attend with a paid adult. Pre-purchase required: 858-534-7336 or at aquarium.ucsd.edu Members $14; public $16; Sunday, March 22, 10:30pm; Saturday, April 5, 9:30pm; Monday, April 20, 10pm; Thursday, May 2, 10:30pm; Wednesday, May 20, 10:30pm; Friday, June 5, 10:30pm; $14–$16. Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 8622 Kennel Way. (LA JOLLA)

**Blue Whale Watching Adventure** Look for whales, dolphins, and sea birds along some of the most beautiful coastline in the world. Saturdays through September 26, $71–$75. Hornblower Cruises, 970 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Day At The Docks** The West Coast’s largest public celebration of sportfishing. Signaling the official start of Southern California’s spring saltwater fishing season, Day At The Docks takes place against the colorful and dynamic backdrop of sportfishing fleets on San Diego Bay. Boat rides on San Diego Bay, day trips by scuba divers and fishing tackle experts, great food, entertainment, fishing seminars, open house aboard sportfishing boats, kid’s fishing, contests, prizes and more! Sunday, April 19, 9am; free. Point Loma Sportfishing, 1403 Scott Street. (POINT LOMA)

**Fred Hall Boat Show** Now into its 38th year, the event is San Diego’s largest on-land boat show plus a selection of fishing tackle, bait and fish finder and more extras. This is participating in the race. Saturday, March 28, 10am; $48–$65. San Diego Maritime Museum, 1492 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Tall Ship California** The Californian is a replica of a golden era revenue cutter and the Official Tall Ship of the State of California. Join the crew in sailing a traditionally rigged tall ship. Passengers are invited to haul a line, man the helm, and end their day with a cannon salute. Watch as the crew set sail, and down the rigging to set and furl the sails. Lunch at Point Loma’s San Diego’s largest public celebration of sportfishing. At The Docks takes place against the colorful and dynamic backdrop of sportfishing fleets on San Diego Bay. Boat rides on San Diego Bay, day trips by scuba divers and fishing tackle experts, great food, entertainment, fishing seminars, open house aboard sportfishing boats, kid’s fishing, contests, prizes and more! Sunday, April 19, 9am; free. Point Loma Sportfishing, 1403 Scott Street. (POINT LOMA)

**Help Protect Endangered Birds** Help manage invasive plants in Mission Bay to protect endangered birds. We will be removing invasive plants from Stony Point on Fiesta Island. We’re doing this to promote nesting by the California Least Tern (an endangered species) and create space for these Waterfront pages, go to SDReader.com/waterfront.

**FREE ADS**

To place your Free Ad on these Waterfront pages, go to sandiegoreader.com/waterfront. or email to waterfront@sandiegoreader.com, or mail to Waterfront, San Diego Reader, 2323 Broadway, San Diego CA 92020.

**For daily updates to waves, water conditions, and fish reports, go to SDReader.com/waterfront**

**Tides**

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**Waves (IMPERIAL BEACH)**

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**The bird formerly known as the Clapper rail**

In 1971, local biologist Joy Zedler and Paul Jorgensen, along with Mike McCoy, a wildlife veterinarian, began to organize local environmentalists and Imperial Beach residents to promote and defend San Diego public support for the estuary’s preservation. After three decades of proposals by developers, court cases, and federal intervention, in 2005 the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve was designated as a “wetland of international importance” by the United Nations’ convention on wetlands.

**High fat content**

“This is a new way to produce food in the world,” says Dr. Jerónimo Ramos Sáinz, director of one of ten companies operating tuna farms near Ensenada.

“Since 1997, we tow the live fish in the 21st: 10:00–11:00 a.m., Michelle Barton from California State University Long Beach will speak on the light-footed Ridgway’s rail, formerly the light-footed Clapper rail. Although the bird is secretive and sightings are rare, it is easy to hear its distinctive clapping call in the early morning or late afternoon.

The event is free and open to all: 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, 619-575-3613

Dani Powell
net in a very smooth way, bring them close to the shoreline, and then keep them there for a month, or up to four or five months. During that time, we feed the fish sardines.” When an order comes from Japan, Ramos explains, “The divers take the fish from the pen one by one, then we sacrifice them on the boat one by one using a Japanese technique…that guarantees that the fish is not damaged…. From the plant, it is trucked to Los Angeles, and from Los Angeles to Japan by air. In Japan, it is auctioned on the Japanese market. And from the time you kill the fish until the time it is auctioned, it takes about 72 hours.”

In Japan, almost no price is too high for sushi-grade tuna. A record $160,000 was paid for a fish from a bounding pen in Southern California. But I’ve heard of prices as high as $200,000. The fish are grown, whether they’re getting round. The roundness indicates the fat content of the fish, which is important for the Japanese market. They want high fat content, especially in the belly part of the fish that they call the *toro*, which is the most expensive part of the tuna.”

—Ernie Grimm, August 30, 2007

**Graffiti slayer**

My neighborhood in North Pacific Beach is pretty much free of graffiti. When I drive into other parts of San Diego, or in Pacific Beach, there are more stickers, old garage-sale and lost-dog signs, and spray-paint graffiti. It has been my assumption that there is a graffiti slayer living in our neighborhood. I decided that I would like to thank that person.

Finally, I saw a car pull over to the side of the road on Loring Street, the emergency lights go on, and a guy jump out of the car. He ran over to a yellow “Will Pay Cash for Houses” sign stuck on city property and yanked it out of the ground. The trunk of his car opened and in went the sign. He ran across the street, pulled down a garage-sale sign (from last weekend), and got back into his car. He is in his 50s, looks like a surfer, and drives a BMW.

I know this guy. He is a regular surfer at Tourmaline. He is intense. I saw him in the Tournoo parking lot when a Zonie tossed a cigarette butt out of the window of his truck. This guy was huge. The slayer did not hesitate. He picked up the cigarette butt, looked at the guy, and said, “I guess you dropped this by mistake.”

“I started cleaning up any graffiti I saw around my house about five years back and expanded my area about two years ago,” he told me in an interview. “It is anything that I see in my neighborhood and anything along my route to work. I hate seeing posters stuck on living trees. So, I have decided to take everything down, anything that is business or personal advertising and is on city property.”

What type of graffiti do you hate the most?

“Slap-tagging. The tagger goes to the post office and gets free USPS address labels. At home, he stamps them with his tag symbol. Then he goes around late at night and sticks them everywhere. I have learned that if I take them off immediately, they peel off. If they stay for a few weeks, then they rip when you try to pull them off.”

—Russell Goltz
**Fish Report**

**½ Day - ¾ Day:** Rockfish, sculpin and calico bass are the main catch on the ½ day boats with an occasional home-guard yellowtail being caught. ¾ day trips to the Coronado Islands are still putting up good numbers on the yellows, as well as lingcod, rockfish and bonito. Sand Bass, halibut and Calicos are starting to show as the water temp holds in the low 60s. 1 Day to 2.5 Day: It’s been real good for yellowtail off the beach in the YoYo mode in 160 feet of water or so with most anglers catching limits. Rockfish and lingcod are coming in good numbers and with size. Some real nice halibut are being caught in 60’ of water in the Colonet area. Bonito and barracuda are abundant off the kelp edges in 100’ of water from Ensenada south.

**Long-Range - Baja:** Though the water has cooled a bit at Alijos Rocks, the wahoo are still on the chew there. Down at the Hurricane Bank the big yellowfin tuna are biting well in the morning and then pretty much shutting down after noon.

**Freshwater:** As trout season winds down in the lower elevations there are still some monster trout coming from the lakes that hold them. Bass are up and active county-wide with the exception of Cuyamaca. Some large blue catfish have been landed this past week, monster trout coming from the lakes that hold them. Bass are up and active county-wide with the exception of Cuyamaca. Some large blue catfish have been landed this past week, as trout season winds down in the lower elevations there are still some monster trout coming from the lakes that hold them. Bass are up and active county-wide with the exception of Cuyamaca. Some large blue catfish have been landed this past week, as trout season winds down in the lower elevations there are still some monster trout coming from the lakes that hold them.

**Trout Plants:** 03/18/15 Cuyamaca (1200), Poway (1500) 03/25/15 Dixon (3000), Wohlford (1500)

**Surfboard** - $175 Warner Surfboard Surf board in great shape. Comes with FCS FINS and New FCS Leash! 858-538-7509

**Snorkeling Gear** - $50 Brand New Aqua Fin Fins, Mileau Snorkel, Genious Mask. Throwing in a used set of scuba pro fins as well, size medium. Fins are size small. 760-390-2431

**FCS FINS and New FCS Leash!** $858-390-2431

**Fishing Report**

**Fishing Accessory**

**Win Dinner for 4**

Enter to win dinner for 4 from Magnolia Tap & Kitchen. Enter by Thursday, March 26th at 1PM.

**Win Laser Tattoo Removal**

Enter to win a free laser tattoo removal. Enter by Wednesday, April 1st at 1PM.

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**Photo Contest Winner**

**MORE CHANCES TO WIN!**

sdreader.com/contests

**Win Passes**

Enter to win a pair of passes to Lightning in a Bottle Festival. Enter by Monday, March 23rd at 1PM.

**Win Dinner for 4**

Enter to win dinner for 4 from Magnolia Tap & Kitchen. Enter by Thursday, March 26th at 1PM.

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**Great Events! Low Fees!**

Earl Thomas presents The Blues Cabaret @ Reuben H. Fleet Science Center Friday, March 27 at 7:00PM

**Rock in the Park**

21+: no host bar, food available for purchase, 100+ hands on exhibits open during show For more information go to rhffleet.org
Double dose of taste

“They are one of the most ancient vegetables in the world,” he says. “From prehistoric times.”

Yes,” says Habtamu. “This bread is two days old.”

Okay, sounds like a confession.

But, no, it’s a statement of pride. “Our bread,” he says, “needs time.”

We’re talking injera, the famous Ethiopian bread that looks like a giant lily pad. Or a way-big crumpet. And functions like a plate. In Ethiopia you eat your plate. In preparing, you’ve got to allow two days for it to ferment and rise, Habtamu says.

“That gives it its slightly bitter flavor and spongy texture.”

Mine has a pile of nearly raw ground meat on it surrounded by ayib (Ethiopian white cheese), collard greens, and an orange serrano pepper mix, each in its own little pile. The whole injera “plate” looks like an artist’s palette, with splotches of paint scattered around it. You hate to break it up. And you don’t have to, at first. They have a separate plate of three rolled-up injera to rip off and grip mouthfuls of meat and spices with. In your right hand, of course. And it’s supposed to be really good for you, if it’s made with teff, the Ethiopian grain that’s packed full of iron.

I had wandered into what looked like a grocery store up here at 30th and ECB. It’s Ethiopian. “Awash.” Easy to remember because it’s named after a river. “Ethiopian.” “Awash.” Easy to remember because it’s very holy. Monks guard it. Ethiopia has the most ancient Christianity.

I make a private note: gotta go there. I make a second one. Gotta come back and try the shiro here. Apart from everything else, it’s only $6.55, just about the cheapest item on the menu. For comfort food, that’s a comforting price.

Yedero wot ($9.99). Chicken with berbere sauce (Ethiopian white pepper mix, each in its own little pile. The beautiful thing is the injera soaks up the flavors of whatever it’s gripping, so you seem to get a double dose of the taste.

“So, would the kitfo be the same in Addis Ababa [Ethiopia’s capital] as what we’re eating here?” I ask Habtamu.

“So I ask for it, and when it comes, it’s this way-big injera on a metal tray, with a big slop of hot kitfo (“chopped meat”) in the middle, and piles of ayib, the Ethiopian white cheese (basically milk that’s been boiled, curdled, mixed with lemon), collard greens, and an orange serrano pepper mix, each in a neat pile on the fermented bread. Plus the extra injera rolls. I start ripping the spongey bread off, and squeezing it around the meat. Really savory. Habtamu says the collard greens came across to the American colonies from Africa and were originally from the eastern Mediterranean. “They are one of the most ancient vegetables in the world,” he says. “From prehistoric times.”

So, I asked for the kitfo to be hot, spicy-hot. And it is, especially when you mix the serrano sauce in. That’s why the curdled milk cheese is so refreshing between the hits of heat. What I love is the hands thing: ripping off spongy flappers of the stuff, then close-wrapping them around the meat. The beautiful thing is the injera soaks up the flavors of whatever it’s gripping, so you seem to get a double dose of the taste.

I check the menu. “…seasoned with butter, red pepper, spices, served with Ethiopian cheese, $9.99.”

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So, would the kitfo be the same in Addis Ababa [Ethiopia’s capital] as what we’re eating here?” I ask Habtamu.

I think so, but...” He gets up and a moment later, he’s back with an older man. “Michael knows this better. He has been back there much more than I.”

