

Reader



**I'm as big
as a Vons.**

I sell meat for
50¢ a pound and
breakfast cereal
for just **\$1 a box.**

What am I?

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– Shaun Phillips, Pro football player

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Read it.

See it.

Say What?

I had these old roommates that used the word “dinty” to describe a good, hearty meal. I don’t know if it comes from Dinty Moore stew, which is not a good, hearty meal, but I liked it and adopted it. I use it mostly for comfort foods or things that stick to your ribs, like meat loaf and mashed potatoes and oatmeal. My friend’s Mom makes a really dinty chicken-and-dumplings dish that fills you up for hours. Thanksgiving and Christmas are usually dintyful food times. Also, you can use it if you are too full to eat. As in, “No way, man, I’m too dinty for seconds!”

—Excerpt from “Dinty,”
published January 16, 2008

Say What



Surf Diego

“It was about three years ago,” says Caroline. “There were Santa Ana winds, and while we were out there, there was this huge swarm of butterflies. I think that the butterflies were blown out from inland. And at the same time there were, say, about 15 dolphins swimming next to our boards. They were all around. With the orange butterflies and the dolphins on a very beautiful day, it was a very nice combination.” Caroline and her husband Jacek are European transplants who found each other in Southern California.

—Excerpt from “Tourmaline” by Ollie,
published January 16, 2008

Surf Diego



Sheep & Goats

“A church for Ken-Tal,” read the glossy cardboard flyer that arrived in my mailbox. The usual photos of lovely, multiethnic churchgoers were accompanied by the less usual word “skeptical.” Ah. Going for the affluent intellectual sophisticates of Kensington and Talmadge. But, hello — services in the Hoover High School auditorium? That’s City Heights. What are these folks up to?

—Excerpt from “Harbor Church Mid-City” by Matthew Lickona,
published January 16, 2008

Harbor Mid City Church



These columns in the Reader feature videos that complement the writing!

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BREAKING NEWS

Keep out of jail cash Padres owner **John Moores**, no stranger to legal scrapes himself, has given \$25,000 to the legal defense fund of state Senate President Pro Tem **Don Perata**, a longtime buddy. State voters approved legal defense funds for incumbent politicians back in 2000; the original purpose was to defray costs resulting from civil, criminal, and administrative actions against officeholders. Unlike regular campaign committees, which are limited to collecting \$3600 from each contributor, legal defense funds can collect cash gifts in any amount, allowing special interests like Moores to write really big checks.

Lately, money collected for the funds has been used for such far afield activities as tee fees, chartered jets, and paying fines levied for campaign violations. So last November, the state Fair Political Practices Commission voted to close the loophole, banning expenditures for mailers, dinners, and political consultants and limiting the use of the funds to legal defense expenses.

Of course, Oakland's Perata needs the cash for its intended purpose. He's under FBI investigation for possible corruption; in November, a federal grand jury heard testimony and subpoenaed Perata's business partners and government agencies regarding Perata's activities. The government is reported to be especially interested in road and other infrastructure bond-issue campaigns that Perata championed, based on suspicions that contributions might have made their way back to his personal accounts. He has denied any wrongdoing.

All of the money collected by Perata's legal defense fund has paid for lawyers and private investigators. In addition to Moores's contribution, Sacramento developer **Angelo Tsakopoulos** and Folsom-based builder **Thomas Winn** each gave \$50,000 to the defense fund. Moores previously gave \$200,000 to the Perata-supported "Rebuilding California" committee. Then a University of California regent, Moores denied accusations that he was trying to get Perata to sidetrack a university-related bill, calling the charge "the mother of all stretches." Moores has since resigned his position.

Clowns of the GOP How much does it cost to harass **Mike Aguirre**? San Diego County's Republican Central Committee forked over \$375 on the 16th of this month to pay for a "Protest clown to oppose Mike Aguirre for City Attorney" from Violet Entertainment of Yorba Linda, California (**Richard Nixon's** hometown), according to recent financial disclosure filings. To cover the expenditure, the party collected a sole \$1000 contribution in the first three weeks of this month from the **William D. Lynch** Company, owned by the ex-airport authority boardmember and close ally of ex-city school chief **Alan Bersin**, who



John Moores

has expressed interest in running against Aguirre. As of January 19, the end of the reporting period, the Republicans owed an outstanding debt of \$4,124.75 to McAteer & McAteer, the law firm of Theresa and Christopher McAteer. She's the ex-city attorney who filed an ethics complaint on behalf of the party against Aguirre last fall.

On the Democratic side, the county committee raised \$2000 each from two unions, the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 230 of San Diego and Southern California Pipe Trades of L.A. Using those funds and money already in the bank, the party paid **Larry Remer's** Primacy Group \$7350.23 for "research and consulting." It also paid \$4000 to Remer's favorite pollster, Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin and Associates of Santa Monica. Remer copped a misdemeanor plea in 2006 to federal charges stemming from his alleged misuse of Southwestern College funds to pay for production of a school bond campaign commercial. A jury had earlier deadlocked 10-2 in favor of conviction.



Larry Remer

Preppy head-hunt La Jolla's Bishop's School, tony alma mater of the late **Andrew Cunanan**, the gay serial killer who murdered fashion icon **Gianni Versace** before killing himself in 1997, is on the prowl for a new "Head of School," according to a help-wanted ad in last Sunday's *New York Times*. Bishop's is looking for someone to "build upon the extraordinary legacy of the current Head, who has announced that he will retire in June 2009," the ad says. "Honoring its affiliation with the Episcopal Church, the School enthusiastically welcomes a diverse community and pursues high standards of moral, ethical, and civil conduct." The departing **Michael W. Teitelman** has long headed the school. A fictionalized version of the Cunanan saga was portrayed in *Most Wanted*, a musical drama staged by the La Jolla Playhouse last fall, complete with prep school uniforms. According to its website, Bishop's requires each student to wear a "TBS embroidered polo shirt in white, forest green, navy or sky blue in short or long sleeves. (Only seniors may wear maroon polo shirts)." ... Ex-San Diego congresswoman **Lynn Schenk** is helping to stage a 25th anniversary bash in Beverly Hills this month for her onetime boss, former California governor **Gray Davis** and his wife **Sharon**. She's teaming up with **Garry South**, another former top staffer to Davis. The party is set for the home of L.A. real estate mogul and philanthropist **Dick Ziman** and wife **Daphna**.

— Matt Potter

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

Workers Deal Hand That's All Aces

By Don Bauder

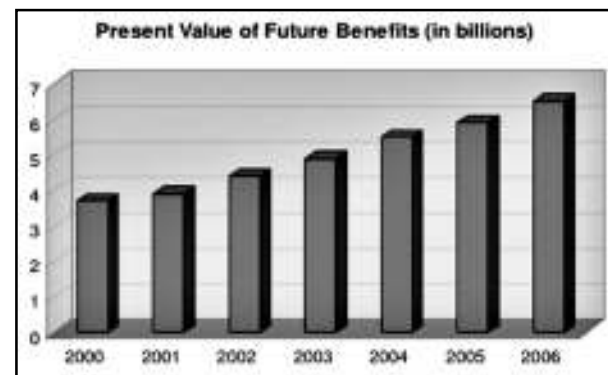
Increasingly, it looks as though the nation faces a recession and stocks are in for a bear market. San Diego is almost certainly

and perks. As tax receipts drop in the sputtering economy, city services will decline more and infrastructure will not get the attention it desperately needs. A weakened pension fund will expand, as the system's investment portfolio, which was 56 percent stocks at year-end 2007, runs into trouble. Bonds and real estate in that portfolio are at risk of stumbling too.

Therefore, it is urgently necessary to reduce the excessive benefits now plaguing the system and draining taxpayers.

Workers and their unions will claim that a recession is no time to cut benefits. *Au contraire*. It is time to think of taxpayers rather than merely city employees, who already enjoy outsized pay

and perks. As tax receipts drop in the sputtering economy, city services will decline more and infrastructure will not get the attention it desperately needs. A weakened



San Diego City Employees' Retirement System will want even larger contributions from a financially destitute City.

Consumer spending is 70 percent of the national economy, and the percentage is probably a bit higher in San Diego. But consumers, already deep in debt and suffering with negative savings, don't have the money to spend. They would have more if

wealth and income were distributed more evenly. Taming the excesses of San Diego City workers, including elected officials, would give taxpayers relief.

In this context, it was deplorable, but no surprise, to hear Mayor Jerry Sanders utter in his State of the City speech January 10, "It is disappointing that we cannot reverse many of our pension benefits, but this is the hand we've been dealt." He was referring to the attempt by City Attorney Michael Aguirre to get illegally granted ben-

efits reduced through the courts. Judges are on government payrolls too, so the trial-level defeat was hardly a shock. But the case is still on appeal. And even if the courts won't take the initiative in that particular case, there are other ways to reform the system, and with an election coming up, Sanders is backing down and breaking earlier reform promises. He

continued on page 8

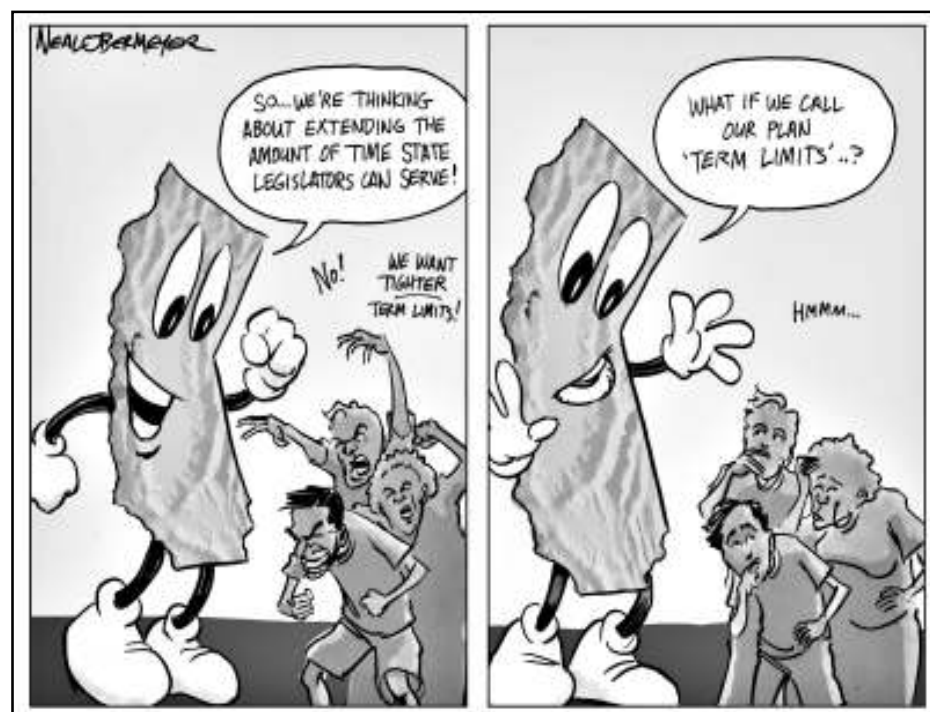
Read Don Bauder's Scam Diego blog every day! Go to SanDiegoReader.com and look in Blogs for Bauder.

Contact Don Bauder at 619-546-8529 or don.bauder@mac.com



Production still from Most Wanted

Neal Obermeyer



The Ron Paul Posse

By Dorian Hargrove

Some of them have been seen suspending large banners from freeway overpasses. Others have been spotted at busy intersections waving signs that call for revolution. And groups of them have been heard on street corners in the Gaslamp and Pacific Beach discoursing on the need to end foreign military occupation, restore civil liberties, and dissolve the IRS and CIA.

They are San Diego's soldiers in the grassroots army of presidential candidate Ron Paul, a ten-term Republican congressman from Lake Jackson, Texas, and they are taking on the establishment one homemade sign and one commandeered street corner at a time.

With nearly 975 members, the San Diego branch of the Ron Paul campaign is the fourth largest in the country, behind those in New York City, Austin, and Chicago. The chapters are unaffiliated with Paul's national headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, receiving neither aid nor direction. Local members shell out their own money to print stickers and campaign literature, and they can be seen making runs to the hardware store for paper and spray paint to make their signs. They sell buttons, shirts, and Ron Paul DVDs from the beds of their trucks: DVDs for 25 cents, a button for \$1,

and shirts for \$5.

They also hold meetings at places like the Boll Weevil restaurant in San Marcos. On January 10, some of North County's newest members cram into the Boll Weevil's empty dining room to introduce themselves and share their efforts with others in the



Ron Paul

campaign. The excitement from the 31 in attendance overpowers the scent of the half-pound steerburgers.

The supporters span the political and age spectrums. They range from a politically disgruntled man in his late 60s wearing a checkered flannel shirt to a 20-year-old female law student.

While a middle-aged, pony-tailed gentleman peers through



Mike Benoit

small rectangular reading glasses at the pages of the *Citizens Rule Book* — a book given to jurors to educate them on constitutional rights — Alfredo Salinas, a 24-year-old born in Mexico, listens attentively to the introductions.

Salinas is one of the few minorities in the group, and although he has permanent resident status, he is not an American citizen. But being unable to vote hasn't stopped him and his 19-year-old brother Christian from joining sign-making parties, draping the signs throughout town, and posting amateur videos of these activities on YouTube. He characterizes his involvement as similar to holding down a second job. "I probably spend 30 hours a week," he says. "I spend a lot of time. Even when I'm walking the dog, I'm passing out flyers."

"Ron Paul isn't perfect," Salinas continues. "I don't agree with him on everything. I don't agree with him on the birthright issue." Paul proposes to stop granting citizenship to babies born in the United States if their parents are here illegally.

"I do agree with him on civil liberties and the war and the no-IRS thing."

When asked what other Ron Paul supporters think of him, Salinas chuckles. "The Ron Paul people are all kinds of different people. I've met some Minutemen, and you know, I disagree with them. Immigration is a very hard topic, you know. We agree on the war issue and the civil liberties. I agree with them on some things, but I don't agree with them on others. Nobody is perfect."

Standing at the front of the room, beneath a deer's head and an old shotgun mounted on the wall, Mike Benoit, the organizer of the San Diego campaign, listens to the newcomers introduce themselves. Benoit's relaxed demeanor and shaggy, disheveled appearance belie the sage and seasoned political activist that he is. A member of the Libertarian Party for over 17 years, he has run against Duncan Hunter in every race since 2000 to represent the



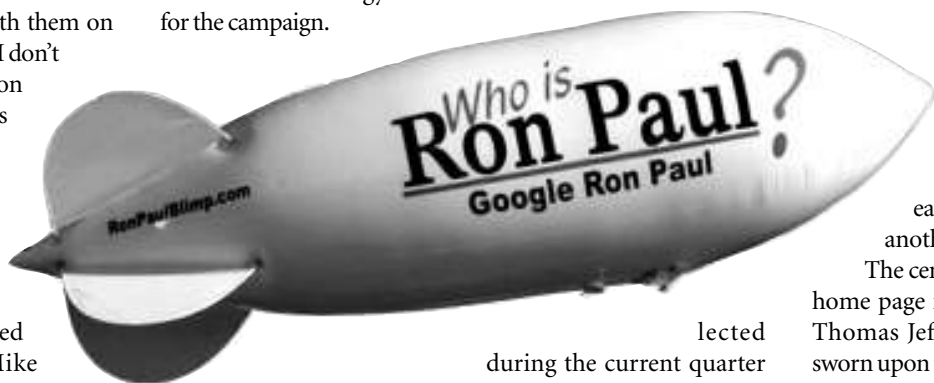
Elizabeth Blane

52nd Congressional District, which includes La Mesa, El Cajon, and Lakeside.

The reason for Benoit's political involvement is frustration. "The message that we all seemed to be hearing was to choose from big socialist government A or big socialist government B. There was no message about limited government or individual liberty."

A male law student, sitting behind an extra-large glass of beer, is suggesting ways to approach fellow San Diegans with the Ron Paul message. "Dr. Paul's positions are very nuanced. So you want to feel out where they're coming from and try and put it into the light that will be best for them. For example, on immigration there's a thousand ways you can put Paul's position, 500 of them are sure to piss off liberals and 500 of them will make liberals love him, and none of them are lies."

Benoit informs the newcomers of the strategy used for the campaign.



"First the Internet, then the streets, and then everywhere!" The grassroots organization uses four methods: Internet, sign waving and hanging, precinct walking, and additional creative efforts such as flying a Ron Paul mini-blimp and holding a rally at the Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park.

The Internet is an impor-



Brent Garcia (right)

tant facet of the Paul campaign. The national campaign's official website, ronpaul2008.com, displays on its home page a running tally of the amount of money col-

valuable to the local Paul campaign. The chapter's website, ronpaul.meetup.com/93, is laid out in similar fashion to popular social-networking sites. It serves as the line of communication, informing supporters of upcoming meetings and events and allowing fellow members easy access to one another.

The centerpiece for the home page is a quote from Thomas Jefferson: "I have sworn upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man." The site features a schedule of past and future "meet-ups" and links to Mike

continued on page 10

lected during the current quarter and a countdown to primary election dates. The webpage has links to information on how to join up and how to become one of the country's 180,000 precinct leaders as well as links to YouTube videos. Google has also played an integral part in informing potential Paul supporters on a national level.

The Internet is equally

An archive of City Lights stories can now be searched on the Internet at www.SanDiegoReader.com

Dealt all aces

continued from page 6

wants to play Santa Claus with city employees and hopes taxpayers won't notice.

"Unfortunately, the Mayor's Office has been silent on pension reform for over two and a half years," says Steve Francis, who has thrown his hat in the mayoral ring. "The fact that the City of San Diego is letting individuals retire in their mid-50s and then paying generous retirement benefits for another 20, 30, and even 40 years has created the pension tsunami that is crashing down on San Diego taxpayers."

And a tsunami it is. The City Attorney's Office provided a report January 3 summarizing the pension load that taxpayers are carrying. The present value of benefits owed in the future was

\$6.5 billion in mid-2006. That was up more than 65 percent from the year 2000. Over the same period, payroll (in dollars) increased only 19 percent and the number of active and retired persons rose just 4 percent.

In 1996, the same year the Golding administration tapped the retirement fund to finance the Republican convention, the City enacted a purchase-of-service-credits plan. Employees could buy years of service so they could get the generous benefits, even though they hadn't worked those years. But the employees got the credits cheap: those years of phantom service weren't priced at actual cost. Employees got this juicy deal for 6 years. When the mistake was discovered in 2003, the pension system gave the employees several months to get in at the actuarially inaccurate

rates. All told, they piled in at a cost of \$146 million, which the San Diego City Employees' Retirement System decided last November to hand to city taxpayers. That's 8268 years of service purchased at a lowball price — and permitted.

Then there is the Deferred Retirement Option Plan, better known as DROP, adopted by the city council on a trial basis in 1997 and made permanent in 2000. Employees at an average age of 55 declare that they will retire in five years. They keep getting their salaries, but over the same period, 90 percent of their highest one-year salary is plopped into their personal pot each year, piling up 8 percent interest annually plus accruing a cost-of-living adjustment. Then they retire with both an annuity and a fat lump sum. It is double-dipping, pure and simple. When DROP was enacted, the public was told it would be cost-neutral. But two different actuaries have said it

definitely is not.

Both DROP and the purchase-of-service-credits program should be made cost-neutral, says Aguirre. Those who have purchased service credits on the cheap should see their payments reduced. Those in DROP should not be able to accumulate pension benefits any faster than they ordinarily would, he says. If both those reforms were enacted for present enrollees, the City could save \$400 million, or about one-third of the \$1.2 billion pension deficit.

Sanders wants to end these abuses for new hires. That has already happened. Aguirre wants to end the abuses for current employees too and not permit this generation to pass the bill to later generations. He is trying to get these programs cost-neutral in the case now on appeal and has filed a separate lawsuit against the \$146 million caper and is putting together another lawsuit against DROP.

Other abuses must be

eliminated now, he says. Elected officials are buying more pension credits than the law permits. Employees are using purchased years to satisfy the rule that requires ten years of work to get a pension. It should be ten years of actual work. Also, employees are using purchased credits to qualify for retirement at age 55. That's not legal and should be eliminated, says Aguirre.

The pension system is using a 20-year (or longer) period to amortize the pension debt, says Aguirre. That goes against the City Charter. That debt should be paid off in the required 15 years. Since the year 2000, the pension system has paid benefits of \$2.8 million above Internal Revenue Service limits. That should be ended or at least put to a vote of the people, he says.

Libertarian activist Richard Rider says that most city workers retiring with 30 years of service are getting 120 percent of their final

year's pay. They get 75 percent through their normal pension program. In addition, they have a supplemental pension savings plan. The City matches their annual contribution, which is between 3.05 and 6.1 percent of their pay. An employee who puts in 6 percent a year, gets the match, and makes 8 percent annually on the growing pot can easily retire at 140 percent of his or her final year's salary, says Rider. And that's not considering DROP.

A city employee who has worked 35 years and is in both the DROP program and the supplemental pension savings plan may retire at age 60 with a \$75,000 annual salary but will rake in \$170,000 a year in retirement — 226 percent of his or her highest pay.

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CITY LIGHTS

**Ron Paul
posse**

continued from page 7

Benoit's current run for Congress and the San Diego Libertarian Party. Each day a number of emails with Ron Paul updates, event reminders, and news pertinent to the campaign are sent out to members. Supporters are encouraged to upload pictures as well as make their own personalized page, but more important, all are urged to find and invite new members.

Benoit says that although the Internet plays a fundamental role in the local campaign, there are problems with depending solely on the Web. "There are people that you would never reach on the Internet," he points out. "But someone can see a banner on the freeway, googles it, and checks out Ron Paul and likes

CITY LIGHTS

it, then he has a whole different circle of friends that would not be connected to these other people."

Ron Paul's San Diego campaign headquarters is in Mike Benoit's office, located in a small strip mall on Cuyamaca Street in Santee. On a Friday afternoon in the narrow parking lot, six young white males wearing face masks and latex gloves spray paint Ron Paul stencils on Tyvek paper rolls. Some of them sip on the patriotic brew Samuel Adams, supplied from a small refrigerator inside Benoit's compact office. They make the signs in assembly-line fashion, and in a couple of hours' time, over 50 posters are rolled up and ready to be hung.

When asked where the signs are headed, a few members simultaneously respond, "Everywhere." One anonymous supporter adds, "I've

CITY LIGHTS

been doing signs for a long time, and I haven't been caught or anything. I've [hung] them at all times. I've even had cops drive by when I'm hanging them, and they just drive by."

As the supporters wipe the sweat from their brows and stretch the kinks from their backs, they echo each other's thoughts about what the Paul campaign stands for and laugh in disbelief at how uninformed and unaware mainstream America has become.

A few nights later, the Pacific Beach Bar and Grill is hosting an event for the season opener of *American Idol*. Marcus Rivchin, who's 38, sits with other Ron Paul members, there to recruit new supporters. A Ron Paul sign perches on a ledge beside their table next to a row of flat-screen televisions, all tuned to America's favorite talent show. While the group seems more focused on munching appetizers, sipping on draught beers, and talking everything Ron Paul than on recruiting new members, each becomes visibly distraught when a news crew from the local Fox affiliate arrives to film the crowd's reaction to *American Idol*.

As a reporter interviews people at a nearby table, Rivchin runs over and thrusts

CITY LIGHTS

his Ron Paul sign in front of the camera. A few people in the room boo.

"Are you serious?" yells one of Paul's frustrated supporters. "*American Idol*? It just goes to show what we're dealing with." A moment later, as the film crew departs, she runs up to discuss the matter with them.

While the Internet and signs are important to the Paul campaign, precinct walking — campaigning door-to-door — is another significant aspect. Before walking a precinct in an upper-class neighborhood in Sorrento Valley, Elizabeth Blane, a 56-year-old business and life coach, checks her makeup in a downstairs mirror of her two-story home. Her house is as tidy as her appearance. She grabs a stack of Ron Paul literature — each piece has a personal greeting stapled to the front — and walks out into the warm January day. She says that precinct walking is "energizing and invigorating."

As she approaches the first house, she glances at her precinct list, which tells her the residents' registered party and whether they've voted in recent elections. She crosses off the address as she walks up to the front door.



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After ringing the bell, Blane stands poised as sounds emanate from inside the house. She clears her throat just before a man with a heavy build opens the door.

She greets her neighbor by introducing herself. She informs him that she is out campaigning for Ron Paul. The man, who asks to remain anonymous, immediately lets Blane know that his main concern is immigration. "Without immigration taken care of, then I don't think anything is possible," he says. "It affects everything."

"Exactly," Blane responds. She directs the man to the Ron Paul website and hands him a brochure on Paul's beliefs regarding stricter immigration laws.

Blane says she tries to make each step as brief but informative as possible. "Dr. Paul is so prolific and his stances are so nuanced. He's an expert on so many different issues that I couldn't possibly begin to explain all of them."

San Diego Paul supporters have adopted other strategies in their attempts at getting the word out about their candidate. This Saturday, February 2, supporters have rented out the Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park for the largest meeting yet planned for the local campaign.

The event, which is slated to start at 12:45, will feature a yet-to-be-determined band and guest speakers. According to Brent Garcia, a 20-year-old long-haired Paul activist, "We aren't sure if Paul will be able to make it. We know that he will be in the general area, so there's kind of a chance that he will be coming. We won't know for sure until the last moment."

The rally will last until 5:00. Marches are planned going into the event and leaving it afterwards.

And while the supporters are not sure if Paul will show, they are sure to have their 20-foot mini-blimp at the event. The white helium balloon — shaped like a blimp, with "Who is Ron Paul?" written in big red letters — can usually be seen hovering above I-5 near Lindbergh Field's landing path. The lines that secure the Ron Paul blimp are anchored at a house near the corner of Laurel and Columbia streets in Middletown. Manny Castro, a business broker, offered his house

as the home for the blimp. Castro, like so many of the other Ron Paul supporters, has never before been involved in a political campaign.

When asked what his family and neighbors think of the blimp, Castro says, "My wife loves it. She was on TV! And all my neighbors love it. Some of them come up or honk when they go by. I've had absolutely no negative response whatsoever."

The money to buy the blimp — nearly \$2000, plus an additional \$150 for the helium required for filling it — was raised collectively by the group.

"I think that it is very effective. Probably tens of thousands of people see it every day. I think that it is the best location for it in San Diego."

Although San Diego supporters are doing their best to spread the word about Ron

Paul, their enthusiasm and energy may have given them a false sense of optimism. Ron King, chair of the political science department at SDSU, is brief but emphatic regarding Paul's chances of getting the Republican nomination or the presidency. There have been "no successful grass roots presidential candidates in the recent era," he says via email, and there is "no possibility of a grass roots national-level

candidate today."

Even some of Ron Paul's supporters agree that the Paul campaign doesn't have much chance for success, though for different reasons. Abby Martin, the 23-year-old organizer of the San Diego 9/11 Truth group, says, "The last two elections have had serious vote fraud, and I don't think this election will be any different. Ron Paul would never be allowed to win the presidency.

There is too much at stake with all of our control and policies that have been implemented to let Paul in and create revolutionary change."

The group remains energetically optimistic. Most supporters are convinced that Paul will run as an independent if the Republican nomination does not pan out. The events calendar of the San Diego Ron Paul campaign is filled six days a week. ■

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You're 1,000,001

Jay, Jay, Jay...

Lestat's is in Normal Heights ("Overheard in San Diego," January 24). The sign is right there! C'mon, man! I'm sure a million people already emailed to tell you this. Still enjoy the strip.

Name Withheld via email

Not Real Crazy

I'm not real crazy about your new online format plus I can't find the "Blurt" column anywhere.

What happened?

Tom via email

Click on "Music" in the navigation bar at the top of the home page to find "Blurt" in the pull-down menu. — Editor

Tabloid Fodder

Re: "The Principal's Principles" ("City Lights," January 24).

After reading the captioned hit piece, the real question is what happened to the principles of "City Lights" and writer Joe Deegan? This article is about nothing more than gossip and a breakup quarrel between two gay men.

What appears to be going on is a custody battle. Elevating it to some kind of scandal involving the City of San Diego Schools and Mark Twain High School is pure Britney-chasing tabloid journalism.

You owe an apology to Michael Rood. We do not pay our teachers and principals adequate salaries, and they are forced to take second jobs to make ends meet. I seriously doubt that a principal would jeopardize his career to sell ads on school time. And the principals do get breaks during the day, lunch hours, etc. Calling Uptown Publi-

cations' *Gay and Lesbian Times* pornographic is absurd on its face.

I expect better from "City Lights," Joe Deegan, and the Reader. You should be ashamed of printing this article.

Christian F. Winkle Pacific Beach

The Reader did not call the *Gay and Lesbian Times* pornographic; one source characterized the paper as pornographic because of the nature of its ads. — Editor

Out To Get Him?

Read between the lines, Mr. Editor, your paper should be ashamed ("The Principal's Principles," "City Lights," January 24). This article is spurred on by someone who is trying to ruin Mike Rood (perhaps the people from the *Gay and Lesbian Times* who called the school district — for what reason did this paper report him to the school district??). Also, I have a suspicion that the teacher with all the "teacher" comments is the one who did not leave Twain on a good note and made a point of telling all of us he/she would find a way to mess him over. This teacher was any child's or parent's nightmare — rude, crude, and bitter. Also, this person chose to leave our school.

And what is the article about — the shocking truth that a principal can have a side job? And did he really hold this job and was he really fired — did your reporter verify these facts? And if he did/was, what would one consider "school time" for a guy who works at the school until 8:00 each night and most Saturdays and the occasional Sunday?

The author of this article is writing on hearsay; then he tells how shocked the parents/students are — over what??? I can guarantee that your writer did not interview any parents or students. You have no idea what kind of man this principal is. He is a man of great character. He is hardworking and supports our entire staff and the students. He is so well liked and has an entire school, the parents, and the community standing firm behind him. So your paper is trying to take down a person's career for what? Did you owe someone a fa-

vor and are paying it back by trying to ruin this man? Why else would you publish this outlandish article where you do not name any of your sources?

If Mr. Rood is so terrible for affiliating with the *Gay and Lesbian Times*, I assume that your paper takes the stance that everyone working with this paper is immoral or corrupt. And why was the lady at Bambu Bistro "horrified" when she found out he was a principal??? Who put those words in her mouth? Why would she be horrified that an educator was also working as a sales rep for a gay newspaper being that he, too, is gay? Am I not allowed to work elsewhere because I am a teacher? Can I not email someone during a lunch break from my school email? If I work 14 hours a day at an 8-hour-a-day job can I not take a minute to deal with my personal affairs?

This is a witch hunt. It is not fair that it was printed. Your paper should be ashamed of itself. You defied the code of ethics that journalists must hold true. You wrote a story for the purpose of trying to ruin a professional in our community. You did not do your homework, and your sources are nonexistent.

May the woman at the Bambu Bistro never walk into a school and see all of us hardworking individuals working a tough job with these great students you call "troubled kids." Miss Melchior would be "horrified" as it is obvious that she has issues with education and school principals. Perhaps she should place a sign on her restaurant stating that educators are not welcome because she would be horrified to see us in her restaurant, and God forbid one of us was trying to sell her something! This article is a disgrace to our school community, and you owe all of us an apology.

P.S. And yes, I am writing this to you from my school email. I will work overtime (ha ha, as if we teachers don't work a 12-hour day already) to make up for the ten minutes I took to respond to your trashy article.

Diane Proctor via email

Hooray For Twain!

On Thursday, January 24, I picked up an issue of the Reader and was shocked to see my school's principal in the paper ("City Lights"). The article was called "The Principal's Principles." I am a student at Mark Twain High School, and I felt appalled by what was said about Mike Rood. I am also hurt by what was said about the students: "It is bad enough that the students at this school are troubled..." This school is not made up of "screwups" and pregnant teens. Mike Rood gives us a second chance. I am not pregnant; I do not have a child, nor am I a member of a gang. I am just simply a student having trouble with grades.

Reading this article makes me feel upset because Mike Rood is being portrayed as this "gay villain," when in reality he has done so much for our school. The way he is being written about is as if he is never at school and is away at meetings for the *Gay and Lesbian Times*. I don't think I have ever seen him *not* at school. He is either in his office or in the classrooms talking and learning with the students. What is Mark Twain High School without Mike Rood? Nothing! He motivates students to come to school every day. He creates charts to keep track of our attendance to see who is coming to school. In the end, he pulls strings to reward us for our good efforts. If it's lunch, gift certificates, or even tickets to a Charger game, he always finds a way to get us into our classroom seats and celebrate our success.

He not only motivates us to graduate from high school but also from college. Mark Twain gives all the students a chance to attend Mesa, City, or Miramar College for free with no drastic requirements. The staff and Mike Rood want us to go further than what most students have ever dreamed. He most likely has done more than what a principal has done at a "regular" school. He cares about the students and always has the time to see how we are doing or whether or not we like what we are learning.

On behalf of the students at Mark Twain High School, I can truly say that

continued on page 63



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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE



Illustration by Rick Geary

Heymatt:

I seem to remember that when Elvis died, he was buried somewhere other than on the grounds of Graceland, but something happened and they moved his body. Did somebody try to steal his body? What is the story?

— Nameless, San Diego

We'll have to answer this one out of earshot of Grandma Alice, who is still convinced that Elvis lives. She still keeps her stash of "proof" — plaster casts of the size 11 bootprints with embedded sequins that she found outside her bathroom window and several suspicious bacon-burger wrappers she picked up on the street outside of Graceland. Anyway, most people seem to have believed that Elvis was really dead because they showed up in busloads and boatloads at Forest Hill Cemetery in Memphis, where Elvis was originally buried with his mother. They overran the grounds and generally clogged up the works for everybody. So, the cemetery folks were pretty enthusiastic when the Presley estate petitioned the City of Memphis for special permission to move the Presleys to the grounds of Graceland. They did this for Elvis's "protection" a few months after his burial, when police arrested three men sneaking around the cemetery, allegedly planning to haul Elvis out of the ground and hold his big body for \$10 million in ransom. Police had been tipped to the brilliant plot and were waiting for them. In the end, the guys were only charged with trespassing. No report on whether they had brought with them a winch or crane or some other giant lifting device. Moving a dead Elvis and his coffin would probably have taken more than three big thinkers. And that's the story.

Matthew Alice:

Seinfeld aside, what's the once-and-for-all truth about poppyseeds causing false positives for opium in drug tests? How can we buy poppyseeds in the grocery store and plant them in our gardens if they are full of drugs? Why wouldn't the DEA ban poppies? They try to ban everything else. I just don't see how eating a bagel could make you test positive for a drug that doesn't even come from the seed of the poppy plant. And I can't say I get much of a buzz from a poppyseed roll. Please clear this up for me.

— C.V., San Diego

Seinfeld aside, yes, the chemicals of poppyseeds are detectable in urine for about two days after eating them. But the whole bagel scare was pretty much solved a few years ago when the DEA changed the definition of "loaded." Botanically, chemically, all poppies are created equal. The highest concentration of future opiates is in the milky sap, but the seeds contain the precursors too. Eat baked goods, drink poppy tea, whatever, and your body processes these chemicals and they end up in your urine. But poppyseeds are metabolized more slowly than, say, opium, and the telltale chemicals in urine are different from those caused by opiates and are there in much smaller quantities. So, yes, under the old testing procedures, the innocent bagel eater would have a trace of the sinister metabolites in his urine, and this used to be enough to get him fired or locked up or whatever he was being tested for. At some point, the astounding number of false-positive tests (85 percent, some say) led drug agencies and labs to look again at testing procedures and to raise the threshold at which a person can be suspected of opiate use. Specific tests for heroin use actually identify a different metabolite, which results from how rapidly the body processes heroin. It's changed significantly by drug-test time. So, there should be no false-positive scares from bagels anymore, though at one time there were many.

Hey, Matt:

I have a question that has been on my mind for some time. This year we have had all kinds of service people working at our home, from septic-tank workers to fumigators to construction workers. In each case they have worked on our property the entire day without leaving the premises, and they never once asked to use the bathroom. What gives? Do they have some sort of secret device in their trucks that they pee into, do they hold it all day, or are they peeing in our yard when we aren't looking?

— Curious in Encinitas

Um, all of the above? We gave the elves spotting scopes and binoculars and sent them out across the county to spy on work crews. We also checked with a neighbor who has been in the home-service industry for many years. If you think about it, it's probably good that the guys working on your septic system didn't come in to use your facilities. In fact, for certain insurance liability reasons, they're really not supposed to. So, what's a workman to do? Plan ahead, mostly. Have an emergency container in the truck. A beer can will do. Go at lunchtime, when you go out to get a sandwich. Sweat a lot while you work so you don't have to go much during the work day. Use a convenient bush, if all else fails. I'm sure there are other solutions, but these are the leads we came up with.

A searchable archive of past columns is available at SanDiegoReader.com

Got a question you need answered? Send an email to hey matt@cts.com or fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186.



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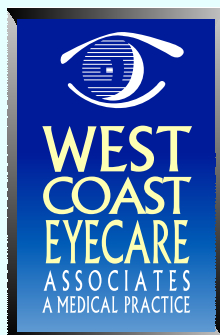
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I've Invited Osama bin Laden To My Party

The AP headline reads, "Super Bowl a magnet for prostitutes." Phoenix police sergeant Joel Tranter explains that Phoenix PD and FBI "are going to go undercover to stop prostitution."