Turns out Michael comes here just about every day to eat.

“This food is real,” Michael says. “The only difference is what you get here is the basic recipes. Addis is a very social town. Thousands of cafés. Always packed. And at each you’d get the cook’s own variations of dishes like kitfo. And on our fast days, usually Wednesday and Friday each week, people eat only vegan food. No meat. So, we have a huge selection of vegetables to make the food interesting. And also the tastes there are more intense. It’s because the food has always been organic. No speeding up growth, no fertilizers. Except now our government is trying to force fertilizers on us in Ethiopia. And soon, GMO. We don’t have a McDonald’s, but it is only a matter of time.”

“So, what three Ethiopian foods would you choose if you were going to be stuck on a desert island for the rest of your life?”

“First, the doro wat. Chicken stew. With injera, of course. You share it. So, I hope I’d have friends on the island. Second, I’d have kitfo, like you’re having; and, third, I’d have shiro, basically ground chickpeas. It’s vegetationarian, and it’s the comfort food of my childhood. My mother always made it for me.”

Turns out he’s flying back home to Addis in three weeks. He’s going back to visit the almost mythological city of Axum. Why? “Because that is where the Ark of the Covenant is,” he says. “It’s very holy. Monks guard it. Ethiopia has the most ancient Christianity.”

I make a private note: gotta go there. I make a second one. Gotta come back and try the shiro here. Apart from everything else, it’s only $6.55, just about the cheapest item on the menu. For comfort food, that’s a comforting price.

The Place: Awash Ethiopian Restaurant & Café, 2884 El Cajon Blvd, North Park, 619-282-8280

Prices: Breakfast food (crushed beans, Ethiopian butter, onion, tomato, French bread), $6.99; sambussa (meat or lentils), $1.50; kitfo (ground beef with butter, red pepper, spices, collard greens, $9.99; gored gored, beef with Ethiopian mustard, $9.99; yebeg t’ibs (lamb sautéed with onions, jalapeños), $10.99; meat combination, $9.99; Ethiopian coffee, $2

Hours: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 a.m. daily

Buses: 1, 2, 6, 515

Nearest bus stop: El Cajon Boulevard and 30th Street

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COMPLETE GUIDE TO SAN DIEGO BREWERIES 2014/2015 EDITION

Brandon Hernandez

SDFReader.com/beer-guide
Food hall thing

For the latest reviews from Reader writers and a complete searchable list of 2000 restaurants, please visit SDReader.com/feast

Do they eat burgers in Italy?

1450 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. Its safe to say the food-hall concept has been embraced in San Diego — at least by investors. East Village saw one open earlier this year with Bottega Americano, while nearby Market Hall promises to open any day and a huge effort in Liberty Station is in the works. The concept is simple enough: fill a huge space with multiple food stations where people can order sandwichwiches or pizza or cured meats and cheese, and then eat in a massive shared dining space. It’s not terribly different from a mall food court, except you won’t find a JCPenney nearby, and the food should be drastically superior to a Sbarro.

I recently checked out the 10,000 square foot, Italian-owned Pan Bon (“good bread”), a straight-outta-Verona concept that recently opened in Little Italy. Immediately upon walking inside was impressed, if only for its magnificent scope. The huge two-plus-story space looks fabulous, with a series of food stations along the left wall and a patchwork of raw wood cuttings tastefully collaging the entire right side. The back wall — quite far from the entrance — features a large picture window looking into a lively kitchen.

On closer inspection, that wood-piece design looks pretty expensive, mostly comprised of two-inch-thick flats attached to a simple framework. While this maybe dampens the illusion of grandeur, it’s certainly smart, given the size of this space, and actually has the effect of adding a hint of rustic-to-industrial vibe, which jibes with the theme. Deciding what to eat may prove challenging.

You’re immediately met by a patisserie, followed by an organic bakery. The all-day approach means you can belly up to a counter and find some breakfast dishes, buy some salumi, get yourself a thick slab of heat-and-serve lasagna, or custom order a big salad. There’s pizza by the slice and whole pies after 5 p.m. Most of the space is cafeteria seating, but if you drift all the way to the back you’ll find table service.

Despite the Italian origins of the place, I wasn’t surprised to see breakfast items include scrambled eggs and pancakes. I was kind of startled to see hamburgers featured alongside the handmade pasta dishes. I got a glance at one of those burgers, and it looked impressive. Instead I settled on the ciabatta Pan Bon ($15), made with belly veal, scamorza (stretched cows-milk cheese), braised onions, and bacon.

The veal came in strips, but not the bacon, which instead came in thick little cubes that mixed beautifully with those onions. The ciabatta itself was outstanding, lacking the dryness I often associate with this sort of bread. My willfully gluten-free lunch mate even tried it (since they promised all grains were organic, sourced from Northern Cali, and unlikely to rouse certain sensitivities among non-celiac gluten-avoiders. We also split the calamata carbonara ($11), which served some of those same bacon chunks in a yolky, buttery, and amarata carbonara ($11), which served some of those same bacon chunks in a yolky, buttery, and light creamy sauce. It’s kinda herby, lemony. Guess someone’s going on around non-celiac gluten-avoiders.

On the other side: “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take. (Wayne Gretsky’s gotta point. Happy hour 3–7pm.)” We have a wit among us. It’s enough, partly because I was always trying to see through the ginormous door they have to check who-all hung out in this bar-eatery. It’s part of the Palomar Hotel. So I lean back and swing open this medieval portal by Ian Anderson

Downtown baa-becue

1047 Fifth Avenue, downtown San Diego. If you can get in through the two-ton door, this place has some surprising bargains.

It’s Friday afternoon around five-ish. I have just resisted the temptations of the House of Blues and its $2 happy-hour pints of Bud Light. But now I see this sign on a sandwich board right next door. “I distrust camels...and anyone else who can go a week without a drink.” And on the other side: “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take. (Wayne Gretsky’s gotta point. Happy hour 3–7pm.)”

We have a wit among us. It’s enough, partly because I was always trying to see through the ginormous door they have to check who-all hung out in this bar-eatery. It’s part of the Palomar Hotel. So I lean back and swing open this medieval portal and head for the bar. We’re talking black and brown decor, stone, dark wood counter top, and British dronny pop thumping it out. Business crowd. And maybe one or two musicians waiting for House of Blues to gear up next door.

Karen the barkeep asks what I’m drinking. She hands me the HH menu. I go for the Saint Archer ($7); and three lamb slides ($8.99), half the price of Sear’s. But, food’s what we’re here for. They have six items in their “Munchies” section on the HH menu. Goat-cheese fondue with dried tomato, olives, and crostini, for $8; roasted brussels sprouts for $5; fries ($3); 3 tacos for $7; two pretzels with cheese sauce, honey and mustard ($7); and three lamb sliders for $8. They also have $3 off their flatbreads. Cheapest is kinda tempting, too: Yukon potato, with cheddar, chives, bacon, and sour cream. With the three bucks off, it’s $9.

But it’s the lamb that catches my attention. Good lamb is hard to beat. If it’s properly lamb-basted...baa-becue, you might say.

When they come, the slides are in little buns with shiny mahogany-colored dome tops. The ground lamb bulges out like fat tongues. And I see they’ve made the meat more interesting by adding tzatziki, onion, tomato, and arugula. Taste result: a sweet and sour pepper tomato tangy yogurt thing going on around the lamb aftertaste. It’s kinda herby, lemony. Guess it’s mainly the onions. Really good flavor. And not bad for $8. Even though they’re little, they fill you enough to believe you’d ever have an honest meal.

“Why ‘Salbox’?” I ask Karen about the place’s name.

“Because we’re honoring the style of the houses that most of the Gaslamp was built in, back in the 1860s,” she says. Saltbox, turns out, was what they called those old clapboard houses that started off two stories up front and sloped down to one story at the back. And called that because they looked like the old-fashioned salt boxes every kitchen had, in the day.

Out on Fifth, I see I’ve spent eight plus five, plus tax plus tip, which means I’m $17 out of pocket. Yes, just one $2 drink next door at the House of Blues would have been way more sensible.

Japan on Convo

4633 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa. While on the way to Tofu House, I rarely pay any mind to the

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Witty signs at least get you to stop

by Ian Anderson

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Easter Brunch
Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines
April 5th | 10am - 3pm
Seating on the Hour
Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Bunny for Kids
9:45am, 11:45am, & 2:15pm

Chef Action Stations
Slow Roasted Short Rib
Herb Roasted Leg of Spring Lamb
Bourbon Glazed Ham
Cooked to Order Omelets, Waffles, Pancakes & Pasta

Accompaniments
Chilled Jumbo Shrimp, Crab Claws, Oysters
House Smoked Salmon, Trout, Scallops
Petite Spring Salad, Spinach Salad with Roasted Pears
Beet Salad with Goat Cheese and Almond Brittle
Steakhouse Caprese Salad with Tomatillo Olives
Quinoa Salad with Roasted Vegetables
Grilled Vegetables with Roasted Red Pepper Aioli
Orange Pomegranate Lentil Salad
Selection of Cheeses with Sliced Baguettes
Fresh Seasonal Fruit and Berries

Entrees
Traditional Eggs Benedict
Baja Eggs Benedict
Fennel Black Pepper Salmon
Basil Chicken Pomodoro
Assorted Sashimi & Sushi Rolls
Roasted Fingerling Potatoes

Sweets
Flowing Chocolate Fountain
Assorted Easter Fun Cakes
Our Famous Bread Pudding with Crème Anglaise

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big red awning advertising “Japanese Noodles” across the street. Once every few months, David and I venture to try something new on the Asian-cuisine-rich strip of Convoy Street. He still swears he’s going to spend a year tasting his way through each of the hundred-something restaurants along San Diego’s Silk Road, but we always end up at our few favorites (Tofu House, Emerald, Yakuyudori, Tajima, Dumpling Inn). Once in a Red Moon, we are fortunate enough to add another restaurant to our Convoy repertoire.

I admit we ended up at Chopstix by default. We were hoping to check out the new expansion at Dumpling Inn, but it was not yet finished, and the wait for lunch was over an hour. Because I didn’t want to deal with re-parking the car in the congested industrial ‘hood, I convinced David to walk around the corner and under the red awning. We couldn’t remember why this place had been off our radar. I think it was the Panda Express–esque look of the exterior, something that seemed to convey cafeteria-quality food. But, upon being greeted by a Japanese woman in both English and Japanese, taking our seat at a booth and picking up the menu, we realized we’d made a novice error when dining on Convoy — judging a restaurant by its exterior.

We began by sharing a California roll for the palatable price of $3.75. David noted with disappointment that there was no cucumber, but I didn’t mind the omission. He found no faults with his Ten Zaru Soba ($8.25), a classic Japanese dish of chilled buckwheat noodles served with shrimp tempura. Though it was not served on a bamboo tray, David said it was as tasty as any of the soba dishes he’d had in Japan. Atop the noodles were strips of nori seaweed, and green onions and wasabi were served alongside with the dipping sauce.

I got the Chicken Katsudon ($6.95) with miso soup and a salad. The fried-chicken cutlet was tender and juicy, and the egg and onions were doused in plenty of the sweet-and-savory broth that makes this dish what it is. I added a generous sprinkling of shichimi, the zingy and zesty seven-flavor spice mix I’ve become addicted to. Given the price, I was surprised it was such a huge portion. I ate half and enjoyed the remainder the following day. Cheap, casual, and authentic, Chopstix is now on the list.
And the winner is...

If rock and roll doesn’t work out as a career for Rich Varville (ex-Trailerpark Rockstar), maybe rock videos will. On March 7, Varville took home Best Director honors at the San Diego Film Awards for his work on “Let’s Get Medicated.”

Varville tells the Reader, “It all starts with the song, the lyrics. ‘Let’s Get Medicated’ is about people who self-medicate to avoid their problems. The pretty nurse,” he says, “is representative of addiction. From there, it’s about trying to escape it.”

“Meditated” also won Best videos for other bands.”

“Tortured Home” is part of a larger project for Varville. The “Let’s Get Medicated” music video was released this past summer, and it has been accepted into the USA Film Festival in Los Angeles and an Award of Merit at the Indie Film Festival in La Jolla.

“I think the first time I actually talked to Mac was when he was playing with Wilco and they were doing a double bill with Wilco outside Seattle. I was thrilled to have a few pints of Guinness with him backstage, and then over the years we just met up in Austin and Portland, whenever our paths crossed, which was fortunately pretty often! I always felt so lucky to have become friends with him — beyond my appreciation for his work, he was just such a wonderful guy.”

How did you find out he’d died?

“Alejandro Escovedo called me from the hospital the morning after his stroke and let me know that the decision had been made to take him off life support. It was not a great day in my life — but Mac had so many people who loved him, so I was feeling for them, too. I worked on music with friends, which was very therapeutic, and then Guin-

Jazz valley. “Kirk is a guy who wants to present this music because he thinks it’s the right art form for the hotel — he’s made a commitment, wants it to be ongoing, because he wants the Han
delry to be known as a jazz hotel, and we’re talking about doing a mini-jazz festival in the future,” says musician/curator Holly Hofmann of the new weekly happy hour she is organizing at the Handlery Hotel (950 Hotel Circle North) in Mission Valley for general manager Kirk Johnson.

“Not every musician is right for concert promotion,” Hofmann tells the Reader. “But being able to understand (continued on page 60)

On the Haunted Hotel set of the award-winning Head Trip Superstar video for “Let’s Get Medicated.”

The video features his new band, Head Trip Superstar, in a gothic horror tableau about life in a haunted asylum with a drug-dispensing nurse who alternates between pinup beauty and leprous zombie-woman. “I’m real big on metaphor,” Varville says. “I have my own video production company, so I paid my actors. I have my own music video’s shooting down in the basement.”

Varville took home $500 to fund the production. He has since spent $600 on a hair styling and make-up artist, and lighting. “Most of the film was shot at the Haunted Hotel downtown,” Varville explains. “‘Zero,’ is the answer he gives when asked about the video’s shooting budget. Varville laughs. He says other directors estimated that he spent at least six figures to make the video, but, no. “I did it for about $600. I paid my actors. I have my own video production company, so I have all the equipment. I do things up so they kicked us around us that it was jamming — Dave Good

Theatre downtown on March 24. He took some email questions from the Reader.

“Let’s Get Medicated” video is part of a larger scheme, Varville says. “Our business model is different than what any other bands are currently doing. We are releasing a new single with a video every three months. This keeps fans always looking forward to the next one. Too many bands are still following the same old formula of releasing a full album first and then releasing a single.”

What’s on the horizon for the now-award-winning music-video director? “Let’s Get Medicated” has been accepted into the USA Film Festival, one of the longest-running film festivals in the country, Varville says. Meanwhile, he and his band are already into production of Head Trip Superstar’s next video. “The next single coming out is called ‘Tortured Home.’ It’s a real story about Varville’s father’s childhood. But we’ll have to wait for the finished product to find out more, he says.

“Tortured Home” is scheduled for release sometime near the end of May.

— Dave Good

Guinness played its part. Having giggled with everyone from Robyn Hitchcock to R.E.M., Scott McCaughey brings his Minus 5 to Balboa outside. We kept shouting out tunes there until a couple squad cars pulled up.”

The new album (Dungeon Golds) contains some of the theatre’s showstoppers. The best of it, according to the Raggs, is “Let’s Get Medicated.”

Theatre downtown on March 24. He took some email questions from the Reader.

“What San Diego music memories come to mind?”

“The Young Fresh Fellows had a few memorable shows at the old Gaslamp. Jim’s vintage Danelectro Longhorn bass got its neck broken at one. Of course, Skid Roper was there, yeah! But my best San Diego concert memory is of the Minus 5 opening for Wilco at 4th & B in 2002. [Tweedy, featuring Jeff Tweedy of Wilco and his son Spencer, will open this week’s show.] At the end of Wilco’s show, Peter Buck and I and the rest of the Minus 5 were in the venue lobby with acoustic instruments playing songs around the merch table. So many people crowded around us that it was jamming things up so they kicked us out of it while trying to keep it entertaining.”

The “Let’s Get Medicated” video is part of a larger project for Varville. The “Let’s Get Medicated” music video was released this past summer, and it has been accepted into the USA Film Festival in Los Angeles and an Award of Merit at the Indie Film Festival in La Jolla.

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“Not every musician is right for concert promotion,” Hofmann tells the Reader. “But being able to understand (continued on page 60)
After moving on to curate shows at Bristol Court for two years, the Museum of Art for eight years, and the North Park Theatre for two, Hofmann began working with Ingrid Croce at her new place in Bankers Hill. “First Thursdays is a series that brings national talent to Croce’s Park West,” she says. “Right now, it’s mostly West Coast talent, but we hope to be able to expand it to include bigger names that are already in California to come down and play. We’re just getting started, but it’s been three great nights for the club, and the musicians have really enjoyed it.”

The new series at the Handlery started on March 13 with L.A. guitarist Ron Eschete, and looks to feature a mix of L.A. and local six-stringers, including Frank Potenza and Anthony Wilson from up north, and then Alex Ciavarelli and Vince Cooper, who are locals. “A lot of people are going to be able to attend these shows,” Hofmann says, “who wouldn’t be able to afford other rooms — there’s no cover, no minimum, and two free hours of validated parking.” Hofmann’s jazz guitar series happens every Friday night from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. — Robert Bush

Dude, this is a joke
Many bands thought the worst thing about the collapse of the major-label music industry was that there was no longer anyone to pay for music videos. Orange County’s Terminally Ill, making their San Diego debut Friday night at the Merrow in Hillcrest, showed the world they could make their own videos.

Equipped with a caustic sense of humor that they aimed at OC bro culture, the seven-member “crunk-rock” group figured out how to make homemade videos that prove you don’t need a Hollywood budget to move the needle.

“We filmed ‘Bro Anthem’ as a joke,” says Ryan Ripsetter, one of the band’s four rappers. The band included references to suburban Orange County, Monster energy drinks, jack-dated trucks, and bro-speak to make a tribute to white-trash party culture. “We said, ‘This is not bad. Let’s actually do this.’” So, they formed the band — Terminally Ill — three years ago. Terminally Ill seems to follow the lead of two other Orange County bands — the Surf Punks and the Vandals (“I Want to Be a Cowboy”), with the concept that a band can lampoon certain subcultures with over-the-top lyrics and wild onstage imagery.

“If anybody takes yourself so seriously, we’re going to go to town on you and rip you apart,” says Ripsetter. Live-at-home juggalos, burnouts, and body tatts were targeted by the punk/rap revue onstage and in their videos.

“There are so many people in Orange County and in the Inland Empire with big egos...we like to rag on people to show they are idiots.” Lyrics from “The Bro Anthem”, “I love chrome shocks/ I wear black socks/ Famous Stars and Straps/ Muther fucking rocks/ I don't give a fuck/ I drive a lifted truck/ If you talk shit on Kottonmouth Kings/ I’ll fuck you up.”

Not everyone got the joke. “When we first came out, there were a lot of bros who didn’t get it. Some people said they wanted to kill us. We were, like, ‘Dude, this is a joke,’ I guess we did a pretty good job of mocking if you can’t tell it was a joke.” Check out the videos at terminallyillband.com. The band joins Chango’s Psychotic Garage, Castoff, and Strike Twelve at the Merrow Friday night.

— Ken Leighton

Contributors
Chad Deal, Dave Good, Hargrove, Mary Leary, Ken Leighton, Bari Mendosa, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone
Enjoy our summer concert series at the new Starlight Theater

Queen Nation / Zeppelin USA
Presented by 101KGBFM
Saturday, May 23, 2015 7:30 PM
On Sale: Friday, March 20 at 10:00 AM

Creedence Clearwater Revisited
Friday, May 29, 2015 8:00 PM
On Sale: Friday, March 20 at 10:00 AM

Whitesnake
Saturday, June 6, 2015 7:00 PM
On Sale: Now

Chubby Checker
Saturday, June 27, 2015 7:30 PM
On Sale: Friday, March 20 at 10:00 AM

Cheech & Chong with War
Saturday, July 11, 2015 7:30 PM
On Sale: Friday, March 20 at 10:00 AM

Alice in Chains
Friday, July 17, 2015 8:00 PM
On Sale: Now

Huey Lewis and The News
Thursday, July 30, 2015 8:00 PM
On Sale: Friday, March 20 at 10:00 AM

Russell Peters
Saturday, August 8, 2015 8:00 PM
On Sale: Friday, March 20 at 10:00 AM

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This Week
In Music

Thursday 19
Casbah’s culled some indie-rock dark matter for Thursday night, a curious double bill that surprises and then you’re, like, Oh yeah. Singer/songwriter (emphasis on writer) Joseph D’Agostino and his band of Jersey boys Cymbals Eat Guitars will split a bill with Texas post-rock instrumental act This Will Destroy You. Both bands put out excellent records last year, their coming-into-their-own albums, which’d toggle nicely on your shuffle, as D’Agostino’s deconstruction of the Wrens and the Garden State, and reconstruction of his drug-addled past, do with words and creative songform (a lot of critics like the Built to Spill comparison, but I’m inclined to stick with the Wrens) what TVWDY do with sonic exploration, both emotional (Explosions in the Sky) and earthly (God Speed). As I’m typing this I’m thinking, Jam these bands together and you get Slint — the Reese’s Peanut Butter Cup of post-rock bands. Fans of the brand’d do well to get your hands on Cymbals’ LOS! and/or TVWDY’s Another Language. Spend the afternoon with those and then I’ll see you down on Kettner... Miss the door in Middletown, all-country (of the n-u-grass variety) festival favorites Trampled by Turtles take the stage at Observatory North Park after HoneyHoney... while that very heavy Bay Area band Saviours and our own ear-bleeding Archons join forces at Soda Bar, which may very well open afaultline Thursday night in City Heights.

Friday 20
So, blink-182 sold out Soma, surprising everyone over 17... lucky for you I was looking everywhere but there and have devised a tidy little list of healthy alternatives for the group... now about a house party in Del Mar? Seriously, you’re invited, and the affair is going to be top-shelf, with performances by Pall Jenkins (you remember him from Three Mile Pilot, Black Heart Procession, and Mr. Tube), Red Rumsey of Unwound, and Sasha Nothingful. There’s also going to be a bunch of artists (including Jenkins’ mom, Anna Zappoli) there showing their latest. All kinds of cool, yeah? Hit up aspitinthenwoods.com to get in on it... Also uptheway, Railroad Earth is rolling into Belly Up for two nights of rootsy, granola-rock-and-roll. The Jersey sextet is out to tout their latest, Last of the Outsiders. Sassy buxom Moon Hooch headline sets at Soda Bar after Dr. Seahorse and Bakkuda. Dave Good got the goods on Moon Hooch for this week’s OF Note, “Southern d'american” rapper Yelawolf has the mic at House of Blues in advance of his sophomore set, Love Story..... While Call punk acts The Stitches, the Dogs, and Spent Idols fill a landslide bill at Til-Two.

Saturday 21
Stay Strange sets up its annual Experimental Guitar show at Soda Bar Saturday night. This year’s performers include Michael Crain, Joleah Conception, All the Pretty Horses, Steve Plato, and Hirsch the Machine Hirsch. From the SXDGO’s statement of purpose, they “encourage musicians who have outgrown the limitations of conventional guitar playing. These artists have expanded their technique by using their instruments’ attributes members” (a new musical vocabulary of time and timbre emerges in its place.

Sunday 22
X’s John Doe and Exene Cervenka join Robyn Hitchcock for one of Belly Up’s “Evening With” seated shows. Be aware, there’s no opening act at these things and you should be seated by 8 when the strumming and humming begins. Otherwise, it’s eye-dagger city, baby. You can’t really tell from the show description, but I’m guessing there’ll be three-way on-stage. Wait — that came out wrong. Anyway, it says that it’s “a special acoustic performance by the two singers and cofounders of X, John Doe and Exene Cervenka. They are joined by Robyn Hitchcock, who will perform selections from his catalog of over 500 songs recorded as a Soft Boy, Egyptian, and solo raconteur since 1976.” Nice Sunday-nighter.

Monday 23
Like fake Jake Shimabukura sold out both of his sets at Belly Up Monday night, fyi...but around town you’ve got Black Rivers rolling into Soda Bar behind their new self-titled set. Black Rivers is led and Andy Williams of Brit indie band Doves; i.e., Black Rivers sounds a lot like Doves, which, according to one of my favorite record reviewers on Amazon, is a lot like “Coldplay without the douchegarage, Radiohead without the pretentiousness.” Local pop-rock acts Sundrop Electric and Speaker in Reverse open the show.... Else: It’s a Southly Monday at Bar Pink where Tori Roze and her Hot Mess help you work out your new-week kinks with some soulful funk ‘n’ roll...while Cali punk acts The Saviours and/or TWDY’s Flato and/or TWDY’s Lose and/or TWDY’s Red Rumsey Railroad Earth Trampled by Turtles.... While Cali punk acts The Saviours, and/or TWDY’s Flato while that very heavy Bay Area group... join forces at Soda Bar, which may very well have expanded their technique by using their instruments’ attributes members” (a new musical vocabulary of time and timbre emerges in its place.