On one hand, early reports *do* indicate that the annual Super Bowl swarm of prostitutes making their migratory flight into the Valley of the Sun has slowed now that city and federal authorities have gone undercover. This is a good thing.

But, on the other hand, this laudatory police action raises a concern about fair labor practices. As you may know, there is a legal industry, already in place, devoted to providing beautiful young women to corporate parties, in this instance, Super Bowl parties. Comely young ladies attract men (we can agree on that), so it makes sense to hire young women to go to Super Bowl parties where the sexual ratio is 100 to 1, that is, 100 old, rich, white men for every 21-year-old hot woman. With the expenditure of a few expense-account dollars, that 100-to-1 ratio drops to a bearable 20 to 1.

Say you're the executive in charge of the big Ford or *Maxim* or *Playboy* or Budweiser party. You've got all your big accounts in town for the Super Bowl, and you're required to provide a party, keep them entertained. Your guests are mostly 60-year-old white men whose idea of a party is drinking vodka and watching television. What are you going to do?

Rent friends!

The *Arizona Republic* ran a story saying that upwards of 1000 local women will be paid \$25 to \$50 an hour for showing up at Super Bowl parties and dressing "classy." Applicants have been signing on since last summer. I should mention that there are a few onerous rules, probably to remind all hands that it's still a job. Follows are the five noble don'ts given to young hotties: Don't get drunk, don't eat, don't carry a cell phone, don't leave early, and don't go home with a real guest.

Sounds businesslike, but let me point out that while these freeloading amateurs earn minimum wage, *professional female friends*, career people, guild members, are walking the mean streets of Phoenix, dodging undercover police dragnets and feeding the poor.

The rent-a-friend job destroyer is only one tentacle attached to the rent-a-party industry. Another is the rent-a-celebrity franchise.

Everything comes together during Super Bowl

Week. Pouty mega-star P. Diddy is having a block party on Thursday. The handout reads, "\$1,000 plus \$76 Ticketmaster service charge gets you VIP access.... Celebrities scheduled to attend include (SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE): Michael Jordan, Peyton Manning, Eli Manning, LaDanian Tomlinson, Reggie Bush, Leeann Tweeden, Alyssa Milano, Brett Favre, Vanessa Minnillo, Jeff Gordon, Warren Sapp, Ken Griffey Jr., Jerry Rice, Charles Barkley, Tony Gonzalez, Carson Palmer, Phil Mickelson, Justin Timberlake, Alice Cooper, Joey Fatone, Chad Johnson, Drew Lachey, Terrell Owens, Aaron Boone, Tony Romo, Matt Leinart, Taye Diggs, Jim Edmonds, Wilmer Valderrama, Adam Dunn, Carmen Electra, Kyle Boller, Brooke Burke, Kirk Herbstreit, Brooke Burns, Casey Mears, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Juan Pablo Montoya, Lance Armstrong, Brian Vickers, Brian Urlacher, and Emmitt Smith."

Can you feel the boredom? Of course you can, but since you're already out on the town, why not stop by the *944 Magazine* party. Paris Hilton is hosting. Yes, yes, you want to know, "What, exactly, will Paris do as hostess?"

Well, "...she is expected to spend a good amount of time in the village's exclusive Main Tent, where the VIP and celeb crowd are likely to be found...she will, at some point, sign 25 copies of the magazine for pre-selected individuals. If you want to increase your chances of getting a glimpse of Paris, VIP tickets are going for \$500, plus taxes and fees..."

Enough with these people! I have a better way — namely, the *Sporting Box Super Bowl Experience!* Fun kicks off Saturday night, Super Bowl eve, in the El Cajon Home Depot parking lot. There will be a full bar if stocked and manned by guests. The best chefs from St. Moritz, St. Tropez, St. Barts, Aspen, and the Hamptons have been invited to fly in and prepare a feast for attendees. Panasonic has been invited to supply 50 of their largest HD television sets. Madonna and the Rolling Stones have been invited to perform. And Santa Claus has been invited to hand out gift baskets.

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SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Oooohhhh, my head. My back. My joints. My everything. Sick, sick, sick. No way I'm getting to church today. No way I'm even getting out of bed. Thank God — so to speak — for wireless Internet access. Drag the laptop into bed. Google "online church..."

First result: *ChurchofFools.com*, powered by the Methodists. A 3-D online church (very traditional — stone, pillars, arches, etc.) that allows you to "choose a cartoon character, enter the church, walk around, sit in a pew, explore the sanctuary and crypt, key in some prayers, and even ring the church bells." However, the entrance page noted that it was open "for individual visits only." Turns out that group worship was a three-month experiment held back in 2004, and that development money for "major changes to the software" is needed to keep the project moving forward. At least one problem was hinted at in the farewell letter: "Our wonderful team of highly motivated wardens saved the church from going under several times while we were being 'ragged' by trolls during the difficult middle weeks of the experiment."

Clips showed the trolls at work. A chat in the church's crypt opened with someone saying that Jesus "is even more human than we are because we've lost parts of our humanity in our brokenness and sin," then skipped to a bunch of attendees falling down in worship before a row of vending machines. Visitor "Iluvchurch20451" jumped in during night prayer to proclaim, "RELIGION IS FOR FAGS!" This seems to be what Bishop of London Richard Chartres was getting at when he said, in Church of Fools' opening sermon, which took cyberspace as its subject, "We shall encounter forces of destruction and negativity, but the Spirit has been brooding over the ocean since before the beginning, and we shall discover that love is Almighty.... Let us use this gift that has been given to our generation to heal and not to hurt, to open spiritual ears and eyes and not to add to the noise of self-justification and the rhetoric of hate. We do this in the name of Jesus Christ who commanded us to 'put out into the deep and let down our nets for a catch.'"

Next click: *online-churches.net*. A newsfeed on the left — among other stories, I learned that "Churches' Greatest Critics May Be Their Own Followers." Also, "Unchurched Americans Turned Off by Church, Open to Christians, Lifeway Study Says."

On the right, a link: "Live Church Service — Click Here." So I was off to Fountain of Life Bible Church in Johnson City, Tennessee, Dr. Victor C. Young presiding. Young was every inch a biker — burly, bearded, and long-haired, wearing sunglasses and a heavy leather jacket as he roamed about the pulpit. But one of the rings on his right hand testified to his doctoral work at Oxford, and he told how he'd been invited back more than once to present a paper at the Oxford Round Table. "Why would they want a big hairball there?" he remembered wondering. "I thought they wanted me for comic relief or something."

What they got was straight up preaching: "I started to tell them about my Jesus, about the hell He brought me out of.... I believe that these 40 world leaders that they call together in academia and in ministry, once they hear the Gospel, they gotta go back home.... Who knows what will trickle down...about my savior, Jesus Christ?"

Besides Oxford intellectuals, Young went on to set himself against preachers who sounded and looked "clerical," who made him think, "If I wasn't a Christian, I wouldn't become a Christian, just because of you. You're everything that I detest." He lamented the spiritual chill over his wife's childhood church: "Oh my, it was so cold in there you could hang meat.... I would get so excited talking about Jesus; the passion was overflowing in my heart and my mind...and I had one old man say to me, 'Son, you can't put new wine in old wineskins.' And I thought, 'How sad, how very sad....' I used to fanta-

size saying, 'What's the matter with you people? Don't you know what Jesus has done for you? What's it going to take for you to wake up?'"

Young's tone meshed with that of the newsfeed headlines: All is not well with American Christianity, and it's the Christians who are saying so. Clicking on "The Religious Machine" took me to *internet-churches.com*, which featured an article from Chip Brogden entitled "Escape from Churchianity."

"Organized religion," wrote Brogden, "cannot impart Life... 'He that has the Son has Life, and He that has not the Son of God has not Life... Contrary to popular belief, the Lord Jesus Christ does not live within the matrix of Organized Religion.... Can you join a 'church'? Yes, if you meet their requirements for membership. Can you join the Ecclesia?" (The Ecclesia, wrote Brogden, is "the True Church.") The answer: "No. You have to be born into it. Or, to be more correct, you have to be born-again into it. It is...a question of having Life versus not having Life.... Organized religion can bring doctrine, teaching, and belief.... Only Jesus can give Himself as our Life."

Another link led to *lostinchurch.com*. "Week after week you sit peacefully in church. You think everything is okay. But do you really hear the groaning of our lost world? Can you hear the cries of young girls with unwanted pregnancies, the hateful words from the couple who once vowed to love one another, the tired excuses of the over-worked, the driven, the defeated?" An essay on "The State of the American Church" noted that "a recent poll conducted by the Barna Research Group revealed some startling facts: 52 percent of 'born-again' Christians denied the existence of Satan...33 percent denied the Biblical doctrine of salvation by God's grace through faith in Christ alone...35 percent denied the physical resurrection of Christ. In short, a large percentage of professing Christians in the American Church are not Christians at all."

— Matthew Lickona

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CHURCH OF FOOLS

Google Search: Online Church

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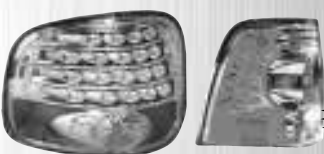
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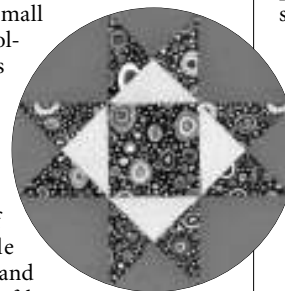
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Best Buys

—EVE KELLY

My daughter was thrilled to sew a baby quilt with Aunt Rose during her Thanksgiving vacation. It would be her first quilt — an Ohio Star pattern. “Bring one yard each of two high-contrast colors,” Rose said over the phone, “like blue and white or blue and yellow. Small prints often work best; they almost seem like solids. It’s okay if there are small amounts of other colors in the print as long as the overall effect, especially from a distance, is of one color. She will also need to bring two yards of some compatible print for a backing and a yard and a half of batting. All fabrics should be 100 percent cotton.”



The quilting day came, and my daughter spent the afternoon piecing and quilting under Aunt Rose’s loving eye. By dinner, she had a pretty green-and-yellow baby quilt. That was enough to give my daughter — and her mother — the quilting bug. When Christmas morning arrived, a brand new Riccar sewing machine was left under the tree, “To Eve, with love, Santa.” The winter hobby in the Kelly household was to be quilting.

I called Rose after the holidays to pick her brain further about quilting. “My motivation to learn quilting was to do something beautiful that didn’t get immediately undone, like my housework,” she explained. “I started by taking a sampler quilt class at the local sewing store, which included both hand appliqué and machine patchwork. ‘Irish chain,’ ‘nine patch,’ ‘Jacob’s ladder,’ ‘Ohio’ or ‘colonial star’ — all are good beginner patterns. My favorite quilt designs are the Whig Rose (an appliqué), and Castle Wall (a patchwork). When it comes to quilt patterns, it is sometimes neat to look for meaningful block names. If the name sounds interesting, the pattern probably will be.”

What about preferred quilting supplies? “My strongest views are on batting,” Rose answered. “I use Warm and Natural. It’s flat, very easy to work with, and feels great made up. Other batting that’s very puffy is a pain to work with and often pills through. I mostly stick to cotton fabrics, preferably not super cheap, as it can fall apart or pill. I don’t mind a cotton-poly blend for patchwork — it can be more lasting — but for appliqué, it is harder to work with.”

And for the cutting utensils, “I prefer a nonmetal Ginger scissor; Fiskar or Olfa rotary cutters. It’s essential to learn to use these carefully — too fast and you can go out of control and bye-bye fingertip.”

Rose does some hand embroidery, “mostly just my name and date on the back of the quilt, or sometimes I add a quote from the Bible. I made a quilt for my father once with the quote, ‘He watching over Israel slumbers not nor sleeps’ [Psalm 121:4].”

“‘Irish chain,’ ‘nine patch,’ ‘Jacob’s ladder,’ ‘Ohio’ or ‘colonial star’ — all are good beginner patterns.”

Rose says it takes her a month or two to finish a quilt, longer if she hand-quilts.

Veteran quilter Cathy, my sister, made her first quilt in college. “I favor the easy patterns, machine-done. I am not that patient,” she confessed. “I like the ‘wedding’ pattern and the ‘Irish chain.’ My favorite is cutting fabric strips, any width, and arranging them diagonally along a square so that the lines of the fabric do not go parallel to any of the sides of the square. If you have lots of scraps of fabrics, it is the easiest way to make colorful quilts and similar-looking quilts if you have enough scraps.”

How long does it take you to make a quilt? “It depends on the design of the quilt,” Cathy replied. “If you are a real quilter, in the sense that you are using scraps from your sewing pile, it takes longer to find, sort, and cut material as you are being economical with what you have on hand. But if you have the leisure and money to go to the store and buy what you want, time is saved by ripping the fabric in strips of desired width down the whole length of fabric and then sewing the long pieces together and then cutting the resultant multicolored striped fabric into squares. That speeds up the process quite a bit.”

Cathy usually sews with cotton or cotton-blend fabrics, but for a rich look, she makes velvet and satin quilts. “Satin and velvet are a bit hard to work with; they slide around. So it is harder to hold the fabric still while cutting and sewing. But the finished result is quite lovely.” Sandy Andersen, store manager at Rosie’s Calico Cupboard Quilt Shop in La Mesa (619-697-5758; rosiescalicocupboard.com), has been quilting for almost 25 years. “It’s best to start with a lap-size quilt, with a ‘rail fences’ or ‘simple stars’ design,” she suggested. “Cotton fabrics are usually used, but the art quilters quilt with suede and leather.”

Any tips in picking fabrics? “Usually you pick a fabric that has a lot of colors that you like. You might not necessarily like the design, but you like the colors. And then you pull your colors from that one particular fabric. You can start out with as little as three different colors.”

Two classes at Rosie’s Calico Cupboard caught my beginner’s eye. Introduction to Quilt Making starts March 4, 6 p.m. — \$45 for a sampler quilt finished over four Tuesday evenings. The other class, Stripping on the Blvd. with Rosie, March 14 at 1 p.m., produces a ‘scrappy jelly roll’ quilt (\$20).

I found my final motivation to learn quilting at the bottom of the store’s website: Making Quilts for Kids with Cancer.

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1. Ohio Star block
2. Whig Rose block
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by Barbarella

Dis-Ativan-tage

Neurosis is always a substitute for legitimate suffering.

— Carl Jung

A ladybug ambled across my absentee ballot and paused, seemingly undecided between YES and NO on one of the Indian gaming propositions. As the tiny red-and-black arthropod drew closer to making its decision, the sound of two wine glasses clinking drew my attention to the opposite side of my desk, where my iPhone was resting on a pile of books. A text message

had come in: “Checked with Emma and we’re all set for the 26th. Thanks, Gary John.” *That’s funny, I thought. Didn’t know I had Gary’s number programmed into the phone. Wait a minute. What’s happening on the 26th?! My head hurt as I struggled to remember. I knew I’d seen my friend the night before, but no matter how hard I tried, I could not recall having made any plans with him. I tapped the calendar icon and then touched the “26” square. There it was in black-and-white pixels —*

“Gary John over.”

“I’m so delighted you made plans with Gary,” I said to David, who had curiously followed the sound of the chime into my office.

“What are you talking about?” David asked. “You made those plans. I was standing right next to you.”

“Really?”

“Do you seriously not remember that?”

“Oh, my God,” I said, as it sunk in that making plans with Gary was not the only part of the prior evening that was lost to me. I scrolled through my calendar looking for more foreign notations, hoping I’d had the wherewithal to document any other significant appointments I might have made. I found one on the 17th. I knew I had plans to go with some friends to the Museum of

Contemporary Art in La Jolla to watch the screening of the documentary film *Fat Man Walking*. That date had been set weeks ago. But above the 7 p.m. slot that read “MOCA with Ollie and Jen,” there was a strange new entry: “5:30 p.m. — George’s.” I held it up for David to see. “Were you watching when I made this one?” He shook his head. I sighed and said, “Well, shit.”

It was the pill that did it. Shortly before we left for the party on that forgotten night, it had suddenly occurred to me that it might be a great idea to pop an Ativan — little, yellow, antianxiety. It’s not that I was feeling anxious, per se, but there it was, nestled among my tried-and-true Pamprin, and I thought, *Why not? Maybe I won’t be such a spastic nutcase if I get a little chemical help to take it down a notch.* I thought it might help make me more normal — as anyone close to me knows, I’m strung tighter than a violin at Carnegie Hall. What I hadn’t realized — having never taken one before — was the antianxiety drug doubles as an amnesiac when mixed with wine.

As the 17th approached, bits and pieces of that forgotten evening came back to me. I remembered arriving at the private, tango-themed dinner party. In the classic, underground spirit of tango, the host threw the shindig in an anonymous warehouse. I remembered nibbling on Argentine cuisine to the music of Tango No. 9, a quartet from San Francisco comprised of violin, trom-

bone, piano, and accordion, performing live on a corner stage. Professional dancers in Spanish-inspired evening attire took to the crimson-lit cement floor and fulfilled the demand of the music. When I wasn’t lost in the ardent rhythms and languishing melodies, between marveling at the passion of the dancers and savoring new flavors, I apparently participated in conversations with other guests, not one of which I could recall.

All week I waited for someone to contact me regarding that “George’s” entry on my calendar. Despite the masculine name, I had a strong feeling I’d made those plans with a woman. On Wednesday the 16th, my friend Kate left a message to let me know she wouldn’t be able to make it to the show on Thursday night. *Ah! That must be who it was,* I thought, relieved to have the mystery solved.

At 6 p.m. on Thursday, I was enjoying creative happy hour drinks in a booth at Roppongi with David, Ollie, and Jen. When the topic of conversation drifted to something beyond my realm of interest, I discreetly checked my email because I was waiting to receive a list of the topics I’d be discussing on the radio with talk-show host Chip Franklin the following morning. Chip’s message had arrived, but before my finger touched the screen, I noticed another new email just below his. The instant I glimpsed her name, the memory came

**My anguished moan
garnered curious
glances from my
tablemates, which
prompted me to
burst out an
explanation as
fragmented as
shrapnel.**

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flooding back: at the tango party, I'd made plans to meet Ame at George's at the Cove for a drink at 5:30. I'd been looking for an opportunity to hang out with the talented artist I'd met through a mutual friend, and now here I was, half an hour after our appointed time, sipping a cocktail somewhere else.

If there is one thing I am more neurotic and obsessive about than anything else, it is time. Whether I have an appointment to get my teeth cleaned or reservations for dinner, the mere idea of being a moment late, let alone inadvertently skipping plans altogether, is enough to send me into a state of panic (hence the reason I had that antianxiety pill in the first place). In the grand scheme of things, missing an appointment to have a drink is not a crisis, but I reacted as though I'd slept through the alarm and missed the last space flight off the planet on the day it was scheduled to implode.

My anguished moan garnered curious glances from my tablemates, which prompted me to burst out an explanation as fragmented as shrapnel. My friends listened, their faces masked with pity. I typed off a quick email to Ame, something about not having her phone number. Then it occurred to me that I must have obtained it while making plans, so I checked my contacts list, and there it was. I hit the number and pushed David out of the booth so I could get up. The phone rang as I made my way outside, and by the time I was standing on the sidewalk, I was leaving a voicemail. I blabbered into the dead air as though airing my last words, and I left nothing unmentioned — the pill, the forgetfulness, my usual attention to calendar details, and God only knows what else. As if that wasn't enough to scare the woman away forever, as soon as I ended the call I shot out a text message, letting her know I'd left a

voicemail and sent an email — worried, in my neurotic, hyper-controlling state, that she might be unable to figure that out on her own.

The rest of my drink was flavorless. No matter how many times my posse repeated their sound advice to "get over it," my brain would not cooperate. In my head, I chided myself for responding fast and furiously, rather than taking a moment to collect myself and leaving a phone message. Perhaps a less-crazed phone message. I ran into Ame and her husband, Lloyd, in the theater. After greeting them, I was horrified to hear myself blather the same confession in person with which I had, minutes earlier, attacked her phone. After I'd given Ame and Lloyd a bigger glimpse of my insanity than they needed to see, I returned to my seat, defeated, wishing I had taken one of those little yellow pills. ■

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I'm as big as a Vons.

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What am I?

Near the lifeguard station in Ocean Beach, nine homeless people have gathered. One lies in the grass of Saratoga Park, legs crossed and hat tilted over his eyes. One stands nearby, smoking a cigarette. Two others sit together and talk. Walking past, you might not notice them. But if you did, you might also wonder what they're doing. Are they waiting for something?

It's 3:45, Monday afternoon. It could be 3:45 on any or every one of the past 900 or so Saratoga Park Monday afternoons.

By 4:00, seven more street folks have approached. They've carried over threadbare bags and wheeled along rusty bicycles.

At 4:10, a white minivan pulls up, and the transients — 20 of them now — jump to attention.

The man in the van brings milk and juice for everyone.

"They were just throwing this stuff in Dumpsters," he says, as he empties out two full crates of half-pint containers. "And these people, these homeless folks, they've been calling 92107 their home for longer than a lot of us have. They're good people. And they definitely deserve to eat."

And then the anonymous big-hearted man in the white minivan drives off.

The people in the park are drinking milk and juice, but no one goes anywhere.

The man in the van isn't what they've come here for. They've come because She comes here. Every single Monday — for the past 900 or so Mondays.

By 4:25, over 30 folks are waiting in the park. They show an unshakeable faith.

"She's still going to come," says one. "She's just late sometimes."

The crowd swells to 40. No one seems restless. They all are patient with the patience of the drifter.

Sure enough, a minute before 4:30, she comes. In a little blue pickup truck with the flatbed brimming. It's full of food.

Lupe Haley stands all of 5 feet tall, maybe 5'2". She sports a mane of curly red hair, lots of rouge, and bright red lipstick. She hops — hops! — out of the passenger seat, in her thick blue coat, pink hat, pink scarf, and pink boots, and she's already calling out directions.

"Okay," Haley says, vigorously. "Come on. Everybody!" Her words are easy to understand despite a thick Mexican accent.

"Let's go."

Haley's husband, who was driving the blue truck, along with several of the residentially challenged, help Haley carry armloads of drinking water, fruit punch, paper plates, plasticware, pies, bread, and paper towels. And then come the serving trays of salad, macaroni and cheese,

"Let's get real," she says. "Food is life. If you don't eat, you die."

chicken, sausage, beans, and goodness knows what else. Dozens of armloads. Everything gets carted over to a picnic table and to the grassy area around it.

This is a holidaylike feast, but today's not a holiday. It's just another Monday.

The thing is, Haley has fed people in Saratoga Park every single Monday evening for 18 straight years. Sometime early next year, she'll reach her 1000th consecutive week.

Tonight, before anyone eats, Haley brings them all together. "Let's gather now for the Word of God," she says. "Come on everybody."

Haley, 54, who is the pastor of New Heart Community Church in Golden Hill, launches into a sermon that begins, "Eighteen years ago, I was homeless, O Heavenly Father."

A few sentences later, her voice rises into a hymn. Many sing along, while the red sun begins to find its way toward the pier and the waves rumble in the background.

After the Lord's Prayer, the congregation



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN DECKER

bows its collective head. Many hold hands. And Haley leads them in saying grace.

"Amen."

"Amen."

"Amen."

"Now, who's going to cut the cake?" she asks, all sing-songy, turning her attention to the food and holding out a knife.

"Here," Haley says. "You help hand out the plates."

The woman never stops talking and moving and buzzing with energy.

The homeless have formed an orderly line,

stretching from a picnic table to the ocean, paper plates in hand. They shuffle forward to where Haley, in rubber gloves, serves them. Heaping portions for everyone.

Haley knows most of their names, and she says a few words to each as she piles hefty servings on their plates. Some of them hug her.

Erin Crowley's been eating Haley's Monday-night meals since January 2004. "She's always here," Crowley says. "Always here, no matter what."

Is this the best meal

Crowley eats all week?

"It's definitely the biggest meal," she says. "And it's not bad. She makes do with what she can get. If she has to mix rice and noodles and beans together, you know... But the important thing is, she comes out with a great big pot, and there's always plenty for everybody. And then there's the bags we can take away for the rest of the week."

Indeed, whoever wants a bag of bread and juice and other goods can take one.

Larry only just heard about these Monday-evening meals. "This is my third week," he says. "Some other homeless guy over by the pier turned me on to it. One thing is, I never leave these meals with an empty stomach. I always leave full."

Another fellow, whose bright white hair and bright white beard stand out, looks toward Haley and smiles. She's serving the last few people with a long metal spoon. The man says in no uncertain tones, "I don't know why she does it, but it doesn't matter. Lupe's a saint."

The Taj Mahal of Food Banks

The San Diego Food Bank has been around for 30 years, 5 of them at its present location on, of all places, Distribution Drive.

You enter the San Diego Food Bank marketplace through a truck-sized opening in the wall of a warehouse. Ceiling-high stacks of pallets and cardboard boxes serve as walls. At the checkout — a desk with a computer on it and a metal floor

scale for weighing goods — the warehouse clerks, Arturo Valdivia and John Bode, ring up purchases and help you get the stuff out to your car.

It's like a regular supermarket, without any bells or whistles, and with a different kind of customer. You're not allowed to shop here unless you're tax exempt. In other words, you need a tax form called a 501(c)(3).

"About a quarter of all the food we distribute comes through this area," Jim Jackson says, indicating the marketplace area of the Food Bank warehouse. "This is the interface with the public."

Jackson is the executive director of the San Diego Food Bank. A baby boomer with a kind, smile-lined face, he stands over six feet tall. His scholarly looking glasses and gray hair contribute to a professorial air. Before Jackson came to the Food Bank, in a midcareer shift in August 2007, he spent 7 years as president of the San Diego Rescue Mission. He's also a PhD who taught college history for

(continued on page 30)

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The screenshot shows the San Diego Reader website layout. At the top is the navigation bar with links for Job Gantt, Useful Guides, Classifieds, Coupons, Tickets, Blogs, Log In or Sign Up, and Geek Tools. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- RECENT STORIES:** Features articles like "Tacos Are a Tiny Taste of Temptation" and "Circle of Friends".
- LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR:** Includes a calendar for January 2008 and "Today's Highlights" with event listings.
- CLASSIFIEDS:** A section for job and service listings.
- COUPONS:** Offers discounts on San Diego restaurants and services.
- CITY LIGHTS:** A photo gallery of local scenes.
- NEIGHBORHOODS:** A grid of neighborhood pages, each with a map and title (e.g., Allied Gardens, Escondido).
- MUSIC:** Lists local music acts and events.
- MOVIES:** Features movie reviews and showtimes.
- BLOGS OF THE DAY:** Highlights featured blog posts.
- FOOD & DRINK:** Focuses on local dining and food events.
- CONTESTS:** Promotes various contests and giveaways.
- STAY IN TOUCH:** A footer section for contact information.

Red arrows point from the text annotations on the left to specific elements on the website screenshot.

www.SDReader.com

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THIS WEEK'S FEATURE

Party's Over

Published Jan. 23, 2008



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VIEW ALL MOVIE SHOWTIMES

San Diego Restaurants

MOVIE REVIEWS

Plain and Simple

Published Jan. 16, 2008




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More POST A COMMENT

Blood and Ghosts

Published Jan. 9, 2008



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CALENDAR

2008 JANUARY

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NEXT MONTH

Today's Highlights

Ozomatl

Stanley Clarke

1:30AM Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

1:00PM J. Scott Bergman

SUBMIT AN EVENT

CONTESTS

Win Movie Passes to "In Bruges!"

Posted 1 day, 1 hour ago

Bruges (pronounced "brouzh"), the most well-preserved medieval city in the whole of Belgium, is a welcoming destination for travelers from ... MORE

STAY IN TOUCH

MOBILE

GEEK TOOLS

Click here for full Movie Review.

Full reviews by Duncan Shepherd going back to 1998.

Click here to add your own comment on this movie review.

Looking for honest reviews of every movie you can think of? Search by movie title (Rambo), actor (Tom Hanks), director (Coppola), year produced (1932) or other keyword (San Diego).

San Diego Reader

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SEARCH GO

MOVIES

National Treasure: Book of Secrets



National disgrace: another overtaxed premise with an eye to a Franchise. ("This doesn't involve another treasure hunt, does it?") The honorable name of Gates has been implicated in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and rather than finding this historically intriguing, the present-day Gateses find it personally insulting. Exonerated will lie on a path through the Statue of Liberty, Buckingham Palace, the White House, Mount Vernon, Mount Rushmore, and the legendary City of Gold, as well as through exaggerated CG-aided action. With Nicolas Cage, Diane Kruger, Justin Bartha, Jon Voight, Helen Mirren, Harvey Keitel, and Ed Harris; directed by Jon Turteltaub. 2007.

Reader Rating: ★

MPAA Rating: PG

Length: 2 hours, 4 minutes

OFFICIAL WEB SITE

Showtimes

Note: Movie showtimes are subject to change. For possible updates to this schedule, please call the theater.

La Jolla 12 8637 Villa La Jolla Drive San Diego, CA 858-598-2212	<p>Thursday, Jan. 24: 1:10 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:05 p.m., 10 p.m.</p> <p>Friday, Jan. 25: 1:35 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:35 p.m., 10:35 p.m.</p> <p>Saturday, Jan. 26: 4:35 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:35 p.m., 10:35 p.m., 10:45 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday, Jan. 27: 1:15 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 7:05 p.m., 10 p.m.</p> <p>Monday, Jan. 28: 1:15 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 7:05 p.m., 10 p.m.</p> <p>Tuesday, Jan. 29: 1:15 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 7:05 p.m., 10 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, Jan. 30: 1:15 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 7:05 p.m., 10 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, Jan. 31: 7:05 p.m., 10 p.m.</p>
Mission Valley 20 1940 Camino Del Rio North San Diego, CA 858-598-2212	<p>Thursday, Jan. 24: 1:05 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 7:05 p.m., 10:05 p.m.</p> <p>Friday, Jan. 25: 10:20 a.m., 1:25 p.m., 4:25 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 10:20 p.m.</p> <p>Saturday, Jan. 26: 1:25 p.m., 4:25 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 10:20 p.m., 10:20 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday, Jan. 27: 1:25 p.m., 4:25 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 10:20 p.m., 10:20 p.m.</p>

CALENDAR

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STAY IN TOUCH

MOBILE

GEEK TOOLS

All movies playing this week include:

- reviews
- rating by Duncan Shepherd
- MPAA rating
- length
- movie location with Google map & directions
- movie showtimes – all updated daily

What am I?

(continued from page 26)

20 years.

"When someone puts something in our red barrels, that food comes here," he says. "There was nearly 4½ tons of food collected at the Chargers' game on Sunday. Well, that all came here."

Donated food is picked up by one of the five drivers the Food Bank keeps on staff. Some food also comes in by way of delivery.

"We get 85 to 88 thousand pounds of food from Vons every month," Jackson states. "It's product that they have decided they can't use. It might be that the label is torn, or it's nearing its expiration date. There's a



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN DECKER

variety of reasons why they couldn't reclaim it. And they've collected it together, and we're the beneficiaries of much of what they do."

After goods come into the Food Bank, they're inspected, cata-

logued, and placed among the makeshift "shelves." (Actually, the items are laid out on the warehouse floor in oversized shipping boxes.)

"It's a wide variety of stuff," Jackson says. "And we can't always predict

what's going to come in. In addition to the cans and dry goods, we have produce. We give the produce away."

Jackson points to the checkout scale. "Over there, people pay by the pound."

Valdivia and Bode, the clerks, are handling a transaction. Behind them, a dry-erase board with colored marker lists prices:

Assorted Food.....\$.20/lb
 Assorted Water\$.10/lb
 Assorted Beverages.....\$.15/lb
 Assorted Snacks.....\$.10/lb
 Refrigerated Items.....\$.25/lb
 Assorted Frozen.....\$.25/lb
 Frozen Meat.....\$.50/lb
 Assorted Cereal.....\$1.00/lb
 Assorted Coffee.....\$1.00/lb
 Misc. Non-Foods.....\$.25
 Household Items.....\$.50/lb
 Personal Care.....\$1.00/lb
 Special
 Non-Food.....\$1.00-\$2.00/lb

"That helps defray the cost of running the Food Bank," Jackson says. "We call it 'shared maintenance fees.' And it's a way to keep the lights on."

It takes an awful lot of lights to light the San Diego Food Bank warehouse. The place is huge, over 87,000 square feet. "One guy from the state came, and he looked down here and said, 'As food banks go, this is the Taj Mahal.'"

Jackson laughs.

But a lot of costs are associated with running a Taj Mahal-sized warehouse.

"And that," Jackson says, "is how the agencies help."

Agencies are the ones who get to shop at the Food Bank. Two hundred sixty-nine local agencies stock their pantries here. They're the local tax-exempt organizations that hold a valid 501(c)(3).

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Are You A Night Owl Who Can't Fall Asleep Till Midnight (or Later)?

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Even after an eventual wrong turn — which isn't her fault — Olivas pulls out a map book — without slowing down — and then stops the car for barely a moment to pinpoint her location, determine where she is and where she's going and what went wrong. "I have no luck with MapQuest," she says, cheerfully. "I should just use the map book."

Turns out Olivas was a quartermaster in the Navy. For those who don't know, Navy quartermasters are trained to be experts in navigation.

Olivas, 28, is the agency relations coordinator at the San Diego Food Bank.

"I coordinate all the relations between the Food Bank and nonprofit agencies," she's been saying while driving. "The agencies vary from rehabilitation centers to inner-city youth organi-

zations, soup kitchens, day-care centers, senior centers, and churches. Anyone who has a 501(c)(3) can be a nonprofit agency. And to work with us they have to be dedicated to helping at-risk youth, seniors, and low-income populations."

Olivas has only been with the Food Bank for about a year, but she has already visited many of the 269 agencies. She estimates that within another year or so, she will have personally visited them all.

"To monitor an agency," Olivas says, "it isn't just going to visit the agency. We also see what they're purchasing in the marketplace. So, if you're telling me you're serving 30 people, and you come in and you want a pallet of lettuce, that's way too much for 30 people. It doesn't make sense. So we keep an eye on that, and



San Diego Food Bank executive director James Jackson, Jr.

we make sure the numbers match up. My job is to make sure that the food is going to the proper populations."

Today, Olivas is paying a visit to a church pantry. Freedom in Christ in El Cajon distributes food to church members and to anyone

else in its community who is in need.

She works three 12-hour days and two 8-hour days every week at the Food Bank. "I wanted to work in the nonprofit world because I came from a low-income background," Olivas says. She grew up in Los Angeles,

joined the military after high school, and was stationed in San Diego. Then she majored in anthropology at San Diego State.

She also waits tables at an Applebee's Restaurant. And Olivas is working towards a master's degree in public health at San Diego State. Somehow, this pretty young woman with long dark hair is as cheerful as can be.

"You work for a nonprofit because you love it," Olivas says, using one of her favorite words.

"And I truly do love it. I have had many opportunities to leave. I was in archaeology prior to being here, and I made plenty more. But I don't mind being here 12 hours a day, because I love doing this. And then on the weekends, there's always something to do, like a food drive or an event or trying to get

donors to donate, and, you know what? I always volunteer. I'm always there. Wednesday morning we're having a run for the hungry, and I'll be there. It's just something that I love to do, so I don't mind it at all. It's just so fulfilling and so caring and warm."

Despite the wrong turn, Olivas rolls into the driveway for Grace Fellowship right on time for her appointment.

The church sits in a calm neighborhood, the cross streets of El Cajon, East Main to El Monte to Russell. Lots of trees, and every house has a lawn. On Sunday morning, 150 people might be singing and congregating here, right across the way from the National Guard Armory. At noon on a Monday, no other cars are on the streets, and very few are in the driveways. A distant dog barks.

Olivas gathers a few

RESEARCH STUDIES



Do you have eczema?

Has anyone you know ever been diagnosed with Eczema Herpeticum or had a bad reaction to the smallpox vaccine?

The ADVN with the UCSD Department of Dermatology has active research studies and is enrolling patients with Atopic Dermatitis, Eczema Herpeticum, Psoriasis, and healthy control subjects. Financial compensation is offered to eligible participants. This NIH-sponsored study typically involves only a single visit, which includes a questionnaire, examination, and blood draw. Especially needed are people of African-American genetic heritage, although anyone with Eczema Herpeticum is encouraged to contact us.

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Medical Center for Clinical Research

folders and a clipboard and walks up to a door at the side building of the church. She's greeted there by Reneé Gorham, who's in charge of the food-ministry facility for Grace Fellowship.

Gorham, a calm-seeming woman in a sweatshirt, has been with the church for 20 years. She gives the impression that she's capable of doing all sorts of things — dressing elegantly, or talking enthusiastically, or handling busywork and a family — but at this moment, it's noon on a Monday, and she's only using a small percentage of her personal resources.

Olivas and Gorham enter the pantry of Grace Fellowship. It's a small

room with a foosball table, some fold-up chairs, a sofa, and cabinets that stretch from the wood floor to the low ceiling. The cabinets are full of boxes and cans and packages of food, as well as containers of lifestyle products, such as shampoos and lotions.

Gorham sits on the sofa, and Olivas takes a seat across from her on a fold-up chair, and the two begin to go over official paperwork. As Gorham fields questions in her quiet noon-hour voice, Olivas marks down her answers.

"Where do you normally get your food from?" Olivas asks.

"From the Food Bank," Gorham answers.

"Are there any other

places that you get your food from? Any donations at all?"

"Sometimes we do. We have families that buy by the case and they'll bring stuff in."