Tuesday 24
I just watched about half of a 12-minute Q&A with Jeff Tweedy and his son Spencer, in which dad rambled on about how he got into the music business and by 8 when the strumming and humming begins. Otherwise, it’s eye-dagger city, baby. You can’t really tell from the show description, but I’m guessing there’ll be three-way on-stage. Wait — that came out wrong. Anyway, it says that it’s “a special acoustic performance by the two singers and cofounders of X, John Doe and Exene Cervenka. They are joined by Robyn Hitchcock, who will perform selections from his catalog of over 500 songs recorded as a Soft Boy, Egyptian, and solo raconteur since 1976.” Nice Sunday-nighter.

Wednesday 25
We got in touch with Gang of Four guitarist Andy Gill for last week’s “Appropriate language” feature. Got check that out, I’ll wait here... Nice guy, yeah? Great player. Gill and his current Gang are out to loud this year. What Happens Next record and will appear at Belly Up humpnight. NYC indie rockers Public Access T.V. open the show, while 91X’s Halloran spins “round sets.... Around town: Philly five-piece Shear Mag is one of Rolling Stone’s bands to watch. According to the dad mag, Shear Mag “sounds like a gang of punks with a not-so-secret love of ’70s classic rock...for fans of Thin Lizzy, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and beat-up microphones.” I love all that shit. Shear Mag plays the Tower Bar after Dictator...Brooklyn’s party-rock big band Rubblebucket spills it at Casbah behind last year’s Survival Sounds...while Olympia grunge-pop trio Broken Water moves into the Hideout with their brand-spanking newworn, Bright. As of this typing, I only had the lead single “High Lo” to listen to, but I listened twice....

— Barnaby Monk

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DETROIT UNDERGROUND

HUMPHREYS
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HAPPY HOUR
5-7 PM DAILY
FOOD AND DRINK SPECIALS
(EXCLUDES HOLIDAYS AND CONCERT NIGHTS)

Mar 19, 2015 7:00 PM • R&B RTYME
Host DJ John Phillips

Mar 20, 2015 5:00 PM • Jazz RUBY
9:00 PM • Dance DETROIT UNDERGROUND

Mar 21, 2015 5:00 PM • Island BREEZ’N
9:00 PM • Dance POP VINYL

Mar 22, 2015 8:00 PM • MARCUS SLIM SHAW & B.I.G
Host DJ John Phillips

Mar 23, 2015 7:00 PM • Blues CHET CANNON

Mar 24, 2015 7:00 PM • Blues BLUE LARGO

Mar 25, 2015 7:00 PM • R&B THE WILD SIDE
Host DJ John Phillips

3/16<br>TRANSLATION @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!<br>3/17<br>THE SIREN @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!<br>3/18<br>THE LANTERN @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
3/19<br>FOYER @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
3/20<br>CRACKED ASH @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
3/21<br>THE WILD SIDE @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
3/22<br>THE BANDS @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
3/23<br>THE WAP @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
3/24<br>THE HAWK @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
3/25<br>THE GLASS @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
3/26<br>THE OAK @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
3/27<br>THE PINE @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
3/28<br>THE MAPLE @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
3/29<br>THE YEW @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
3/30<br>THE Sycamore @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
3/31<br>THE ELM @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/1<br>THE HICKORY @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/2<br>THE JUNIPER @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/3<br>THE PINE @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/4<br>THE OAK @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/5<br>THE ELDER @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/6<br>THE BIRCH @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/7<br>THE CRANE @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/8<br>THE CEDAR @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/9<br>THE PECAN @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/10<br>THE REDBUD @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/11<br>THE REDWOOD @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/12<br>THE HICKORY @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/13<br>THE PINE @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/14<br>THE OAK @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/15<br>THE ELM @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
4/16<br>THE HICKORY @ Observatory North Park<br>SOLD OUT!!
Two saxophones and a drummer — that’s Moon Hooch from Brooklyn. Michael Wilbur, one of the sax players, calls the Reader from a tour stop in Pennsylvania. “We’re looking forward to getting out west,” he says, if a bit too eagerly. It is 2 degrees out at present, but he says it has been as cold as negative 10 degrees. “It’s brutal. You go outside for two minutes and your skin hurts. What’s surprising is, we were at a place we’ve never played before last night, and we drew 300 people.” In that kind of weather? What’s their secret — free pocket warmers? No, he says. “I think it’s the kind of music. We’re creating a ton of energy.”

Consider Moon Hooch a project that took shape in the bowels of the Big Apple. The three members worked it out busking New York’s subway stations. From that, to a decent showing on Billboard’s Jazz Album Charts after they released Moon Hooch in 2013. But what really got the trio out of the dark was a chance run-in with a guy who used to be in Soul Coughing. Mike Dougherty, now a solo act, liked the strangeness and asked them to come upstairs, they told a reporter. Moon Hooch opened a string of dates for Dougherty with their own blend of dark, wild music that fairly screeches, Yes, of course, we are the Godzilla anti-sax of all saxophonists.

“It was coincidence that brought us together,” Wilbur says. “We all come from a free-jazz background. One day, [saxist] Wenzl McGowen and I happened to be in the same place at the same time. I brought my experimental stuff.” Basically, that included Wilbur blowing sax harmonies along to house tracks. Drummer James Muschler joined later. “Then, we started getting into electronic music,” which led to a lot of their live shows now using prerecorded backing tracks. “Kind of what a deejay does.” If a deejay played sax, that is.

Dr. Seahorse and Bakkuda also perform.

MOON HOOCH: Soda Bar, Friday, March 20, 8:30 p.m. 619-225-7224. $10 advance/$12 at the door
Desi Relator

Night
Wednesday, 8pm — Karaoke with DJ Dizzy

Saturday, 8pm — Serious Guise
Dirk's Niteclub:
Young Lions: Evan McColm, 7pm — Castellanos

Wednesday, 7pm — Against the Odds, Chrysalis, Radio Active
Saturday, 7pm — Treaded, Zone 7, Victimized

Cashbah:
Thursday, 8pm — This Will Destroy You and Cymbals Eat Guitars
Friday, 8pm — Tim Barry, Jenny Owens Young, Cory Branan
Saturday, 8pm — Mrs. Henry, Schizophonics, Paraphrase
Sunday, 8pm — Matthew E. White and Wilson
Monday, 8pm — The Last Bison and Neulore
Tuesday, 8pm — Girl Band
Wednesday, 8pm — Rubblebucket and Vacationer

Casino Pauma:
Thursday, noon — Serenity Gathering
Friday, 8pm — Vince Neil

Central Library:
Wednesday, 2:30pm — The Neve Trio

Cheers Bar & Grill:
Friday, 5pm — S.Ol Remedy

Chico Club:
Thursday, 8pm, Friday, 8pm — DJ Harvest Karaoke
Saturday, 8pm — Clapton Hook
Sunday, 8pm — DJ Harvest Karaoke

Company Pub and Kitchen:
Sunday, 5pm — Open Mic Hosted by Martin Cooghan

Congregational Church of La Jolla:
Thursday, 7pm — Leonard Patton
Saturday, 7pm — Ric Henry: Before We Say Goodbye

Copley Symphony Hall:
Friday, 8pm — Herbie Hancock & Chick Corea

Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant:
Thursday, 6pm, Friday, 6pm — Antonio Fe
Saturday, 5:30pm — 2Zymazy Quartet

Coyote Bar & Grill:
Thursday, 6pm — Pandora
Friday, 6pm — The Bill Magee Band
Saturday, 6pm — Bumpasonic
Sunday, 6pm — Live Audition Night
Sunday, 7pm — Flipside Burners

Croce's Park West:
Thursday, 8pm — 45 Revolutions
Thursday, 7:30pm — Kevyn Lettau, Jason Shattil, Glen Fisher
Friday, 7pm — Sue Palmer
Saturday, 7:30pm — Coast Bop
Sunday, noon — Nina Francis
Sunday, 6pm — Choro Sotaque
Monday, 6pm — Steph Johnson & Rob Thorsen
Tuesday, 7pm — Gaslamp Quarter Jazz Orchestra
Wednesday, 7pm — Castellanos Young Lions: Evan McColm

Dirk's Niteclub:
Friday, 8pm — Serious Guise
Saturday, 8pm — Dance Party with DJ Dizzy
Wednesday, 8pm — Karaoke Night

Dizzy's:
Thursday, 8pm — Therasanthe Orp
Friday, 8pm — Pamela York Quartet

El Cajon Library:
Saturday, 2pm — Acoustic Showcase: Tolan Shaw

Episcope:
Friday, 7pm — Against the Odds, Chrysalis, Radio Active
Saturday, 7pm — Treaded, Zone 7, Victimized

Eureka! Gourmet Burgers and Craft Beer:
Thursday, 7pm — 22 Kings

F6ix Niteclub:
Thursday, 8pm — 18+ Thursdays
Friday, 8pm — DJ XP
Saturday, 8pm — DJ Kurch
Sunday, 8pm — Jason Kruml and Jennifer Naylor

Field Irish Pub and Restaurant:
Friday, 9:30pm — The Fooks
Tuesday, 8:30pm — Famos Carroll

First Church of the Brethren:
Saturday, 6pm — George Mann
First Presbyterian Church:
Saturday, 4:30pm — Jazz Vespers
Florent:
Thursday, 8pm — Art Show

Gallagher's Pub & Grill:
Thursday, 8pm — Shamrocks & Dreadlocks
Monday, 8pm — Hip-Hop Monday

Goat Hill Park:
Saturday, 3pm — Feeding the Soul Foundation

Greene Music Recital Hall:
Saturday, 11am — How to Take Care of Your Piano

Hacienda Casa Blanca:
Tuesday, 5:30pm — Mike Dwyer

Herringbone:
Thursday, 5pm — Tolan Shaw
Friday, 5pm — Sister Speak
Saturday, noon — Ryan Hiller
Sunday, noon — Dawn Mitschele

Hideout:
Thursday, 8pm — Perpetual Motion
Friday, 8pm — Sweet Valley
Saturday, 8pm — Tribe of Kings
Sunday, 8pm — Last For You and Marshstepper
Wednesday, 8pm — Broken Water and Yonatan Gat

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San Diego Reader March 16, 2015
EVERYONE’S A CRITIC

Sleater-Kinney’s No Cities to Love
By Emily Reily

The band that kept the heart of the riot-grrrl movement pumping is back, in a wicked way. Sleater-Kinney’s No Cities to Love burns bright and flames out on cue, blazing a trail for other punk outfits to trace and embrace. The moods on No Cities race from ebullience to negativ-ity to unity to all-out rockfest, as on the victorious “A New Wave” and the rabble-rousing “Surface Envy.” Opener “Price Tag” is a dark take on the economy’s bruising effect on the lower class. “With the good jobs gone/it’s gonna be raw,” guitarist/vocalist Carrie Brownstein wails. Sleater-Kinney’s explosive dynamics, forged by Brownstein and guitarist/vocalist Corin Tucker, are in turn fueled by Janet Weiss’s drum work, which sho-\nves the energy forward. The chorus of “Hey Darling” honors Lita Ford’s glam-metal love song “Kiss Me Deadly,” with vocals seething with sexuality. “Bury Our Friends” is sonically muscular as it laments a life of dread in a “gilded age.” “We’re wild and weary, but we won’t give in,” they sing, as they flaunt the scars to prove it.

With No Cities, the members of Sleater-Kinney find themselves on the edge as they craft molten rock riffs, brick by brick, molding punk anthems packed with rage and deep-set frustration. Then they tear it all down. As the nihilistic “Fade” closes the album, all that’s left standing is the band’s grit, and the dust left by a few withering notes.

Mariachi wish
By Mark Carpovich

One year removed from its month-long 25th birthday party, the Casbah celebrated the big two-six by invit-ing mariachi-punk band Mariachi El Bronx and a sold-out crowd. But the club wasn’t the only one who’d be making a wish before the night was over.

About half-way through its set, singer Matt Caughthran told fans that his group had recently received a letter from England that included “some

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La Jolla United Methodist Church:
Sunday, 4pm — Tim Foley and his Irish Band

Legends Records:
Saturday, 4:30pm — The Groms

Wearing older isn’t always fun, but if it means getting to have Mariachi El Bronx play your birthday, turning 26 isn’t the worst thing in the world.

Concert: Mariachi El Bronx
Date: January 19
Venue: Casbah
Seats: stage-front

Up to $100 for your concert review, $25 for your CD review. Submit at SDSReadercomicritic

Make-a-Wish
Mariachi El Bronx fulfills a fan’s lifelong desire to play with the band.

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SAN DIEGO READER
March 19, 2015

Main Taps Tavern:
Saturday, 8pm — Without Papers
Marina Kitchen:
Friday, 9pm — Matt Heinecke
Saturday, 9pm — Matt Heinecke
Martinis Above Fourth:
Thursday, 8pm — Donny Most
Sings and Swings
Monday, 8pm — Brad Bradley: B Squared

Merrow:
Thursday, 8pm — Abe West and High Rolling Loners
Friday, 8pm — Castoff, Terminally Ill, Strike Twelve
Saturday, 8pm — Misc Aliments, Forebear, Project Analogue
Sunday, 8pm — Son of Radul
Monday, 8pm — Sleeve, Portrait on Fire, Rogue Stereo
Tuesday, 8pm — Desert Suns and Great Electric Quest
Wednesday, 8pm — Club America and Nebula Drag

Molly Malone’s:
Friday, 9pm — Mark Conners
Saturday, 9pm — Outlaw Cowboys

Moonshine Flats:
Saturday, 8pm — Sunday Night Jazz Jam: Tony Ortega
Monday, 9pm — Open Mic
Thursday, 8pm — Karaoke

Lemon Grove Trolley Station Promenade:
Saturday, 9:30am — St. John of the Cross Crusader & Junior Choirs
Friday, 7:30pm — The Ransom Notes and the Moves
Saturday, 7:30pm — Jessica Bell, Trace Jory, Joseph Carroll
Sunday, 8pm — TheShip
Monday, 7pm — Open Mic Night
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Jonah Leming, King Daniel, Caroline Corn

San Diego Reader March 19, 2015
San Diego Saturday Friday Thursday Patricks Gaslamp Pub: 
Tuesdays, 8pm — Karaoke Sunday, 8pm — Wildside

Pal Joey’s:  
Saturday, 9pm — DJ Mike

Osetra Watergrill:  
Monday, Immortal Technique, Niko Is

Restaurant:  
Sunday, 6pm — Ben Powell
Saturday, 7:30pm — The John

Nate’s Garden Grill:  
Wednesday, 8pm — Westside
Inflection

Rook Bar:  
Thursday, 7pm — Karaoke

Rosie O’Grady’s:  
Friday, 9pm — The Professors Saturday, 8pm — Modern Day Moonshine

Salty Frog:  
Thursday, 9pm — Thursday Night Karaoke

San Diego Civic Theatre:  
Thursday, noon — Opera on the Concourse

San Diego Museum of Art:  
Thursday, 7:30pm — Art of Music

San Pasqual Wine Bar and Gallery:  
Saturday, 9pm — Fridays with Frank & Friends

Sea & Smoke:  
Sunday, 11am — Blu Grue Wednesday, 6pm — Lee Coulter

Searsucker Gaslamp:  
Sunday, 8pm — Quantic and DJ Huang

Searsucker Del Mar:  
Sunday, 8pm — Paddy’s Chicken

Sycuan Casino Showcase:  
Wednesday, 9pm — ’90s Hip-Hop

Taco and Guac:  
Thursday, 7pm — Johnny Deadly, Akiko

Turquoise Café-Bar Europa:  
Saturday, 9pm — Vera Cruz Blues

U-31:  
Thursday, 7pm — DMX

Union Kitchen & Tap:  
Saturday, 9pm — Aquile

Uptown Tavern:  
Friday, 9pm — The Hideout

Whistle Stop Bar:  
Tuesday, 9pm — The Hideout

Winston’s Beach Club:  
Saturday, 9pm — The Hideout

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THE HIDEOUT

WEDNESDAY, 3/18, 9PM 
PARTY GARDENS
THURSDAY, 3/19, 9PM 
PERPETUAL MOTION
FRIDAY, 3/20, 9PM 
TRUE STORY (DEEP HOUSE & TECHNO)
SATURDAY, 3/21, 9PM 
TRIBE OF KINGS
SUNDAY, 3/22, 9PM 
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HIDEOUT BEER CLUB FRIDAYS, 6PM • KARAOKE SATURDAYS, 8PM

Thursday, 7pm — Leonard Patton Friday, 7pm — The John

Feb. 7-15
7pm—8pm
Thursday, 7pm — Romance Quartet Saturday, 6pm — Ron Eschete Trio

San Diego Observatory North Park:  
Thursday, 7:30pm — Trampoled By Turtles

The Hideout Live:  
Saturday, 9pm — Christopher Bianco

Typhoon Saloon:  
Thursday, 8pm — Jimmy Weeks Project

U-31:  
Thursday, 8pm — DJ Bacon Bits Friday, 8pm — Lee Churchill Saturday, 9pm — DJ Qnooe

V Lounge:  
Friday, 9pm, Saturday, 9pm — Caliber

Whistle Stop Bar:  
Tuesday, 9pm — The Hideout

Zia’s Bistro:  
Saturday, 7pm — Saturdays with Rick Ross

Hatbox:  
Wednesday, 9pm — The John

Winston’s Beach Club:  
Saturday, 9pm — The John

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Reader On Tap was last week! You know, that event we didn’t shut up about for 6 weeks? Yeah, it was cool. Five local bands played, 11 different breweries showed up, and it seemed like everyone had a great time. If you were there, thanks a bunch! Photos by Chris Brake, Adam Reiter, and CJ Thomas. Ready for our next event? Shhh... It’s Tacotopia!
Time Out Sports Tavern: Daily, 3-7pm: $4 wells, $1 off all draft beer. Appetizer specials.

Yard House: Monday-Wednesday, 3-6pm and 10pm-close: $1 or $2 off beer, cocktails, wine, spirits. $5 select appetizers. Thursday-Saturday, 3-6pm: $1 or $2 off beer, cocktails, wine, spirits. $5 select appetizers.

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

Chili’s: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3.25 mug or Bud Lite draft, $3.50 Svedka martinis, classic vodka and orange, $4.50 House Margaritas. Thursday, 5-7pm: $1 off beer, wine, cocktails. $5 burger, chicken sandwich, hot links $3.75 jalapeño poppers. Discounted margaritas. Discounted nachos, fried cheese.

Main Tap Tavern: Tuesday-6pm: Beer and shot specials. $2.50 fish tacos. Tuesday-6pm: Sliding scale cask beer, $3 at 4pm, $4 at 4pm, $4.50 appetizers. Thursday-Saturday, 3-6pm: Beer and shot specials. $4.50 appetizers. Friday-Saturday, 3-6pm: $4 all day Specials. Beer specials. $4.50 appetizers.

Firenze: Daily, 4-30-6:30pm: $2 off all wines by the glass, $2 off all cocktails. Firenze daily, $1 off all appetizers except fries. No cover.

Mr. Peabody’s Bar & Grill: Daily, 3-6pm: $2.75 well cocktails and domestic draft beer. $7.15 turkey tacos, swordfish tacos, baby back ribs, wings.

In the flavor profile, you get the citrus from the muddled lemon and lime,” he says, “but it’s balanced very well with the elderflower and the tropical notes from the St. Germain.” After trial and error, Berkey discovered that Irish whiskey proves most amiable in the Be Good or Be Gone.

“The lighter whiskies don’t dominate the flavors of the St. Germain,” he says. “It still works with bourbon or rye but it takes a lot of the intended flavor away.”

A sort of “trefled” whiskey sour, the Be Good or Be Gone took its name from the bar’s ancient motto — splashed in fading white paint on a sliding door behind the bar and visible to patrons. The sign, Berkey notes, is a polite way to discourage Mr. Malakery from sidling up to the 38-year-old copper-capped bar for a punch or a shot. “We don’t tolerate a lot of nonsense here,” he says.
HAPPY HOUR 3-19.indd   71

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

MIRA MESA
Callahan’s Pub & Brewery: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.50 select drafts, well drinks, wine. $1 off appetizers. Bar only.

MISSION BEACH
Guava Beach Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 4pm-7pm: Half-off drinks 25% off all appetizers.

MISSION VALLEY
The Aero Club: Daily, 2-7pm: $3 bottle beer, $5 off draft beers, $4 wells, $5 calls.

MISSION HILLS
The Filling Station: Monday-Friday, 4:30-7:30pm: $3 house wine, $3.50 wells, $6 house martini. 30% off appetizers. Bar only.

NATIONAL CITY
Pier 32 Waterfront Grill: Friday, 3pm-sunset: Import & Local brews from $3, Domestic Beer $2, House wine $5. Saturday-Sunday, All day: $5 Mimosas & Bloody Mary’s

NORMAL HEIGHTS
Rosie O’Grady’s: Monday-Tuesday, All day: $3 wells, $3 domestic beers. Wednesday-Friday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $3 wells, $3 domestic beers.

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

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NORMAL HEIGHTS
Rosie O’Grady’s: Monday-Tuesday, All day: $3 wells, $3 domestic beers. Wednesday-Friday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $3 wells, $3 domestic beers.

Thursday, 4-7pm: $3 wells, $3 domestic beers. All day: $4 local drafts.

NORTH PARK
Bar Pink: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: $2 Pabst and Tecate, $3 wells, $3 off drafts and calls.

HOPE 46: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 4-6pm: $4 wells, $4 drafts, $2 off wine. Friday-Saturday, 4-6pm, 10pm-midnight: $4 wells, $4 drafts, $2 off wine.

Sabuku Sushi: Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday, Sunday, 4-6pm, Appetizers from $5 to $8, drink special: $6 all large beers, $8 all wines (by the glass) and cocktails. Wednesday, Saturday, 4-6pm, Appetizers from $5 to $8, drink special: $6 all large beers, $8 all wines (by the glass) and cocktails.

OCEAN BEACH
Gallagher’s Pub & Grill: Daily, $3 beer of the month, $4 wells, craft import weekly pint specials, half-price select pitcher specials. Join the mug club for full-time happy hour.

Mother’s Saloon: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off craft drafts, $2 domestic drafts, $2.75 well drinks. 1/2-off well drinks & selected appetizers.

SAN MARCOS
Dos Desperados Brewery: Thursday, 7-9pm: $1 off all pints during rush!

SERRA MESA
Thai Pepper Cuisine: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: Free Thai iced tea or Thai iced coffee with every purchase over $10.

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

SOLANA BEACH
Pilbox Tavern: Daily, 3-7pm: $1 off all cocktails, drafts.

UCSD
Porter’s Pub at UCSD: Monday-Friday, 4pm-7pm $5 Menus, $5 off all beers on tap.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
The Lancers Cocktails: Daily, 10am-2am: $3 well drinks and domestic beers.

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

VISTA
Chili Coast Burgers: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm, 5-8-7:30 off draft beer.
Anna in the Tropics
Moonlight Stage Productions concludes its winter season with Nilo Cruz’s Pulitzer Prize-winning drama about the family of Cuban immigrant cigar makers in Tampa, Florida, in the 1920s. Their lives are upended when a handsome lector beings Tóloky’s Anna Karenina into the family business. Carlos Mendona directs.

The Baby With The Bathwater
Is a horror show, only the monster isn’t a rampant reptile or epic cataclysm threatening all humanity. It’s John and Helen, parents, who couldn’t be more menacing if they sucked on crack pipes and wielded chainsaws. Christopher Durang’s savage comedy continues one of his pet themes: inferior superiors. Yet somehow, John and Helen’s child negotiates a host of psychological whackos. The choice honors the script’s manic-depressive demands and showcases his talented cast — in particular, amazing performances by Amanda Sinton as Helen (who’s a scream, in both senses of the word) and Shana Wride as Mary Poppins’ free-spirited twin, and a self-appointed school psychiatrist who’s a case study in lunacy. Critic’s Pick. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-290-0097. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 29.

Chapter Two
North Coast Repertory Theatre presents Neil Simon’s semi-autobiographical comedy about recently widowed George and a crosstown neighbor, the recently divorced Jennie. “Neither of these buried souls is eager to reconnect with the opposite sex.” But then again. David Ellenstein directs. Due to popular demand, the North Coast Rep has extended the show’s run. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 9670 LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAY, THURSDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 29.

The Curious Savage
Village Community Church Theatre presents John Patrick’s “thought-provoking comedy.” Ethel Savage, a recent widow, has been left with a substantial fortune. Her “loved ones,” and some gold-digging others, conspire to have her committed to a sanitarium. VILLAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 6225 PASO DELICIAS, RANCHO SANTA FE. 858-756-2441. 7:30PM FRIDAY, 4PM & 7:30PM SUNDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

The Evolution of Circle
For its final La Jolla Playhouse Resident Theatre production, Circle Circle dot dot presents a “musical history cabaret fundraiser, a look back at the company’s four years of producing 14 original community-inspired productions,” including “a brief history of how our little company got started and why we’re sticking around.”