"And do you charge for food?"

"No."

"Any inspections by the Health Department? Generally pantries aren't."

"Not recently."

"And how many households are receiving assistance from you?"

"I would say probably a minimum of 30 to 40."

"And how many individuals?"

"I would say probably about 190 on up."

The interview takes 20 minutes, including time for Olivas to dis-



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Researchers in the Department of Psychiatry at UCSD are conducting a brain imaging study that provides free psychological treatment to individuals experiencing **excessive worry** or **panic attacks**. Compensation is provided. You must be between the ages of 18-55, a nonsmoker, and **not** currently taking psychiatric medication. Other eligibility criteria apply. Please call **858-534-6445** for more information and to see if you qualify.



RESEARCH STUDIES



Pediatric Research Study

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- Physical and eye exams
- Vital signs (heart rate, respiratory rate, temperature)
- Compensation for your time and travel

Contact information: If you are interested in obtaining more information about this research study, please contact:
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pense all sorts of advice to Gorham — from how to shop at the Food Bank and when, to how to disburse the food once she has it — to help Gorham make the Grace Fellowship pantry more effective and efficient.

“You practice ‘first in, first out,’ right?” Olivias asks. “The first food that comes in is the first food that goes out?”

“Oh, definitely,”

Gorham answers.

“Okay.”

Gorham says she drives a Dodge pickup to the Food Bank once every week. She spends between \$80 and \$150 (mostly from donations) and packs the back of her truck with hundreds of pounds of what will finally fill her pantry.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN DECKER

In the end, Gorham sums it up well. “It’s just a blessing to reach out to people,” she says.

Volunteers!

Through a back door of the Food Bank warehouse, the ecstatic noise of children squealing and laughing and playing comes bubbling into

earshot. At a back loading dock, dozens of kids in maroon shirts with golden St. Charles of Borromeo Academy logos line up and pass boxes along an assembly line.

“This is where the food comes in from our Food Drive,” Jim Jackson says with pride. “This is our sorting room. And

this is an example of what happens here.”

The kids are having fun with their task of inspecting boxes.

Jackson says, “They’ll be looking for expiration dates and physically inspecting the containers and following certain guidelines that are explained to them. If we

can’t use it, then it goes into the bin.”

Jackson estimates that, in the end, the Food Bank loses almost a quarter of the donated food that comes in. But better to be safe than sorry.

“We not only have food, but we also try to educate the public about the problem of hunger,” Jackson says. “So, when volunteers come, like these kids, and they’re obviously having a good time, but at the same time, we do an orientation, and we try to help them understand what it is that they’re doing and why hunger is such a problem.”

Strolling into the main warehouse, away from the tumult of the little helpers, Jackson

turns down another pathway of ceiling-high boxes. It’s like being in the back aisles of Costco, almost.

Eventually, on the other side of the warehouse, the boxes give way to another assembly line. Jackson puts one of his hands down on the metal rollers of the line.

“Here we have a second assembly line,” he says. “So, you can get together and volunteer and come down, just like the kids did.”

He sounds hopeful. “And you can help put together boxes of food for seniors or for other targeted populations, such as women who are expecting or low-income families with little kids under six.”

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If you are 18 years of age or older, and are interested in this research program, please call:

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Research Opportunities

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Dr. Robert Henry and his associates at the VA San Diego Healthcare System/UCSD are currently conducting a research study on Losartan Potassium compared to placebo and its effects on insulin sensitivity in people who are overweight and have elevated blood pressure.

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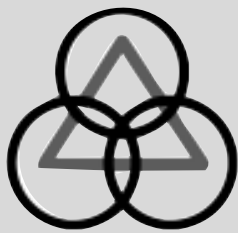
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Do you have high blood sugars?

You may be qualified to take part in a research study for people with
Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.

You may qualify for this study if:

- you are male or female between 18 and 70 years of age with Type 2 Diabetes
- if you are female, you must not be able to have children
- you have been taking same dose of metformin for at least 2 months

If you qualify, your participation in the study would last about 4 months, during which you will receive the investigational study drug and study-related medical care at no charge. You will also be reimbursed for your out-of-pocket expenses: commuting expenses, meals and parking fees.

To learn more about the study, please contact us at:

1-888-486-9150

Have you or someone you know been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder?

Are you currently receiving treatment with lithium, olanzapine, Larnotrigine, or valproic acid? Are you currently experiencing depression? You are not alone!

Synergy Clinical Research is conducting research studies for **Bipolar Disorder with Depression**. All study-related procedures will be provided at no cost. Participants will be compensated for time and travel after each completed visit. We understand...

Call Synergy Clinical Research toll-free at: 1-888-486-9150

Together...we can make a difference.



SYNERGY CLINICAL
RESEARCH

Worry Too Much?

If you worry excessively, can't relax; have persistent anxiety, tension, nervousness; have difficulty sleeping, concentrating, worrying about how you'll deal with each day; or upset stomach and muscle tension, you may have **Generalized Anxiety Disorder**.

You may qualify for a no-charge medical research study to test an investigational medication for the treatment of anxiety. All inquiries are confidential and no insurance is requested. Study-related evaluations, blood test, study-related pills and exams are at no cost and you will be compensated for visit, travel and expenses.

For more information, please call

toll-free: 1-888-486-9150

If you are one of the 15 million adults affected by depression, you may be eligible to participate in a research trial of a new depression medication now being studied.

You may be eligible for the study if:

- You are between the ages of 18 and 70
- You are experiencing symptoms of depression

All qualified participants will receive study-related care and study medication for up to 8 weeks at no cost.

**To find out if you qualify for this study,
or for more information, please call**

toll-free: 1-888-486-9150

or visit: www.parAGOnstudy.com

SCHIZOPHRENIA

Is your current medication working?

If you're taking Seroquel® and have experienced a return of symptoms, you may want to consider participating in a clinical research study.

This study is evaluating an approved medication to see if it may provide control of schizophrenia symptoms, and to evaluate its effect on weight.

Seroquel® is a registered trademark of Astra-Zeneca.

Do you qualify? You may qualify for this study if you:

- Are between 18 and 55 years of age
- Have been diagnosed with schizophrenia
- Have experienced a return of symptoms after taking Seroquel® for three months or more

All study-related care and study medication will be provided at no cost for up to eight months.

Please call toll-free: 1-888-486-9150



SYNERGY CLINICAL
RESEARCH

www.synergysandiego.com

Are YOU Postmenopausal?

If so you may qualify for a medical research study at Covance.

Covance San Diego is looking for women who are:

- Healthy & postmenopausal for at least 12 months
- Age 40 - 65
- Non-smoking for at least 3 months
- Able to complete a 6-day/5-night stay, plus 11 outpatient visits

Participants will receive all study-related exams and investigational medication at no cost and may receive up to \$5,000 for time and participation.

COVANCE

9665 Chesapeake Dr., Ste 200
San Diego, CA 92123

Please Reference Study 207547

TestWithTheBest.com or 866-818-3253



The U.S. Government and U.S. Department of Agriculture have two main programs that the Food Bank helps administer. One is a supplemental food program, mainly targeted toward seniors. The other is for emergency food assistance.

The programs aren't meant to give someone their entire diet. "But," Jackson says, "surveys have been done, trying to figure out what's missing from peoples' diets. Inside the boxes for the seniors are various cans of vegetables, fruit, pasta, and canned protein sources.

"So a senior would get one of these boxes." Jackson indicates a shoebox-sized cardboard container with red Food Bank logos on it. "We take these boxes out for distribution, and we hand them out to seniors. And it's one of the reasons

why seniors in this county are not as much at risk for food insecurity as you would think."

Distribution Drive

At more or less the crack of dawn, on the fourth Wednesday of every month, dozens of people have already begun milling around outside the Linda Vista Recreation Center. Most are older, many are disabled, and many are Asian. They chat amiably amongst themselves as the light of day grows brighter around them.

Painted on the side of the building where they wait are two lines: "Linda Vista Recreation Center" and "Brings us all together."

By 7:30, a Food Bank truck has shown up, and Maria Olivas and 9 or 10 volunteers have unlocked the building. At 8:00 a.m., the crowd — which has now grown to over 70 or

80 in number — files inside the gymnasium and signs in. In time, they will leave through the back with bags and/or boxes of food.

Inside, hundreds of white Target bags with their bulls-eye logo litter a series of fold-up tables. The people pick up their bags and head toward another table, where Olivas sits behind a laptop computer.

"Hi," she says cheerily to an older Asian gentleman. "Were you here last month?" She searches her database and types a bit. "You have to renew this month," she says. "Do you have an ID and proof of income?" The man rifles through his wallet. Olivas asks, "How many in your household?" He answers in a small, fragile voice, "Two." Olivas says, "Okay," and hands the man a tag. He then heads out the back door where Manny Mora gives him

Do you have moderate or severe atopic dermatitis?

If you have atopic dermatitis on at least 10% of your body and you are at least 18 years of age, you may be eligible for a clinical research study.

You may qualify if you have: moderate or severe atopic dermatitis on at least 10% of body surface area.

**Please call
University Clinical Trials at
(619) 202-0173 to see if you
qualify for this study.**

Qualified participants will receive study-related medical exams and investigational medications at no cost.

Compensation for time and travel may be provided.

Medical insurance is not required for study participation.

RESEARCH STUDIES

ATTENTION HEAVY DRINKERS

**What if...
Your New Year's
Resolution
was powered by
scientific research?**

Stop Drinking!

Find out if you qualify for a research program that may help you stop drinking and start the new year right!

**For more information and to find out if you qualify,
please call: 858-784-STOP (7867)
or visit our website at: www.pearsoncenter.org**



his allotted box of food and two-pound slab of American cheese.

Mora is one of the delivery drivers for the Food Bank. He spends most of his days driving around and picking up the food that stocks the Food Bank marketplace.

"These are the boxes for seniors," Mora says. "Each box has peas and spinach, juice, peaches, chicken, milk, peanut butter...good stuff like that."

Early this morning, Mora loaded nearly 100 of these boxes onto the Food Bank truck and drove them down here.

He takes a tag from a woman and helps her load a box onto her cart. Most of the people who come here for food are wheeling similar carts.

Back inside, Olivias has been wrestling through some language barriers. She speaks slowly, uses hand gestures, and maintains her patience. But sometimes

the messages don't get through. "Does anyone speak English?" she asks, more than once, and someone else comes forward to translate.

By 10:30, the room will be all but empty, and over 80 people will have gotten boxes and bags of food.

Ron gets to take an extra bag — a third one — because he has extra mouths to feed. "I have a family of eight," he says.

Eight people to feed, and Ron gets a frozen chicken, juice, noodles,



Too Shy?

**Trouble with dating? Parties? Public speaking?
Starting conversations? Speaking to authority figures?
Always worried about what other people think of you?**

Confidential help is available. You may be eligible to

Receive Free Treatment

with computerized therapy as part of a research program.

Call: **619-229-3740** or e-mail: **SDSUCUTA@hotmail.com**
http://nas.psy.sdsu.edu

CENTER FOR UNDERSTANDING AND TREATING ANXIETY

6386 Alvarado Court, Suite 301, San Diego

Anxiety?

If you are troubled by worries, tenseness, difficulty sleeping or concentrating, you may be eligible for

Anxious/Worried?

Difficulty Sleeping?

Restless/Tense?

Difficulty Concentrating?

free treatment

as part of a clinical trial of a computerized treatment program for generalized anxiety disorder at the San Diego State University Psychology Department.

Center for Understanding and Treating Anxiety

Call: **(619) 229-3740**
http://nas.psy.sdsu.edu



Sadness? Low energy? Trouble sleeping? Can't concentrate? These are symptoms of Depression!

Are you:

- Between the ages of 18 and 70?
- In overall good health?
- Currently experiencing these symptoms?

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our investigational drug research study. If you qualify and choose to participate, you will receive study medication, physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.

If you are interested in learning more about this study, please call:

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com



Is your current Anxiety medication not working?

Are you:

- Currently taking one of the following: Cymbalta, Lexapro, Paxil or Effexor for the treatment of Generalized Anxiety Disorder?
- Still feeling nervous, tense or "on edge" most of the time?
- Still having trouble sitting still or finding it impossible to simply relax?
- Between 18 and 65 years of age? • In overall good health?

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our investigational drug research study. If you qualify and choose to participate, you will receive physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. You may receive study medication to be used in addition to the Generalized Anxiety Disorder medication you are currently taking. Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.

For more information about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

or visit us online at: www.ari-inc.com



Tired of the weight? A Type II diabetic?

Are you:

- A Type II diabetic?
- In overall good health?
- Currently suffering from obesity?
- Between 18 and 70 years of age?
- A non-smoker for at least 3 months?

If you answered yes to all these questions and are available for study-related visits for a year, you may be eligible for our investigational drug research study. If eligible, you will receive medical evaluations, including blood tests and electrocardiograms, nutritional counseling, investigational medication treatment, and visits to the clinic at no charge.

For more information about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

or visit us online at: www.ari-inc.com



Is your Schizophrenia medication making you heavy?

If you have been diagnosed with schizophrenia and would like to participate in a study that monitors weight, you might consider participating in a medical research study that is studying an investigational drug for schizophrenia.

You may qualify if you are:

- Diagnosed with schizophrenia
- Between 18 and 65 years old
- Have taken Zyprexa (Olanzapine) or Risperdal (Risperidone) for the past 3 months
- Have not been hospitalized for schizophrenia in the past 3 months

Those who qualify will receive study-related procedures, such as physical exams, laboratory tests, and study medication.

For more information about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com



Not sleeping?

Are you:

- Having trouble falling asleep?
- Having trouble staying asleep through the night?
- Between 18 and 64 years of age? • In overall good health?

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our investigational drug research study. If you qualify and choose to participate, you may receive study medication and you will receive study-related physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.

If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com



HEALTHY MALES WANTED!



Profil Institute is looking for healthy male volunteers to participate in a clinical research study evaluating a previously approved medication.

For more information, call
(619) 788-9216



You may qualify if you are:

- **18 to 50 years of age**
- **Not having major health problems**
- **Not currently taking prescription or over-the-counter medications**
- **A non-smoker for at least 6 months**

You may be compensated up to \$1,800 (some overnight stays required)

Profil

Institute for Clinical Research,
865 Third Avenue Suite #100
Chula Vista, CA 91911

and ten cans of food?

"It's hard," he says. "It's rough." Ron collects a monthly disability check, but beyond that, it's a lot of "shopping at 99-cent stores."

Ron suffers from heart disease. He's been coming to Linda Vista's Food Distribution Drive for over three years. "I had a second heart repair last month," he says. "And I'm doing okay. But financially, it's just hard. So I'm here with my mom," and at this, Ron smiles toward a friendly looking woman standing nearby. "She's disabled also," he says. "We both come here once a month."

The Emergency Food Assistance Program is for people who are in need of emergency food. There's an income guideline, but generally speaking, if you're in need of emergency food, you will not be turned away. As Olivas

puts it, "Who knows if someone was a millionaire the day before, but they gambled everything away, and now they need emergency food?" The Target bags go to these people.

The Commodities Supplemental Food Program is more strict. It's for people over 60 or people who have children under 6. The boxes and cheese go to these people. The Food Bank does Food Distribution Drives, like this one in Linda Vista, 25 to 30 times per week, all year long, all over the county.

Another woman, JoAnne, arrived at the rec center early this morning, about 7:30. But she's still here at 9:30, waiting in line. "I didn't have my paperwork done," she says, although her spirits still seem bright. She's almost at the front of the line. "This is only my third time coming here," she says. "I was a nurse.

And I had a horrible back injury. So now I'm 68 and disabled, and I qualify to come here and get some food for myself. It's helpful. Very, very helpful. And especially at the end of the month. The money's gone by this time of the month, so it's very handy."

Jenny has been coming to Linda Vista for over seven months now. She gets food for her five kids, her husband, and herself. "My husband's active-duty Navy," she says. "But they don't pay a lot. So that's why we come to get the Food Bank's stuff." Jenny says the products she picks up today will last her "maybe three to five days. But you have to know how to make it stretch."

If the United States Is the Land of Plenty...

Then how come so many Americans go hungry?

(continued on page 42)

RESEARCH STUDIES



IS YOUR TEENAGER EXPERIENCING:

- Sadness or anger?
- Crankiness?
- Problems in school?
- Loss of interest in friends or activities?

These may be signs of depression.

PCSD~FEIGHNER RESEARCH

is conducting a research study for adolescents ages 12-17.

If your teen qualifies, he/she will receive lab tests, physical examinations and medications at no cost. A physician specializing in teen depression will see him/her at each visit.

We are conveniently located in the Mission Valley area.

For more information about this study, please call **toll-free:**

1-877-FOR-INFO
1-877-367-4636



ARE YOU A NIGHT OWL?

Do you go to bed at a late hour?

If so, you should know about a research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of **Delayed Sleep Phase Syndrome (DSPS)**.

Qualified Participants Must:

- Be 18 and older
- Go to bed later than you would like

Qualified Participants Will Receive:

- All study-related care, exams and study drug at no charge
- Compensation for time and travel



PACIFIC SLEEP
MEDICINE SERVICES

For more information on these and other clinical studies:
call (toll free) **1.866.410.6767** or visit www.AvastraClinicalTrials.com



ARE YOU TAKING A PAIN MEDICATION?

Are you also constipated?

If so, you may be interested in a medical research study of an investigational drug for constipation caused by opioids, such as oxycodone, morphine, hydrocodone and others.

Qualified Participants Must Have:

- Had less than 3 bowel movements per week for the last month while taking an opioid
- Been suffering from chronic pain for at least 2 months

Study-related medical exams, laboratory tests and study drug or placebo (inactive substance) are provided at no cost. Qualified participants may receive compensation for time and effort.

Teens & Migraines Is your child suffering?

Teen migraine clinical research study

To qualify, your teen must be:

- Ages 12-17
- Diagnosed with migraines or experiencing moderate to severe headaches that:
 - Last 2 hours or more
 - Occur 2 to 8 times per month for at least 6 months
- Accompanied by a parent or guardian to each study visit

Participating teens receive at no cost:

- A comprehensive medical evaluation as it relates to the study
- Study medication
- Ongoing study-related care by medical professionals

Compensation for time and travel may be provided.

All personal information collected for this study remains strictly confidential. For more information, please call Jerri Hayes at **(858) 657-6125**.



UC San Diego
MEDICAL CENTER

discover the **POWER** of academic medicine



Covance needs healthy women to take part in a clinical research study.

Qualified participants must be:

- Healthy females age 18-45
- Nonsmokers for at least 3 months
- Taking oral contraception for at least 2 months
- Willing to make overnight stays

Participants may receive up to \$1,550 for time and participation.

COVANCE
THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMPANY

866.818.3253

9665 Chesapeake Dr., Ste. 200, San Diego, CA

Study 208279

TestWithTheBest.com



CLINICAL RESEARCH

Bipolar Disorder • Depression • Schizophrenia

Researchers at Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital are currently enrolling men and women into inpatient and outpatient studies.

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

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

To learn more, please call the Sharp Mesa Vista Clinical Research Center at

(858) 694-8350.

Clinical
Research Center
SHARP Mesa Vista
Hospital

MV66A ©2007 SHC

Don't be in
a *Holidaze*.
Are you smoking too much pot?



Researchers at The Scripps Research Institute are working to develop new treatments to help you quit smoking marijuana. This 12-week program involves medication and counseling.

Follow through on your New Year's resolution! We want to help you stop.

For more information and to find out if you qualify, please call:
858-784-STOP (7867)
or visit our website at:
www.pearsoncenter.org



Health & Beauty Coupons at SDReader.com!

Here's a small sample to get you inspired!

Eyelash extensions \$150



First-time clients only. Offer expires February 29, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

*Adam & Eve
Skin Care*

Adam & Eve Skin Care
20% off Professional Brazilian Wax
(reg. \$45 women and reg. \$65 men).

1045 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-274-2900

Reader Coupons
619-235-3000

\$500 off Vaser LipoSelection



Ultrasonic Assisted Liposuction (Vaser), 1-time procedure. No general anesthesia. 2 days downtime. Call for free consultation. Offer expires February 29, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.



Ageless & Beautiful

Free consultation. Friendly, experienced staff. State-of-the-art equipment.

1080 University Avenue H-201, Hillcrest, 619-299-0264
www.agelessandbeautiful.com

Reader Coupons
619-235-3000

\$10 off acupressure



New clients only, first-time visit. Great for neck pain, backaches and stress relief. Offer expires February 29, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

Won's Acupressure

3817 32nd Street (across from CVS), 619-563-5777

Reader Coupons
619-235-3000

\$500 off Lasik Custom



\$250 off classic. \$250 off CK. \$100 off Pterygium with amniograft. \$500 off Blepharoplasty (upper and lower). Not valid with certain plans/insurance. Cannot be combined with other offers. Must bring ad. Offer expires February 29, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.



West Coast Eyecare

\$10 off optometric or contact lens exam (new fit only).
30% off second pair of glasses.

6 locations to serve you. Call 1-800-631-4590
www.westcoasteyecare.com

Reader Coupons
619-235-3000

A Day Spa **\$10 off any 1-hour service**
A Doctor's Weight Loss Clinic **\$55 off initial fees**
A Dream Smile **ZOOM! & teeth whitening \$199**
Action Recovery **10% off detox program**
Adam & Eve Skin Care **Eyelash extension \$150**
Ageless & Beautiful **\$500 off Vaser LipoSelection**
Aqua Bella **Buy 3, get 1 free**
Aqua Day Spa **Body scrub and massage \$90**
Arena Eyeworks Opt. **Contacts-exam, 6-mo. supply \$139**
askforhypnosis.com **Free custom hypnosis CD**
Bare Skincare **\$25 Brazilian wax**
Beautik Salon **Free haircut with purchase**
Beauty by Judy **15% off any purchase**
Bee Tan Salon **Free Magic Tan**
Bella Pelle Medical Spa **\$25 off treatment**
Body Wise Yoga Studio **\$10 off yoga class**
Brazilia Skin Care La Jolla **Brazilian bikini wax \$35**
Carole & Debi Hairstylists **Free designer haircut (\$45 value)**
Center for Age Management **\$50 off any service**
Chesaray's Touch Massage **Sports massage \$59**
Chula Vista Yoga Center **10 days of yoga \$10**
Coastal Dental Arts **\$1,000 off Invisalign**
Continuum Aesthetics **10% off any service**
Cosmetic Laser & Skin Rejuvenation **Botox \$9 per unit**
Delicate Dental Arts **Teeth cleaning, exam and x-rays \$89**
Derm Aesthetics **Free medical microdermabrasion**
Dimension Salon **1/2 off chemical services**
enigma. professional piercing **\$5 off body piercing**
Extreme Smile Makeover **\$1000 off Invisalign**
Face Beautiful **\$500 off Rhinoplasty**
Family Dentistry **Free teeth whitening**
Dr. Rabinder Gill **\$199 ZOOM! Advanced Power**

Global Laser Cosmetics **Free facial or microdermabrasion**
Global Laser Vision **Standard LASIK \$697 per eye**
Glow M.D. Skin Care **Free underarm laser hair removal pkg.**
Dr. Michael Goldsmid Optometry **\$20 off eye exam**
Hair Addictions **Eyelash extensions \$30 off**
Hair by Don-Paul Hofherr **15% off retail hair products**
Farnaz Haroon, DDS **ZOOM! Advanced \$269**
Dr. Robert M. Howard Eyecare Plus **6 pr. contacts for \$149**
Junior Ibarra **20% off haircut**
I.C.E. Spa **Free brow wax**
ILHT **\$500 off hair transplant**
Indigo Salon **20% off any service**
Indulge Skin Care **\$70 IPL Fotofacial**
Inner Balance Massage **1-hour massage \$50**
Inner Balance Skin Care **\$45 Microdermabrasion**
Inside-Out **Free Mesotherapy treatment**
iTan **\$49.95 super specials**
JCPenney **Contact lens exam \$79**
Jennifer Salon and Spa **\$5 off any spa package**
Jezebel Day Spa **Body wraps \$52**
Karie Hayden & Associates **20% off contour wrap**
Karo's Salon **Permanent eyeliner \$99**
Kayou Clinic **2-for-1 laser treatment**
Knotstop **1-hour massage \$49**
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La Jolla Cosmetic Laser Clinic **10% off Fraxel**
La Jolla Hair Clinic **50% off hair replacement**
Laser Clinique **\$100 off Juvéderm**
Lasting Beauty **20% off permanent makeup**
Life Medical Spa **20% off Fraxel II**
LifeWalk **25% off weight loss system**

Lucky Spa **\$20 off 1-hour massage**
Philip Levy, OD **\$25 off eyeglasses**
Massage Envy **1-hour massage \$39**
Medi Mar **\$10 off medical marijuana evaluation**
Mesa Family Dentistry **\$500 off Invisalign**
Mind Body Partnerships **Spa package \$179.99**
Howard Milstein, MD, & Associates **Laser hair removal \$95**
Murphy Frazier Chiropractic **\$25 off any treatment**
My Nails & Skin Care Day Spa **Refresh body spa pkg. \$150**
Naomi Spa **\$20 off 1-hour massage**
New Look MD **1400 hairs transplanted \$1999**
Non-Surgical Spine Care Center **Free consultation**
North County Laser Eye Associates **\$500 off LASIK**
Optimum Condition **2 for 1 personal training**
Oriental #1 Spa **\$10 off massage**
Pacific College of Oriental Medicine **Acupuncture \$20**
Padilla Family & Cosmetic Medicine **\$50 off Radiesse**
Poshé Skin & Spa **1-hr. facial, massage or microdermabrasion \$45**
Pretty Kitty **\$30 Brazilian wax**
Rejève Med Spa & Wellness **\$99 fire & ice facial**
The Relaxing Space **1-hour massage \$45**
Revive **Shiatsu/oxygen experience \$10**
Revive Salon & Spa **\$100 off 1-hour teeth whitening**
Revive Yourself **Free haircut with purchase of color or highlights**
Ross Med Hair Restoration **Free 90-day supply of Propecia**
Sabre Springs Dentistry **Free dental exam**
Salon Soulé **\$10 off precision haircut**
Salon D's **Free designer haircut**
S.D. Skin.net **2-hour facial \$95**
S.D. Wax Queen **\$25 Brazilian wax**

Dr. Selby **Contacts & exam \$122**
Shumway Cosmetic Surgery **\$50 off Botox or Restylane**
Skin Science **\$50 off single hair removal**
Skin Trade **\$10 off waxing**
Soft Touch Dental **Zoom 2! \$249**
Sonya of London **Head-to-toe treatment \$145**
South Coast Tan **Free Mystic tan**
"Spa for One" Sanctuary **\$25 off Micro Dermal Tone trtmt**
Spa Urban Retreat **Professional Aveda massage \$49**
Sport Clips **\$5 off MVP haircut**
Success Hypnotherapy **50% off hypnotherapy session**
Suddenly Slimmer **Free chi treatment with any service**
Sunshine Dentistry **ZOOM! teeth whitening \$199**
Syner Chi Day Spa **IPL Photofacial \$125**
Tanya at Salon D' **50% off haircut or \$10 off updo**
24 Hour Fitness **7 days of fitness free**
UCP **Free week of Medifast food**
Dr. Jeffrey A. Umansky **\$500 off any major surgery**
The Undercarriage **Brazilian wax \$35**
Urban Skin Care **Brazilian wax \$30**
Vahl Chiropractic Wellness Center **\$25 off laser treatment**
Vein & Liposculpture Center **Microderm. series, 5 for \$250**
VIP Salon & Day Spa **Two 1-hour massages \$109**
Viva Wellness Med. Groups **Botox \$59**
Dr. Weiss Med Spa 858 **Laser hair removal \$189**
Wellness & Longevity **\$50 off initial consult**
West Coast Eyecare **\$500 off LASIK "custom"**
Won's Acupressure **10% off acupressure**
World Spa **3 spa treatments \$149**
Yoga One **1 month unlimited yoga**

Laser skin care

Call for a Complimentary Consultation & Free Skin Analysis (\$50 value)



Take Advantage of Our *Unlimited* Laser Hair Removal Program!

Call for details. Offer expires 2/16/08.

Laser Hair Removal

Call for other areas.

\$39*

Lip or Chin

BOTOX®

Wrinkle reduction treatment.

Entire forehead, glabellar (1 area), crow's feet (both sides).
All 3 areas if injected same day are only \$595.

\$218

Per area

Wrinkle Fillers

Juvéderm™

For fuller lips & deep wrinkles.
Best wrinkle reduction treatment available today!

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with the purchase of two syringes

Restylane®

To smooth away facial wrinkles.
FREE microdermabrasion with each treatment - \$125 value

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1cc syringe

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For rosacea, redness and flushing.

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Masks and Peels

Cosmelan - For treating pigmentation disorders and melasma

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*Price per treatment with the purchase of a package of 5. Cannot be combined with any other offers or coupons. Expires 2/16/08.

\$0 Down & 0% Interest
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Special Offers

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Crow's Feet, Forehead or Glabellar

\$199 Per area

Full Face Treatment
\$569

- Receive a **\$25** off BOTOX® Cosmetic Benefit Card for next visit
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Chest **\$179***, Upper Back **\$199***



ACTUAL PATIENT

Before



ACTUAL PATIENT

After



Farzad Yaghouti, MD
Medical Director

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Se Habla Español • Promo code: RDR0131

EG
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LASER COSMETICS, INC.

What am I?

(continued from page 38)

An ex-History Teacher Teaches a Short History of Hunger

Jim Jackson lingers over his sentences, choosing words carefully. He looks kind but also stern, compassionate but also kind of tough. It might strike one as the perfect demeanor for the leader of a charitable organization.

"Let me tell you what I understand, and what I've learned, about food in America," Jackson begins. "About 30 years

ago, the food bank movement got started, and through the early- and mid-'90s, there was a lot of support by government for farmers. So one of the things the government started to do with surplus crops was turn around and give them to food banks who could distribute them to needy people. It was one of the techniques our society developed to support the farmers and deal with the problem of hunger.

"Then in the mid- to late '90s, all that surplus food went away. And what's happened over

the past ten years or so is very interesting. Right now, the food market is very tight. And part of it is because we're putting corn into our gas tanks. And other kinds of sur-

"Big Lots and all the 99-cent stores get their stuff where we used to get ours."

pluses have disappeared. So now when the government wants to find a surplus for distribution to the poor, they need to go out on the open mar-

ket and buy the food."

Jackson describes himself as always having had "a social conscience," adding, "I grew up in the '60s." He also says that he takes his

religion "very seriously." And he obviously takes the problem of hunger seriously.

"Another thing that's happened is that food

manufacturers have become terribly efficient," he says. "They've really cut down on errors during food processing. For instance, putting the wrong label on something. That kind of product used to come to the Food Bank. But it's not really happening very much anymore. And now the supermarkets, which used to be a great source for food banks, are also much more efficient in their warehousing, and they also have these reclamation centers that take products with wrong labels, for

instance, and they try to correct the problems and get these products ready for sale.

"And then, there are some new retailers that have entered the scene, like Big Lots, and all the 99-cent stores. You go in there, and they've got the oddest assortment of things. But they get their stuff from the same places where we used to get ours.

"Now, there's still enough food to go around. There's still enough. And the problem is still distribution. But the marketplace has

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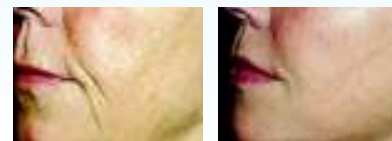


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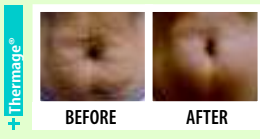
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changed, so that every food bank is going through the same problem of having to figure out how to reinvent itself. And it's not just a problem of having to get something out there, it's a problem of getting something nutritious out there. Because there's this growing awareness that we need to be providing not just any calorie for consumption, but good calories."

To this end, the Food Bank has made a push to

purchase healthier food from the government: low-sodium canned goods, more produce, and more protein.

But then Jackson gets down to the nitty-gritty.

No one who donates food in good faith can be sued.

"I have to tell you how big this problem is," he says. His voice intensifies with emotion, and he looks almost physically ill

as he lists some startling statistics. "Half of the low-income unemployed in our county are food insecure. Half of the low-income families with a single parent are food

insecure. Two-thirds of the low-income pregnant moms are food insecure. An unbelievable statistic. And there is something else about which, frankly, I'm appalled, about San Diego. Only 27 percent of those eligible for food stamps actually have them. Only 27 percent. That is a scandal of enormous proportions in our county. We are the lowest in the state. And apparently it has to do with the long application process and the huge amount of confusing paperwork. We want to do something about that, as an agency, but we're not sure what,

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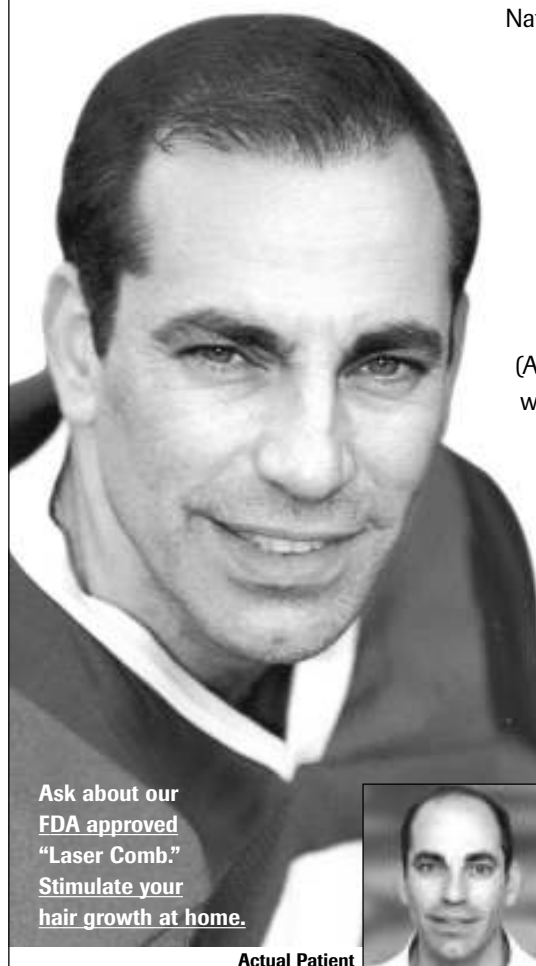
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yet. We're going to try to use technology and our current network of agencies to make it easier for people."

And what can the rest of us do to help?

"The best thing people can do is just give us money," Jackson says, matter-of-factly. "Go on our website. There's something fun there, too. It's called the Virtual Food Drive."

On the Food Bank website, it's possible to visit a virtual pantry and drag and drop food into a basket and pay for it with a credit card.

"The way I figure it," Jackson says, "we could use close to 40 million pounds of food in this county a year. Then we'd probably be getting close to meeting our needs. But we're probably only at about 11 or 12 million pounds."

The bottom line is this:

"In San Diego County," says Jackson, and his voice takes on a tone of ever deeper concern, "there are about 270,000 people who are hungry. Tonight. And there are 110,000 kids who are hungry, tonight. And during the year, more people are going to be affected by hunger than were evacuated from our fires."

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act

On October 1, 1996, President Clinton signed the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act to promote donations to nonprofit organizations for distribution to needy individuals. In essence, this law was designed to make it easier for people to give. The bill was named for Rep. Bill Emerson (R-Missouri), who fought for the proposal but died before it was passed.

The Good Samaritan Food Donation Act protects donors from liability when they're donating to nonprofit organizations.

It states that a person or gleaner or nonprofit organization "shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability arising from the nature, age, packaging, or condition of apparently wholesome

food or an apparently fit grocery product... received as a donation in good faith from a person or gleaner for ultimate distribution to needy individuals."

The Act goes on to

state that donors are only culpable if injury or death results from an obvious "act or omission."

In short, no one who donates food in good faith can be sued.

It Says It's Expired, but It's Still Good

"You can buy something in a grocery store that has today's expiration date on it, but it'll be good for months," Jackson asserts. And he produces the

paperwork to prove it. "It's approved by the Department of Agriculture."

Some interesting highlights: unopened cereal is good for 6-12 months after the expira-

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tion date. Unopened chocolate is good for up to two years after expiration. Most condiments, unopened, are good for up to a year.

The important stipulation stated by the Department of Agriculture is this: "Proper packaging and storage are essential for maintaining the quality of stored products. Foods must be stored in sealed contain-

ers, stored at the proper temperature, and protected from moisture, pests and other sources of contamination."

A Lean Operation and a Very Large Issue

"The San Diego Food Bank basically imploded a year ago, in October 2006," Jim Jackson says. "There's been some major changes since then. We're a brand-new,

independent organization now. Before that, there was bickering and fighting between Neighborhood House Association and America's Second Harvest over how to run the Food Bank. There was even some lawbreaking, and people are going to jail, for stealing food from the poor. Eventually, all those troubles led to the whole board of directors of the

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Food Bank resigning. When that happened, we had \$16,000 in the bank and a pile of canned food. That's it. And now we're trying to rebuild from the ground up. We have extraordinarily dedicated people on our board, and we have a tremendously great staff who have stuck with it. We used to have 35 employees, and now we're doing the same amount of business as before with only 21 people. And we move enough food out of here every day to provide 22,000 meals. So it's a very efficient organization. But we're not out of the woods yet. We have 30 years of experience in this town, and we've built up this network of 269 agencies that depend on us, but we need help to survive."