SCHOOL PLAYS

BIG FISH: THE MUSICAL
APR. 24-27, MAY 1, 7PM; MAY 5, 2PM; MAY 22, 2PM
MISSION HILLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL
MAY 9, 2PM & 7PM, MAY 10, 2PM, MAY 16, 2PM, MAY 17, 2PM
MAXINE THEATER

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS
MAY 10, 7PM; MAY 11, 7PM, MAY 18, 2PM, MAY 19, 7PM
PACIFIC BEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL

THE MUSIC MAN JR.
MAR. 20, 7PM, MAR. 21, 2PM, MAR. 22, 7PM
SAN MARCOS COMMUNITY CENTER

SLEEPING BEAUTY
APR. 30, 7:30PM, MAY 1, 7:30PM, MAY 2, 2PM, MAY 3, 2PM, MAY 30, 7PM
SAN MARCOS COMMUNITY CENTER

YOU’RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN
MAY 15, MAY 16, MAY 16, 2PM, MAY 17, 2PM, MAY 22, 7PM, MAY 23, 2PM, MAY 23, 7PM, MAY 31, 2PM
EL CAMINO HIGH SCHOOL

MAMMA MIA!
“TIGHT, FIERCE, GRIPPING...” —CHICAGO TRIBUNE
CONTAINS ADULT THEMES, VIOLENCE, LANGUAGE & NUDITY

by LUIS ALFARO • directed by SAM WOODHOUSE
MUST CLOSE MARCH 29 • LYCEUM STAGE

San Diego Repertory Theatre 619.544.1000 | SDREP.ORG


**AUDITIONS**

**A Year with Frog and Toad**
CORRIDOIO PLAYHOUSE
1835 Strand Way, Coronado
Pickwick Players and Coronado Playhouse announce auditions. Callbacks Wednesday, April 15, 6:30pm-9:30pm. Production dates June 18-July 12, Thursday-Saturday at 7pm, Sundays at 2pm. Rehearsals begin late April. Non-Equity production. RSVP: tomtomtonyfitz@aol.com with your name and telephone number and picture/resume and “ROD” is subject line or 619-855-3638. Prepare a one minute song that best shows your vocal range. Traditional musical comedy preferred. Bring sheet music in correct key or CD/tape. An accompanist will be provided. No a cappella.
Auditions: APR. 12 & 13 6:30PM

**Becky Shaw**
RTX PLAYHOUSE THEATRE
116 S. Kalmia Street
Calaviras Thursday, March 26. Performances 6pm & 8pm Sunday at 2pm. NadyaLida and Susanna fix-up Max and Becky, creating crisis, chaos, and comedy.
Auditions: MAR. 23 & 24 7PM

**Breaking Waves Festival**
ACADMY OF PERFORMING ARTS SAN DIEGO
5120 C Baltimore Dr., La Mesa
Actors Alliance of San Diego and San Diego Playwrights are teaming up to present the Breaking Waves Festival at the San Diego International Fringe Festival. We are looking for actors with a creative imagination, improvisation skills, and the drive to be a part of the creative process. The Breaking Waves Festival is a collaborative creation process in which playwrights, actors, and directors improvise and double the premise of a play until a 20 minute play comes to completion.
Auditions: MAR. 29 6:30PM

**Carol Burnett Comedy Buffet**
LAKE PARK THEATRE AT LAKE SAN MARCOS
1105 La Bonita Dr., San Marcos
The Lake San Marcos Players announce open auditions for The Carol Burnett Comedy Buffet show at the Lake San Marcos Recreation Facilities Conference Center. Available roles for six to eight male and female actors ages 18 and up. Readings will be from the script or material provided by director Marjorie Wood. Please provide a headshot that the theater can keep. It does not have to be done by a professional. Performances May 15, 16, and 17. Rehearsals: April 18, 22, 27, 28, May 4, 6, 11, 13, Info: sammarcosplaye rs@gmail.com.
Auditions: APR. 13 11PM

**Into the Woods**
CENTER STAGE PRODUCTIONS, 335 E. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., ESCONDIDO
The 413 Project presents Into the Woods the Musical. Auditions by appointment only. Non-Equity volunteer casting. Email a headshot (or recent photo) and resume: 413project@gmail.com. Prepare a one-minute song with pre-resistant accompaniment (MP3/CD/Phone/Pod). Songs from Sondheim musicals are highly recommended to show technique. No background vocals or a cappella. Callbacks March 25, 6:30pm-9:30pm. Runs two weekends in June at the California Center for the Arts Studio 1 Theatre. Rehearsals 2:3 days a week April-May.
Auditions: MAR. 23 & 24 6PM

**Love, Loss, and What I Wore**
Playhouse Productions stages Nora and Delia Ephron’s “dramedy” that uses clothing and accessories and the memories they trigger to tell stories “mostly comic but often sad or sentimental that all women can relate to.” John Anderson directs - L’ECUDEUM THEATRE, 70 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 419-544-1000. 2PM & THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 6PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 22.

**The King and I**
Legoland California Resort is casting 25 performers for a new show, “LEGO Friends to the Rescue” at Legoland California Resort. Actors ages 16–22; 5’2”-5’7”, slim females. Must audition if you are 17-years-old or older. "The piece asks the question: “Is your homeboy doomed to suffer el mal露?" is the question that the show asks. Acting experience of navigating modern-day relationships.” Claudia Raygoza directs.
ION THEATRE COMPANY BLUESTAGE THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVE., HILLCREST. 619-600-5200. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 4PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH APRIL.

**The King and I**
Welk Resorts Theatre stages the popular Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, based on the novel Anna and the King of Siam, by Margaret Landon. Songs include: “I Whistle a Happy Tune,” “Getting to Know You,” “Something Wonderful,” and “Shall We Dance?” Joshua Carr directs.
WELK RESORT THEATRE, 880 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 1PM & 7PM THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS, 1PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH APRIL 5.

**The Lake San Marcos Players**
Auditions: MAR. 23 3PM, MAR. 24 10AM

**Moonlight Stage**
MOONLIGHT THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVE., HILLCREST. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 6PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 29.

**Our Lady of the Tortilla**
OnStage Playhouse presents the San Diego premiere of Luis Sanz’s “modern melodrama set in a 1920s speakeasy. Will the audience find out the truth about Mr. Demon’s double life? Will the hero win the heart of Little Lu?” Cheering and booing are encouraged.
NORTH PARK VAUDEVILLE & CANDY SHOPPE, 2031 EL CAJON BL., NORTH PARK VAUDEVILLE & CANDY SHOPPE, 2031 EL CAJON BL., NORTH PARK. 619-220-8663. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 29.

**Our Lady of the Tortilla**
ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVE., HILLCREST. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 6PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 22.

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**Our Lady of the Tortilla**
ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVE., HILLCREST. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 6PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 22.
Without Walls: The Grift at the Lafayette Hotel  
For its latest “immersive theater experience,” the La Jolla Playhouse presents the world premiere of Tom Saloman’s “participatory journey” through the rooms and spaces of North Park’s historic Lafayette Hotel. Ben has lived his entire life there. His last wish is “to elicit the audience’s help to execute one final, giant prank.”  
LAFAYETTE HOTEL, SWIM CLUB & BUNGALOWS, 2223 EL CAJON BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 1619-266-2101. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM & 8:30PM FRIDAYS, 3PM, 6PM, & 8:30PM SATURDAYS, 8:30PM, THROUGH FEBRUARY 22.

You Can’t Take It With You  
Some films should be staged every ten years or so, to keep their message alive. Thornton Wilder’s Our Town has that restorative quality. Same with George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart’s You Can’t Take It With You. Both plays step out of time, as we live it, and take time to reflect. The Vanderbilde family is a 10-ring circus. Everyone chases their whims, and no one notices until Alice Sycamore falls for the son, and his stuffy parents come for a visit. But after the initial shock, sanity breaks loose again. Led by Jim Chovick’s superb Grandpa and a top notch ensemble, Lamb’s Players does full justice to this Depression-era classic. Nothing matches on Mike Buckley’s set, yet everything fits, in detail. Same for Jenima Dutra’s Kansas/Oz costumes (the wealthy Kirby’s in B&W, the Vanderbides in Technicolor), and Nathan Persson’s expert lighting. Credit to director Kerry Meads for finding the right chemistry. A great evening of comedy and social satiric.”

The Balcony  
This year marks off the 60th anniversary of the classic espionage thriller. The story takes place in the hotel room of a married couple (Ben and Alice) who are, respectively, embroiled in a variety of clandestine relations. The Balcony features a cast of 12 with a range of roles to explore. This production is presented by the San Diego Repertory Theatre and is open to the public for purchase. For more information, please visit their website or call 619-234-5623.

San Diego Musical Theatre: Singin’ in the Rain  
Stage adaptation of one of the most beloved films of all time. Each unforgettable scene, song, and dance is accounted for, including the show-stopping title number, complete with an onstage rainstorm! 1920s Hollywood is the setting for this zany, light-hearted romantic comedy about the early days of sound film, when many a movie studio found itself scrambling to salvage the career of its chipmunk-voiced silent picture star. Scenework by Betty Comden & Adolph Green, songs by Nacio Herb Brown and Arthur Freed. For more information and tickets call San Diego Musical Theatre’s Administrative Office at 858-560-5749. Sprechers Theatre, 121 BROADWAY, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-235-9900. APRIL 11 THROUGH MAY 3.

Planned Parenthood Genocide  
By: Bishop George McKinney  
Bishop George McKinney slanders and defames when he says, “Planned Parenthood targets the black community as a kind of genocide that is not talked about but it is happening.” He owes Planned Parenthood a public apology. It is the black community that “targets” and demands the services of Planned Parenthood, not the other way around.  
If Planned Parenthood does have some racist, underground black genocide project going on, it needs new management. The black population in the U.S. is growing about 30 percent faster than the white population, and has been doing so for some time.

Stuart Hurbert  
Del Mar

Initial Confusion  
I’m calling in regards to the Sheep and Goats article about St. Stephen’s Cathedral Church of God in Christ (March 5). It says that Bishop McKinney was born in Jonesboro, AK, which would be Jonesboro, Alaska. But I believe he was born in Jonesboro, AR — Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Robert San Carlos

Drained, Drenched, and Paved over  
Re: Regarding the Chargers and the Sheep and Goats article (Waterfront, March 12) I shook my head, took a deep breath, and thought, once again, how people can be disgusting and egocentric. What I see is a pretty amazing, incredibly adaptive, beautiful wild animal — in this case a shark — bent at a weird angle with a rope around its tail and death seeming imminent because the woman in the photo thinks it’s fun. Her quote would be laughable unless you realize she believes it. Sometimes I feel like asking, “Don’t you have the capacity to find something else to do?” Pathetic if you think about it.

Ryan Hecomb  
Carlsbad

To Respond  
This is in response to “To Prevent” in the Letters section of the March 12 Reader. “Preventative” is a word, according to the American Heritage College Dictionary. Let that be a learning experience!

Name Withheld  
via voicemail

Planned Parenthood Genocide  
Re: Sheep and Goats, March 5  
Bishop George McKinney slanders and defames when he says, “Planned Parenthood targets the black community as a kind of genocide that is not talked about but it is happening.” He owes Planned Parenthood a public apology. It is the black community that “targets” and demands the services of Planned Parenthood, not the other way around.  
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Stuart Hurbert  
Del Mar
From Sinatra (Frank and Nancy) to Seville (David and his Chipmunks), the artists included in *The Wrecking Crew* backed them all. We close on a disclaimer that jokingly reads, “No musicians were harmed during the making of this film.” While it’s true that no member of this elite corps of unsung studio pros known as the Wrecking Crew ever went broke performing backup on thousands of recognizable pop tunes from the ’60s and ’70s, there’s much to be said for an artist helping to deliver a million-seller and failing to receive so much as a cursory mention in the liner notes.

Nearly two decades have passed since Denny Tedesco reunited four members of the Crew to commit their memories to Memorex. Seated around the table were Denny’s father Tommy Tedesco, King of the L.A. session guitarists, with drummer and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Hal Blaine (a force who helped pilot 40 songs to the top of the chart), guitarist Carol Kaye (she provided the pounding bass line that opens Sonny and Cher’s “The Beat Goes On”), and saxophonist Plas Johnson, whose satiny opening purr to “The Pink Panther Theme” has become one of the most widely recognized riffs in movie history.

Though completed and ready for release in 2008, for years, this staggering lesson in uncharted music history was destined to be the best documentary about the music industry that no one had ever seen. What began as a loving tribute to a father from his son wound up a historical document. A favorite on the film festival circuit (and locally at the Cinema Society of San Diego), thanks to Magnolia Pictures, the film is finally set to reach a wider audience.

“Nearly two decades have passed since Denny Tedesco reunited four members of the Crew to commit their memories to Memorex. Seated around the table were Denny’s father Tommy Tedesco, King of the L.A. session guitarists, with drummer and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Hal Blaine (a force who helped pilot 40 songs to the top of the chart), guitarist Carol Kaye (she provided the pounding bass line that opens Sonny and Cher’s “The Beat Goes On”), and saxophonist Plas Johnson, whose satiny opening purr to “The Pink Panther Theme” has become one of the most widely recognized riffs in movie history.”

Scott Marks

**INTERVIEW WITH THE WRECKING CREW DIRECTOR DENNY TEDESCO**

Denny was fresh out of the dentist’s chair when I caught up with him. All the Novocaine in the world couldn’t dull his enthusiasm.

Scott Marks: My intention was to scan through the film and see if anything new had been added and, no surprise, I wound up watching the entire movie. I was surprised to see that the earliest interview dates back to 1996. You’ve been working on this for almost two decades.

Denny Tedesco: I know. It’s weird to hear it put that way. Someone else described it as a generation.

SM: It had been a few years since I’d watched the film at the Cinema Society of San Diego, and as I said, I was curious to see if any new footage had been added. And, of course, there was.

DT: Last year, we added Leon Russell and the Brian Wilson interview about “Good Vibrations.”

SM: The film closes with the joke disclaimer, “No musicians were harmed during the making of this film.” While it’s true that no member of the Wrecking Crew ever went broke performing backup — Carol Kaye says at one point in the ’60s she was making more than the President — weren’t there still bad feelings from artists over not being recognized for their contributions?

DT: By who? They never felt that way.

SM: Here’s the quote from Plas Johnson: “Worse than not getting...”
the money is to have played on a hit record that sold a million copies and not even have your name on it. And they do dig some white kids out of high school, put them on the road, and call them a name.”

DT: Everybody has different opinions. I think Plas was more upset because it was that one album. I don’t think that overall he was upset, and I don’t think the rest of the guys ever felt that way. They were recognized among their peers and among the artists. When someone asked if they felt like they should have been stars, absolutely! They were stars. Those guys made a huge living, but I don’t think there was any bitterness.

SM: The Crew not only posed a threat to established musicians, they must have been next to impossible for certain bands to jive live.

DT: No, because what happened was, they would always have time to rehearse. Guys like (the Monkees’) Mickey Dolenz had weeks to rehearse. Even (Reach Boy) Al Jardine said that. Don’t forget, my dad and the guys would go in, have a piece of paper thrown at them, and be expected to knock it out in three hours. They got three or four songs done. At the end of the day, my dad’s probably played on 12 different songs. Whatever band they recorded that day, those guys only had to do ten songs for a concert. They had a chance to learn it. They don’t have that red light syndrome going where they’ve got to nail it every time.

SM: But Gary Lewis talked about your dad’s hypnotic riff in “Sure Gonna Miss Her…”

DT: Well, yeah. Tommy Tulipper-horn who was the guitar player in the band (Gary Lewis & the Playboys) said, “I’m on The Mike Douglas Show and we’re doing a playback — we’re not even playing live. All of a sudden I hear your dad’s acoustic thing and I didn’t know what to do.” He couldn’t even begin to fake it. In concerts, there is a lot of leeway.

SM: The name, The Wrecking Crew, was so inside that some members of the group didn’t know about it until years later. Who came up with the name?

DT: Hal Blaine came up with it after the fact when he put out his book, The Wrecking Crew. The older guys feared they were going to wreck the business. Go back to 1960. The established session players didn’t want to do those rock dates for a couple of reasons. One, they’re demos. Demos were illegal. The established guys didn’t want to do it because they didn’t want to get busted by the union. Guys like my dad and Hal were breaking in. They’re gonna do those cash dates. That’s why the older guys thought they were going to wreck the business doing that rock ‘n roll stuff. That was Hal’s explanation. It wasn’t like anyone said, “Get me the Wrecking Crew!”

SM: Was Glenn Campbell the only member of the Crew to find success as a solo act?

DT: Don’t forget Leon. SM: Leon Russell. Of course. He wasn’t in the initial cut.

DT: He finally came around and did the interview, and I am so grateful.

SM: It seems that just about every major musician was eager to help you pay tribute to the Crew. Was there anyone whose participation you courted that turned down your approach?

DT: None! I have so many interviews I couldn’t even put in. Bill Medley, Petula Clark, Jackie DeShannon, Richard Carpenter, Barry McGuire…

SM: So how many discs can we expect in the DVD release?

DT: I’m hoping for two discs of outtakes. I’ve never stopped inter-viewing people. I just did one last month with Marilyn McCoo of the Fifth Dimension.

SM: Maybe because it’s been with me for a few years, this is one of those films that I took a personal interest in. Every year brings at least one or two fine rock documentaries — 20 Feet From Stardom did for Darlene Love what The Wrecking Crew does for your dad and his cronies. After every one I was reminded of your movie and wondered if it would ever get a theatrical release. How do you feel, after 20 years, now that the world is finally ready to see your baby?

DT: We’ve been pushing this for so long. After a screening, I said, “If there are any distributors in the crowd, always look at a film with an audience.” I was turned down for so many years. It’s not a niche film. I’ve watched this film hundreds of times around the country and I watch the audience. They’re reacting. They love that music. They love those guys.

SM: One aspect of your dad’s career that’s barely touched upon are his contributions to film soundtracks. The titles fly by rather quickly, but one of the earliest was Cat Ballou in 1965. Tell me a little about Tommy’s involvement with the movies.

DT: I think his first movie was a decade or so earlier, Around the World in 80 Days. My dad’s career went much longer than most because he could read music. Even the guys who played alongside him didn’t know how he did it. When he was studying, breaking in, really trying to learn in the ’50s, he was flipping the music upside-down. He didn’t memorize parts, so it was always fresh to him. He’d do this for eight to ten hours a day. When someone asked what he wanted to be remembered for…any of the guys alongside him could have put the rock ‘n’ roll stuff. In was in the ’80s, when guys like John Williams or Jamie Horner asked Dad to please keep the first two weeks open in September for a score that would be all guitar-driven…that’s when you know you’ve made it.

SM: Your dad broke in working on a film whose music was composed by Victor Young. It doesn’t get much better than that.

DT: Remember the scene in the film where Dad says, “You blew it,” after the composer was yelling for the guitar? I think that was Bernard Herrmann.

SM: Your dad described approaching a portion of his work as if he was “a 13-year-old learning how to play music.”

DT: With certain songs, you can’t be too sophisticated. You have to dumb it down if you have to. Whatever the [client] wants. Dad used to say that he played for smiles. If the guy was smiling, he was doing his job right. There were times where what he thought didn’t matter. [Producer] Snuff Garrett said, “I didn’t make it for [Tommy]. I made it for people to buy.”

SM: Who or what in your estimation is to blame for taking a wrecking ball to the Wrecking Crew? Was it the singer/songwriter teams that killed the session musicians?

DT: It’s just time. It was a natural progression. They no longer needed these guys. Now we have multiple tracks. We no longer need all of the musicians in one room. It’s a different era. My dad continued to work, but he went into movies and TV. He was lucky. Some of the guys weren’t so lucky.

SM: Originally, it was scheduled to open in five theatres. What’s it up to now?

DT: 75 theatres!

SM: So it’s nice to be able to connect faces with songs. Plas Johnson’s opening to “The Pink Panther Theme” is as recognizable as “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Did you ever accompany your dad to one of his sessions?

DT: We all went because the family was leaving town and Dad had one
MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lewis, and Daniel Pfeiffer. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDRreader.com/movies.

American Sniper — Director Clint Eastwood continues his quiet critique of the American institution as told by third- generation counter-men and fourth-generation counter-men. The latter group was eventually replaced by a confederacy of Jews and Germans, who seem not to notice much beyond the Holocaust. That focus skews the story of that, told with gorgeous, tweedy evoking her right to live. The divorced stepmother — but the film feels neither endures and the joys of ball-going isn’t the setup: older generations of British spycraft. Of course, there’s room to rescue his lady from the bad guys. And for plenty of hiding and heartbreak and heroism along the way, especially since his straight colleagues are either cads, sops, tepidly sympathetic, sympathetic. Consider the code cracked, translated, and laid out for all to see: different is special and good, and ordinary morality is a sham, anyway. But as the film buries the man beneath the message, you might wonder: did we really need to be told in such blunt, artless fashion? (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Chappie — Neill Blomkamp goes to the back of the small, scale-scifi of District 9, but keeps the super-sized ambition of Elysium in this story of a hunt of police droids who become the world’s first sentient robot, thanks to nerd God Dev Patel. The result is frequently messy to the point of being ridiculous, as if Blomkamp can’t be asked to fire yet mechanics and tone on the way to taking on the Big Issues of family, religion, mortality, mortality, and naturally, the essence of humanity. (He cer- tainly didn’t spend too much time getting his cast to act.) But dang if he doesn’t leave it all up there on the screen as Chappie goes through his super-accelerated sentient sendup of a film. It may be clever, hyperbolic and indulgent to actually call good, but that still leaves room for words like heartfelt, trippy, profound, and even admirable. Hugh Jackman, Sigourney Weaver, and a fellow named Ninja. 2015. — M.L. ★★ (IN ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY)

Leviathan — A man’s home is his castle, even in rusting rural Russia — at least until the precocious mayor starts sniffing money in the mayor’s office. (At least, he makes Leonardo DiCaprio mimeo Jamie Dornan) drag into the wrong part of town after dark, and the result sparkles with something like the Old Disney Magic. (In places, it also sparkles with sparkles.) There are references to the passage of time and change of sensibilities — notably, Cate Blanchett’s magnificent turn as the wicked but-also-wardened soul on the wrong side of law, and dated nor updated. Rather, it treats, with a light and careful step, the difficult middle place of timeless. Lily James’ approachable beauty in the title role, and Derek Jacob is his usual excellent self as a dyking, loving, worried King. 2015. — M.L. ★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Divergent — A young woman trains as a warrior in the first installment of a series set in a dystopian future, eventually finding herself in conflict with the sinister President Bat. Divergent fairly begins to be measured against the Hunger Games series, right down to the sibilant simile of the heroines’ names (Kattina, Beatrice). Who are we to refuse? In the solicitous, untainted star department, Shailene Woodley holds her own; Beatrice is girlier and gentler than Jennifer Lawrence’s Katniss, but the story affords her more time to develop. And since the bulk of the action covers her training to join Dauntless, her heroic and warrior caste, the film is an inseparable whole story: one from societal critique and toward teen ensemble drama, which is probably for the best, because the societal critique (control and conformity are not always good things) is both creaky and confused. (Apparently, the greatest danger to society is someone who is kind, brave, intelligent, honest, and selfless.) Good-looking but overwhelming, and full of facile, self-righteous banter that somehow fail to sustain momentum. 2014. — M.L. ★ (ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY AT HAZARD CENTER)

Fifty Shades of Grey — A pair of mismatched, strikingly bland Hollywood personalities ( Dakota Johnson, Jamie Dornan) see an erotic Seacrest mimes Jamie Dornan) drag audiences kicking and screaming through a crash course on alternative lifestyles. The title refers to the color your hair will turn while struggling to get through this endlessly, thinly-spread dollop of homogenized saltpaper. Everything you’ve feared is true here: a solicited eagerness and some (trite Byzantine for so simple a narrative) frame.) But director Kenneth Branagh ( Thor, Hamlet) manages to tell an old-fashioned story with sincerity and style, and the result sparkles with something like the old Disney Magic. (In places, it also sparkles with sparkles.) There are references to the passage of time and change of sensibilities — notably, Cate Blanchett’s magnificent turn as the wicked but-also-wardened soul on the wrong side of law, and dated nor updated. Rather, it treats, with a light and careful step, the difficult middle place of timeless. Lily James’ approachable beauty in the title role, and Derek Jacob is his usual excellent self as a dyking, loving, worried King. 2015. — M.L. ★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

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*What We Do in the Shadows* — What would happen if you stripped vampirism of all its moral horror and existential drama and just made it a thing, a way you happened to go from day to day? And then what if you allowed a documentary crew to come in and film your quotidian, blood-sucking, eternal existence? Best case scenario, what would happen is this: a splendidly low-key, straight-faced, and even heartfelt comedy about four undead flatmates navigating Wellington, New Zealand nightlife. They’re all vamps, but seeing how they hail from different walks of life — the lacy dandy, the swarthy peasant, the Slavic tyrant, and the ancient evil — there are difficulties. And then there’s the new guy and his pre-deceased best friend. Plus werewolves. Pleasingly thorough and inventive story-telling — until a well worn subject, and quietly smart about dealing with the way things can change over a few hundred years. And unlike its protagonists, it doesn’t go on forever. 2015. — M.L. ★★★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