The Food Bank has not missed a single distribution since it went independent in July of 2007. Over that period, they've carried out nearly 600 food drives like the one at Linda Vista Recreation Center.

"We're meeting the need that's intended by the government programs," Jackson says, "but we're also trying to get our own existence solidified and our feet on the ground. And it depends entirely — entirely — on the generosity of San Diegans and their response to our call to help people who are hungry."

Even Saints Go Shopping

Lupe Haley tosses products on a flat red cart, walking backwards among the boxes of food-stuffs. It's Wednesday morning in the marketplace of the Food Bank. Haley shops thoughtfully. She buys only what she knows the homeless people in Saratoga Park will want and what she knows how to cook.

"What's this?" she asks, rhetorically, holding up a box of something marked Scooby-Doo.

"Oh, no! It's blue. No blue food!"

Haley fills cart after cart and wheels them one by one to the flat metal floor scale where the warehouse clerks, Arturo Valdivia and John Bode,

weigh the goods and help Haley load them into her husband's blue truck.

Her whole shopping trip takes her about an hour and a half.

Next Monday morning, she'll start cooking,

and she'll cook for the better part of the day, until she takes the food over to Saratoga Park yet again.

Haley usually shops in sneakers and casual clothes, but today she's

wearing her most dapper outfit: a blue blazer and blue skirt and a nice print scarf. She has a blue beret perched atop her red hair, and her low-heeled shoes (which match her scarf perfectly) clatter over the

concrete of the Food Bank floor. She's overdressed for shopping because Channel 10 News did a little feature on her this morning.

She laughs. "Eighteen years I've been doing this,

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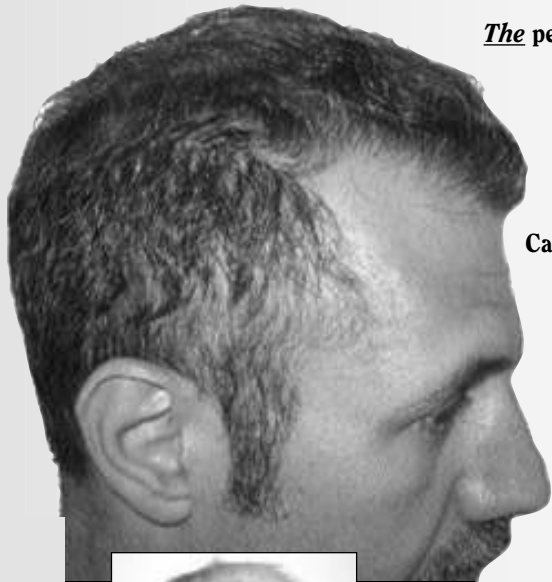
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and nothing. And now today I get Channel 10 and the San Diego Reader."

Haley begins her life story the same way she begins her sermons. "Eighteen years ago, I was homeless myself," she says. "And I noticed there was no church and no person and no brother and no sister and no relative who helps you when you come to be homeless in this country. In my country, in Mexico, you can make your own cardboard houses. No problem. Over here, you can't. You can't camp nowhere. I have two tickets in my life. One for having a dog with no leash, and one for sleeping in the streets. Now, you can sleep from nine to nine without a ticket. But before, you'd get a ticket. And I got a ticket for \$300."

She goes on, "So I was homeless for three months. I told my kids we

were going to go camping. I had three kids and my dog and my cat. My husband lost his job, and when you don't come up with the rent, you know, the eviction notice comes really fast. And my whole family was homeless for three months."

Haley's family spent their days at the beach, swimming and playing in the sand. "It was in the summertime," she says, "and there was beautiful sun in Ocean Beach. In other words, no rain, and the stars were beautiful. And in the nighttime, we'd go to sleep in Raphael Park in Ocean Beach. My husband Robert and I would wake up and go for walks and collect cans, and we would make, like, \$15 or \$20 or \$10 or whatever God blessed us with. And we would use that for food. And then we'd go to the park and cook our food,

and then we'd eat it."

It wasn't long, though, before her kids wanted to go home. Little Alma Ruth was five, and her sons Angel and Roman were six and nine, respectively. "They said they didn't want to be camping no more," Haley says. "They wanted to go home. And I started crying, because we didn't have any place to go. I didn't have no family. And it was really hard for me."

Her eyes tear up even now when she remembers.

"And then I asked God," Haley says, and her voice takes on a deep edge of sincerity. "I wanted to help the homeless. I said, 'God, I will help You and feed the homeless, and You give me a home.' And from there, I started getting child support from my first husband. And then Robert got a little part-

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time job. And then I started working in a hotel, cleaning the rooms. And everything came together. From there we went to live with people, and then we went to live in a hotel, and then we rented a studio, and then a one-bedroom house. And now I'm living in a beautiful home, a four-bedroom house. I pay \$1200 in rent."

True to her word, now Haley helps the homeless. "I cook for them, I pray for them, and I tell them where they can go to get some shelter and some meals," she says. "Because God answered my prayers, I

am able to do that."

Every Monday in the same neighborhood where her family "camped" almost 1000 Mondays ago.

"I've never missed a day," she says. "Because, you know why? This is how I feel, and this is how I see things." Her eyes and tone are earnest.

"Myself, I'm diabetic," she says. "So today, when I got up, I had to have my oatmeal. Okay? At 10 o'clock or 11 o'clock, a sandwich or some scrambled eggs or whatever. Something. Now think about all these people. And the cold weather. Or the hot

weather when they burn all up. And then maybe someone helps them, but they get macaroni and cheese in a box, and where are they going to cook? So I know in my heart, if I can feed two or three people, then I'm happy. But I help sometimes as many as a hundred people every Monday. And I pray a lot. I pray that I'll get enough blessings to help even more people."

Haley says it's worth it to her "just for all the hugs I get." And then she says, "I've never met some of these people before, and they hug me and bless me. They're

strangers, but to me, I call them brothers and sisters, and they're going through such tribulation. Imagine if you were homeless all of a sudden and going through what they're going through. You'd lose your mind. Your mind wouldn't function right. That's what happens to these people in the streets."

Before Haley was homeless herself, she worked for 15 years in printing shops. She also taught exercise classes through Jack LaLanne.

Today, her daughter works, and Haley babysits her granddaughter for \$100 a week. She also col-

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lects cans on Wednesdays and makes about \$40. And her other money comes from preaching at her church: \$75 weekly. Her husband Robert is disabled and collects Social Security.

"It's really hard still, sometimes, because I won't have any transportation and then I'll have to make arrangements," she says. "I do have people who help me, my neighbors help me."

Today, Haley will spend \$51.60 at the Food Bank. But this is a light day. She estimates that

she spends closer to \$100 every week on food for her Monday meals.

"I'm not going to lie to you," she says. "Right now, I owe the Food Bank over \$250. When my husband's Social Security check comes on the first, I'll make a special check for the Food Bank. I do this every month, usually. And the Food Bank is great. They support me so much."

Homeless people who stay near Haley's church will help her unload the thousands of pounds of food and water. "Look at my

hands," she says. Her fingers are twisted and arthritic. "How much longer do you think I can do this?"

Haley turns philosophical. "I know why I went homeless," she says. "Because that was the only way I could become strong in my own will. And that's how I have the conviction to do what I do today."

And then Haley states the issue in the sharpest relief possible. "Let's get real," she says. "Food is life. If you don't eat, you die." ■

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Actual patient

After They Shot Juan

Tijuana: Valentine's Day, 1938.

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By midmorning, the story is common knowledge throughout town, and enraged citizens form a lynch mob, screaming for the killer's blood. For three days, Tijuana is ripped by riots so violent and anarchic that President Roosevelt is kept abreast of the situation and San Diego's civic pillars call for intervention to defuse the situation. All day Tuesday the tension builds and explodes that night, as shops are looted and burned. In an eerie parallel to *Kristallnacht* in Germany later the same year, Jewish-owned businesses are targets of the mob's rage. Both city hall and the police station are torched; fire trucks roll in to quench the flames only to find their hoses cut. The fire crews watch in frustration as buildings are swallowed by the conflagration.

Police fire into the crowd, killing several people even as authorities deny civilian casualties. For 72 hours the

tiny border town of 20,000 verges on chaos before a presidential decree from Lázaro Cárdenas metes punishment to the army private who confessed to the crime. The three San Diego newspapers compete all week to offer the most sensational account of events in Tijuana, knocking Hitler from the headlines as the drama plays out 20 miles to the south. Even the *Los Angeles Times* runs a cover story about "Bloody Tuesday," February 15, 1938, when the violence peaked.

Fifty-nine years later, the fallout from those events has borne strange fruit: the man executed for the murder is now the folk saint of Tijuana, revered by thousands from the deserts of Sonora to the urban sprawl of Orange County. This is the story of Juan Castillo Morales, 24, from the southern state of Oaxaca, and his transforma-



Juan Soldado

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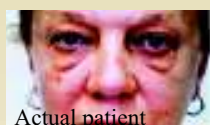
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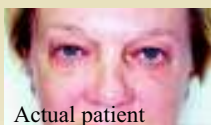
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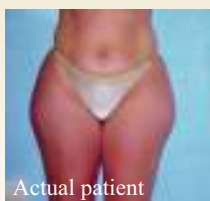
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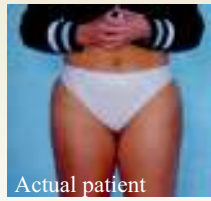
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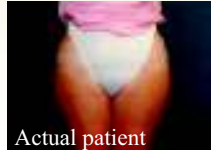
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tion into Juan Soldado, boy-saint of the border.

The Catholic Church denies his sanctity even as thousands of his followers flock to his shrine in Tijuana's oldest public cemetery, Pan-teón Número Uno, a football field from the border fence and shouting distance from the Imperial Beach swap meet. June 24 is Juan Soldado's special day—the feast day of St. John the Baptist on the Catholic calendar, known as *El Día de San Juan* in Mexico. On that day the cemetery is jammed with believers. Three mariachis, hired for this occasion, belt out a lyrical tune about life's meaninglessness.

My dad and I stumbled onto the scene several summers ago, when I was hiding out in Tijuana from reality and my crazy ex-*vieja*, who got so cranked on crystal meth one night, she called me the Antichrist. My father, a staunch Irish-Catholic, was startled by the festive atmosphere in the graveyard. People were having a good time as they partied with the dead; children were everywhere,

playing tag around the tombstones as their musical laughter rang through the graveyard. A man placed a recent picture of his son, dark and surly in a Raiders jacket, on a small table inside the shrine. In a scribbled note accompanying the photo, the father pleaded with Juan Soldado to save his son from prison: You know he is innocent, he implored; you have to free him before something terrible happens inside that jail.

The image stayed with me, and a few weeks later I noticed a new picture, with father and son posing in front of a church, pinned to the wall above the old note. His son had been freed, and the father had come to the altar on his knees to give thanks to the soldier-saint. Javier is a burly, balding, 40ish man gulping swigs of tequila from the bottle. Between drinks he recounts how Juan Soldado saved him from immigration officers years ago in Santa Ana. Javier was working in an El Torito restaurant when INS staged a raid; the workers scattered and agents were in pursuit when Javier



From the San Diego Union, February 16, 1938

prayed directly to Juan to save him. Javier was making good money, enough to send back to his family in Jalisco; he couldn't afford to get caught right now.

He escaped La Migra: he was hidden long enough to get away. That was 14 years ago, and Javier has returned to the shrine every June 24 since to give thanks to his savior. Now a legal, permanent resident and owner of his own business, Javier is convinced that a miracle secured him a decent life in

the U.S.

How Juan Soldado became a popular saint is a matter of dispute. Some say that a rock by the spot where he fell kept spouting blood, calling attention to his innocence. Others contend that an officer killed the little girl and pinned the crime on Juan, handing him her dismembered body. After the execution, legend goes, several other child murders were committed in Tijuana that were covered up by the government. Only when a high-

ranking officer was transferred to Chihuahua (or Sonora or Sinaloa, depending on the storyteller) did the killings cease. According to the *San Diego Union* in 1938, it was Juan's wife who reported him to the authorities when he came home late, disheveled, and wearing a blood-drenched shirt.

The municipal cemetery boasts two shrines. The first is a humble structure filled with flowers, candles, and photographs that has drawn pilgrims for more than half a century. The second site is a recently dedicated altar where young Juan was said to have fallen after he was given a 100-yard head start—accorded to him by "Ley Fuga," the fugitive law embedded in the Napoleonic code—and then shot by a squad of soldiers.

Some of the "miracles" may seem small to Americans couched in the culture of luxury, but they represent hope for many impoverished Mexicans. Here the faithful light candles and display personal testimonies of how Juan Soldado has intervened in

their lives (many *tijuanaenses* display a purity of faith that would humble "cafeteria" Catholics, who pick and choose what they want from the smorgasbord of theology). The followers of Juan Soldado believe in his divine powers. On a recent visit to the tomb, I observed many displays of devotion. To the right of the altar, a mother and daughter have perched copies of their passports, received after months, perhaps years, of battling government red tape and inaction.

In misspelled, heartfelt Spanish, they give thanks to Juan Soldado for interceding with the bureaucracy so they could cross the border legally and earn dollars. They earn more in an hour working as maids in Coronado or La Jolla or National City than they could make in a ten-hour day back home in Guerrero or Jalisco or Chiapas.

Above the glass-encased image of the martyred soldier, I spot an ATM card taped to the wall of the shrine. I touch it, amazed that this gadget we depend on, a mundane part of life, could be

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considered miraculous. I wonder who left the card and why. And who can say this isn't a true miracle, this strip of plastic that sucks out cash from machines and hurls a Mexican peasant into Gringolandia?

In the era of Operation Gatekeeper, another cycle of anti-immigrant hysteria, Juan Soldado is the patron saint of the disenfranchised, a folk hero of the undocumented, the spiritual anchor for those who gather on the border each night, gearing up for the dangerous leap north. I meet Memo there, in the shadow of the levee. We wait for darkness to fall. He's from Oaxaca, far to the south, and came to Tijuana three months ago to live with his sister and her husband. Very dark and intense, with a noble Aztec nose, Memo's Spanish is lilted and melodic, like a bird, and I ask him if he speaks another tongue. "Sí, mi primer idioma es Zapotec, but here one must speak good Spanish to get ahead." His ambition impresses me, and I think of a cop's comment in Joseph Wambaugh's *Lines and Shad-*

ows, set along the San Diego-Tijuana border: "It is the bravest, most ambitious Mexicans who wrench themselves from their homeland to come to the US. The timid stay home and tighten their belts when another corruption-fueled crisis falls." Memo had never heard of Juan Soldado when he first arrived here, but he became a convert. Twice he tried to cross over to San Ysidro, and twice he failed, fell into the talons of the *migra*, and was dumped back in Tijuana. The first time he paid a smuggler \$200 U.S., almost everything he had, to help guide him across to the other side, but the man took his money and failed to show at the prearranged time and place. Three months later, emboldened by shots of tequila and the company of two drinking buddies, Memo tried again and made it over, only to be apprehended on the Chula Vista trolley. Barely surviving as a street vendor, he heard of Juan Soldado from his brother-in-law's mother, who prayed to the boy-saint when any of her nine children were in

Gringolandia. Memo went to the shrine and left flowers and a candle, asking Juan to help him get across and find work once there. A week later, he was in Carlsbad picking strawberries and saving 100 bucks a week to send home to his wife and two little girls. Memo has crossed several times since without problem, and he is convinced that Santo Juanito watches over him when he is along the border or in the fields of North County. For his *manda*, his spiritual payment for the favor bestowed on him, Memo walked from Tecate to Tijuana. He tells me about the ten-hour hike through heat and dust to give thanks for the chance to pick fruit for \$5 an hour.

Alejandro is also a true believer. I meet with him in Casa del Libro, the Spanish-language bookstore at Park and University. Solidly built, with the muscles of a workman, Alejandro describes his frustration trying to get a green card legally. "I drowned in bureaucracy for years, desperate to get a *mica* [green card] to work in the U.S.

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Nothing worked until I went to the shrine of Juan Soldado and asked him to help me. I made a solemn promise that day that if Juan Soldado came through for me, I would clean up my act, stop drinking and chasing women, and take care of my wife and kids." In just a few weeks after making the pledge, Alejandro got his green card; he swears he hasn't had a drink since. Gloria, his short, plump, vivacious wife, vouches for her spouse. Now they both visit the tomb of Juan Soldado several times a year, thanking him for bringing peace into their home.

Over the years, the facts of the Castillo Morales/Soldado case have melded with border folklore to produce a tapestry of historical frustration. SDSU retired history professor and border scholar Thurber D. Proffitt III dubbed the story "a mere blip on the historical screen, but a fascinating blip at that." The cast of characters includes homicide detective Lieutenant Ed Dieckman of the SDPD, who sounds grim and humorless, called in by Tijuana authorities to investigate the crime; General Manuel Contreras, army chief of the northern Baja territory, who looks just as I imagine Cotton Mather would had he presided over the Salem witch trials; and Tijuana police chief Luis Vinal Carsi, who seemed overwhelmed by the circumstances.

As a side note: In those days, San Diego and Tijuana police departments had a joint task force dedicated to solving sex crimes. In all of 1938, there were five such cases reported between both cities. Olga Vicenta Diaz Castro, better known by her pen name of Sor Abeja ("Lady Bee" is the closest translation), was for many years Tijuana's unofficial poet laureate. Among her many works, she wrote a book on the legends of Tijuana, *Leyendas de Tijuana*. Included are chapters on the phantom gambler of Agua Caliente, who occasionally appears to high rollers at the track, and the girl who danced with the devil himself. She also writes about Juan Soldado, lamenting the lack of solid historical research into the case. I met her once, some five years back, on a bright Sunday morning in her home high in the hills on the west side of town. Nearly 90 at the time, she'd lost none of her faculties, flashing a

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We passed a pleasant day talking of what Tijuana once was and what she had become and why Mexico, in spite of all its problems, was still a good place to raise a family if you could provide for them. She was on the fence about Juan Soldado's guilt, but on one thing we concurred: Mexican justice made sure that he never had a chance. Sixty hours elapsed from the discovery of Olga's body and the execution. For several years after our meeting I kept in touch. She died a few years ago. *Sor Abeja, te estraña mucho.*

Tijuana in the 1930s was a place where Mexico's past collided with the modern world: decadent Hollywood types who drank, gambled, and whored while they deplored the country's inclination toward depravity and idolatry. Agua Caliente race-track boomed and the city began to grow, but disaster was brewing.

Now in his late 70s, Cutberto Aguiar recalls that hundreds of unemployed revolutionaries milled around downtown Tijuana streets, bored and dangerous. Unable to ply their trade for several years, they were ripe for excitement; the furor that arose after the little girl was found dead gave them a chance to display their talents. At the same time, militant labor groups began to demand concessions from business leaders — men of wealth who were determined to protect their privilege. President Cárdenas was initially sympathetic to the labor movement, but as it became radicalized he changed his stance. By the beginning of 1938, the race-track was shut down in a labor dispute, and no solution was imminent. Señor Aguiar's piercing black eyes drill into me as he explains that the little soldier-boy who came to be known as Juan Soldado was set up to break the back of the revolutionary Mexican workers' union. "This little guy was a scapegoat for the government," he tells me with a sardonic smile. "They used the crime and the riots that followed to end the reign of the workingman in Tijuana."

Roberto Villalobos (not his real name) has deep roots in Tijuana. His family has been here for more than a century. The family library



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is rich in historical treasures: his great-grandfather used to hunt grizzly bears on Otay Mesa when it was a trackless wilderness.

Roberto's grandmother at one time employed Juan Castillo Morales's wife as a servant in her home, and Villalobos grew up on intimate terms with their story. Years of research have convinced him that Castillo Morales was indeed guilty of the heinous crime for which he was executed.

Why do people believe that he was innocent, and why do they credit him with miracles? I ask the doctor and history buff. Roberto Villalobos replies that at first, a feeling of collective guilt swamped Tijuana after the execution, causing a reevaluation of what had happened. Second, ignorance and superstition combined to produce a cult, which spread by word of mouth throughout the border region. Newcomers to Tijuana would visit the cemetery and believe the story with no historical understanding of the facts behind the case. For many educated

tijuanaenses, the cult of Juan Soldado remains an embarrassment, an example of peasant backwardness. Roberto Villalobos finds the subject of historical interest but hardly a mystery. For the surviving members of the Comacho family, the fact that Juan Castillo Morales/Juan Soldado is revered as a popular saint is an outrage; several years ago they demanded that Olga's body be exhumed and reburied in another cemetery rather than remain in the same graveyard as her murderer.

Manuel Acosta Meza was a hero in a town that needed one. A crusading journalist who worked at the *San Diego Tribune* in the '40s and '50s, Acosta Meza dedicated his life to defending Tijuana's poor and exploited and exposing government and business corruption at the highest levels. His newspaper, *El Imparcial*, was continually shut down by authorities who feared and loathed him. Before his assassination in July of 1956, Acosta Meza had established himself as the greatest newspaperman in the his-

tory of Tijuana. A bust of Acosta Meza can be seen today on Calle Tercera, west of Revolución, in front of the monument to freedom of speech.

Manuel Acosta Meza was interested in the Juan Soldado case. In the early '50s, at great personal risk, Acosta Meza reprinted in his paper accounts of the events of 1938 that raised serious questions about government complicity. Was there a connection between his pursuit of the truth and his murder? Eighteen years elapsed between the riots that ended in Juan Castillo Morales's execution and the death of Acosta Meza. What if Acosta Meza was on the trail of the real killer of the little girl, an officer now nearing retirement and determined to keep his good name? Each day that passes, fewer witnesses are alive and fewer clues remain.

Manuel's son, Iván Acosta Meza, is a charming man in his mid-40s who carries on his father's torch. Ivan, a human rights attorney, tried for several years to keep *El Imparcial* alive. Finally, after repeated closures by the gov-

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ernment, and threats against his family, Ivan decided to devote himself to law; he works out of an office west of downtown Tijuana. Gracious and articulate, Ivan described how his father's archives were destroyed in a suspicious fire in 1969. Among the documents lost in the blaze were numerous articles about Juan Soldado. According to several sources, a movie was made about the events of 1938 but was banned in Mexico. Filming had to be completed in Los Angeles, and the picture was lost. (It is said the film may be hidden in UCLA's film archives.)

"Tijuana was so small when I first came here [in 1937] that in 15 minutes, I

walked through the whole damn town," says Mario Jiménez, who was 22 when he fled the interior of Mexico and made his way north to the border. After several months living in destitution, he landed a temporary job working with the crew building the highway to Ensenada. When the road was finished, he strolled the Coahuila red-light district with songs for sale, but the steadiest gig he could land was digging graves in the old public cemetery west of downtown, Panteón Número Uno, where he dug graves for children — victims of tuberculosis or measles or scarlet fever. It was not a job in great demand, even in desperate times.

At 82, Mario is a robust, handsome man with a strong handshake. When I arrive at the East San Diego home of his youngest daughter, Margarita, on a hot Saturday afternoon, Mario has been working for several hours putting in a new floor in the back room. The day's labor done, we settle down with a couple of cold Bohemias to talk about Juan Soldado. His memory crisp, Mario recalls those days in a voice of compassionate wisdom. He remembers the sad days of his childhood, a scruffy little street urchin shining shoes and peddling newspapers and candy on the streets; he remembers learning in fits and starts to play guitar. Mario

played for a while in the bar run by Olga Camacho's father, Aurelio, head of the local bartenders' union. Mario admits that he and his buddies were not virtuous in those days.

"We were not altar boys," he tells me with a wicked grin. Their church was the cantina, where they played and drank and wenched away the evenings. Gringos were a source of amusement for Mario and his pals. Gringos went to Tijuana to sleaze it up, but they made it clear their culture was superior to that of Mexico's. Mario decided long ago that all men were created equal when it came to the pursuit of vice. Mario Jiménez saw the drama

unfold almost 60 years ago: the looting and burning and killing branded his mind with such force that for years he dreamed of what he had seen; his sleep became punctuated with images of the violence and terror that ruled the town for three days. Legend has it that a man was shot in the cheek during the street fighting between police and union agitators, and the bullet passed through without harming him. People seemed obsessed with magic and mystery as violence exploded around them.

Mario was there the morning they shot Juan Soldado, February 17, 1938. He was inside the cemetery digging a grave when the army

detachment brought Juan inside and prepared to shoot him. Juan was found guilty at a top-secret military tribunal that went on all night in General Contreras's home, and at dawn he was proclaimed guilty and taken to the graveyard. Many stories are told about what transpired on that day: some say Juan admitted his guilt and begged for mercy; other sources insist he was stoic to the end. Mario heard Juan say he did not kill the little girl; Mario heard Juan say a short prayer before he was made to run. ■

— Patrick Maher

Originally published in the *Reader* on December 4, 1997

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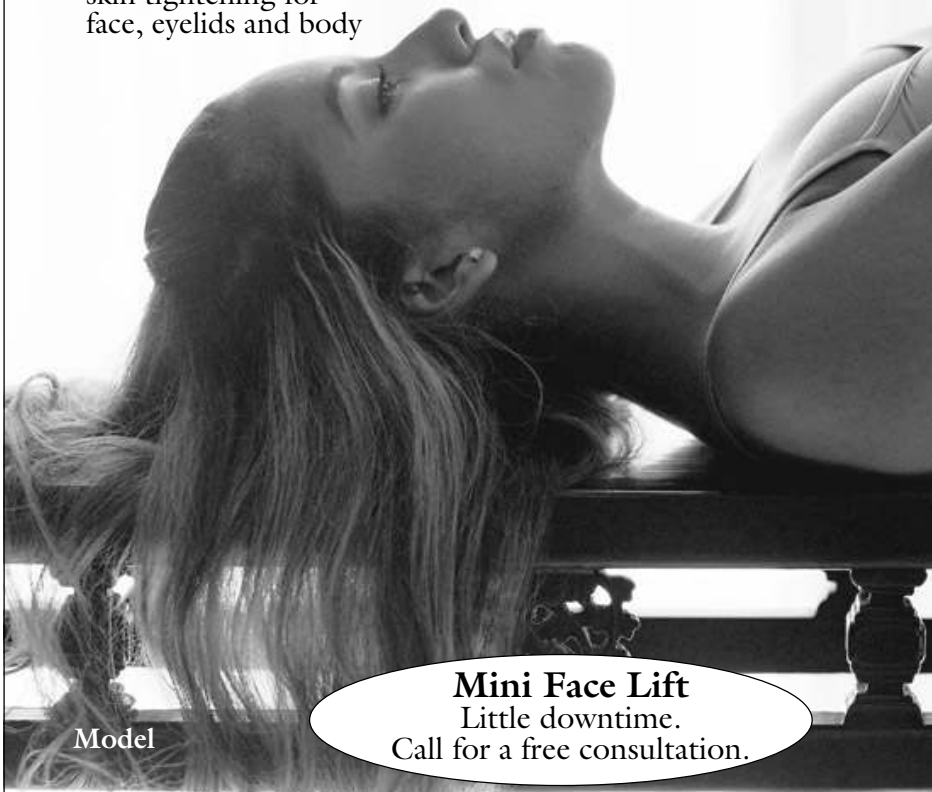
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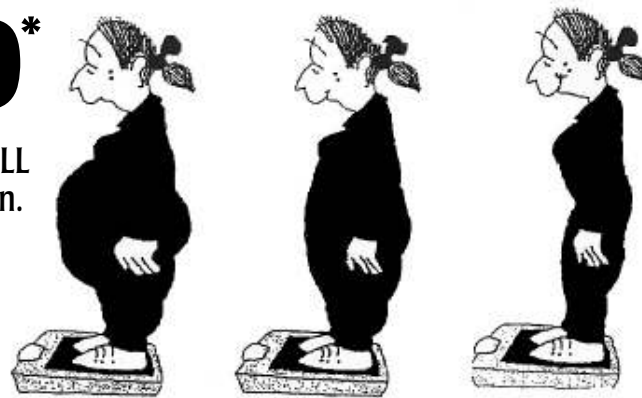
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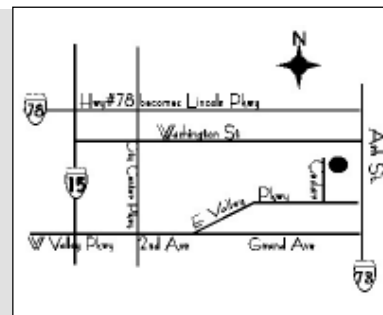
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LETTERS

continued from page 12

we all support him in this hard time. We will stick with him and give our love and support to this man who helps and motivates us to reach for the stars. It breaks my heart to hear that this wonderful and kind man is being exploited for something that is rumored to have started out as a personal problem. I love Mike Rood, as my principal, and I will stick with him for the rest of my junior year and for all of my senior year. I will keep him in my heart when I go on to college, and I will thank him for taking me in and giving me a second chance!

Angela Bernal
Linda Vista

Lighter Than Air

I sat down to look through my new crisp Reader, which is a weekly occurrence of mine for many years, and I turned to page 148 ("Picture Story," January 24) and read about a murder suspect arrested in

August of 1961. Standing to the right of the suspect was a person described as then SDPD Deputy Chief Ray Hoobler. The photograph is from the San Diego Historical Society. I transferred from the SDPD in July 1972 to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and retired last August after 35 years. Police chief Ray Hoobler was my last boss on the PD. The gentleman in this photograph is not Chief Ray Hoobler. Chief Hoobler was a fairly short, stocky, tougher-than-nails-looking cop with a full head of black hair and described by us street cops as "a cop's cop." The gentleman in this photograph was probably a homicide detective or homicide supervisor. Being that I was a lowly street cop wrestling drunks out of the lower Fifth and Sixth avenue downtown bars, I didn't get much of a chance to rub elbows with the "Lighter Than Air Squad," aka Homicide.

Conrad Grayson
Retired Sergeant
SDPD

Robert Mizrachi responds: I misinterpreted a note on the Evening Tribune photo-assignment sheet. Though Ray Hoobler's name was written in the "Identification" area, he may have been the intended subject for the photo shoot.

Comments from Reader Website

Blog Diego Published January 23

Thanks for publishing my blog entry! I'm very happy to have more people reading, talking and thinking about what it means to be transgender because we have such a big, amazing transgender community here in San Diego. One correction though, the title you put is "Transsexual Christmas", and transsexual is very different from transgender, which was in my title and is how I identify. Your editors shouldn't be changing things they know nothing about.

Also, the correct url for my blog is technotrannyslut.com, which is much easier to remember.

thanks again!
lotu5

Are YOU ready for Valentine's Day?

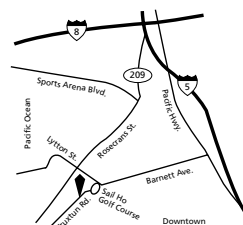


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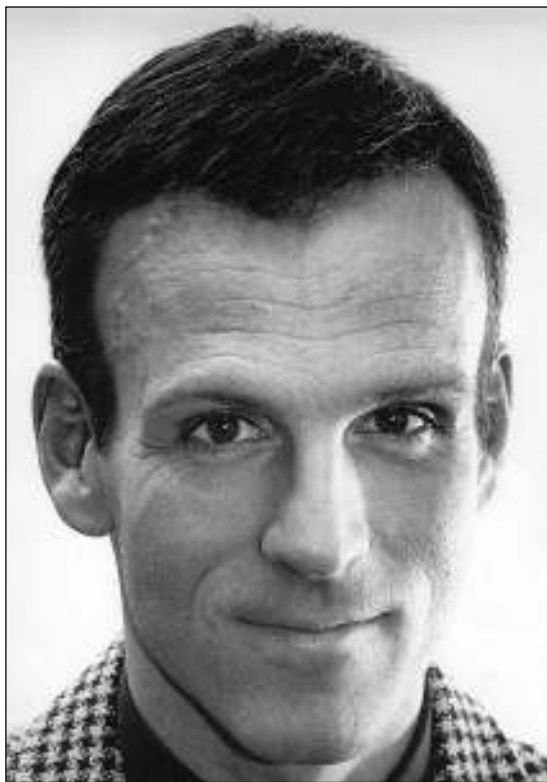
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Cover Story

Published January 16

Posted by Ed Been on 01/16/08, 6:33 p.m.

This article really hit home. If you are a player like me, someone who started putting bands together in my early teens, you just can't imagine music not being a part of your existence on some level. The choice is easy, to play or not to play. To set up the equipment, and do it in front of an audience, there's nothing like it. And as always, a giant thank you to all the folks who come out and support live music. Here's to future gigs in assisted living facilities. Peace! Ed Been Y3K www.y3kband.com

Posted by STEVI LYNN

on 01/17/08, 10:03 a.m.

I totally agree with this. I am not going to become some famous singer at this point in my life, but I have a band and I love playing out live. ITS ALL ABOUT HAVING FUN AT ANY AGE.... more power to ALL MUSICIANS

City Lights, Breaking Stories

Published January 16

Posted by JF on 01/17/08, 10:12 a.m.

It's just stunning to me that in a time where the city of San Diego is desperate for things like fire stations these folks are willing to pony up \$8 million for a project like this. That would pay for about three

new fire stations, including property

Cover Story

Published January 9

Posted by so-cal-al on 01/15/08, 12:10 p.m.

It's amazing how competitive some of these parents can be. Whatever happened to, "it's not whether you win or lose....but how you play the game"....? Let these kids have some fun, and learn some valuable social skills in the process. As always, the Reader and their top notch writing staff, have hit on another hot button issue that needs further examination. Maybe some of the overzealous parents, and coaches will read this, and readjust their thinking.

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Desert Maneuvers

General Patton and Clark Dry Lake

How do you establish camps, find water, and fight long-distance when it's 110 degrees? If you're not acclimatized, you're fighting your environment and not your enemy," says Fred Jee, supervising ranger for the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

"People were sort of aware of this little desert community way out there — hard to get to but a really nice kind of place. Then here comes World War II, and [General George] Patton and his people were looking to establish Camp Young up there, which is two million acres by Highway 10. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers there were all being trained to go to North Africa.

They were getting acclimatized. You don't just dump a bunch of soldiers — a guy from Brooklyn or a fisherman from Alaska — in Africa and say, 'Okay, go for it.'"

On Sunday, February 3, Jee will lead a driving tour of Clark Dry Lake, one of the training areas established in 1942 for Patton's Desert Training Center. The lake was named after Frank and Fred Clark, brothers who settled in the area in 1891. "They established a well and a ranch and a residence there while doing their cattle business," says Jee. "It's a hardscrabble living, but it was a living. Later on in Borrego Valley, more settlers [six families] came in towards the early '30s with the Homestead Act — the only way to keep the land, 160 acres, was you had to be there year round, and you had to prove you were there in order for the government to deed the land

over to you."

The Clark cattle ranch ceased operation in 1937, and the Clark Lake basin remained empty until the Navy arrived in 1944 and built an auxiliary airfield. Prior to the military's arrival, Anza-Borrego had been desolate and difficult to reach; as Jee says, "It was pretty much a camping existence." The military was responsible for building roads and running electricity to the area.

"Clark Dry Lake was the perfect place to set up an artillery range," says Jee. "They established rock-ring targets. We're talking 50- to 60-pound boulders that some poor guy had to go out and find, drive miles, and bring them all back and get them painted white. From the air you'd see this target — concentric rings with a dead center."

Most trainees had no prior flying experience. "For a guy who's just off the farm, jumping in an aircraft like that and saying, 'Okay, you're now a fighter pilot' — I don't think so." First, Jee explains, pilots were taught in a T6 Texan, a training aircraft. "It allowed young pilots who might have learned on a biplane, then a fixed-wing single-engine aircraft with a high-performance engine, to learn how to drop bombs and fire 50-caliber machine guns at targets...and possibly 20-mm cannons."

"Rake stations" were constructed to assist in accuracy training. A rake station is a four-posted tower in which observers would track the accuracy of bullets and bombs with the use of a four-tined instrument calibrated to line up the observer's vision with the airfield. When bombs or bullets hit the ground they create dust



Clark Dry Lake, Anza-Borrego Desert

"pick-ups," by which an observer could gauge the accuracy of the shot with the rake. "It was primitive stuff," says Jee. "None of this smart-bomb jazz where you're looking at the eye of a TV camera. They called it precision bombing then because it was a great advance from World War I, when 'bomb sighting' was your eye..."

"Pilots didn't always hit the target, so the observers needed protection." Between the posts are hooks on which observers would hang steel plates. "You couldn't build something solid because you would just suffocate in there. The dry lake would get up to 120-plus." Pilot inaccuracies are evident in the holes in the cement and steel-rake station structures.

"The Clark Dry Lake area was part of the war effort, one of hundreds of training areas around the country," says Jee. "What occurred here doesn't just disappear. The structures still exist, 12 feet high and 10

feet square. The top is all concrete, supported by four steel-reinforced concrete poles. You can walk in and under it, like an open gazebo."

On the tour, spectators will see remnants of a military plane crash. "This was training for war. Not everybody made it out of training. We look at training today, look at *Top Gun* — everybody's having fun and games and looks like Tom Cruise. The reality is: 'Sorry, that wasn't the case.'"

— Barbarella

A Tour of Clark Dry Lake
Sunday, February 3
8:30 a.m. to noon
Meet at Christmas Circle (off Highway S-22)
Borrego Springs
Cost: \$35 for nonmembers, \$25 for members
Info: 760-767-4063 or
theabf.org/specialweekends.htm



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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER EVENTS, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

DANCE

"Collage 2008 — Moved to Dance" San Diego Civic Dance Company presents 25th annual recitals with dancing in variety of styles. 619-702-3408. Friday, February 1, 8:00 pm; Saturday, February 2, 7:00 pm; Saturday, February 2, 3:00 pm; Sunday, February 3, 2:00 pm; \$10.00-\$12.00. Casa del Prado Theater, 1650 El Prado, Suite 208. (BALBOA PARK)

Basics of Bellydance with Modern Twist Learn basics of bellydance with a modern twist from Leilainia. Series of Wednesday classes starts February 6. Mixed level. Fee: \$60 for six weeks. 619-884-7707. Wednesday, February 6, 5:30 pm; \$10.00-\$15.00. Ages: 6+. Creative Play Space, 3311 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

OUT & ABOUT

HOOFIN' THE COUNTY! Palomar Dance Festival, Friday and Saturday, February 1 and 2, Howard Brubeck Theatre.

(SEE DANCE)



PHOTOGRAPH BY YVONNE PETRA

Contradance Music by Flight Path, calling by Chris Page. Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30 pm, dancing 8-11 pm Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Friday, February 1, 7:30 pm; \$7.00. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. 619-238-8550. (NORTH PARK)

English Country Dancing Ellen Riley calls for English country dancing. Beginners' instruction at 6 pm 858-676-9731. Sunday, February 3, 6:00 pm; \$6.00. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. 858-676-9731. (POWAY)

Fun Time Square Dance No partners or experience needed. First time free. 619-561-3289. Friday, February 1, 6:30 pm; \$4.00. Lakeside Community Center, 9841 Vine Street. (LAKE SIDE)

Hooftin' the County Palomar College Dance Festival boasts modern choreography from colleges, universities, professional dance companies from around San Diego County. See dance

in a wide range of styles, concepts, and musical influences. Program includes *The World Is Round, Disconnected*, and *Shoes*. Reservations: 760-744-1150 x2453. Friday, February 1, 8:00 pm; Saturday, February 2, 8:00 pm; \$8.00-\$12.00. Howard Brubeck Theatre at Palomar College, 1140 West Mission Road. 760-744-1150. (SAN MARCOS)

Jamboree by the Sea 59th annual square and round dance festival hosted by Palomar Square-Dance Association. Featured callers include Johnny Preston, Scot Byars, Phil Farmer, Dennis Young, others. Fees depend upon day of attendance; multi-day packages available. Advance registration: 760-731-9501. Friday, February 1, 4:00 pm; Saturday, February 2, 9:00 am; Sunday, February 3, 10:00 am; \$7.00-\$25.00. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. 858-755-1161. (DEL MAR)

Learn the One-Step It's described as "the dance that ushered in

the biggest dance craze of the 20th century." Waltz and Such dance lesson at 7:30 pm in room 207 of Casa del Prado, followed by open dancing (8:30 pm). All ages and abilities. Partners not required. Donation. 619-583-9956. Friday, February 1, 7:30 pm; \$1.00. Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Middle Eastern Music and Dance Middle-Earth Ensemble performs original, traditional Middle-Eastern music with belly dancing by Shimmy Sisters. 619-282-0437. Wednesday, February 6, 9:00 pm; \$5.00. Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Avenue. 619-282-2848. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

The PGK Project Enjoy work by acclaimed choreographer Peter Kalivas with guest company Donna Scro Gentile/Freespace Dance of New York in San Diego State University's Dance Studio Theatre (ENS-200). 619-594-1696. Friday, February 1, 8:00 pm; Saturday, February 2, 8:00

pm; Sunday, February 3, 2:00 pm; \$10.00-\$15.00. SDSU: San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. 619-594-5200. (USD)

USA Dance Party Wide variety of music, first Saturday of each month. Lessons at 7 pm, dancing 8-11 p.m. All ages, abilities. 760-525-5124. Saturday, February 2, 7:00 pm; \$7.00. Dance North County, 535 Encinitas Boulevard, suite 100. (ENCINITAS)

Winter Dance Concerts Various dance styles showcased by students. 619-475-8556. Wednesday, February 6, 7:00 pm; \$6.00-\$7.00. School of Creative and Performing Arts, 2425 Dusk Drive. 619-470-0555. (PARADISE HILLS)

ing scientists unravel mysteries of the Red Planet. Did Mars ever have a warmer, "Earth-like" climate? Lecture at 12:30 p.m., followed by IMAX screening of *Antarctica* at 2 pm 619-238-1233. Monday, February 4, 12:30 pm; \$8.00-\$12.50. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

"Lili et le Baobab" Alliance Française de San Diego's Cineclub premiere. Film is "coming-of-age drama that examines the African experience of a young photographer from Normandy." Movie will be introduced by Veronique Courtois, founder of Casque D'Or Films. In French with English subtitles. Free for members. 858-254-2253. Saturday, February 2, 2:00 pm; \$10.00-\$5.00. Ages: 13+. Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

"Touch of Evil" Orson Welles' 1958 film noir classic — starring Charlton Heston, Janet Leigh, Mar-

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"Exploring Mars" Philip Blanco offers look at how technology is help-

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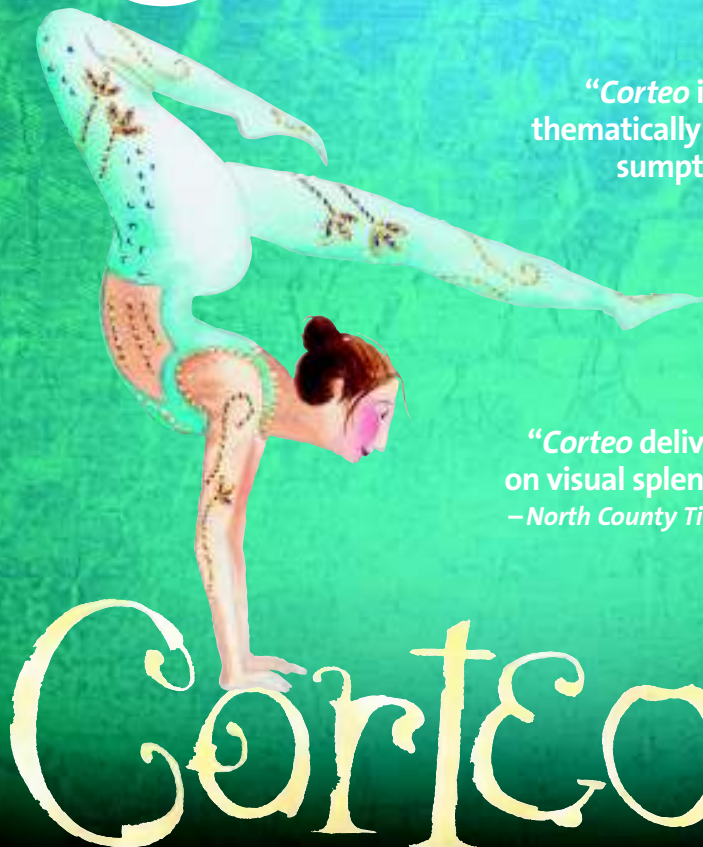
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Calendar
LOCAL EVENTS

lene Dietrich, and Welles — screens for winter film series. 858-454-3541. Thursday, January 31, 7:00 pm; \$5.00-\$7.00. Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 700 Prospect Street. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center Currently screening in the IMAX theater: *Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure*, *Dinosaurs Alive!*, *The Living Sea*. "Fridays at the Fleet" showcases *Chronos* (6 pm) and *Wild California* (7 pm) on February 1. Ticket prices and showtimes: 619-238-1233. Sunday, February 3; Monday, February 4; Tuesday, February 5; Friday, February 1; Saturday, February 2; Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

Up for a "Daffy British Import"? See Jeremy Brock's *Driving Lessons* — starring Laura Linney, Rupert Grint, and Julie Walters — when it's showcased during Film Forum. 619-236-5800. Monday, February 4, 6:30 pm; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

World on a String Film series offering a "look into the world of beading that take you around the world and to many cultures" continues with *The Treasured Bead*. Saturday, February 2, 7:30 pm; \$5.00. Xpressive Arts Center, 12257 B Old Pomerado Road. 858-679-2787. (POWAY)

FOR KIDS

"Classic Chinese Fairy Tale" Millie Patterson's *Weaver's Tales* perform through Sunday, February 3. Next up: *That Valentine Show* by comic ventriloquist Lynn Trimble,

February 6-10. 619-544-9203. Friday, February 1, 11:30 am; Friday, February 1, 10:00 am; Wednesday, February 6, 10:00 am; Wednesday, February 6, 11:30 am; Thursday, January 31, 11:30 am; Thursday, January 31, 10:00 am; Saturday, February 2, 1:00 pm; Saturday, February 2, 11:00 am; Saturday, February 2, 2:30 pm; Sun-

day, February 3, 11:00 am; Sunday, February 3, 2:30 pm; Sunday, February 3, 1:00 pm; \$3.00-\$5.00. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. 619-544-9203. (BALBOA PARK)

"Las Aventuras de Backyardigans" Children's show by Carrusel Infantil Company. 011-52-664-687-

9636. Saturday, February 2, 11:00 am; Saturday, February 2, 1:30 pm; Sunday, February 3, 1:30 pm; Sunday, February 3, 11:00 am; Centro Cultural de Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

"Princess Wishes" Disney On Ice presents show celebrating "the power of wishes" through stories of "seven

Disney princesses and their inspiring wishes." Tinker Bell is guide through stories of Ariel, Belle, Cinderella, Mulan, Jasmine, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White. Sunday's 3:30 performance is in Spanish. 619-220-TIXS. Friday, February 1, 11:00 am; Thursday, January 31, 7:30 pm; Sunday, February 3, 7:30 pm; Friday, February 1, 7:30 pm; Saturday, February 2, 11:00 am; Saturday, February 2, 3:30 pm; Sunday, February 3, 11:00 am; Saturday, February 2, 7:30 pm; Sunday, February 3, 3:30 pm; \$16.50-\$51.50. San Diego Sports Arena, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. 619-224-4171. (POINT LOMA)

Explore Hospital Point Learn about critters of Hospital Point when Birch Aquarium at Scripps hosts Tidepooling for Tots led by aquarium naturalist. Find spot less than one mile south of La Jolla Cove on Coast Boulevard. Required reservations: 858-534-7336. Wednesday, February 6, 2:00 pm; \$8.00-\$10.00. Ages: 2+. La Jolla Cove

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ROAM-O-RAMA

A GUIDE TO UNEXPECTED SAN DIEGO AND BEYOND | BY JERRY SCHAD

The grassy hillsides of Chino Hills State Park, which covers 13,000 acres in eastern Orange County and western Riverside and San Bernardino counties, are turning green these days in response to winter rains. Winter also brings episodes of crystal-clear atmospheric conditions, when panoramic views from places such as the Chino Hills reveal the shining Pacific Ocean on one side and a number of snow-capped mountain summits in the opposite direction.



San Juan Hill, the highest point of elevation in the park, is accessible on foot or by mountain bike from a trailhead conveniently located on the outskirts of Yorba Linda — the Orange County community which happens to house Richard Nixon's birthplace and presidential library.

From the intersection of Fairmont and Yorba Linda boulevards in Yorba Linda, drive 1.5 miles north on Fairmont to Rim Crest Drive on the left. Go a short half mile north on Rim Crest to the designated trailhead, on the right. Curbside parking is available here.

On foot, head uphill a short distance to signed South Ridge Trail (an old fire road). Turn right, heading east along the South Ridge toward San Juan Hill. For three miles the trail's gently curling course takes you through a near-treeless landscape. Tall grasses on both sides of the trail sway in the stiff afternoon breezes typically blowing up Santa Ana Canyon from the west. This fact is not lost on kite flyers, who sometimes practice their art here. Keep an eye out for small herds of deer, which roam this section of the park with impunity.

After just over three miles of general ascent, take the narrow side trail on the right leading 0.1 mile to the San Juan Hill summit, elevation 1781 feet. Nearby high-voltage powerlines somewhat spoil the view of mountains to the

east; in other directions, however, the vista is pristine.

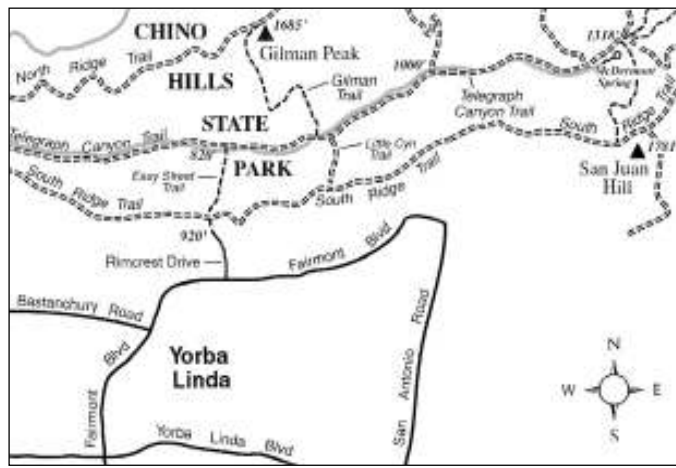
This article contains information about a publicly owned recreation or wilderness area. Trails and pathways are not necessarily marked.

Conditions can change rapidly. Hikers should be properly equipped and have safety and navigational skills. The *Reader* and Jerry Schad assume no responsibility for any adverse experience.

SAN JUAN HILL

Scope out the Inland Empire and Orange County from San Juan Hill in Chino Hills State Park.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 105 miles
Hiking/biking length: 6.4 miles round trip
Difficulty: Moderate



Required reservations: 619-243-3432. Saturday, February 2, 10:00 am; \$15.00-\$75.00. Ages: 6+. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

GALLERIES

"Dinh Q. Lê: After the War" Reception for artist at 7:30 p.m. in University Art Gallery follows slide-illustrated lecture at 6 p.m. in room 100 of Nasatir Hall. See ten large-scale photo-weavings completed by the artist in 2006 and 2007 examining "quicken pace of change in Vietnam" as well as four-channel video installation through Saturday, March 1. Friday, February 1, 6:00 pm; San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. 619-594-5200. (SDSU)

IN PERSON

"From the Barrio to Washington: An Educator's Journey" Talk and book signing by author Armando Rodriguez, who "recalls his inspirational journey from his childhood as a poor immigrant to the highest levels of the department of education under four presidents." 619-238-0314. Saturday, February 2, 2:00 pm; Barrio Station, 2175 Newton Avenue. 619-238-0314. (LOGAN HEIGHTS)

"Palabras de Poder" Red CalacArts Collective and others present "Rebel Writers from the New Latin America." Expect "powerful palabra from: Irene Castruita (with music by Esteban Cardozo), Cesar A. Cruz, Tatiana de la Tierra, Sara R. Eslava, Paul S. Flores, Olga A. García Echeverría, and Leticia Hernández-Linares. 619-920-1713. Saturday, February 2, 7:00 pm; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

"Poets in the Galleries" Focusing on female poets living in California, SDMA and UCSD Department of Literature present award-winning poets Sandra Doller and Fanny Howe. Doller's books include *Ori-flamme* and *Chora* (2009). Howe is author of more than 20 books of poetry and prose, several novels and prose collections, short stories, books for young adults, a collection of literary essays. 619-232-7931. Tuesday, February 5, 6:00 pm; \$7.00-\$10.00. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

"Red, White, and Screwed" Comedian Lewis Black on tour. Tickets available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). Friday, February 1, 8:00 pm; \$45.00-\$65.50. Copley

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Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. 619-235-0804. (DOWNTOWN)

"The Great American Trailer Park Musical" Irreverent, bawdy new musical "depicts trailer park in full raucous glory." 800-988-4293. Sunday, February 3, 8:00 pm; Sunday, February 3, 2:00 pm; \$20.00-\$35.00. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)

"The Hip Hop Intellectual" Michael Eric Dyson speaks for "Positive Engagement: Speaker's Series for Global Understanding." Dyson — called "one of the 100 most influential Black Americans" by *Ebony* — is author of 14 books, professor at Georgetown University. Booksigning follows. Reservations: 619-421-6700 x5684. Information: 619-482-6360. Tuesday, February 5, 7:00 pm; \$10.00-\$20.00. Southwestern College, 900 Otay Lakes Road. 619-482-6367. (CHULA VISTA)

Comedy Under Construction Improv sketch comedy by Mitch Feingold, Wendi Reed, Scott Langston, Michael Grewe. 858-550-8088. Saturday, February 2, 7:30 pm; \$5.00-\$10.00. Ages: 16+. Swenborg Hall, 1531 Tyler Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Corteo: Cirque du Soleil "Corteo" is "a joyous procession, a festive parade imagined by a clown," presented by Cirque du Soleil under the grand chapiteau through Sunday, February 3. Corteo cast includes 61 artists from 16 countries. 800-678-5440. Thursdays, 8:00 pm; Fridays, 4:00 pm; Saturdays, 8:00 pm; Sundays, 1:00 pm; Sundays, 5:00 pm; through Sunday, February 3, 2008, \$50.00-\$85.00. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. 858-755-1161. (DEL MAR)

His Best Book Yet? T. Jefferson Parker discusses, signs *L.A. Outlaws*, described as a "well-oiled thriller." 858-454-0347. Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 pm; Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

Play Readers Theater Group performs "humorous skits, short plays, and funnies" for Humanistic Jewish discussion buffet. "Their work is reminiscent of radio, reading from scripts and relying facial expressions and voice interpretation." Buffet lunch follows. RSVP: 858-549-3088. Sunday, February 3, 10:30 am; Ages: 21+. Woman's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe Street. (CARLSBAD)

Poetry Readings Featured poets are Shadab Zeest Hashmi, a native of Pakistan and editor of annual *Magee Park Poets Anthology*; and Sylvia Levinson, 2007 City College City-Works National Award winner. Open reading follows. 760-480-4101. Reception at 12:30. Sunday, February 3, 1:00 pm; Municipal Art Gallery, 142 West Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Poetry Unlimited Art and Music Featured poet is Joseph D. Milosch, whose latest poetry book is *Lost Pilgrimage Poems*. Musicians are Dominique and Valerie Kim. Hosted by Jean Frank. Open readings follow. 858-552-1657. Wednesday, February 6, 5:00 pm; La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. 858-552-1657. (LA JOLLA)

Rodriguez Returns Author Armando Rodriguez discusses, signs *From the Barrio to Washington: An Educator's Journey at the Backdoor*, in Aztec Center at SDSU. Book "recalls his inspirational journey from his childhood as a poor immigrant to the highest levels of the department of education under four presidents." 619-594-1476. Tuesday, February 5, 12:00 pm; San Diego

State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. 619-594-5200. (SDSU)

The Handsome Little Devils Troupe performs vaudeville comedy and cirque for Free First Wednesday series. 800-988-4253. Wednesday, February 6, 4:00 pm; Wednesday, February 6, 7:00 pm; California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)

LECTURES

"Star Formation in Orion" "The Sky Tonight" astronomy presentation, with tour of current night sky. View real sky through telescopes (weather permitting) after show. 619-238-1233. Wednesday, February 6, 7:00 pm; \$7.00-\$8.50. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

"Can You Trust Your Dictionary?" Learn more about English-language dictionaries — how they developed, how they are compiled, how best to use them — when writer, radio broadcaster, longtime Kensington resident Charles Harrington Elster presents lecture. Booksigning follows. Requested registration: 619-533-3974. Saturday, February 2, 3:00 pm; Kensington Library, 4121 Adams Avenue. 619-533-3974. (KENSINGTON-TALMADGE)

"Designing with California-Friendly Plants" Saturday Water Wise series gets underway. Registration: 619-660-0614. Saturday, February 2, 1:00 pm; \$15.00-\$25.00. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. 619-660-0614. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

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MEET & GREET WITH RYAN VILLOPOTO

What's That You're Writing?

NAME: DAVID AGUIRRE | **AGE:** 44

NEIGHBORHOOD: LA MESA | **WHERE INTERVIEWED:** AGUIRRE'S HOME



What's the title of your book?

"Waterman's Eye. The term 'waterman' is from the '20s and '30s. It was applied to gentlemen who ran the gamut in terms of their involvement with the ocean — either recreationally or work-related. It wasn't just surfing — you had to be into diving, lifeguarding, boating, and fishing, also. The book is available online, in some local surf shops, and at the Surf Museum in Oceanside."

Tell me about the story.

"It's about one man's relationship with the ocean, from Mexico all the way to San Onofre. That man was Emil Sigler; he was the person who stimulated the surf community in San Diego. When he started, there was only one board in San Diego, and it belonged to Charlie Wright. Wright would ride it two or three times a year at surf exhibitions. But Sigler rode it more often, and when he was 17 or 18, he started experimenting with shaping another board. He made the second, third, and fourth boards in San Diego."

How did you come to write it?

"I was surfing in Pacific Beach one day, and afterwards, I stopped at an estate sale. I found this little Kleenex box full of old surfing photos, dated 1928 on the back. I collect surf memorabilia, and you don't see Southern California surf photos from the '20s and '30s. It's just a missing gap. My surf crew is mostly about 20 or 30 years older than me — I love older people, the stories they tell — and so I started asking around to see if anyone knew this guy in the photos. Larry Gordon, who founded Gordon & Smith, told me about this guy Hadji. Hadji was 88 and he still surfed down there in P.B. I showed him, and he said, 'Oh, my God, that's Emil Sigler, the guy who taught me how to surf when I was a kid. You know, he's still alive. I'll bring these photos next time

I talk to him.'

"The next week, Hadji brought Emil to the beach — Emil was 91 at the time. He had a walker, and these dark shades, and he was strolling along the beach so smoothly. He had such a presence. We talked, and he took me to his house and gave me more photos. Once I started talking to him, I knew there was a story there. I went home and told my wife, 'I've got to do something.'"

Why should someone read this book?

"Emil documented everything through photography. He took pictures of his friends and had them take pictures of him. Not too many people did that back then. The book is very historical. The cover photo shows him coming into Mission Beach on a wave, and it's very symbolic. He's on Charlie Wright's board, and the people on the beach

saw that — another person riding the board."

Tell me about writing the book.

"Writing the book got very emotional. I'd go to Emil's house after work to do interviews, and I'd tell my wife I'd be gone for just a couple of hours. Then it would be 10 p.m., and my wife would be calling for me to come home. Sarah was Emil's wife, and bless her, she would go to the garden and cut roses, and put them in a vase for me to bring home to my wife. She was so loving — she used to warm up sake for us, and we had a lot of dinners together. Near the end, Sarah came down with terminal cancer. I was able to make a mock-up cover of the book for her to see before she died. I wanted to write the book, not only for Emil, but also for Sarah."

cancer prevention and survival" continues with "Replacing Meat" presented by Tracy Childs. RSVP: 858-450-5990 x243. Tuesday, February 5, 11:45 am; Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, 10905 Road to the Cure. (CARMEL VALLEY)

"Gardens of Brécy: A Lasting Landscape"

Erik Haskell presents illustrated lecture for Decorative Arts Lecture Series co-hosted by Palladian Society and Athenaeum Music and Arts Library. Brécy is described as "most dazzling, small-scale formal garden in private hands today in France...gardens abound with formal terraces, intricate parterres, and handsome fountains." Continental breakfast at 9:30 am; lecture at 10 am. Reservations: 858-454-5872. Monday, February 4, 9:30 am; \$17.00-\$27.00. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

How to Manage a Multi-Dog Household

Considering getting another dog, or already have a few? Learn how to manage multiple dogs under one roof during workshop; training secrets, "tips for peaceful coexistence between your canine family members." For humans only. Required reservations: 619-299-7012 x2247. Tuesday, February 5, 6:00 pm; \$35.00. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

"Proper Pruning Practices"

Learn "need to know basics" for pruning both trees and shrubs, use the garden as a lab to analyze living samples. Registration: 619-660-0614. Saturday, February 2, 10:00 am; \$10.00-\$20.00. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. 619-660-0614. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

"Responsibility of Making Art: The Influence of Social Issues in the Creative Process"

Lecture/demonstration part of three-day dance event presented by North County High Education Alliance in room 111 of Arts Building. 760-757-2121 x6302. Wednesday, February 6, 7:00 pm; CSU San Marcos, 333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road. 760-750-4000. (SAN MARCOS)

"SDMA in the 21st Century"

"Reading the Faces of Art" is topic when art historian, Rhodes Scholar Nigel McGilchrist speaks for ongoing "Guest Lecture Series." 619-696-1953. Friday, February 1, 10:00 am; \$7.00-\$12.00. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

"Writing for Their Lives"

Thirteenth annual Writer's Symposium by the Sea boasts guests with voices "willing to explore the harder questions we all ask...ideas that represent our inner struggles." Events get underway with luncheon with Bishop

William Willimon, on Monday, February 4, 11:30 a.m. (\$15). He is author of nearly 60 books. Event location: Cunningham A in Nicholson Commons. "An Evening with Susan Vreeland" is Monday, February 4, 7:30 p.m., in Colt Hall (\$15). Her books include *The Girl in Hyacinth Blue*, *The Passion of Artemisia*, *The Forest Lover*, and *Luncheon of the Boating Party*. Vreeland will share journeys she took while researching for the novels, including look at works of art that inspired her writing. "An Interview with Anchee Min" is planned Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 p.m. Min's works include *Red Azalea*, *Katherine*, *Becoming Madame Mao*, *Wild Ginger* and *Empress Orchid*. Folk-rock and country rock music pioneer Richie Furay is "Unplugged," Wednesday, February 6, 7:30 p.m. (\$15). He was a founder of Buffalo Springfield and Poco, a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Vreeland leads "Writing Historical Fiction Workshop," Thursday, February 7, 1 pm (\$10). Vreeland will share stories of the hunt for clues and the process of bringing history to life. Local mystery writer Ken Kuhlken plans "Memoir Writing Workshop," Thursday, February 7, 3 pm (\$10). How do we honestly capture our life and experiences? Kuhlken's books include *The Angel Gang: A Hickey Family Mystery*, *The*

Do-Re-Mi The Loud Adios, and *No Cats, No Chocolate*. "An Interview with American Journalism Icon Gay Talese" offered Thursday, February 7, 7:30 p.m. (\$15). Talese is author of eleven books, was reporter for *The New York Times* (1956-1965), has written for *Esquire*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, other national publications. Symposium concludes with "An Interview with Philip Yancey," Friday, February 8, 2 pm (\$15). Yancey is said to currently have more than 13 million books in print, including *Prayer: Does it Make Any Difference?*, *Disappointment with God* and *Where is God When it Hurts?* Except where noted, events take place in Crill Performance Hall in Cooper Music Center. 619-849-2297. Monday, February 4, 7:30 pm; Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 pm; Wednesday, February 6, 7:30 pm; \$10.00-\$15.00. Point Loma Nazarene University, 3900 Lomaland Drive. 619-849-2433. (POINT LOMA)

How to Live Happily Ever After with Your Cat

Training secrets, cat behavior, nutrition, preventing destructive behaviors, socialization with people and other animals, how to communicate with cat. Required reservations: 619-299-7012 x2247. For humans only. Monday, February 4, 6:00 pm; \$35.00. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

Introduction to Chocolate Molding

Mark Jacobson dispenses fundamentals of candy molding through demonstration and hands-on practice in producing a chocolate floral centerpiece. Participants learn microwave chocolate-melting method, how to mold and "paint" with chocolate. Class works together to create one centerpiece; each participant takes home a flower from group creation. 619-255-0203. Wednesday, February 6, 6:30 pm; \$35.00-\$43.00. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. 619-232-3821. (BALBOA PARK)

My Funny Valentine

Make a punched tin Valentine — in the Mexican tradition, using thin gauge sheet metal, hammers, nails — in conjunction with current "Heart to Heart" exhibition. Registration: 619-233-6679. Saturday, February 2, 11:00 am; \$25.00. The Next Door Gallery, 2963 Beech Street. 619-233-6679. (GOLDEN HILL)

Painted Art Furniture

"Learn how easy it is to create your own piece of decorative functional art by painting images, textures or patterns on furniture" when Lauren Becker Downey leads one-day workshop. Bring an old or new chair, small table, large picture frame, bench. Ideas, brushes, paints provided. (Priming instructions sent upon reg-

istration). 619-231-3900. Sunday, February 3, 10:00 am; \$86.00. Ages: 11+. Art Academy of San Diego, 840 G Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Pastel Landscape Demonstration

Local art teacher Joan Grine is guest demonstrator for Pastel Society of San Diego. 619-713-1126. Sunday, February 3, 2:00 pm; Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. 858-573-5007. (MISSION VALLEY)

Whaddaya Gonna Do?

"What To Do With Your Body After Death — Body and Organ Donations" addressed by representatives from San Diego Eye Bank and UCSD Life Sharing Program for Hemlock Society of San Diego. 619-233-4418. Sunday, February 3, 10:00 am; Ages: 18+. Joyce Beers Community Center, 3660 Centre Street. (HILLCREST)

OUTDOORS

Groundhog Day

comes Saturday, February 2. If the sleepy woodchuck sees his shadow, so the story goes, he'll hibernate for another six weeks of winter cold. None of this means much in San Diego, where a February warm spell can easily push the thermometer into the 80s.

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brightening streetsides, freeway embankments, and backyard gardens throughout the San Diego area this month. Although many acacias are native to subtropical regions, nearly all we see today in San Diego were introduced from Australia. Anza-Borrego's native acacia (*A. greggii*) is the notoriously thorny "catclaw," known by early desert pioneers as "tear-blanket" and "wait-a-minute bush."

The Glittery, Bright "Winter Constellations" of Orion, Taurus, Auriga, Gemini, Canis Major, and Canis Minor are best seen during the early evening hours of late January and early February. By Monday, February 11, the waxing crescent moon's increasingly bright glare will begin to diminish the impact of the starry scene, and that interference will worsen as the moon morphs toward full phase on the 20th. The bright winter constellations happen to include about one-third of the most luminous stars appearing in the night sky. The brightest star of all, Sirius, lies in the constellation of Canis Major. Sirius appears as a scintillating, bluish point of light high over the southeast or south horizon during winter early-evening hours. The second-brightest star of the night sky, Canopus, can be seen hovering very low over the south horizon whenever Sirius is nearing its highest altitude (about 40 degrees) in the southern sky. For early February, this happens around 9 pm.

Venus and Jupiter are in conjunction low in the southeast at dawn on Friday, February 1. The two planets stand only 0.6 degree apart from each other, which is only slightly greater than the apparent width of the full moon. On the mornings of February 3 and 4, roll out of bed early (6 am anyway) to see a beautiful arrangement of the Venus/Jupiter pair, plus the waning crescent moon, all in the same small part of the lower southeastern sky.

"Discover San Marcos" Easy three-mile hike from Las Posas Park heads south on Aqueduct Trail, east on rail trail, north through Palomar College Arboretum, and west on trails to Foothill Park. More difficult side trip to top of "P" Mountain will be offered. Meet in Las Posas Park (at corner of Borden and Las Posas Roads). 760-744-9000 x3508. Saturday, February 2, 9 am, Las Posas Park, at Borden and Las Posas Roads.

Audubon Society's Silverwood Sanctuary Learn of unique features of chaparral vegetation community. Guided walks offered by reservation on Sundays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 pm, at the sanctuary. 619-682-7200. Sunday, February 3, 10 am, Silverwood Sanctuary, 13003 Wildcat Canyon Road. 619-682-7200. (LAKESIDE)

California Native Plant Society Walk Bring binoculars and drinking water. 858-581-9944. Sunday, February 3, 9 am, Sunday, February 3, 9 a.m., Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT)

Geologic Visit to Split Mountain Don Albright leads excursion to see textbook examples of structural geology in San Diego County's desert. "Split Mountain's narrow gorge contains nearly every example of fault-related sedimentary structure, from anticlines to thrust faults." Fee includes van transportation. Registration: 619-255-0203. Saturday, February 2, 8 a.m. \$64.00-\$74.00. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. 619-232-3821. (BALBOA PARK)

Guided Nature Walk At west side of park, at Regents Road entrance. 858-581-9944. Bring binoculars, drinking water. Saturday, February 2, 9:30 am, Marian Bear Memorial Park, Highway 52 and Regents Road. (CLAIREMONT)

Hawkwatch Visit Ramona's grasslands to witness winter migration of hawks, falcons, and eagles during outing led by Wildlife Research Institute. Walks led by trained biologist every Saturday in January and February. Wear hiking or walking boots. Bring binoculars or spotting scopes if you have them. Heavy rain cancels. 760-789-3992. Saturdays, 9 am, through Saturday, February 23, 2008, Wildlife Research Institute, 18030 Highland Valley Road. 760-789-3992. (RAMONA)

History Walk Offshoot Tours offers hour-long history walk, blending Balboa Park history with its wealth of architectural and botanical treasures. 619-235-1121. Saturday, February 2, 10 am, Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Interested in Native Flora? Point Loma Native Plant Reserve gardening work party. "See how beautiful a water wise garden can be" while caring for endangered native plants and trees. Pruning, weeding, general maintenance. Find garden at Mendocino Boulevard and Greene Street off Voltaire Avenue. No experience necessary. Tools provided. 619-297-7380. Saturday, February 2, 9 am, 14+. Point Loma Native Plant Reserve.

Mystery Tour Naturalist Kathleen Flanagan leads a fast-paced, generally strenuous walk of about seven miles based on make-up of the group. Meet at main parking lot on La Honda Drive. Expect "a lot of map reading." Bring a minimum of two liters of water. Hike starts in main parking lot on La Honda Drive. Free. 760-839-4680. Friday, February 1, 8 am, Daley Ranch, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

Star Party Learn what is currently in night sky, including constellations, planets, more. Astronomy orientation and telescope operation instruction planned. 760-737-2698. Saturday, February 2, 5 pm, San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park, 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road. 760-737-2201. (ESCONDIDO)

Who Lives Under Coast Live Oaks? Find out whose habitats are in and under the trees during guided nature walks. 619-668-3281. Sunday, February 3, 9:30 am, Wednesday, February 6, 9:30 am, Saturday, February 2, 9:30 am, Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. 619-688-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Comedy Show Mascabrothers perform. 619-734-2333. Wednesday, February 6, 8:00 pm; El Foro, 7th and Avenida Revolución, downtown. (BAJA)

Hypnotists Taurus do Brasil and his son John Milton return for comic hypnotism performances through Monday, February 25. 011-52-664-687-9636. Thursdays, 6:00 pm; Fridays, 6:00 pm; Saturdays, 9:00 pm; Sundays, 5:00 pm; Sundays, 8:00 pm; Mondays, 8:00 pm; Tuesdays, 8:00 pm; Wednesdays, 8:00 pm; through Monday, February 25, 2008, \$12.00-\$15.00. Centro Cultural de Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

SPECIAL

Bodies...the Exhibition features more than 250 "real, whole, and partial human body specimens...dissected and preserved," providing up-close looks inside skeletal, muscular, reproductive, respiratory, circulatory, other human body systems. Many whole-body specimens "are dissected in vivid athletic poses." Found in former Robinsons-May store. 877-263-4375. Thursdays, 10:00 am; through Thursday, January 31, 2008, \$18.00-\$26.50. University Towne Centre, 4425 La Jolla Village Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Co-Ed Drmming Circle Elisa Kisselburg leads newly formed co-ed circle blending Japanese, Middle Eastern, African traditions. Circles offered first Sunday of every month. 619-303-6609. Sunday, February 3, 12:00 pm; \$15.00. Vision Center for Spiritual Living, 11260 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. 619-303-6609. (TIERRASANTA)

Craft Club Group gathers with instructor Sandra Erbetta to create unique items for sale in garden's gift

shop. Reservations: 619-232-2721. Monday, February 4, 10:00 am; \$5.00. Japanese Friendship Garden, Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

Fine Crafts Showcase and Sale Features "key mid-20th-century ceramists from the estate of longtime art collector, Lee Sullivan Elliott," including Dame Lucie Rie, Rose Cabat, and Gertrud & Otto Natzler, others. Contemporary artisans include Guy Michaels, Paula Garrett, Terry Turrell, Gregg Hessel. 858-472-4168. Friday, February 1, 12:00 pm; Thursday, January 31, 12:00 pm; Saturday, February 2, 9:00 am; Apply Liberally Enterprises, 10940 Roselle Street. (CARMEL VALLEY)

Great Books Discuss Kant's *Science* when group gathers. Newcomers welcome. 619-440-5625. Saturday, February 2, 2:00 pm; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

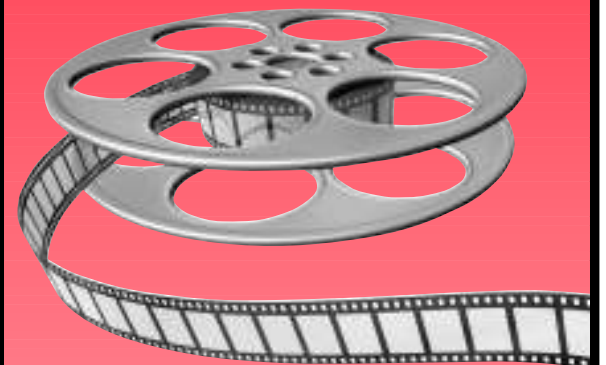
Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park Old adobe buildings were once vacation retreat and working rancho of actor Leo Carrillo. Tours on Saturdays (11 am, 1 pm) and Sundays (noon, 2 pm). Saturdays, 11:00 am; Saturdays,

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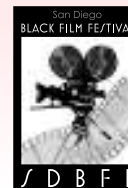
Opening reception and films on Jan. 31, \$25

Shaft/Superfly Party Feb. 1, \$50 or \$100 VIP

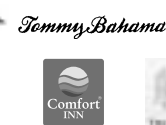
Awards Party Feb. 2, \$100-\$150

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To place your ad in the Wedding Guide, call 619-255-8200.

Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

1:00 pm; Sundays, 12:00 pm; Sundays, 2:00 pm; Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park, 6200 Flying Leo Carrillo Lane. 760-476-1042. (CARLSBAD)

Mardi Gras in the Gaslamp New Orleans-style street fair with bands, street performers, masquerade parade (running down Fifth Avenue at 7:30 and 10 pm), and of course, beads. 619-233-5227. Tuesday, February 5, 6:00 pm; \$20.00. Ages: 21+. Fifth Avenue at Broadway.

San Diego Bird Festival Birders from all over, novice to expert, will participate in festival hosted by San Diego Audubon Society. On offer: 14 workshops, 25 field trips all over San Diego County and in Baja. Keynote speaker is bird authority Kenn Kaufman (on Sunday, February 10). Fees, reservations: 619-682-7200. Wednesday, February 6; Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Whale-Watching Cruises Made possible by Birch Aquarium at Scripps and San Diego Harbor Excursion, now through March 31 at 9:45 am and 1:30 pm daily. \$15 kids 4-12; \$30-\$35 for those 13 and older. Reservations: 619-234-4111. Thursdays, 9:45 am; Fridays, 9:45 am; Saturdays, 9:45 am; Sundays, 9:45 am; Mondays, 9:45 am; Tuesdays, 9:45 am; Wednesdays, 9:45 am; through Monday, March 31, 2008. \$15.00-\$35.00. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. 619-534-FISH. (LA JOLLA)

Who Really Burned Down the Alexandria Library? Present your ideas with P&R Discussion Group. 619-370-1027. Thursday, January 31, 7:00 pm; The Other Side Coffee House, 4096 30th Street. 619-521-0533. (NORTH PARK)

Wondering About New Passport Requirements? "AAA Travel Show" with more than two dozen tour, cruise, other travel providers, travel agents to answer travel questions "and help you make vacation plans." 800-814-7479 or 619-233-1000. Saturday, February 2, 10:00 am; Four Points by Sheraton, 8110 Aero Drive. (CLAIREMONT)

SPORTS

La Jolla YMCA Surf Series Amateur surf contest series for youths, teens, and adults continues at South Mission Beach. Viewing is free. 858-453-3483 x41. Saturday, February 2, 8:00 am; South Mission Beach.

Super Run 2008 A fast 10k course with a beautiful run along Crown Point (7:30 a.m.), and fast 5k course along South Shores (7:35 a.m.). Event-day registration: 6 a.m. in South Shores Park. 619-298-7400. Saturday, February 2, 7:30 am; \$15.00-\$30.00. Molly Malone's, 1270 Main Street. 760-789-9050. (RAMONA)

Up for a "Hardish" Bike Ride? San Diego Bicycle Touring Society bicyclists plan 80-miler including Valley Center, Lilac, more. 619-688-6536. Sunday, February 3, 8:45 am; Doyle Park, 8175 Regents Road. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

OUT & ABOUT

"PRINCESS WISHES" DISNEY ON ICE San Diego Sports Arena, Thursday-Sunday, January 31-February 3.

(SEE FOR KIDS)



Winter Race Series Velodrome bicycle racing in many categories. Spectators free. Registration for competitors: 10 a.m. 619-573-4953. Sunday, February 3, 10:30 am; San Diego Velodrome, 2221 Morley Field Drive. 619-573-4953. (BALBOA PARK)

XTERRA Mission Gorge Trail Run XTERRA Trail Run SoCal Series continues. Challenging 15k course for endurance-oriented athletes (8 a.m.), 5k trail run for beginners/sprinters (8:30 am). Starting line is in equestrian (multi-use) staging area, at intersection of SR-52 and Mast Boulevard. 310-821-7898. Sunday, February 3, 8:00 am; \$45.00-\$55.00. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. 619-688-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

MUSEUMS

Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum The museum locates, collects, documents, and preserves historical gas-, steam-, and horse-powered equipment related to agriculture and the general development of America. The collection is made up of equipment used in lumbering, mining, oil drilling, and construction industries. Blacksmith and wheelwright shop, country kitchen and parlor, steam-operated saw mill, and 1/3-scale train. 760-941-1791. 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue, 760-941-1791. (VISTA)

Bancroft Ranch House Museum Bancroft Ranch House Museum houses indigenous Indian artifacts and memorabilia of early settlers in the area, run by the Spring Valley Historical Society. The home, built in 1863, was registered as a National Historic Landmark in 1962 and is on a spot where Kumeyaay Indians camped more than 1000 years ago beside the spring that later gave the area its name. 619-469-1480. 9050 Memory Lane, 619-469-1480. (SPRING VALLEY)

Barona Cultural Center and Museum 619-443-7003 x2. 1095 Barona Road, 619-443-7003. (LAKESIDE)

Birch Aquarium at Scripps Facility is a component of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD. More than 60 tanks contain marine life of Pacific Northwest, California coastline, Mexico's Sea of Cortés, and South Pacific. The La Jolla Kelp Tank is a two-story-high tank with giant kelp plants and nearly 30 species of local marine life. "Feeling the Heat: The Climate Challenge" examines science behind climate change; "Art of Deception" explores undersea camouflage. "Wonders of Water" waterplay area includes three interactive stations. The Lynne and Howard Robbins Shark Reef Exhibit features a 13,000-gallon shark tank with black tip, white tip, bamboo, and wobbling sharks. 619-534-FISH. 2300 Expedition Way, 619-534-FISH. (LA JOLLA)

California Surf Museum "Tom Keck: Exposed" continues through March. Born in Coronado in 1937 and raised there, Keck "would discover a lifelong playground in the Pacific Ocean." Museum features surfing artifacts and memorabilia — such as surfboards and clothing — of local legends Phil Edwards, John "L.J." Richards, and Peter Johnson, and Duke Kahanamoku. 760-721-6876. 223 North Coast Highway, 760-721-6876. (OCEANSIDE)

Chula Vista Nature Center Interactive living museum devoted to the endangered Southern California coastal wetlands, located in Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors can use a Bioscanner to view animals macroscopically, use a Wentzscope for views of microscopic organisms found in the "Sweetwater Soup," and interact with computerized videos exploring how tides affect the bay in the "Moons, Tides, and the San Diego Bay" exhibit. Pet sharks and rays in the

David A. Wergeland Shark and Ray Experience, see burrowing owls and migratory birds, and enjoy the xerophytic gardens.

Visitors meet a shuttle bus at the Bayfront E Street Trolley Station or at the center's parking lot at the foot of E Street and Bay Boulevard. 619-409-5903. 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive, 619-409-5903. (CHULA VISTA)

Coronado Museum of History and Art "The Joy of Toys: Antique Treasures," on display through Sunday, February 3, includes variety of antique toys, furniture, vintage collectibles, comics, Winnie the Pooh's "40-Acre Woods," more.

Ongoing exhibits explore the overall history of Coronado, Navy and Army, Tent City, and the Hotel del Coronado. 619-435-7242. 1100 Orange Avenue, 619-435-7242. (CORONADO)

Flying Leatherneck Museum Museum is dedicated to Marine Corps who provided air support, from the propeller-driven fighters and bombers of the 1940s to the modern jets and helicopters currently in use. Static displays of a variety of aircraft are included, along with equipment, insignia, paintings and photographs, scale models, and a research library. The museum is located in building T-2002, at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. 619-448-0900. Miramar Road (Marine Corps Air Station), 858-693-1723. (MIRA MESA)

Gaslamp Museum of Historic San Diego Glimpse San Diego's colorful past at the museum, where displays highlight Wyatt Earp's San Diego days, the Peg Leg Gold Legend, the first maps and photographs of Old Town and "New Town," early military history, the naval disaster in 1923 at Point Honda, and more. 619-237-1492. 413 Market Street, 619-237-1492. (DOWNTOWN)

Heritage of the Americas Museum More than 100 Chinese jades of the Late Neolithic

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Daily through March 31

<p>\$2 OFF</p> <p>Birch Aquarium Admission (up to 4)</p> <p>Birch Aquarium at Scripps 2300 Expedition Way, La Jolla 619.534.FISH • aquarium@ucsd.edu</p> <p>Expires May 1, 2008</p>	<p>\$5 OFF</p> <p>Naturalist-Guided Whale Watching (adult fare, up to 4)</p> <p>San Diego Harbor Excursion 1050 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego RSVP: 619.234.4111 • sdhuc.com</p> <p>Expires March 31, 2008</p>
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(4300-2500 B.C.) through the Ming periods (A.D. 1368-1644) are included in "The Stone of Heaven: The Enduring Art of Jade Age China." From ancient times, jades in China were treasured as talismans, worn on the body either as final adornments in death or as ornaments in life. See a rare and valuable jade burial suit of the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 221), one of only about two dozen that have been excavated in China. The suits were made of more than 2000 square and rectangular plates of jade sewn together with threads of gold, silver, or bronze (depending upon the status of the wearer). Ongoing. The museum features art and artifacts from South and North America, concentrating on the utilitarian and decorative artistry of crafts workers from ancient cultures. The museum also features wings dedicated to natural history, archaeology, education, anthropology, and fine art. Find the museum on the Cuyamaca College campus. 619-670-5194. 12110 Cuyamaca College Drive West, 619-670-5194. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

John DeWitt Historic Museum and Library Museum and library, operated by the Alpine Historical Society, is located in the 1897 home/office of Dr. Sophronia Nichols. She was the first doctor in Alpine and the first female doctor in the East County. Indian artifacts from the Kingery family on exhibit. 619-659-8740. 2116 Tavern Road, 619-659-8740. (ALPINE)

La Mesa Depot Museum Located in a restored 1894 wooden train station, exhibits include original telegraph and telephone equipment, pot-bellied coal stove, period furniture. The adjacent freight train display features 1923 steam locomotive, 1957 refrigerator car, 1941 caboose. 619-465-7776. La Mesa Boulevard and Spring Street, 619-465-7776. (LA MESA)

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OUT & ABOUT

VIRTUOSO TRUMPETER DAVID SCOTT with Redlands Symphony Orchestra, Sunday, February 3, Bob Burton Center for Performing Arts.

(SEE CLASSICAL MUSIC)



Magee House Museum Magee House Museum, built in 1887 and surrounded by rose gardens, the site includes "one of the last barns still standing in Carlsbad." Docent and self-guided tours of historic house and gardens. 760-434-9189. 258 Beech Street, 760-434-9189. (CARLSBAD)

Museum of Making Music "The Ukulele and You: America's Enduring Love of the Jumping Flea" continues through Thursday, January 31. "Promoted as an easy-to-play, portable, and fun musical instrument, the ukulele has enjoyed three major waves of popularity on the mainland U.S. Over

the last 15 years, the instrument has been going through a third wave of interest both in Hawaii and on the mainland." Contemporary players are taking ukulele into rock, jazz, classical, punk. Collection includes over 300 instruments ranging from finely crafted rare and historic ukes made of koa, mahogany, other precious woods to inexpensive, plastic marvels produced in the '50s.

The past 100 years of American music and music making are highlighted at the museum, with over 450 vintage instruments, hundreds of audio and video clips, and an interactive stage. 760-438-5996. 5790 Armada Drive, 760-438-5996. (CARLSBAD)

National City Depot San Diego Electric Railway Association operates museum in this historic Santa

Fe depot with exhibits, video displays, trolley equipment, restored passenger car from National City and Otay Railroad. 619-474-4400. 922 West 23rd Street, 619-474-4400. (NATIONAL CITY)

Olaf Wieghorst Museum Displays paintings and prints by Olaf Wieghorst and features exhibits of other artists' American West art. Adjacent to museum is courtyard with cactus gardens, 20 x 20-foot reproduction of Wieghorst's painting *Navajos at Castle Creek*, and original restored home Wieghorst lived in for many years starting in 1945. 619-590-3431. 131 Rea Avenue, 619-590-3431. (EL CAJON)

Ramona Pioneer Historical Society and Guy B. Wood-

ward Museum Complex of historical buildings includes the Verlaque House (the only Western adobe home of French provincial design still in existence), wagons, antique exhibits, and artifacts. There is a cowboy bunk house, women's clothing and accessories from 1700 to 1800, a ranch blacksmith shop and tack room. The Casey Tibbs Memorial Exhibit is dedicated to Tibbs, a local resident who was a world-champion rodeo rider. The Bancroft Memorial Rose Garden is on the grounds. Rare documents, historical exhibits, books, photographs, and a research library are also part of the complex. 760-789-7644. 645 Main Street, 760-789-7644. (RAMONA)

SINGLES

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Ages 24-34, 33-45 & 45-58
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Ages 25-37, 38-48 & 48-62
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CLASSICAL LISTINGS

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to **READER CLASSICAL MUSIC**, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

CLASSICAL

"Dances and Impressions of South America and Beyond"

Classical guitarist Michael Anthony Nigro plays pieces by Falú, Lauro, Luna, Cardos, Carlevaro, Merlin, Brouwer, and Sagreras for winter concert series. 619-236-5810. Sunday, February 3, 2 p.m., San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

"Tannhäuser" San Diego Opera opens 43rd season with Richard Wagner's "spiritual and moving opera of self-sacrifice and atonement" promising a knight's quest

and the miracle of pure love. Cast includes *heldentenor* Robert Gambill (who has made Tannhäuser his signature role), Finnish soprano Camilla Nylund, German mezzo-soprano Petra Lang, German bass Reinhard Hagen. Conductor is Gabor Ötvös, director is Michael Hampe. Sung in German with English translations above stage. Reservations: 619-533-7000. Sunday, February 3, 1 p.m., Friday, February 1, 7 p.m., \$28.00-\$175.00. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. 858-570-1100. (DOWNTOWN)

America's Dream Chamber Artists Ensemble plays pieces by Roussel, Chen Yi, Kodály, Golijov, and Shostakovich. 619-239-2278. Friday, February 1, 8 p.m., \$12.00-\$25.00. Qualcomm Hall, 5775 Morehouse Drive. 858-481-1673. (MIRA MESA)

Belcea Quartet Group performs for La Jolla Music Society's Revelle Chamber Music Series. Listen for "String Quartet No. 12 in E-flat Major" by Beethoven and Schubert's "String Quartet No. 12 in C Minor (Quartettsatz)" and "String Quartet No. 15 in G Major." Reservations: 858-459-3728. Saturday, February 2, 8 p.m., \$25.00-\$75.00. Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 700 Prospect Street. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

Chamber Music Top players from San Diego Symphony and UCSD music faculty collaborate in concert. 858-534-3229. Monday, February 4, 8 p.m., \$5.00-\$10.00. Neurosciences Institute, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive. 858-882-8000. (LA JOLLA)

Choral Scholars of USD Enjoy wide variety of literature from all periods when ensemble performs for "Friends of Music" series. Offering.

619-466-4163. Sunday, February 3, 4 p.m., La Mesa First United Methodist Church, 4690 Palm Avenue. 619-466-4163. (LA MESA)

Faculty Recital Clarinetist Anthony Burr, known as a performer of classical and contemporary music as well as multimedia pieces, gives his first concert since joining music faculty at UCSD. 858-534-3229. Wednesday, February 6, 8 p.m., \$5.00-\$10.00. Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (UCSD)

Guest Organist Jackson Borges in concert. 619-702-8138. Sunday, February 3, 2 p.m., Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 2211 Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

Mozart Sonatas Performance by Yvonne Lee and János Négyesi. 858-534-3229. Tuesday, February 5, 8 p.m., \$5.00-\$10.00. Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (UCSD)

New Sounds from Oberlin Ensemble conducted by Timothy Weiss visits to perform original compositions by Oberlin faculty. Steven Schick will join the ensemble on percussion. Program showcases works by Brian Ferneyhough, Wendell Logan, Tom Lopez, Lewis Nielson, Peter Swendsen. 858-534-3229. Thursday, January 31, 8 p.m., \$5.00-\$10.00. Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (UCSD)

The Miró Quartet Idyllwild Arts Foundation hosts concert. Program includes selections by composers including Wagner, Elgar, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky. Reservations: 760-320-5272. Sunday, February 3, 7 p.m., \$10.00-\$25.00. Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary

Art San Diego, 700 Prospect Street. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

Virtuoso Trumpeter David Scott joins Redlands Symphony Orchestra for Fallbrook Music Society concert. Program includes Henri Tomasi's "Trumpet Concerto," "Symphony No. 3 (Rhenish)" by Schumann, Weber's "Overture to *Der Freischütz*." Reservations: 760-451-8644. Sunday, February 3, 3 p.m., \$10.00-\$37.00. Bob Burton Center for the Performing Arts, 2400 South Stagecoach Drive. 760-731-2278. (FALLBROOK)

Winter Gala Concert California Institute of Music hosts Chamber Showcase, Chamber Orchestra, Southern California Youth Symphony, String Ensemble, Wind and Cello Ensembles in concert. 858-259-5508. Saturday, February 2, 3 p.m., \$5.00. Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, 4321 Eastgate Mall. (CARMEL VALLEY)

ART LISTINGS

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to **READER EVENTS**, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

GALLERIES

"My Funny Valentine" Reception for artists whose original watercolor paintings are on exhibit through February. Juror Joan McKasson selected approximately 100 paintings to include. 619-876-4550. San Diego Watercolor Society at NTC Promenade (2825 Dewey Road #105). 5 p.m., Friday, February 1. (POINT LOMA)

"Theme and Variations" Opening reception for San Diego artist Kathy Miller. View Miller's collage and assemblage through February. 619-275-0696. Bay Park Press Gallery (4138 Napier Street). 5:30 p.m., Friday, February 1. (CLAIREMONT)

"Dinh Q. Lê: After the War" Reception for artist at 7:30 p.m. in University Art Gallery follows slide-illustrated lecture at 6 p.m. in room 100 of Nasatir Hall. See ten large-scale photo-weavings completed by the artist in 2006 and 2007 examining "quicken pace of change in Vietnam" as well as four-channel video installation through Saturday, March 1. SDSU: San Diego State University (5500 Campanile Drive). 6 p.m., Friday, February 1. (SDSU)

(Mostly) Small-Scale Works Opening reception for Scott Gengelbach. See his assemblage/collage works through Friday, February 8. 619-843-8424. Brokers Building Gallery (402 Market Street). 7 p.m., Friday, February 1. (DOWNTOWN)

"Heart to Heart" Tenth annual show focusing on "affairs of the heart" opens with reception. See

work by the 25 participating artists through March 23. 619-233-6679. The Next Door Gallery (2963 Beech Street). 5 p.m., Saturday, February 2. (GOLDEN HILL)

"Fragmentos" Opening reception for Honduran-born artist and chemist Santos Orellana, who "brings his Caribbean flavor" to this collection of paintings combining an array of themes, styles, vibrant colors. 925-305-4864. Through February. Colosseum Fine Arts (2400 Kettner Boulevard, suite F-109). 6 p.m., Saturday, February 2. (LITTLE ITALY)

"The Symmetry Paintings" Reception for artist Richard Baker. Paintings offering "sense of the connective tissue which binds the physical world with the spiritual one" may be seen through Thursday, February 28. 619-644-7299. Hyde Art Gallery at Grossmont College (8800 Grossmont College). 7 p.m., Tuesday, February 5. (EL CAJON)

ART MUSEUMS

California Center for the Arts, Escondido Museum "Rituality" features contemporary works from ten local artists alongside traditional artifacts from Africa, Native North America, the Pacific Islands. Exhibition examines role of ritual in exploration of identity, creation of community, construction of power, as mediated and expressed through art.

"Niki de Saint Phalle: A Spiritual Path" offers a closer look at de Saint Phalle's spiritual journey, her interpretation of traditional tarot cards. "Is the tarot pack only a

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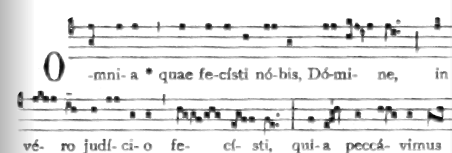
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State and Date Streets (Little Italy)
Downtown San Diego

game of cards, or is there a philosophy behind it?"

Fifty-four individual paintings by Teresa Villegas are gathered in "La Lotería: An Exploration of Mexico." Artwork draws upon Mexican traditions, historical figures, food, popular culture.

"The Poetics of Myth" features a series of bas-relief terra-cotta panels by Brad Burkhart, focusing "on the creation of modern myths and archetypes."

Each of these exhibits continues through Sunday, January 27. 760-839-4120. 340 North Escondido Boulevard, 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

Mingei International Museum "Craft in America: Expanding Traditions" surveys more than 200 works, spanning a period of nearly 200 years. Handcrafted furniture, ceramics, fiber and textiles, basketry, glass, wood, jewelry, metalwork are showcased. Closes Sunday, January 27.

Also on view: "American Viewing Stones: Natural Art in an Asian Tradition." Chinese connoisseurs began using large stones to decorate gardens, courtyards during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220); "Scholar's Rocks" is English name most commonly used for these items. American viewing stone collecting began with first- and second-generation Japanese-Americans who continued traditions of bonsai and suiseki.

The "Chinese Woodblock Prints in the Style of the Ten Bamboo Studio" are likely from a 19th-Century edition of Treatise on Calligraphy and Painting of the Ten Bamboo Studio. Prints are noteworthy for technique of printing using multiple blocks. Both exhibits are ongoing.

Masterworks from permanent collection are gathered in "The Beauty of Use — Mingei International Museum at 30," showcasing significant objects from many

cultures shown in relationships highlighting similarities and differences among them. Museum has formed a collection of mingei now comprising 17,000 objects from 141 countries such as collection of 19th-Century African tribal currency, group of masks including example of Amazonian feather work, ritual objects, selection of monumental containers. Closes Sunday, May 11. 619-239-0003. 1439 El Prado, 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

Mingei International Museum — North County "Paper Transformed," exhibition of "Origami — The Art of Paper Folding" from Mingei's permanent collection continues through Sunday, March 2. "Origami" boasts nearly 100 examples of traditional and contemporary paper folding; exhibition honors acclaimed local paper folder, author, teacher Florence Temko.

"Art of Play: Kinetic Toys of the World" — closing Sunday,

June 29 — features objects that move when manipulated. See kites from many countries, pull- and push-toys, antique mechanical banks, puppets, wooden toys. 760-735-3355. 155 West Grand Avenue, 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown "Robert Irwin: Primaries and Secondaries" is "the largest exhibition of renowned artist...Irwin's work since 1993." Exhibit features five new major installation works created specifically for MCASD's galleries, is drawn almost exclusively of works from museum's collection. Closes Sunday, April 13. Find the museum directly across from the Santa Fe Railroad Depot. 858-454-3541. 1001 Kettner Boulevard, 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla In the room-sized "Erwin Redl: Matrix II," the space seems to recede in all directions, as if the walls were mirrored. Floor-to-ceiling and wall-to-wall, the room is filled with grids of phosphor-green LEDs, creating an immersive web of light. Closes Sunday, May 4. 858-454-3541. 700 Prospect Street, 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

Museum of Photographic Arts. "The Photographer's Eye: A Way of Seeing" is drawn from the museum's permanent collection. Exhibit illustrates the book *The Photographer's Eye* (1966) by John Szarkowski; he led 160 exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York.

Also closing Sunday, April 20, is "Measured Time: MoPA at 25." Museum's atrium wall holds a timeline exhibition reflecting museum's achievements since 1983. Images from permanent collection illustrate significant artists whose first solo exhibitions were held at MoPA, more.

"Picturing the Process" focuses on "an evolution of the early history of photography." Exhibition including photographic works ranging in date from mid-19th to early 20th Century closes Sunday, July 6. 619-238-7559. 1649 El Prado, 619-238-7559. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Museum of Art "Everett Gee Jackson/San Diego Modern, 1920—1955" is retrospective of "San Diego's most important Modernist artist." Exhibit featuring more than 50 works spanning most significant and productive decades of artist's career "presents a representative range of Jackson's multifaceted work, while contextualizing Jackson within the broader scope of mid-20th Century American modernism." Closes Sunday, January 27.

"Josef Albers and His Students: Theory and Practice," closing Sunday, March 2, presents four prints by master artist, color theorist, teacher Josef Albers. Display features works by four of his American students — Richard Anuszkiewicz, Robert Rauschenberg, Robert Rauschenberg, Audrey Flack — with each work corresponding to one of Albers' prints. 619-232-7931. 1450 El Prado, 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

Timken Museum of Art Permanent collection includes European old master paintings, 18th- and 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. Saint Bartholomew, the only Rembrandt painting on public display in San Diego, is featured. 619-239-5548. 1500 El Prado, 619-239-5548. (BALBOA PARK)

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King Hedley II
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Saturday, February 2, 3:00 pm

Peddling stolen refrigerators in the feeble hope of making enough money to open a video store, King Hedley, a man whose self-worth is built on self-delusion, is scraping in the dirt of an urban backyard trying to plant seeds where nothing will grow.

"Mesmerizing ... Full of powerful images that convey the darkly comic dialogue between hope and hopelessness in African American life." — *N.Y. Daily News*

Dance in America: Dancing in the Light
Saturday, February 9, 7:00 pm

The American Dance Festival presents *Dancing in the Light*, a one-hour dance program showcasing 6 historic dance compositions by African American choreographers: Asadata Dafora, Katherine Dunham, Talley Beaty, Bill T. Jones, Donald McKayle and Pearl Primus. This wonderful video will be followed by a breathtaking performance by 26 amazing performers of hip-hop, lyrical, jazz, house, krump, salsa and modern dance from L.A. and San Diego. The program is choreographed by G. Madison IV.

3795 Fairmount Avenue, San Diego • 619-641-6103
Program subject to change. \$5 donation at door.
Come early, seating is limited.

Calendar

MUSIC SCENE

The Reader offers \$25 for news tips published in *Blurt*. Call us at 619-235-3000, ext. 456, or e-mail your tip to blurt@sreader.com

Finest City Broad-Cutting? The 25th anniversary of 91X (on January 11) was ignored by everyone, including station

Phil Manning, 91X's program director for a year, executed the decision to ignore the anniversary. He did not respond to a request for comment. Manning shouldn't be blamed for wrongdoing, says a local music veteran who believes the station can't afford to look old. "That station wants to

When the station broke off from Clear Channel and "relaunched" in 2005, 91X brought back many of the former DJs. Most of those DJs have since left 91X and — except for a Sunday-morning retro show — the station largely ignores '80s artists such as the Clash, the Cure, and the Smiths, bands that established the station's popularity.

The December firings of DJ Stephen Kallao and 11-year morning-show anchor Chris Cantore was another Manning decision. Arbitron ratings for the last three months of 2007 indicate that the time slots for both DJs showed significant improvement: among listeners 18–34, Cantore was top five among English-speaking stations (this was the second consecutive rating period for which he was in the top five); Kallao's time slot was number four. These were the best showings for 91X in over three years.

— Ken Leighton

New Boss Future band performances were canceled at Scolari's Office two weeks ago.

"The vice department shut us down," says owner George

Scolari, whose bar opened in 1981. "They canceled our entertainment license. They said we didn't pay them [for a license renewal fee], but I have the canceled check."

SDPD Sgt. Howard Labore says no vice crackdown ever occurred. He says the revocation of Scolari's entertainment permit has to do with a pending ownership change.

"We did not take any action against them," says Labore. "They are selling the business, and the new owner chose not to renew.... The escrow should close in the next 50 to 60 days."

Ted Lithopoulos, majority owner of Bar Dynamite in Mission Hills, will likely soon own Scolari's Office. After two months of renovation, which he says will begin as soon as escrow closes, Lithopoulos will reopen Scolari's "immediately" with a new entertainment license, but he says he has yet to decide what the entertainment format will be.

"I am not at that point yet [to make an announcement]," says Lithopoulos, but music may come from DJs, live bands, or a combination of both.

While the bar goes without music, one person

Baby Killer "San Diego *City Beat* has shitcanned the Locals Only [music] column," blogs Scott Pactor at *CatDirtSez*. "Word on the street is that whatever replaces Locals Only is going to be helmed by Kinsee Morlan, who lives in Tijuana, not San Diego."

Rosey Bystrak, who has written "Locals Only" since September 2007, blogs, "The column had been cut a couple times in the last few weeks.... I received an e-mail from Nathan Dinsdale, the music editor, who informed me that the editorial staff had come to a consensus about the direction of the column. The column will take a new shape, into something more inclusive, and will be the work of several contributors, to make better use of the space."

An email from *City Beat* editor Dave Rolland is quoted at sddialedin.com, reading in part, "We've begun to tire of the Locals format. Over the last couple of years, it's come to feel a little too much like public relations for local bands, and we'd like to make better use of the space. Sometimes you have to kill your babies and try something new to keep things fresh."

— Jay Allen Sanford

blurt

the inside track

management at Finest City Broadcasting.

"For the tenth anniversary, they had the 'X years of the X' promotion," says a former employee. "They had birthday promotions, special music shows, and interviews. They did the same thing with '20 years of the X.'"



CANTORE RANKS HIGH ON HIS WAY OUT

PHOTOGRAPH BY KALLAO

target the 18- to 30-year-olds; with them, nobody cares about the old 91X."



PHOTOGRAPH FROM AWPSPACE/SCOLARI'SOFFICE

QUITTING' TIME AT SCOLARI'S?

close to Scolari's says, "This might help the Zombie Lounge [and] Chasers."

In June 2006, Scolari made a move to sell his bar; undisclosed complications held up the sale. In September 2006, live music shows were halted; an employee blamed it on a lapsed entertainment license, and music resumed a few weeks later. The North Park bar has hosted local and touring bands since 2001.

— Ken Leighton

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home to patrons attending concerts throughout San Diego County. For a fee, we'll also pick you up before the show and drop you off at the front door of the venue....

"People are driving home drunk," he says of the project's genesis. "Practically all the venues in San Diego are not serviceable by the trolley, aside from the Casbah, House of Blues, and 4th&B. Buses stop running before shows end, and cab rides get way too expensive... a cab downtown from the Belly Up costs over \$50 before tip!

"The vehicles we use will be rented," says the 23-year-old SDSU graduate with a degree in management. "If we owned the cars, we would have an unimaginably

difficult insurance policy.... To make the vehicles recognizable to patrons, we'll use [magnets] attached to the vehicle's exterior....

"Since we are a nonprofit organization... we don't need a taxi license to operate our service.... We will be able to solicit donations from the community, local businesses, and individuals, or any other party looking to contribute. Until that point, we'll be using our own hard-earned money to get the business off the ground.... We aim to give our first free ride home by the end of January or early February."

The rides are only to people's homes.

"We are not a drunk bus that will cart you around from club to club," says Lindstaedt, though he adds, "to receive a ride home, patrons do not necessarily need to be intoxicated."

Riders are required to sign a liability waiver, and they're not allowed to smoke or drink alcohol in the vehicle.

myspace.com/concertcabs

— Jay Allen Sanford

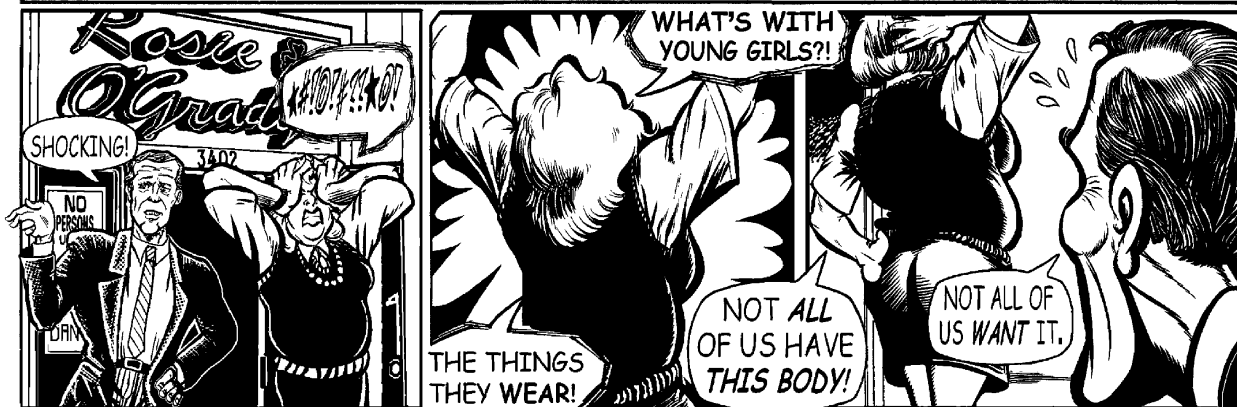
Good Times Start and End

Guitarist John Stewart played in the Kingston Trio from 1961 to '67. The trio helped launch the American folk craze that preceded the British Invasion.

"He was visiting my Uncle Nick [Reynolds, cofounder of the Kingston Trio] for dinner," recalls guitarist Joey Harris of Stewart's January 17 visit to Reynolds's Coronado home. "He was feeling a little headachy, so he went back with [wife] Buffy to their room at the Hotel del Coronado."

"Buffy called me at two in the morning," says Greg

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Jorgenson, a longtime friend of Stewart. "She told me John had trouble talking. She had already called the ambulance."

Following a massive stroke or brain aneurysm, Stewart died at Scripps Mercy Hospital in Hillcrest on January 20. "It was the same hospital he was born in [in 1939]," says Jorgenson.

After the Kingston Trio, Stewart went on to record 45 albums, including 1969's *California Bloodlines*, which was named number 36 of the

album, *Laws of Groovity*, in April, but two of the tunes, "Viejo Amigo" and "Gaviotas," are already getting airplay, albeit in a less-than-obvious location: the Weather Channel (founded in 1982 by another San Diegan — KUSI weatherman John Coleman).

The station has played Yandall's music as background for three years. "I submitted some songs to a licensing firm in L.A., and they immediately asked if they could resubmit them to the Weather Channel," explains Yandall. He's been a mainstay of the station ever since. "The company told me my music had become an example of what they liked."

The Weather Channel has attracted a hard-core group of music fans who have posted screenshots of weather reports, featuring Yandall's music, on YouTube. The station took notice of the interest in its soundtrack and in October of last year released a music compilation (though no Yandall compositions are included). "Royalties are royalties," comments Yandall about his music being used as aural

played with the Beat Farmers for 11 years. "I was with him until 1979, when Lindsey Buckingham convinced him to pick up an electric guitar. We agreed I should leave the band."

Both Jorgenson and Harris say that Stewart had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease last summer. "Hardly anyone knew about it," says Jorgenson. "Unless you really, really knew him, you couldn't tell he had it."

Jorgenson says Stewart lived in San Diego before moving to Pasadena at a young age. He says Lindsey Buckingham recently performed on four songs for Stewart's new album, recorded at Jorgenson's Pasadena-area studio. He says Stewart's wife now owns the masters to the unnamed album, which is planned for a springtime release.

"It's kind of a car-themed album," says Jorgenson. "One of the songs is 'I Will Never Drive Again,' which addresses the Alzheimer's situation. Once you're diagnosed, you can't drive."

— Ken Leighton

Stormy Weather... Sunny Okay, Too

Smooth jazz guitarist Patrick Yandall releases his tenth

wallpaper. "It allows me to do projects and not have to work a day gig, other than producing and practicing music."



ROYALTIES BRIGHTEN YANDALL'S WORKDAY

Yandall acknowledges the Weather Channel is an unusual place for his music to find a home, but it's not the strangest place he's come across it.

"One time I was in a bathroom at a casino and I heard one of my tunes. Weird feeling, but it means royalties."

— Bart Mendoza

CONTRIBUTORS

William Crain, Dave Good, Larry Harmon, Michael Hemmingson, Ken Leighton, Ryan Loyko, Bart Mendoza, Derek Plank, Eric Rife, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone



JOHN STEWART, 1965

Top 200 albums of all time by *Rolling Stone*. Stewart wrote "Daydream Believer" for the Monkees around the time he left the Kingston Trio.

"I joined John's backup band in 1975, right after I got out of [Coronado] high school," says Harris, who

PHOTOGRAPH FROM FOLKERA.COM

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This Week In Music

Thursday 31

SoCal songsmith **Matt Costa's** sophomore set *Unfamiliar Faces*, out now on Jack Johnson's Brushfire label, has garnered much rock-press praise and



MATT COSTA AT CASBAH

interest from artists as far afield as No Doubt's Tom Dumont, who discovered him, Johnson, who signed him, and Modest Mouse Isaac Brock, who took him on tour. At 18, the Huntington Beach native saw his future as a pro skater shatter with his leg, and he turned to music, since then releasing two e.p.s and critical hit debut *Songs We Sing*. New single "Mr. Pitiful" samples Costa's sunny piano bounce and melodies, which belie the weight of his words — keeps company with Shins, Spoon, Ben Folds, '70s AM radio. Watch Costa's star rise at Casbah tonight. Calif.-y kindreds **Delta Spirit** open these notable sets with blue-eyed soul.... Another Brushfire artist, **Rogue Wave**, crashes on Belly Up tonight. Zach Rogue's Bay Area band broke with last year's hit disc *Asleep at Heaven's Gate*, a collection of Americana pop like their last collection of Americana pop, though more self-assured and musically engaging, attributed to Rogue's bandmates joining the process. Show's sold out, so go troll Cedros *orr...* catch blues-rock vet **Robben Ford** at Anthology...mod it up with ska-core bands the **Expendables** and **Voodoo Glow Skulls** at 'Canes...crash a **Shake Shack** joint at Bar Pink Elephant — a '60s dance party with go-go girlies and everything...check yer head at Whistle Stop, as the South Park bar hosts its "**Musical Pursuit**" bar quiz. Bring a team.