*Merchants of Doubt* — Apparently, you can make statistics prove anything you like. And also science. Or at least, it’s possible to get a scientist to say pretty much anything you need him to say. Some scientists, anyway. Because “money talks” isn’t exactly rocket science. Or at least, that’s what this documentary seems to be claiming. 2014. (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

*The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* — More tales of love and impending death among English retirees in India. This time around, the story is driven by the young proprietor Sonny (Dev Patel), who is simultaneously preparing to marry his fiancée and expand his hospitality empire. His ambition for the latter tends to overshadow his devotion to the former, with predictable results. Meanwhile, his aging clientele wrestles with issues of commitment, complicated pasts, failing health, and fickle hearts. There are perhaps a couple more storylines than two hours can successfully tie up, and more than one scene feels like it’s there just to give these old lions a chance to sport about a bit. But there’s a sweetness to the proceedings that never quite overpowers the melancholy of maturity, and a sympathy for human frailty that stops just short of suggesting that anything goes once the backgrounds, and a generous dollop of excess of cute in the character depictions, there’s a joyous abundance of wonder in the backgrounds, and a generous dollop of honest human sadness to boot. (This is Ireland, after all.) Though time is of the essence in the story — a boy must shepherd his sister back to her proper home before she perishes — there is an unhurried, yarnspinning quality to the storytelling that lets things sink in and shine through. Put simply, a tale worth telling set in a world worth looking at. 2015. — M.L. ★★★ (READING GASLAMP)

*The Secret of Kells* — Simply a tale worth telling set in a world of wondrous animation and story-telling. The Animation Musé had to go somewhere, and since Pixar seems content to dig up Woody & Co. for Toy Story 4, why not stop by the Cartoon Saloon? Director Tomm Moore follows The Secret of Kells with a visually sumptuous take on the Irish notion of a selkie — sometimes human, sometimes sea, and often susceptible to emotional entanglement. If there’s a slight excess of cute in the character depictions, there’s a joyous abundance of wonder in the backgrounds, and a generous dollop of honest human sadness to boot. (This is Ireland, after all.) Though time is of the essence in the story — a boy must shepherd his sister back to her proper home before she perishes — there is an unhurried, yarnspinning quality to the storytelling that lets things sink in and shine through. Put simply, a tale worth telling set in a world worth looking at. 2015. — M.L. ★★★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

**Wild Tales** — Six short stories, some centered on urban terrorism and/or revenge, most morbidity amusing, and all toppling of irony. It’s rare to find an omnibus film in which all of the pieces coalesce to form a unified whole, and even more uncommon when each segment is strong enough to pass as a stand alone. Most filmmakers can’t tell one story, let alone juggle six, inevitably favoring viewers to favor one sequence over another. For me it peaked with a pre-credit blast of aspirated Buechnerian absurdity: a group of unwitting airline passengers discovering that their worst enemy is piloting the plane. Writer-director Damián Szifron has a nasty habit of putting the camera where it doesn’t belong (behind and inside objects), but if you don’t take it too seriously — unlike Academy voters who nominated it for best foreign film — you’ll have some fun with this glossy Argentinian take-off on Rod Serling’s Night Gallery. 2014. S.M. ★★★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

Across
4. "Property Virgins" cable channel
12. Yaks and yaks
13. Jai
14. Some Summer Olympics gear
16. Goven
17. Itchy dog’s woe
18. Statue of Liberty feature
19. “It’s ___ brainer”
20. With 36- and 52-Across, #98 on AFI’s 100 Greatest Movie Quotes
22. [Omitted due to space constraints]
23. Actress Watts
25. Arctic fishing tool
27. Not just ask
29. “The Flintstones” pet
31. Before, to Byron
34. Kind of tank
36. Electrician, at times
38. Sympathetic words
40. Marzipan ingredient
41. Bamboozle
42. Drops the ball
44. Golf’s Sam and L. C.
46. Valley Girls’ home, perhaps
50. Like Valerie Plame
51. Southern晦
52. See 20-Across
57. Mantel piece
58. Terra ___

Down
1. Zoological groups
2. Flowering
3. Mio ______-tung
4. Sign of virtue
5. Smooth-talking
6. Word before Bell or shell
7. Competed
8. Network that airs the Soul Train Music Awards
9. Barely ahead
10. Words after “Que” in a fantastical sentiment
11. 10,000 square meters
12. Piano bar piano, often
13. Party that might include blindfolded diapering
14. Sophomore's age, maybe
15. Half of a familiar Chinese duo
16. Conductor Kurt
17. Sharer of a prize
18. Baseball “tie killing,” for short
19. Cockpit features
20. Weapon with a warhead, in brief
21. Skier’s transport
22. Skier’s transport
23. Some lose it in their teens
24. Word before Bell or shell
25. Clinton cabinet member
26. On deck
27. “If all ___ fails…”
28. 1990 rap hit
29. "Shoot!"
31. On deck
32. Reference book feature
36. Italian bacon
37. Casual greetings
38. 1990 rap hit
39. Get out of shape?
40. Mythical bird of prey
41. More severe
42. With desperation
43. Song whose subject is encouraged to “hurry down the chimney tonight”!
44. What spies collect
45. “Think nothing ___!”
46. “If all ___ fails…”
47. “Shoot!"
48. Baby’s pet
49. Turncoat, for short
50. [Omitted due to space constraints]
51. Clinton cabinet member
52. Baby’s pet
53. Clinton cabinet member
54. Clinton cabinet member
55. Clinton cabinet member
56. Clinton cabinet member
57. Clinton cabinet member
58. Clinton cabinet member
59. Clinton cabinet member
60. Have a hunch
61. Editor’s retraction
62. Some Deco collectibles
63. “Suicide Blonde” band
64. “Waking to Exhale” actress Rochon
65. ‘Goo goo gaa gaa’ for example
66. Gift for any charity donor
67. 1990 Johnny Depp movie

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10 winners a week!

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 SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.
3) We will draw 10 names from weekly puzzle winners; no clever answers necessary.
4) The puzzle-contest ranking shown online and in the paper will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year.
5) Entries must be faxed to 619-231-0489; or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803; or delivered to our new location, 2323 Broadway in Golden Hill; or scanned and e-mailed to Suduky@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached as PDF, not as a jpg. No faxed or mailed files over 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.
6) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
7) Late entries will not be considered.
8) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
9) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

EASY:

```
5  9  1  3  8
4  3  5  2  7
3  1  2  4  9
7  2  5  1  1
9  6  2  4  7
```

MEDIUM:

```
9  5  3  2  7  4  6  1
2  3  6  4  5  1  9  8
7  1  2  5  9  3  4  6
3  1  2  4  9  6  2  8
4  5  6  1  2  3  3  7
```

HARD:

```
2  8  9  4  7  2  6  1  5
7  1  2  3  6  9  4  5  8
9  6  4  7  1  8  2  3  5
4  3  8  7  5  2  1  9  6
6  3  2  8  9  1  4  7  5
```

EVIL:

```
3  5  2  1  4
5  6  2  3  7  8  1  9
9  4  3  2  7  5  1  4  8
```

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

```
5  9  1  3  8
4  3  5  2  7
3  1  2  4  9
7  2  5  1  1
9  6  2  4  7
```

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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 registered as a site member.

THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:

Weekly: Gregory Chauncey, San Diego, 5.
Daily: Patrick Driscoll, Santee, 3.
EERC: Mike McCabe, El Cajon, 3.
Winter: Butch Hays, La Mesa, 3.

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San Diego Healthcare Center 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Vista Healthcare Center 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Academy award-winning actress and star of The Partridge Family, Shirley Jones will be making an appearance at our communities April 29th. She will be signing autographs and meeting with guests and the public. The Open House events are free and open to guests and the public. LifeHouse will be serving complimentary catered brunch and dinner.

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- **East County**
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- **LA CASA MIRA, $1250.**
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COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS
NOTICE TO READERS: The advertisers in this section include licensed mental health providers, unlicensed counselors and support groups.


LEGAL SERVICES


LEAD STORY
Indonesian’s holy “Sex Mountain” on the island of Java is still performing its incomprehensible function of making Muslims feel prospering and optimistic if they have intercourse with strangers, as reported in November by Australia’s SBS Dateline TV program. A reporter journeyed to Mount Kemukus (near the heavily populated Surakarta) to observe the mass adultery whose origin dates to the 16th Century. Otherwise-devout pilgrims pray, bathe, and pair off with other worshippers (repeating the ritual seven times, 35 days apart) to bring themselves the good life — except that the sex must be with people other than their spouses. Clerics generally denounce the Kemukus experience, but more so since prostitutes (“collecting offerings”) are lately so plentiful at the site.

Can’t Possibly Be True
Comprehensive Pentagon studies of America’s nuclear missile infrastructure released in November (following reports of readiness failures) included the revelation that nuclear warheads had to be attached with a particular wrench, even though the Air Force owned only one with which to service 450 missiles housed at three bases. Consequently, one official told the New York Times, “They started FedExing the one tool” back and forth. No one had checked in years, he said, “to see if new tools were being made” — typical of maintenance problems that had “been around so long that no one reported them anymore.”

London’s Daily Telegraph reported in November that a gardener hired by the House of Commons had spent a day pulling color-changing leaves from trees on the Westminster Palace grounds — because it would be more cost-effective than to rake them up after they fell. The gardener (whose name sounds right out of a James Bond adventure — “Annabel Honeybun”) said she had 61 years to service. (A local environmentalist lamented denying autumn visitors “one of the few pleasures at this time of year.”

Animal Intelligence
A November story from Leigh-on-Sea, England, reported that a Senegal parrot (apparently feeling festive with its owners on holiday) managed to pick two locks on its cage and fly away. The second lock had been installed as insurance after an earlier lock-picking escape. Also, a missing African gray parrot was returned to its Torrance, California, owner in October after a hiatus — in which the parrot had learned to speak Spanish.

Latest Spiritual Messages
Santa Muerte” (Our Lady of the Holy Death) might be described as a cynic’s unauthorized byproduct of Roman Catholicism currently festering in drug-cartel-ridden Mexico and Central America and is, according to Vice Media, “the world’s fastest growing” religion. “Saint Death” first appeared only 12 years ago, in the Mexico City barrio of Tepeito, and is now a first line of protection for worshippers in danger zones. (Almost 80,000 Mexicans have been killed in drug-related violence since 2006, Vice reported.)

Pope Francis ordered an investigation in October of the Italian Riviera diocese of Bishop Mario Oliveri, 70, who is known for giving “second chances” to wayward priests from across the country. Reports had surfaced that, among Mariò’s priests was one who openly published nude selfies on Facebook, another caught publicly flirting with the wife of a port captain, another dismissed from a cruise ship for molesting passengers, and another revealed to have a full-body “tribal” tattoo that he had exhibited while posing with the tattoo artist in the local newspaper. The manager of a church charity in the diocese estimated that about half of the bishop’s 173 priests were delinquents.

Took It Too Far
One of the questions offered in testing by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg (North Carolina) school district for high school biology in November sought students’ understanding of dominant and recessive genes with this puzzle: “LaShananda has a heterozygous big boodie, the dominant trait. Her man Fontavius has a small boodie which is recessive. They get married and have a baby named LaPrincess. What is the probability that LaPrincess will inherit her mama’s big boodie?” (Charlotte TV station WBTV was unable to confirm that the school system created the question, even though the question was apparently distributed with other system materials.)

Mr. Jenya Bolotov, 26, a Russian, became an internet sensation in November on Facebook, YouTube, and several news sites) by releasing photographs showing a seven-year obsession with modifying his face to resemble that of a platypus. He has stretched eight parts of his face to effect a duck-billed look, with holes on the sides of his nostrils and plugs extending his lips.

“I can eat, talk and speak on the phone like everyone else,” he insisted, but is happier now that he can “live differently.”

Least Competent Employee
After consulting with the FBI, military and state law-enforcement and security agencies, the sheriff of Dickson County, Tennessee, concluded that his only option to rescue his departmental records database from malicious malware was to pay a $300 ransom to the creators of the CryptoWall “trojan,” which had attacked and encrypted his files. A total of 72,000 files, including witness statements and other evidence in criminal cases, was temporarily inaccessible after a department computer user clicked on the wrong part of a screen in late October. (PC World reported in August that within the previous six months, CryptoWall’s developers were estimated to have “earned” $1 million in “ransoms.”)

Recurring Themes
In the US’s fourth reported case, a state issued a driver’s license even though the applicant was photographed wearing a colander (as a “religious covering,” the only “hats” legally permitted in such photos). Jessica Steinhauser said the motor vehicles office in Hurricane, Utah, simply shrugged at her affiliation with the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster (created in 2005 to offer the proposition that God’s existence is no better “proven” than the FSM’s).

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com
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