Friday 1

SanFran psych-n-blues band **Blue Cheer** brings the blam to Casbah Friday night. According to the club's website, these '60s stalwarts put on one of their "top-ten shows last year and will blow your mind." San Diego's throwback power trio **Earthless** will inaugurate the crowd to the sound. Goth-folk big band **Blackout Party** is also on the bill, making this the night's premium ticket.... Grammy-winner **Pancho Sanchez** settles in at Anthology for two nights Friday and Saturday. The conga-player and his Latin-jazz ensemble will feature their new salsa beats disc *Raise Your Hand. Es mui picante*.... Couple more Latin jams dance bands round town tonight, as Belly Up books the **B-Side Players'** big-band funk and the **Mario Escovedo Experience** takes its turn at Bar Pink Elephant, throwing down a Mexican sock-hop. And more'n a few tequila-n-Tecates.... James Brown tribute **Supa Bad** exhume the godfather of soul at O.B. party bar Winstons.... Local gypsy-folk five-piece the **Silent Comedy** is an art-house hit. They'll debut new e.p. material at Whistle Stop.... KC, MO, alt-rockers **Roman Numerals** hit town for a couple nights. Friday night, they'll play Ken Club with local nu-wavers **Verso** and **Fing** and post-punk up-and-comers **Death on Mars**.

Saturday 2

On Saturday, the **Roman Numerals** will open Beauty Bar sets with Montreal's rocktronic trio **We Are Wolves**. (Another Canada band with a lupine logo...) The wolves are touring behind '07 Dare to Care disc *Total Magique*.... More wolves? **Los Lobos** lope into Belly Up. The Chicano rock-n-pop quintet's been recording and touring since 1976 — with the same personnel! The band's biggest hit was the Richie Valens-penned "La Bamba," but 1984's major-label debut *How Will the Wolf Survive?* (produced by T-Bone Burnett) remains their commercial high point and critical high-water mark. Los



LOS LOBOS AT BELLY UP

Lobos appears most recently performing "Billy 1" on the artsy Bob Dylan biopic *I'm Not There*.... Hometown indie kids **Spell Toronto**, **Republic of Letters**, and **Japanese Sunday** rock the Casbah.... Cardiff hot property **Swim Party** splash down at Ken Club with **Roman Springs** and **Focus Group**.... L.A. DJ **Doc Martin** will spin downtown at On Broadway in a Sublevel Live event that also features **Lillia** and DJ **Jay "Idol" Videna**.... House of Blues hosts a "**BODOG** Battle of the Bands." Check out battle.bodoglife.net/shows/ for details.

Sunday 3

Couple post-Super Bowl gigs Sunday. Most notably, Louisville's **Phantom Family Halo**, which features members of that town's indie icons Slint and the For Carnation. PFH trade in experimental avant rock. Check the Southern gothic psych-rock freakouts on '07 debut *The Legend of Black Six*. The band opened last year's Slint reunion tour and dropped jaws at South by Southwest with current tourmates **La Otracina**. Brooklyn-based La Otracina signed to the Holy Mountain roster (Om, Six Organs of Admittance, Wooden Shjips) for last year's *Tonal Ellipse of the One*. This "heavy mental" double bill goes down at Casbah.... Normal Heights' Zombie Lounge hosts a local showcase featuring **DeadOnSeven**, **Reason to Rebel**, **Counter Launch**, and **Fuzz-Huzzi**.

Monday 4

Haitian-born multi-instrumentalist and ex-Fugee **Wyclef Jean** delivers reggae-flavored rap to House of Blues Monday night. The Grammy-winner touts his latest, *Carnival II: Memoirs of an Immigrant*, which featured guest spots by Paul Simon, Mary J. Blige, Nora Jones, and System of a Down. Platinum-selling soul singer **Lyfe Jennings** opens the show premiering music off forthcoming *Lyfe Change*, which is scheduled to drop in April.... Self-proclaimed "Kings of Psychobilly" the **Meteors** celebrate 25 years in the biz with Casbah's Anti-Monday League. They'll share the stage with **Killer Kats** and the **Strikers**, while DJ **Buddha** spins between sets.

Tuesday 5

It's Fat Tuesday and House of Blues is throwing a "Mardi Gras After Party," with Casbah promo sets by **Pinback**, who will hold the downtown stage Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Rob, Zach, and co. kick off a monthlong Left Coast swing before heading to the Far East in support of their 2007 disc

Autumn of the Seraphs, another collection of crystalline indie pop from the San Diego-based Touch & Go recording artists. Brooklyn hip-hop comic **MC Chris** is also on the bill.... Round the corner, 4th&B will host blues-rock guitarist **Robin Trower** of Procol Harum fame. After 40 years, the artist still tours and records relentlessly, most recently in collaboration with Bryan Ferry on 2007's *Dylanesque*, and this year Trower, Jack Bruce, and Gary Husband launch their new trio with *Seven Moons*. Unfortch., current tour line-up does not include Bruce or Husbands. The **Mike Keneally Trio** will warm the downtown room.... Ninja Tune DJ **Vadim** of St. Petersburg, Russia, visits a mash-up of hip-hop, soul, reggae, and electronica on Casbah. He's joined by London's lady MC **Yarah Bravo** and DJ **Frantik**.... *Humanimals* is coming, and funky beats three-piece **Grand Ole Party** will celebrate deliverance at M-Theory Tuesday with a 6p set in the Mission Hills record shop.

Wednesday 6

Psychedelic pop act **Super Furry Animals** debuted in 1996 with a wave of Welsh bands that included Gorky's Zygotic Mynci and 60 Ft. Dolls. Since that



SUPER FURRY ANIMALS AT BELLY UP

hit disc, *Fuzzy Logic*, launched the Furies stateside, the band has signed to indie imprint Rough Trade and this year celebrate their eighth studio release, *Hey Venus!* The Furies will headline sets at Belly Up that include **Holy F**k** and **Free Moral Agents**.... L.A. psych-rockers **Dead Meadow** drop *Old Growth* (Matador) this week and check in at Casbah before kicking off a world tour. They'll be joined by locals **Calico Horse** and **Astra**. — Barnaby Monk

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James Blunt
February 10

Margaret Cho
May 16, 17

Megadeth
May 20

The Cure
June 3

David Sedaris
June 30

Cirque du Soleil "Corteo"
Through Feb. 17

"Disney on Ice"
Through Feb. 3

"Stars on Ice"
Feb. 9

"Doodlehops Live"
March 2

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Feb. 3

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Techno Pioneer

"My dad told me to be your own best friend in life and not to rely on others."

DJ and recording artist Jon Bishop has been at the forefront of the Southern California techno scene since 1991. His radio show *Sounds of the Underground* on 92.5 FM was one of the first electronica/techno music programs to air. In 1992 he cofounded Club Hedonism at Rich's in Hillcrest, an event that ran weekly for over a decade, sometimes drawing upwards of a thousand patrons and earning press in *Playboy* and *Details* magazines.

Bishop has worked on a dozen albums as a producer and recording artist but always returns to hands-on DJing at area events. These days he's using CDs more than vinyl.

"With less vinyl coming out every month," he says, "downloads have become the norm for DJs finding their music. My sets have gone completely digital, with all my tracks on CDs now. Not my choice, but for ease of getting new music and the cost, not to mention lugging those heavy bags of vinyl through airports, you can't beat downloading music. I love spinning vinyl, and I think people like seeing that, too, but it's become very costly and a slow way to get music out to the public."

Bishop is not in love with computer setups nor a fan of programs like Serato, which claim to replicate the vinyl experience. "[It's fine] until it crashes in the middle of your set, like I've seen hap-

pen with a few DJs. Nice concept, but you're screwed if your computer messes up. I'll play CDs, thank you."

WHAT'S IN YOUR CD PLAYER?

1. Billy Idol, *Devil's Playground*: "Best rocking album to come out in the past ten years. Steve Stevens's guitar playing on this album is over the top."
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4. *The Hollywood Nights* "A sleeper comedy not too many people know about."
5. *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* "I'd take all three, but if I ran out of room I'd just take the final one in the series."

DREAM LUNCH DATE?

"Tiger Woods, because I'd like to get into his

mind to see how it works. He's the greatest athlete at any sport we'll probably ever see. His focus and work habits are above and beyond anyone else's."

WORST INJURY?

"Never broke a bone, but I've had six shoulder dislocations. Once, during sex — which was pretty embarrassing."

WHERE DO YOU HANG OUT?

"Sunset Cliffs, because there's no other view like it in the world when the sun is setting."

BEST ADVICE YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

"My dad told me to be your own best friend in life and not to rely on others. I hope he wasn't talking about masturbation."

WORST JOB?

"My first job as a dishwasher at a restaurant when I was 15. You can't DJ with dishpan hands."

BIGGEST POLITICAL CONCERN?

"I have three that are related: Global warming, pollution, and overpopulation. We are our own worst enemy, and we'll probably

overpopulate and overextend the Earth's natural resources before any terrorist or nuclear war can kill us all." ■



Jon Bishop

LISTS

JAY ALLEN SANFORD



Anjelah Johnson

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 Feb. 2 • 7 pm & 9 pm

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ROBBEN FORD	1/31
BENNY HOLLMAN'S BIG BAND EXPLOSION	2/9
NOVAMENCO	2/10
GEORGE HARRISON'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION w/ROCKOLA	2/22
PAT METHENY	2/26 & 27
TOM SCOTT	2/29

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SAT 2/16
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JOHNNY
POLANCO
SUN 2/17
5:30PM

Calendar CONCERTS

Music videos for concerts available
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THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

THURSDAY

Vonda Shephard, House of Blues, Thursday, January 31, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Robben Ford, Anthology, Thursday, January 31, 7:30 p.m., 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Rogue Wave, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, January 31, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

FRIDAY

Poncho Sanchez, Anthology, Friday, February 1, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

The Head Cat, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday, February 1, 8 p.m., 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

SATURDAY

Brazil Carnaval 2008, 4th & B, Saturday, February 2, 8:30 p.m., 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Poncho Sanchez, Anthology, Saturday, February 2, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Los Lobos, Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, February 2, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

SUNDAY

Raul Malo, Anthology, Sunday, February 3, 7:30 p.m., 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

MONDAY

Wyclef Jean, House of Blues, Monday, February 4, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Raul Malo, Anthology, Monday, February 4, 7:30 p.m., 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

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TUESDAY

Pinback, House of Blues, Tuesday, February 5, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Robin Trower, 4th & B, Tuesday, February 5, 7 p.m., 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Skelpin, Anthology, Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 p.m., 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Elijah Emanuel & the Revelations, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, February 5, 6 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

WEDNESDAY

Pinback, House of Blues, Wednesday, February 6, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Anna Troy, Anthology, Wednesday, February 6, 7:30 p.m., 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Super Furry Animals, Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, February 6, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

FEBRUARY

Velvet Revolver, House of Blues, Thursday, February 7, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Jake Shimabukuro, Anthology, Thursday, February 7, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Los Amigos Invisibles and SI*SE, House of Blues, Friday, February 8, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Tab Benoit, Anthology, Friday, February 8, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Colbie Caillat, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday, February 8, 8:30 p.m., 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

The Wallflowers, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Saturday, February 9, 8 p.m., 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Novamenco, Anthology, Sunday, February 10, 7:30 p.m., 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

James Blunt, Spreckels Theatre, Sunday, February 10, 8 p.m., 121 Broadway, Downtown. 619-235-9500.

Rhett Miller, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, February 10, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

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Rodrigo y Gabriela, 4th & B, Monday, February 11, 8 p.m., 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Umphey's McGee, House of Blues, Tuesday, February 12, 6:30 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

The Editors, Louis XIV, and Hot Hot Heat, House of Blues, Wednesday, February 13, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, February 14, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Richard Elliott, 4th & B, Friday, February 15, 7 p.m., 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Royal Crown Revue, Anthology, Friday, February 15, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Styx, House of Blues, Saturday, February 16, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Maceo Parker, Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, February 16, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Third Day and the Myriad, House of Blues, Wednesday, February 20, 6:30 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Queensrÿche and Don Dokken, House of Blues, Thursday, February 21, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Blake Shelton, 4th & B, Friday, February 22, 7:30 p.m., 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, House of Blues, Sunday, February 24, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Marilyn Manson, House of Blues, Monday, February 25, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Jay Farrar, Belly Up Tavern, Monday, February 25, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Pat Metheny Trio, Anthology, Tuesday, February 26, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Adrian Belew, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, February 26, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Pat Metheny Trio, Anthology, Wednesday, February 27, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

MARCH

Miguel Bosé, Cox Arena, Sunday, March 2, 7 p.m., 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Marcia Ball and John Hammond, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, March 2, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Foo Fighters, Cox Arena, Monday, March 3, 7:30 p.m., 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Rufus Wainwright, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, March 4, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Bad Religion, House of Blues, Friday, March 7, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Live, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday, March 7, 8 p.m., 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Bad Religion, House of Blues, Saturday, March 8, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

The Blind Boys of Alabama, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, March 9, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

New York Dolls, Belly Up Tavern, Monday, March 10, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Clutch, House of Blues, Wednesday, March 12, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Angels & Airwaves, Soma, Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m., 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-226-SOMA.

Nada Surf, House of Blues, Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

The Itals, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, March 20, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Built to Spill, Belly Up Tavern, Friday, March 21, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Presidents of the United States of America, Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, March 22, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Ace Frehley, House of Blues, Monday, March 24, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

The Black Keys, House of Blues, Saturday, March 29, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

A Flock of Seagulls and Dramarama, House of Blues, Sunday, March 30, 6 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Citizen Cope, House of Blues, Monday, March 31, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

APRIL

Bret Michaels, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday, April 4, 8 p.m., 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

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Calendar CONCERTS

Big Head Todd & the Monsters, House of Blues, Saturday, April 5, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

RBD, Coors Amphitheatre, Sunday, April 6, 7 p.m., 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

Ministry, House of Blues, Monday, April 7, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Say Anything, House of Blues, Sunday, April 13, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Def Leppard and REO Speedwagon, Coors Amphitheatre, Saturday, April 26, 7 p.m., 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

Victor Wooten, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, April 27, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Avril Lavigne and Boys Like Girls, Cox Arena, Wednesday, April 30, 7 p.m., 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

MAY

Juanes, San Diego Sports Arena, Saturday, May 3, 8 p.m., 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-224-4171.

Megadeth, Cox Arena, Tuesday, May 20, 5:30 p.m., 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Nightwish, House of Blues, Friday, May 23, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

JUNE

The Cure, Cox Arena, Tuesday, June 3, 7:30 p.m., 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

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CLAY PIGEONS
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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ISRAEL MALDONADO

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- 3/1 Dead Man's Party
- 3/7 The Aggrolites
- 3/14 Brother Ali
- 3/15 The Boredoms



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FEB 01

THIS FRIDAY - ONLY \$12

the head cat

lemmy (motorhead) slim jim phantom (the stray cats)
danny b harvey (rockats, 13 cats, lonesome spurs)

FEB 08

Colbie Caillat

FEB 09

THE WALLFLOWERS

MAR 07

LIVE

APR 04

BRET MICHAELS

ROCK OF LOVE TOUR

APR 20

STEPHEN PEARCY WARREN DEMARTINI BOBBY BLOTZER ROBBIE CRANE JOHN CORABI

RATT

Special Guest - GREAT WHITE ON SALE FRIDAY FEB 01 @ 10a

DreamCatcher FREE ENTERTAINMENT

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Draft and Micro Specials,
Play Wii and X-Box,
Bud Gifts.

Win a Wii
Play Wii and X-Box
Bud Gifts

BIG GAME

FREE ADMISSION FEB. 3

THE V LOUNGE	FEB 01	BREEZ'N	5p-9p	FEB 01	JAVA	10p-2a
	FEB 02	IZON EDEN	5p-9p	FEB 02	RISING STAR	10p-2a
	FEB 03	JOHN BORJA	4p-8p	FEB 03	DAVID PATRONE	9p-12a
	FEB 08	RISING STAR	5p-9p	FEB 08	POCKET PROTECTORS	10p-2a



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Calendar CLUBS

DJ

If you wish to submit a club or DJ listing, call 619-235-3000, ext. 405, night or day by 5 pm Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA, 92186. You may also submit information online at SDRReader.com by clicking on the music section.

Air Conditioned Lounge: Thursdays: Too Cool for School. Old-skoool hip-hop and '80s music, funk freestyle and new wave. Ages: 21+. Fridays: Junior the Disco Punk. Old school, rare grooves, funk, and disco, with opening set by DJ 1979. Saturdays, 9:00 pm: The Air Conditioned Cocktail Party. "Dance in your dazzling duds." Come in cocktail attire and get 2-for-1 cover charge. Ages: 21+. Sundays: Guest DJ Night. Guest DJs to be announced. Ages: 21+. Mondays: DJ 1979. Hip-hop, funk, and soul. Special guest joins DJ 1979. Ages: 21+. Tuesdays, 9:00 pm: Big Sonic Chill. "Ethereal dream-pop bliss" sponsored by San Diego's Local 94.9. Wednesdays: Club Nigel. Steve West and DJ SG spin the '80s. 4673 30th Street, Normal Heights. 619-501-9831.

Bar Dynamite: Thursdays, 9:00 pm: DJs SG, Dubz, Tekniksncian. Hip-hop, funk, old school, mashups, and reggae. \$5.00. Wednesdays, 9:00 pm: Deep House Nite. DJs Duane, Lil Ryan and Johnny D spin house music. Ages:

21+. 1808 West Washington Street, Mission Hills. 619-295-8743.

Beauty Bar: Tuesdays, 8:00 pm: Diamond Dog Tuesdays. "The night transitions in mood from lounge bar music all the way through the night to a full-scale dance club. DJ Heresy, Cota-Pop, and DJ Divebomb — three different DJs with three different styles." Ages: 21+. 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge. 619-516-4746.

Bluefoot Bar and Lounge: Friday, 9:30 pm: Funk 101. First and third Friday of the month, with DJ Sergio, SK, and Brother Barry. Soul, hip-hop, house, roots, party jams. Ages: 21+. Monday, 9:00 pm: "Weekend Revival". Audio and visual mixes. Ages: 21+. Saturday: Dance-Rock. Every first Saturday with DJ Nathan Black. Classic, '80s, and indie dance rock. Ages: 21+. 3404 30th Street, North Park. 619-235-8466.

Bourbon Street: Tuesday: Play With It. Best and worst of the '80s with DJ Junior the Disco Punk. 4612 Park Boulevard, Normal Heights. 619-291-0173.

Brick by Brick: Thursday: Joey Youngman, Terry Mullan, Wes Hoppe. House/disco/western swing. Ages: 21+. 1130 Buenos Avenue, Clairemont. 619-275-LIVE.

Candelas: Thursdays: DJ ALA. Deep soulful house music. 416 Third Avenue, Downtown. 619-702-4455.

Canes: Sundays, 9:00 pm: Reggae Sundays. Moulin Rouge Ent. presents Club Seduction. Live reggae, hip-hop, and R&B performances every Sunday. Featuring DJ Alonzo, Baby Crown, and Big Daddy on the turntables.

NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

With his long curls, wire-rim glasses, and red plastic shoes, **Joel Bluestone** looks the part of the rock star. I'm backstage with him at Mandeville Recital Hall, where Bluestone is listed as the guest percussionist for the evening's performance of **Swarmius**, an electro-acoustic trio in residence at San Diego State University. But Bluestone is more connected to Swarmius than the title of guest percussionist would indicate. On loan from Portland's Fear No Music ensemble, Bluestone and Swarmius leader **Joseph Waters** are more co-conspirators than anything; when last I spoke with Waters, he and Bluestone were planning an underwater performance piece. Everything — instruments, musicians, even audience members — would be submerged in a swimming pool, with

breathing done through tubes or aqualungs. Bluestone mentions that he'd like to acquire a used vibraphone for the experiment. "As an electric instrument, how do you think it will perform underwater?" I ask. "We don't know," says Waters. "We don't know," echoes Bluestone.

Waters and Bluestone (with Swarmius mates **Todd Rewoldt** and **Felix Olschofka**) make some of the more compelling music in the current global electro-acoustic scene. Joe Waters performs on a laptop. His specially programmed Mac can reproduce a plethora of sounds, from angry bees to sonic booms to burbling creeks, all of which he interweaves with the more traditional violin, saxophone, and vibraphone of Swarmius in a sort of classical-meets-many-genres chamber music that is as technically vivid as speed metal.

By blending Bach with house, hip-hop, and what he calls the "bad-ass super bass of automotive systems," Waters hopes



Swarmius will make classical music relevant for the 97 percent of listeners who couldn't care less about it. "Though I love classical music," he writes in the Swarmius press release, "I have always felt a lack of oxygen and an undercurrent of desperation in music schools and symphony halls."

SWARMIUS, Neurosciences Institute, Saturday, February 2, 8 p.m. \$20; \$10 students/seniors. 619-303-1509.

Ages: 21+. 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

Excelsior: Thursdays, 9:00 pm: Paradisco. Upscale lounge environment with DJs. 1028 Prospect Street Suite 210, La Jolla.

The Filling Station: Fridays, 9:00 pm, Saturdays, 9:00 pm: DJ Dance Party. Dance to your favorites! Over 65,000 songs for your pleasure. Ages: 21+. 9522 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa. 858-578-0757.

Harney Sushi: Wednesdays: Mercer's Han Night. A very special

night with weekly guest DJ's spinning: house, electro, mash-ups, and brit-pop. 3964 Harney Street, Old Town. 619-295-3272.

Inferno Young Adult Nightclub: Fridays, 9:00 pm, Saturdays, 9:00 pm: DJ Kool T. Top 40, techno, and '80s. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-1271.

Jack's La Jolla: Thursdays, 10:00 pm, Saturdays, 10:00 pm: Wall Street Bar. DJs and dancing in the Wall Street Bar. 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-8111.

Kadan: Mondays, 9:00 pm: Mayhem Mondays. Punk rock every Monday. Live bands and resident DJ Nate Horror provide the tunes. Ages: 21+. Saturday: BrokenBeat Night. First Saturday of the month, electronic, crunk, and glitch hop. Ages: 21+. 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

The Kava Lounge: Saturday: Ascension. First Saturday of the month with DJs Robin Roth and Tom King. Laid back and room to dance. 2812 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. 619-543-0933.

Lei Lounge: Sunday, 2:00 pm: Remedy. Afternoon DJs, outdoor patio. 4622 Park Boulevard, University Heights. 619-813-2272.

Livewire: Sunday, 10:00 pm: DJ Ruby Mars. Garage/trash/soul. Ages: 21+. Monday: Wheels of the Industry. Featuring local DJs. Ages: 21+. 2103 El Cajon Blvd, Normal Heights.

Moonoggies Pacific Beach: Saturdays, 9:00 pm: "What's Good". DJs Enigma and Cisco. Hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40. 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6550.



www.humphreysbythebay.com

Thursday, January 31
8 pm • Rock & Reggae

Scott Carter & New Breed

Friday, February 1
7 pm • Motown & Dance

Detroit Underground



Saturday, February 2
6 pm • Roots, Blues
Nathan James & Ben Hernandez

9:30 pm • Blues
John Nemeth

Sunday, February 3
8 pm • Smooth Jazz

Burt Brion



Monday, February 4
7 pm • Blues

Chet Cannon's Blue Monday Blues Party

Tuesday, February 5
7 pm • All Acoustic Tuesday

Mike McGill, Chi Club & Future Governor

Wednesday, February 6
8 pm • Blues Guitar

Anthony Gomes



UPCOMING SHOWS

Monday, February 25
Sean Costello

Saturday, March 8
Chris Duarte

Saturday, March 15
The Steely Damned

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Tickets for "Upcoming Shows" available at Ticketmaster and Humphrey's. All shows are 21 years and up.

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MC CHRIS

FEBRUARY 5 & 6

LOS AMIGOS INVISIBLES
si sé

FEBRUARY 8

AMPHREY'S MCGEE
Dub Trio

FEBRUARY 12

EDITORS

FEBRUARY 13

ALL AGES*

HORRORPOPS
The Pink Spiders
Rocket

FEBRUARY 15

ALL AGES*

STUX

FEBRUARY 16

SONATA ARCTICA
SANCTITY

UNIA

FEBRUARY 19

ALL AGES*

THIRD DAY

FEBRUARY 20

ALL AGES*

Queensrÿche
The Hits

FEBRUARY 21

ED ZEPHYRUS

FEBRUARY 22

BADFISH
a tribute to
SUBLIME

SCOTTY DON'T
MYSTIC ROOTS BAND

FEBRUARY 23

ALL AGES*

JUPITER RISING
DAGO BRAVES

FEBRUARY 24

DAVE ATTELL
CAPTAIN MISERABLE
LIVE IN CONCERT

FEBRUARY 28

EVERY TIME I DIE
FROM THE BEST

FEBRUARY 29

BAD RELIGION

MARCH 7 & 8

ALL AGES*

CLUTCH
murder by death

HEN MACHINE

MARCH 12

ALL AGES*

COMING SOON

1/31 VONDA SHEPARD
HOB DELTA ROOM

2/7 AN EVENING WITH
VELVET REVOLVER

2/14 THE ISRAELITY TOUR
FEAT. SUBLIMINAL &
TACT FAMILY

3/18 NADA SURF ☺

3/24 ACE FREHLEY
ORIGINAL LEAD GUITARIST OF NISS

3/29 THE BLACK KEYS ☺

3/30 LOST 80'S LIVE
FEAT:
DRAMARAMA &
A FLOCK OF SEAGULLS

3/31 CITIZEN COPE

4/5 BIG HEAD TODD
AND THE MONSTERS

4/7 MINISTRY

4/13 SAY ANYTHING

4/20 SYMPHONY X

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Mike Keneally Trio

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NO SHOW IS EVER THE SAME
Meet Paula after the show!

FEBRUARY 8

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CASINO SPA RESORT

THE WALLFLOWERS
GRAND CABARET

FEBRUARY 10

- 2/1 Lewis Black • Copley Symphony Hall
- 2/23 D.L. Hughley • 4th & B
- 3/7 Bob Saget • 4th & B
- 3/13 Angels & Airwaves • SOMA

- 3/24 Saul Williams • Casbah • On Sale Saturday @ 10am
- 3/29 Lavell Crawford • 4th & B
- 4/6 RBD with La Nueva Banda Timbiriche • Coors Amphitheatre

LIVENATION.com

WADA 9018 OFFICE ticketmaster CHARGE BY PHONE: \$19.995 PER TICKET
All dates, acts and ticket prices subject to change without prior notice. Subject to applicable service charges.

7:30 pm: Flock of '80s. Retro cover band performing the hits of the '80s.

The Shout House: 655 4th Avenue, Downtown, 619-231-6700. *Thursdays*, 7:00 pm, *Sundays*, 7:00 pm, *Fridays*, 6:00 pm, *Saturdays*, 6:00 pm: The Shout House. Rock and roll sing-along dueling pianos. \$5.00-\$10.00. Ages: 21+.

Beauty Bar: 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-516-4746. *Friday*, 9:00 pm: Langhorne Slim. New York folk rock, with local rock band *Silverbird*, plus *DJs Mario O, Brandon Welchez, and Sir Charles*. Ages: 21+.

Blarney Stone Pub: 5617 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont, 858-279-2033. *Monday*, 8:00 pm: Sean O'Donnell. Lead singer of Reeve Oliver. Allison Gill also performs.

Bluefoot Bar and Lounge: 3404 30th Street, North Park, 619-235-8466. *Monday*, 9:00 pm: "Weekend Revival". Audio and visual mixes. Ages: 21+.

Brass Rail: 3796 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-298-2233. *Saturday*, 9:00 pm: Noche Latino. Latin music night, with DJ Ruben Casas and DJ Klaus.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Avenue, Clairemont, 619-275-LIVE. *Friday*, 10:00 pm: S.A.T.O.R.I., Wasting June. Escape Note also performing. Rock/indie/alternative music. \$10.00. Ages: 21+. *Friday*: S.A.T.O.R.I.. Rock/indie/alternative music. Ages: 21+. *Thursday*: Phon. Experimental/psychedelic. Ages: 21+. *Wednesday*: The Business End, Captain Hashbrown. Punk rock/metal. Ages: 21+. *Saturday*: "Hell on Heels". Enjoy an evening of live burlesque entertainment. Hosted by Shirley Taken and starring: Raven F'Moore, Lady Borgia, Lotte Da Luicks, Martini Bombshell, Bibi Bordeaux, Lux B. Alladee, and Miss Mia Diablo. Ages: 21+.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HELL. *Thursday*, 9:00 pm: Matt Costa and Delta Spirit. Acoustic/alternative/rock. *Saturday*, 9:00 pm: Republic of Letters, Spell Toronto. Japanese Sunday also performing. A night of local indie music. Alternative/garage rock. \$8.00.

Croce's: 802 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-4355. *Sunday*, 11:30 am: Jazz Brunch. Daniel Jackson performs.

Epicentre: 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000. *Friday*: Long Live Logos, The Summer Set, Anarbor. The Material, Radio Racer also performing. Acoustic/pop/rock. \$7.00-\$9.00.

Henry's Pub: 618 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-238-2389. *Sundays*, 9:30 pm: Karaoke with Levi Strauss. Weekly opportunity to sing your heart out. Ages: 21+. *Wednesday*, 9:00 pm: Lady Dottie & The Diamonds. Blues/soul/rock with room to dance. Ages: 21+.

In Cahoots: 5373 Mission Center Road, Mission Valley, 619-291-8635. *Wednesdays*, 7:00 pm: KSON Night. Country western dance bar. Ages: 21+.

JP's Pub: 10436 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Tierrasanta, 858-576-2509. *Friday*, 9:00 pm: Lysdexia. Classic rock. Ages: 21+.

Jimmy Love's: 672 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-595-0123. *Friday*, 9:45 pm: Reaganomics. '80s cover band that recreates hits from various genres including new wave, dance, and big hair metal. *Thursday*, 6:15 pm: Masterpiece. Jazz/Rhythm and Blues.

Wednesday, 6:30 pm: The Soul Revue. Jazz from 6:30-10:00, dance and top 40 from 10:00-11:00.

Tuesday, 6:30 pm: Mystique. Element of Soul also performing. Jazz/funk/r&b. *Monday*, 6:30 pm: Insight. Jazz. *Sunday*, 6:30 pm: Masterpiece. Jazz/Rhythm and Blues. *Saturday*, 9:45 pm: Reaganomics. '80s cover band that recreates hits from various genres including new wave, dance, and big hair metal.

Kadan: 4696 30th Street, North Park, 619-640-2500. *Mondays*, 9:00 pm: Mayhem Mondays. Punk rock every Monday. Live bands and resident DJ Nate Horror provide the tunes. Ages: 21+.

The Kensington Club: 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-284-2848. *Friday*, 8:00 pm: Roman Numerals. Roman Numerals contains members of Season to Risk, Shiner, Dirtnap, and The Get Up Kids. Indie/new wave/alternative. *Friday*, 7:00 pm:

Gayle Skidmore, Jacob Blaze, Stacy Clark. Bluegrass/roots/soul. *Saturday*, 8:00 pm: Swim Party, The Roman Spring. The Focus Group also performing. Alternative/garage/rock. Ages: 21+.

Lei Lounge: 4622 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-813-2272. *Sunday*, 2:00 pm: Remedy. Afternoon DJs, outdoor patio.

Lestat's Coffee House: 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights,

619-282-2848. *Saturday*, 9:00 am: Josh Damigo. Curtis Peoples and and Tony Lucca join Damigo for acoustic/folk jams. \$10.00.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-6550. *Saturdays*, 9:00 pm: "What's Good". DJs Enigma and Cisco. Hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40.

O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub: 1130 Morena Boulevard, Clairemont, 619-276-5637. *Friday*: Blacklist Union,

Operation Human Shield. Rock/indie/gothic. Ages: 21+. *Wednesday*, 9:00 pm: Chip Conrad & the Concrete Feat. Rock/indie/country. Every first Wednesday of the month. Ages: 21+. *Tuesday*, 9:00 pm: Bedpost Buzzards. Another Zeke Productions presents a night of post punk/indie/grime music. Ages: 21+. *Monday*, 8:00 pm: Mystery Train. Blues jam. Ages: 21+. *Saturday*: The Underclassmen, 12

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Calendar CLUBS

CENTRAL

(continued)

cent, Critical Me. Punk/indie/rock. Ages: 21+.

Onyx/Thin: 852 5th Avenue, Downtown, 619-235-ONYX. Tuesday, 9:00 pm: Tuesday Night Jazz. Local trumpet player Gilbert Castellanos performs for KSDS 88.3FM jazz night. Ages: 21+.

Ramada Inn: 5550 Kearny Mesa Road, Kearny Mesa, 619-596-9777. Wednesdays, 6:00 pm: Keith Jacobson. Smooth jazz saxophone.

Riley's: 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma. Wednesdays, 9:00 pm:

Swing Night. Live swing bands perform.

Rosie O'Grady's: 3402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-284-7666. Tuesdays, 9:30 pm: Bdub's Jazz Jam Session. Modern jazz classics and standards every Tuesday, with Bryan Whelan, Doug Walker, Laurel Grinnell, and friends. Ages: 21+.

San Diego Sports Club: 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-299-7372. Tuesdays, 9:00 pm: Acoustic Open Mic Night. Unplugged talent every Tuesday. Ages: 21+.

Sevilla: 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-5979. Thursday, 8:30 pm: Club Salsa with Orquesta Primo. Latin/Mariachi. Ages: 21+. Tuesday: DJ Joe. Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras at Club Salsa. No class and no band.



>hometown CDs

BY OLLIE

Album: *Nothing Ringing True* (2007)

Artist: Trevor Davis

Label: self-released

Where available/price: Lou's Records in Encinitas for \$13.99. Online at myspace.com/trevordavis, CDBaby.com for \$15, and iTunes for 99 cents per song

Songs: 1) Arrowplane 2) Change 3) Rely on You 4) Treasure 5) Mr. Mister 6) Wife to Be 7) Not Enough 8) Across the Clouds 9) Nothing Ringing True 10) Caterpillar

Band: Trevor Davis (vocals, guitar, synth), Sarah Macintosh (vocals), Aaron Redfield (drums), Craig Zarkos (drums), Darla Hawn (drums), Dan Bailey (drums), Tyler Carroll (bass), Tim Devlin (bass), Dave Curtis (bass), Patrick Warren (organ, keyboards), Evan Wickham (organ, keyboards)

Extra info: Trevor Davis is scheduled to play Lestat's (3343 Adams Avenue) on Friday, February 1

San Diego continues the steady manufacture of

syrupy boy-pop even after its poster child (rhymes with

Shmason Shmraz) probably needs to supplement his income by washing commuters' windows at an off-ramp of the 163.

Trevor Davis can sing, which is why it's such a shame that his background music is limp, cookie-cutter rock. His saccharine-sweet vocals melt over the melodies like too much ice cream.

Davis is certainly not lacking any talent. Nor is his studio band. From every note and harmony, and even down to the album artwork, the project gleams with professional polish, hard work, and innate skill.

What's missing is the credibility afforded even the most amateur garage bands with half the natural talent. The mechanical, formulaic soft-voice pop template appeals



Trevor Davis

to the braces-and-lip-gloss crowd that haven't heard it consistently from a dozen predecessors for the past ten years.

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD REVIEWED, PLEASE MAIL IT TO:

Music Editor, Hometown CDs, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803



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West of 5

Football Party
Sunday, February 3
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Meet the Bud & Miller Girls

Top 40, Latin pop, and reggaetron. Wednesday: BombaChante. Performs at Club Salsa. An explosive sound of salsa and Latin music. Mondays, 9:00 pm: Rock en Espanol. Ages: 21+.

South Park Bar & Grill: 1946 Fern Street, South Park, 619-696-0096. Sundays, 6:00 pm: Original Music Modern Jazz. Weekly jazz series. Sundays, 6:00 pm: Original Music Modern Jazz Series. Every Sunday, with Doug Walker (bass), Tim Nunnink (sax), Nick Tocco (guitar), and Nathan Hubbard (drums).

Tio Leo's Lounge: 5302 Napa Street, Clairemont, 619-542-1462. Saturday: Just Been Funked. Old school R&B from the '70s, '80s, '90s. Ages: 21+. Friday: The Rockabilly Shake Out! Bomp 'n' Stomp Records/Promotions presents a monthly Rockabilly club held the first Friday of every month. Performing this Friday are the Vargas Brothers and Pachuco Jose y Los Diamantes. Featuring Bomp 'n' Stomp DJ's Juliencito and Thee Atomic Wercat. Rockabilly/soul/surf. Ages: 21+.

The Tower: 4757 University Avenue, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-284-0158. Friday, 9:00 pm: The Widows, American Relay, Los Otros. Garage rock. \$5.00. Ages: 21+. Monday, 9:00 pm: Dance to the blues. With Lady Dottie & The Diamonds. Ages: 21+.

U-31: 3112 University Avenue, North Park, 619-584-4188. Wednesday, 8:00 pm: Emery Byrd, The Fascination. Joanie Mendenhall & the Secretaries also performing. Rock/pop. \$5.00. Tuesdays: U-31 Karaoke. Ages: 21+. Sunday: Tribe

of Kings. Reggae. \$5.00. Monday, 8:00 pm: City of Industry. For locals in the hospitality industry.

Waterfront Bar & Grill: 2044 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. Saturday, 9:00 pm: The Rhythm Jacks. Blues/soul. Ages: 21+.

Whistle Stop: 2236 Fern Street, South Park, 619-284-6784. Tuesday: Board Games & Mellow Grooves.

EAST COUNTY

Fannie's Nightclub: 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley, 619-

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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 1
DJ Timeless and DJ Angle

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2
The White Party presented by Leblon Cachaca & BLK, Inc. Caipiraha Bars and giveaways all night. DJ Sean Wilson & Kofi on drums. White attire requested. Doors at 9 pm. No cover until 10:30 pm.

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Reservations, VIP bottle service call:
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No cover before 10:30 pm. Dress code enforced. Excludes special events.

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info@JacksLaJolla.com

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DYNAMITE WALLS THE DROWNING MEN FOR EXPLOSION THE MIDNIGHT CHOIR Sun 2/17 • 8:00 PM	STAN RIDGWAY PRES. WALL OF VODOO'S CALL OF THE WEST CINDY LEE BERRYHILL Tue 2/19 • 8:00 PM	STONE SENSES PSYDECAR ROOTS COVENANT Wed 2/20 • 9:00 PM	PIVIT & AGENT 51 FAMILY AND FRIENDS REUNION SHOW STRANGER SIX ARM THE ANGELS Thu 2/21 • 8:00 PM
THE BLASTERS & THE HACIENDA BROTHERS Fri 2/22 • 9:00 PM	ATOMIC PUNKS STEEL ROD Sat 2/23 • 9:00 PM	NCCS FOOD BANK BENEFIT CONCERT EARL THOMAS AMBER OJEDA JUSTUS EWING Sun 2/24 • 8:00 PM	JAY FARRAR W/GUEST Mon 2/25 • 8:00 PM

3/5 San Diego Songwriters Guild Showcase • 3/7 Immortal Technique
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3/4 Rufus Wainwright		4/19 Cash'd Out
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Calendar CLUBS

EAST COUNTY

(continued)

698-2204. **Thursdays**, 8:30 pm: Cory Wilkins. Alternative/rock/blues. Ages: 21+.

Second Wind (Magnolia):

8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee, 619-596-8350. **Thursday**: Pantera'd. Pantera tribute band. Metal/rock. **Mondays**, 9:00 pm: Second Wind Karaoke. Weekly event. Ages: 21+.

Second Wind (Navajo):

8515 Navajo Road, Santee, 619-465-1730. **Thursday**: Monsters of Rock. A multi-metal tribute act that performs the songs of well-known metal bands from the '70s, '80s, and '90s. Metal/classic rock/progressive.

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

The Alley: 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-434-1173. **Thursdays**, **Fridays**, **Saturdays**: The Love Rangers. Dance music.

Bar Leucadian: 1542 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-753-2094. **Friday**: The Morning Riot. Punk/rock/alternative. Ages: 21+. **Saturday**, **Saturday**, 9:00 pm: West of 5. A local band playing a varied selection of '70s to modern rock. Ages: 21+.

The Calypso Café: 576 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-632-8252. **Tuesday**, 7:30 pm: Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind. Featuring Warren Bryant and Jim Lair. Contemporary jazz/global music. **Monday**, 7:00 pm: Flounders. Acoustic.

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Inferno Young Adult Nightclub: 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido, 760-741-1271. **Fridays**, 9:00 pm, **Saturdays**, 9:00 pm: DJ Kool T. Top 40, techno, and '80s.

Molly Malone's: 1270 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-9050. **Friday**, 9:00 pm: Wild Rumor. Rock. **Saturday**, 9:00 pm: Lizard Fish. Rock.

SOUTH BAY

Janie's Cocktails: 656 E Street, Chula Vista. **Sundays**, 9:00 pm: Karaoke.

MORE MUSIC AND VENUES

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to **READER MORE MUSIC**

as i hear it

BY BRIAN CARVER

Artist: **Perpetual Groove**
Song: "Save for One" (from the CD *LIVELOVEDIE*)
Heard By: **Jeff Graves**, South Park



Jeff

I liked the bass. That stood out a lot. The singing sounds very '90s — very dated — and it's also a little monotone. It was emotional, so that makes it seem like the artist was really into what he was writing or singing about. The singing style sounded like a cross between Bob Dylan and Eddie Vedder. The music has a "live" feel. I don't know if there was some organ or keyboard in the background, but it sounded like they were really into it, which is good. I think it would be marketable. I would have to see what the band members look like in order to give you an honest opinion, but I can imagine [it's] mostly white guys...it reeked of "whiteness."

Artist: **MC Faith B**
Song: "I Gotcha Back" (from the CD *Rollin With the Lord*)
Heard By: **Nathan Gulick**, North Park



Nathan

He had all the charisma of a high school gymnasium inspirational speaker. It's reminiscent of Hulk Hogan's album. "Nobody will hurt you/ I'm here to protect" — those are very reassuring lyrics. I felt he was tough, he was in command. He could lead me down the righteous path. I could step away from the "game" — I'm quoting from the song — step away from the drugs. The beat was repetitive, and I think it was repetitive to drive home the point that he walks with Jesus. Jesus' beats are sure and steady — they don't falter. If you are earnestly into positive thinking, without irony, you will enjoy this song.

Artist: **Dr. Popsicle and the Hair-Painted Opera House**
Song: "The Fall Chandelier" (from the CD *The Rubber Tree*)
Heard By: **Sasha Syeed**, Clairemont



Sasha

It didn't offend me outright, which is already awesome. I liked the production — it had creaky, echo-y, lo-fi production. It might have reminded of what I heard from that guy [in] Iron and Wine. [It was] lo-fi/indie/folk/pop/acoustic. The singer's echo-y, mellow country drawl was like that My Morning Jacket guy, Jim James. I heard him say, "follow me," I believe. I don't remember anything else from the lyrics. There was some other stuff decorating the track...like a far off E-bow or something. I could see it doing well locally and maybe regionally. If the guy opened for the right bands, I could see him skyrocketing towards his dreams.

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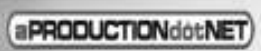
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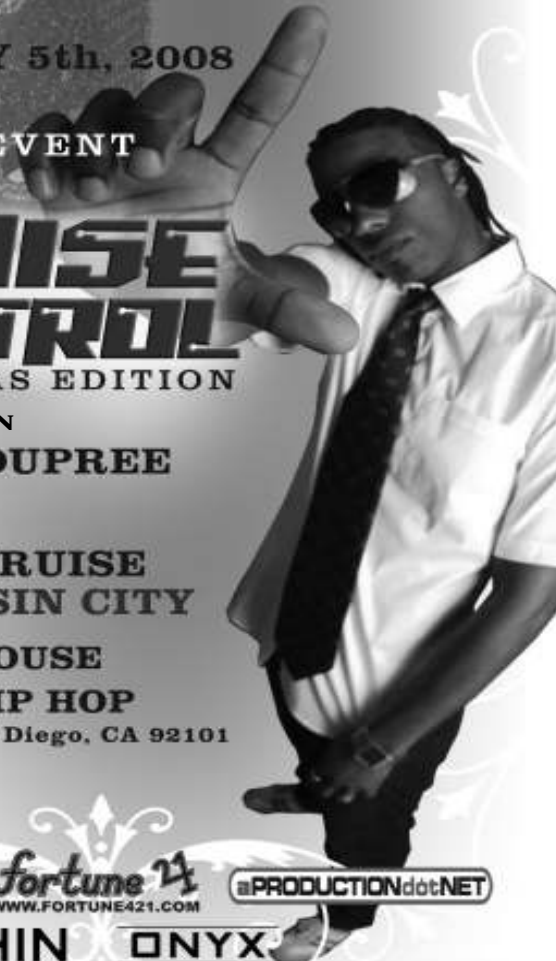
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MORE MUSIC

(continued)
fusion of hip-hop-lounge-techno-classical." 303-619-1509. \$10-\$20.

The Other House: 7813 Esterel Drive, La Jolla, 858-405-0413.
Wednesday, 7:30 pm, Saturday, 5:00 pm: Bang-on-a-Can All-Stars.

Group performs for Muzik3 music festival. Members include David Cossin (drums, percussion), Even Ziporyn (clarinet), Mark Stewart (guitar), Daniel Kelly (piano). Saturday concert includes guests Wu Man (pipa), Felix Fan (cello). Program boasts "Video Phase" by David Cossin, "Obfyor" by Daniel Kelly, "Music for Traditional Instruments and Plumbing" by Mark Stewart, and "3 Channelings" by Ziporyn.

Ensemble member Robert Black (bass) joins group for the

Yo, DJ!

Talk About a Star



Wyclef Jean plays House of Blues on Monday, February 4

Seeing Wyclef live will turn any fan into a fanatic. I have seen him break out into a tightrope walk on a wooden fence while rapping. I've seen him grab and play every instrument on the stage, do a backflip in the middle of a guitar solo, and play the guitar with his tongue. I've even heard him freestyle in five different languages.

So, when I heard he was coming onto my morning show as a guest late in '07, I was genuinely excited. Clef arrived at the studio with just one other person. He shook hands and individually introduced himself to everyone in the room. As my commercial

break ended, I turned on the mics and started to introduce the former member of the Fugees, but he had other ideas. He began freestyling over the background music I was playing:

"Wyclef is in the buildin', early in the morning, drinkin Starbucks, freestyle king out of Brooklyn, I'm good lookin', when it comes to freestyle, crowds get shoooken...good morning, America!!" This was not going to be an ordinary interview.

He talked about his early childhood in Haiti ("Fugees" is short for "Refugees") and his days of performing music on the streets of Brooklyn. We asked his opinion of the current state of hip-hop music:

"When I hear my nephews and nieces talking about Soulja Boy, I don't quite get it, but then again my uncle didn't get it when I was a little kid doin' 'the Humpty Dance.'"

Of course, we had to ask whether or not the Fugees would ever reunite, but we never anticipated that Wyclef would be so honest:

"Lauryn Hill is the best female artist I've ever worked with, but she is bipolar.... For me, her health is more important.... The people around her need to tell her the truth.... So, if she gets her health together, only then can

something happen."

The man who is known as "the preacher's son" preached on for several more minutes before I asked him, "Will you freestyle for San Diego?"

"Give me a beat... They say I changed, ever since I got the wealth... I ain't changed, it's just hard battling myself, it's kind of hard when you're livin' in the land of the lost, ever since an intern I always wanted to be boss.... Matrix entertainment television, what's your vision for the next generation — less schools, more prisons, overpopulated the kids can't write or read, but they study hip-hop alphabets: Jay-Z, B.I.G."

He flowed so long, the beat that I was playing ran out. So, what did he do? He told me to start it again! He continued in Spanish. Then Japanese, then German, then French. I think I can safely say that everyone in the room had chills. After more than seven minutes, his flow came to an end. He got the only in-studio standing ovation I've ever seen in radio.



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Palomar College: 1140 West Mission Road, San Marcos.
Thursday, 12:30 pm: Concert Hour

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Round Table Pizza: 1161 East Washington Street, Escondido.
Tuesday, 7:00 pm: The Full Deck.

Band plays for music night hosted by San Diego North County Bluegrass and Folk Club. 760-745-7231.

SDSU: San Diego State University: 5500 Campanile Drive, USD, 619-594-5200. Friday, 8:00 pm: Melodies from Iran, Turkey, Greece, and Armenia. Center for World Music and The Persian Cultural Center present

concert by Mamak Khadem (vocal, *daf*), Naser Musa (*oud*), Hamid Saeidi (*santur*), Chris Wabich (percussion), Jamshied Sharifi (keyboard), and Ole Mathisen (clarinet, saxophone). Concert takes place in music department. 858-243-6008. \$15-\$25.

San Diego Museum of Art: 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park, 619-232-7931. Wednesday, 5:30 pm:

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Crasher

TURN IT UP

by Josh Board

I got word that Paul was having a party for the Chargers game. I looked for my Green Bay Packers shirt but couldn't find it. I settled for wearing a Chargers cap.

I brought cupcakes that had Charger helmets and ones that had footballs. I wondered why Ralph's didn't have a batch with the other teams' logos. Maybe they feared that they'd end up smashed.

Of course, the store was packed. I made it to the Bay Park party just minutes before kick-off.

The table with desserts had about 50 blue-and-yellow cupcakes, a few cheesecakes, three different kinds of brownies, and chocolate chip cookies. After viewing the selection, I didn't care if the Chargers won or lost.

I saw a lot of smokers hanging out in the back yard, which went up a hill of stairs. I went up there, ate peanuts, and argued football with some of the guys. I noticed the volume on the TV set was low. I grabbed two different remotes



Top left: Paul (middle); Bottom left: The youngsters running the betting pools

trying to turn it up before someone suggested I use the knob on the stereo. That worked.

A few of them were smoking cigars, and the smoke bothered my girlfriend. By the time we made it back into the house, there were no seats

had chocolate frosting on the top. I said, "This might be the best brownie I've ever had." Someone nearby said, "It's the

any bigger cups?" He said, "Well, yeah, but they aren't blue." The guy said, "I don't care! I just want to be able to put more than four ounces of booze in it!"

The two youngest people at the party were running the betting slips. I said, "Nothing like learning about gambling at such a young age." They asked me if I wanted to buy any squares. I glanced at it and said no.

As I spoke with Nicole

"I've been drunk for hours. And you can quote me on that."

left. We stood for the entire first quarter.

At least we had easy access to the desserts. I grabbed a brownie that was filled with chocolate chips and

best brownie I've ever had...that didn't have pot in it."

I went outside to grab a soda and heard someone complain, "Paul, don't you have

about it, the guy never looked up. He was counting a huge wad of dollar bills.

I heard someone yell at the TV, "Jammer sucks! Why do we still have him? He gets burned deep and has penalties on short plays."

I nodded my head in agreement. Neither of us said anything when, late in the game, Jammer got an interception.

When I walked over to try a cupcake, I saw a woman in her late 50s bent over a small TV. I said, "There are too many big TVs around here for you to bother with that one." She explained that she wore the wrong glasses.

When a large selection of Chinese food was brought in and put outside, a line formed. I heard one guy say about a friend, "The more time he spends in Mexico, the more he's starting to look like a beaner." Since my girlfriend is Middle Eastern, I wondered if it didn't occur to him, since she was standing nearby, that she might be Mexican. I thought



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about calling him on that and telling him that my girlfriend is Mexican, just to put him on the spot and teach him a lesson. But, he'd had a few beers. I've found that alcohol consumption makes it difficult for anyone to learn a lesson.

When we saw Michael Turner playing in place of LT, a few people commented on it. One guy next to me yelled in my ear with each carry, "Turn it up, Turner. Turn it up!"

In another room, there was a few seconds of delay on the TV. It was funny to have us all cheer a play and then, a second later, hear them cheer. Someone said, "That's the room with all the slow people. They took the short yellow bus to get here."

The Chargers lost the game, and we all spent 30 minutes saying what we would've done differently. I said Volek should've been playing QB. Someone else didn't like all the field goals. Another person didn't like the punt in the fourth quarter, when the Chargers were already losing. He added, "Does this mean we'll have a new coach next year?" I said, "Hey, he won two playoff

games more than Marty. I don't think he's going anywhere."

One guy said, "I say we go to Seau's restaurant and throw a brick through the window."

Someone came in from the smoking area, saying that he tried to switch the TV to the other game, but all he got was snow. Someone responded, "Yeah, I think it's supposed to snow there today." He said, "Not that kind of snow. We can't see anything on the screen."

We switched to the Packers/Giants game and someone made a comment about a player with the name Atari. He wondered if he has a teammate named Donkey Kong.

I talked with an SDSU student who told me a story about sharing a dorm room with a rugby player. "After practice, he'd just leave his dirty clothes in the middle of the floor. These are tiny rooms. He'd then go out for the night. It was so gross. I ended up just kicking them into his closet and spraying the pile so it wouldn't stink. It took the whole bottle, though."

Later, he asked if anyone had ever been in the

Peace Corps. Someone said, "Talk about smelly clothes." An older guy said, "I know one guy who joined, and we haven't seen him since."

Paul walked over and said something to me, slurping his words. I said "Are you drunk?" He said, "I've been drunk for hours. And you can quote me on that."

I talked to a guy who was president of a computer company. He brought up a situation at a Super Bowl a few years ago. "It was a banquet, and Kellen Winslow was a guest speaker. There were all kinds of football stars walking around. Fred Taylor was there. I went up and shook Marcus Allen's hand. But, at one point, Winslow looked down at his watch. He was in the middle of a

sentence, and he looked at his agent and said, 'It's 10, and I'm only scheduled to be here until 10.' He walked out. It was so unprofessional. He couldn't even finish what he was saying. Yet, Billy Ray Smith was there, and when he found out you were from San Diego, he'd talk about the city and be cool with you."

I told him about a time that I met Winslow, and he wasn't friendly.

The guy said, "It's funny...the people who are nice. My plane was once delayed, and James Brown was in the airport. He was talking to everyone and being funny."

I told him that when James Brown played 4th&B, right before he passed away, the sound guy asked him to sign a few items. His manager said, "Put them in an envelope, and we'll mail them to you. It sounded weird,

but a few weeks later, he got the picture and CD signed with the inscription, 'I feel good.'"

Someone nearby said, "He must not have felt that good if he died a few months later." ■

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Gourmet Gluttony

This year, for the first time since 1994, the 33rd annual winter Fancy Food Show came to San Diego, occupying the belly of the Convention Center for four days. Normally, the show is held in San Francisco, but this year there was a scheduling conflict at Moscone Center, so we got it — over the passionate protests of the many exhibitors who'd rather go to Frisco. What's the Fancy Food Show? It's the Godzilla and King Kong of the food trade rolled into one mighty megillah. Staged by the National Association for the Specialty Food Trade, its purpose is to let companies that create and/or produce culinary specialties (or gourmet goodies, if you prefer) display and try to sell them to wholesalers and retailers who'll eventually sell them to us eaters. And yes, they let ink-stained wretches in, too, to report on it. In short, it's the edible version of Macworld, but instead of hordes of young geeks, it draws hordes of sweet old dears who run little gourmet food shoppes in places where the only possible source of a decent olive oil or imported cheese is — the little gourmet food shoppe.

To get in, you have to be in the food trade, or the media, or know somebody in the food trade who's willing to take you or to lie that you work for him or her. (I don't think they're totally strict about credentials — I saw a few little kids with their parents. Sons of the nephew of the uncle in the food trade?) Anyone who attends gets to wander endlessly through the aisles of the Convention Center, never seeing daylight, tasting lots of sample goodies, and eventually turning green around the gills, since almost all the food is "special" by virtue of being intensely sweet, salty, or spicy. (There are few vegetable samples, and very few meat samples, and the caviar vendors give no samples at all.) There are no resting points for the palate, except at the occasional water stations and the bottled mineral-water exhibits.

Fortunately, there are occasional resting points for the body, in the form of double-sided miniature park benches that seat two per side, stationed in the transverse center aisle. As the afternoon latens and thousands of tootsies simultaneously tire, friendly competition for seating can grow intense, occasionally leading to accidental backward-lap-dances as two or more unheavenly bodies attempt to violate the laws of physics by claiming the same space at the same time.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

For reasons never explained, you're not allowed to take any samples out of the hall — they even have security guards at the exits, instructed to search your purse or clothing if you fit the profile of a desperado sample-smuggler. Nowadays, I guess that would be somebody wearing a turban (filled with chocolates?), a burka ("Are you hiding melons under there?"), or a backpack. Of course, wise guys like me can always find ways to sneak a little stuff past the doorway guardians. (Not "Deep Throat" but "Deep Pockets.") Besides, the staff here seemed more laid-back than the ones up north. (The latter have probably moved on to more serious national security occupations by now, e.g., doing their bit at SFO to keep terrorist toenail clippers off your flight to Podunk International.) But the stern sanction against smuggling goodies goes kablooy during the final hours of the last day of the show anyway, when exhibitors will do anything to ditch their leftovers rather than ship or schlep them all home again. Unfortunately, I missed that day, still soaking my feet from the previous day's foray.

FOOD SHOW NAOMI WISE

The last time I went to the show was about ten years ago, covering it for a free weekly in San Francisco, trying to pick up on the candidates for the latest and hottest trends. The food shows of the '90s took place in an era of food fads rapidly dancing do-si-dos, and the show seemed a Parliament of Dunces, desperate attempts to capture attention for the latest and greatest dumb ideas. There were a lot of truly horrible foods. The chocolate-covered popcorn nightmare, for one, along with its cousin, wasabi popcorn. The evil marinades to wreck any meat. Hot sauce after hot sauce — back then, that was the year's major fad, bringing many new products named as painful-anal jokes (e.g., "Ass Kicking" and "Ring of Fire" brands). There was no "natural/organic" section, as the current food show featured. Instead, there were "health foods" — breads and crackers and pastries evidently made from low-carb, fat-free, gluten-free, flavor-free tree bark. These were truly magical foods: one small bite would react instantly with human saliva to expand into a mouthful of damp

sawdust. (But there were some goodies, too — Aidells sausages, Thai Kitchen curry pastes, the "O" line of citrus-infused olive oils, Walkerswood jerk marinade, L'Estornell's rich Spanish olive oil — products that are still staples of my pantry.)

In those days, I'd write up the show as a humor piece. But this time, I come to praise Caesar, not to bury him in satire. (Well, maybe a little. Need some tartness to go with the sweet.) I was shocked (and pleased) at the leap in quality. This year, the prized central aisles of the Convention Center, where you're most likely to enter the hall, were occupied by a huge grouping under the banner "Natural/Organic." That's where I concentrated my travels — partly by personal preference, and partly because natural/organic foods dominated another category of the directory: "What's New and What's Hot." Yes, there were a few little nasties under this rubric — some ineffably bland frozen "cocktail samosas" from India, and a vegan cheesecake that tasted like what it was — tofu swamped with vanilla. But mostly, these aisles yielded pleasures.

About a third of the organics consisted of sweets of one form or another, and riding high above them all was the hottest new ingredient: Acai (pronounced "a sigh"), extracted from purple berries from a palm that grows in the Brazilian Amazon, is reputedly anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antioxidant, and antimutagenic, not to mention an energy-boosting cure-all — a new miracle food/drug in a bright-tasting sweet-tart package. (I mean, by now pomegranate is so 1999!) There were juices, purées, smoothies, sorbets, and gelati made with it, and they all tasted good, and sometimes splendid. (They were the closest foods at the show to providing mouth-relief after bites of exotic chips and stinging salsas.) One of my favorite uses was from Dagoba, a famous and fine purveyor of organic chocolate, which offers a dark-chocolate bar called Superfruit, filled with acai partnered with goji berries, another upcoming miracle food. Goji berries (aka wolfberries, widely used in Chinese medicine) look to become the acai of 2012, after North Americans have gobbled up and extinguished all the acai in Brazil in hopes of obtaining eternal life and youth. Where to get acai products locally? Right now, Whole Foods has the widest variety — several company reps mentioned it as a local source for their prod-



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ucts — but at least one large acai wholesaler has products (such as juice) at local Vons, Albertsons, and Ralphs.

Organic booze and mixers furnished unexpected treats. Papagayo, a Paraguayan white rum made from organic sugar cane, was amazingly smooth, intense, and rich, with none of those nasty industrial-aldehyde aftertastes you often find in commercial white rum. I loved it served neat with ice and a little lime wedge, and I know it'd make an outstanding caipirinha, probably even tastier than authentic Brazilian cachaça (a sugarcane liquor similar to rum). Samurai Jim was quite taken with the same distributor's suave organic seven-year aged Scotch, Highland Harvest. The same line includes U.K.5 organic vodka and Juniper Green organic London dry gin. I probably should have tasted the vodka (although it's far from my favorite type of hooch) to experience a bit of family history: My great-grandmother, as a young, suddenly impoverished widow in Sandomir, Poland, turned her potato patch into organic vodka — which my five-year-old grandma, the moonshine-runner, delivered to the customers. (A chorus of "Thunder Road," please.)

The line of organic firewater is available, said the courtly British representative of the brand, at BevMo (the rum running about \$25 a bottle, and to my tastes well worth it). I also liked Tommy's margarita mix — light and bright, mainly fresh lime juice blended with organic agave nectar and a bit of organic cane sugar — a far cry from the sugary, carb-loaded Cuervo and Sauza mixes. BevMo carries that, too, and if you live from La Jolla on north, you might even find the mix in the refrigerators of your serious local groceries.

After falling into near-swoons over the Prosecco with rosewater cocktail at Bite, Jim and I were both easy pushovers for Sence rose nectar, the essence of rose fragrance with a little sweetness. No local source yet, but if you want it, check sencenectar.com about purchasing.

I practically jumped up and cheered when I saw the display from Organic Prairie — and tasted the little sample piece of meltingly tender pork tenderloin they provided. This is the meat side of a familiar dairy brand, Organic Valley, which

makes some of the best packaged cheeses I've ever tasted. They're quite large for an organic brand, but from all I've read, they still do it right. Like Niman Meats, they're an independent co-op of small family farms and ranches. Their display at the food show included a refrigerator meat case of gorgeous packaged meats, all pasture-raised, organic, and humanely treated. I lusted for the dark-red, well-marbled, grass-fed porterhouse I saw in that case. Whole Foods seems to be the most available local source for this brand.

Less easily available are some of the new low-carb foods. (Alas, the mainstream unnatural brands gobbled up the low-carb market as quickly as they could, with lines like South Beach frozen foods — still full of the usual polysyllabic products of the chemical factories.) The line I'd most like to see at local groceries is called Doctor Grandma's Whole Grain Foods, specializing in organic whole-wheat products, made with extra-virgin olive oil where appropriate. The line was designed for diabetics, but it hits the spot for any low-carb dieter, or even those just hoping to eat more conscientiously.

Among other things, Doctor Grandma's makes a pancake mix and a muffin mix, both sweetened with a no-cal, no-carb sugar substitute that I'll talk about in a minute. The sample pancake amazed me. It had a good grain flavor and was as light as mainstream brands, nothing like the heavy-handed "good for you" tree-bark pastries of a decade ago. But the product I want, need, and love from this food line is their sugar substitute, made from fruit. It didn't taste like Splenda, with the latter's metallic-tasting chemical undertones, or like any of the other monstrous chemical fake sugars. Concentrating hard as I swallowed a quarter-teaspoonful, I discerned no aftertaste at all. A bit mellower and gentler than commercial white sugar, it reminded me of *azucar moreno*, the Mexican granulated light-brown cane sugar that I prefer to white sugar for most uses. Until some smart local retailer picks up this fine line of foodstuffs, you can order the products online from DoctorGrandmas.com. By the way, I am actually about to put my money where my mouth is and buy the fake sugar and the

real pancake mix, and they haven't even bribed me or anything — their reps at the show never even heard of the *Reader*.

Another group of products I'd like to try again are Larabar's raw candy bars made from unsweetened fruit purées, nuts, and spices, with nothing else added. Since dates are the basis of most of the bars, the flavors tilt Middle Eastern. They're not super-sweet, but they're pleasing. No local distributor, but you can check into them at larabar.com.

One of the items I smuggled home was a can of sparkling organic energy drink in the interesting-sounding flavor of pomegranate-limeflower. I picked up the can thinking to drink it there, since I badly needed an energy boost and was thirsty anyway, until I read the nutritional information and discovered the whopping 37 grams of carbohydrates — "energy" from cane sugar, the first listed ingredient, plus guarana and green tea (both abounding in caffeine), plus added vitamins. That's not health food, that's the equivalent of a Jolt cola, just with a more exotic table of contents. I've been doling out its use as a breakfast drink over three days. The taste is less spectacular than I imagined. The lesson here is, an "organic" label is no automatic guarantee of quality or sincerity.

Outside of the "natural" aisles, most of the show was arranged by geographical source. (There were, for instance, miles and miles of Italy, featuring olive oils, cheeses, and pastas ad infinitum.) They might have had a special Stupid Food aisle somewhere at one of the ends, but I saw very few foods of blatant screaming idiocy. Quite the opposite: somewhere in Spain, I got my very first taste of the leg-

endary Iberian ham made from hogs fed on chestnuts. (It was wonderful, indeed.)

Oddly enough, it was in Texas territory where I lucked into a charming display of divine British puddings, presided over by an equally charming lady. Not all sweets from Austin's Sticky Toffee Pudding Company are sticky, if that's what scares you about British desserts. Owner Tracy Claros (the baker and boss, born in England's Lake Country) furnished sample bites of the airiest, most sensual English lemon pudding you can imagine — handmade from ingredients as pure as any food on the natural aisles. No surprise then that when the show was over, the lemon pudding took the prize in the competition for "Outstanding Baked Good." Visiting the website, I discovered that Marian Burros of the *New York Times* had also fallen in love with these sweets, which can be served heated or at room temperature, with ice cream if you like. You can buy a six-pack of any of several puddings (or a sampler pack) for \$30 (plus refrigerated shipping) from stickytoffeepuddingcompany.com. No local grocery is carrying them.

Even though I didn't open the smuggled can of energy drink until the next day, something else I ate in the long afternoon of nibbling and sampling had an undisclosed "energy" component. I crashed at midnight (after a simple supper with no "energy food" in it), then awoke every half hour until morning, as though I'd downed a triple espresso at bedtime. Acai? Goji berries? Whatever, I had evidently OD'd on something natural/organic — that is, loaded with organic, natural, plant-based, pure caffeine. ■

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Anyone Can Dance

“Dude, this is a democracy. I’m thinking the Geneva pizza. Got a problem with that?”

I tell you, man, they were dancing.”
“Dancing in a pizza place? Yeah, right. The pizzicato waltz?”

Hank swears he saw it, last night, through the window in the eatery behind the Shell gas station where he was filling up. An Italian spot.

“Those bodies, they were swaying.”

“Swaying. Uh-huh.”

Hank swings the Camry onto Fletcher Parkway. “That’s it. We’re going. If I’m right, you get up and dance, OK? Let’s see you get smart-ass on the dance floor.”

No problema. Bet he just mistook some big screen for real life. So we drive into this standard-issue strip mall. Italian place sits in the middle. I see they have an outside area. Looks like a coffee/wine/bar hangout as well as a restaurant.

We get inside, and oops, it does have a parquet dance floor right in the front, surrounded by tables and booths. A knobby-kneed old black Victorian table is the welcome desk. The walls have panels of snazzy red fabric and yellow wallpaper, and I see gold and red drapes hanging across the wine-red ceiling at the back, making a kind of tented pavilion. Every nook and cranny seems to hold little collections of bottles, glassware, cherubim, leather chests, red fabric lights. Cool. But, über cool.

“Too swank, Hank,” I say.

“You’ll get fed, Ed. Trust me.”

Lively lady named Linda puts her head around some baubles. “Hi! Where would you like to sit?”

“That booth right by the dance floor,” says Hank.

Linda leaves us with menus, and oh, man. The only items under ten bucks are antipasti, like Pizzetta Rustica, a mini-pizza with black-olive pâté and Gorgonzola cheese (\$7.95); soups (the *zuppa del*

sole — clam soup — \$7.95); or salads, like the Meneghino, with mozzarella cheese, tomatoes, and cucumbers (\$7.95). The pastas and risotti sections are up there, \$11 to \$17 buckeroos.

Other dishes, like Penne Ciao Bella, which is salmon, shrimp, and spinach in a light creamy sauce, served with garlic cheese bread, would really hit the spot. Or, Lord, *cartoccio*, spaghetti with mushrooms, shrimp, clams, and salmon baked together in a garlic white sauce, plus garlic cheese bread. But...they’re \$16 and \$17.

Of course, at lunchtime, we could have had lots of hot pannios or ciabatta for \$7, \$8. The portobello pannio with mushrooms and pâté runs \$7.25. An Italian Salami Classic ciabatta with salad is \$6.95.

But not now — it’s dark.

“Dude,” I hiss, “there is no way we can afford this...you just blew it. Bi-ig time.”

“Jeez! Turn the page. Back page.”

I turn to the back page. Pizza, \$10 to \$17 each.

“So?”

“So we get a pizza. *One* pizza, dude. Share. Maybe seven bucks each. Sixteen-inch pie, what’s wrong with that?”

Hmm. See his point. But which one? Hank, natch, goes for the veggie types, like the “Venezia,” with tomato sauce, cheese, and grilled veggies (\$11.95 for the 12-inch, \$13.95 for the 16-inch); or the “Viareggio” with tomato sauce, cheese, sautéed spinach, and a creamy Gorgonzola sauce (\$11.95, \$13.95); or the San Remo, tomato sauce, cheese, asparagus, and sunny-side-up egg (\$13.95, \$15.95).

Me, I want meat, the Palermo calzone stuffed with cheese, sausage, pepperoni, and mushrooms (\$12.95, \$14.95); or the Geneva pizza with pesto sauce, cheese, sautéed sausage, onions, zucchini, and parmigiano sauce (\$13.95, \$15.95).

“Uh, we’ll take the Venezia pizza,” Hank says, the moment Linda turns up.

“Dude,” I say. “This is a democracy, right? I’m thinking the Geneva pizza. Got a problem with that?”

“We can make it with one flavor on each side,” Linda says. Great! Saved us from a dust-up. Plus now we may have just enough do-re-mi left for a salad. So we go for a Colombina salad up front. It has a luscious combo of spinach, walnuts, and pears, with a dollop of creamy Gorgonzola sauce, and a Ciao Bella dressing for \$7.95.

When it comes, that Columbina’s so delicious I almost don’t feel the need for pizza. Plus we get distracted by this glam-looking gal who comes in, sets up with a seven-string guitar, and starts playing Beatle classics. “Come Together.” “Golden Slumbers.” “Yesterday.” Victoria Rose is her name. Turns out she’s English. She wears long black gloves with the fingertips cut out. Used to be a lute player.

Linda brings our pizza. My side tastes nicely herby, sausagey. Hank’s is tomatoey, with bits of broccoli and other veggies.

“So, you really have dancing?” I ask Linda.

“Absolutely,” she says. “Pretty much every night. We just provide the floor. Tonight a West Coast swing group’s coming in. Other nights it’s Lindy Hoppers, Argentinean tango, cha-cha, rumba, you name it. It’s all on our website, *ciaobellaetango.com*.”

“And anyone can dance?”

“Oh yes. That’s the fun. La Mesa folks usually eat between 6:00–8:00, but the Argentinean tango masters come late and expect to eat late. So we have to keep the chef late. It’s quite a scene.” Linda says



Linda

she and her business partner Daniel are both passionate tango dancers, so it gets to be kinda work-play.

“What time do you start tonight?” Hank asks.

“Around 8:30, pretty soon,” Linda says. “Are you sticking around?”

“Oh sure,” says Hank. “My friend here is desperate to dance. Right, Ed?” ■

The Place: *Ciao Bella Caffè Bar e Ristorante*, 5263 Baltimore Drive, La Mesa, 619-337-0238

Type of Food: Italian

Prices: lunchtime portobello pannio (with mushrooms and pâté), \$7.25; Italian Salami Classic (ciabatta with salami, prosciutto, salad), \$6.95; Pizzetta Rustica, mini-pizza with black olive pâté, Gorgonzola cheese, \$7.95; zuppa del sole (clam soup), \$7.95; Meneghino salad (cheese, tomatoes, cucumbers), \$7.95; spaghetti carbonara (pasta, bacon, egg, garlic, Parmesan, \$11.95); Palermo calzone (stuffed with cheese, sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms), \$12.95 (12-inch), \$14.95 (16-inch); Venezia pizza (tomato sauce, cheese, grilled veggies), \$11.95 (12-inch), \$13.95 (16-inch); San Remo pizza (with tomato sauce, cheese, asparagus, and sunny-side-up egg), \$13.95 (12-inch), \$15.95 (16-inch); risotto delizioso (risotto with pear, Gorgonzola), \$12.95

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Underserviced

"I said, 'No, no — we cannot give our wine club a Temecula wine.'"

Portland didn't agree with marketing VP Kathy Bankerd. Her employers at the tech company InFocus had moved her up north and bought her a house, but she still hadn't sold her home in sunny SoCal. And so, when the tech market softened after 9/11 and the company decided to reorganize, Bankerd took advantage of a sweet package and volunteered to reorganize herself south. But it wasn't exactly early retirement. Says Bankerd, "I wasn't quite ready to sit in the rocking chair with the cats."

Three years later, she opened Carlsbad Wine Merchants. "I've always had a passion to do a high-touch business," she says. "I love the creative part of it — event planning and that type of stuff. And our family has always been connected with the wine industry. So I did a full market analysis and discovered some incredible facts." Among them: "that women were the most underserved constituency and that they buy zillions of dollars' worth of wine." Well, maybe not zillions. But still.

Bankerd set out to service the underserved, starting with atmosphere. "Before we opened, I spent about two months in Italy. One of the things I really liked was the way things were merchandized. People were greeted in shops. Every time you bought something, they wrapped it for you. It didn't have to be fancy paper, but they wrapped it, and they put a bow on it. Simple things that just

made you feel good when you got it. I thought, 'This is really something. They really care that I'm here.' " She decided it mattered to "be gracious to the people who buy something from you — thanking them for choosing to do business with you."

It built camaraderie.

Italy also helped inspire the shop's look. "The shops were small, and I knew I wanted that. I just traveled from town to town, photographing the *enotecas*. I saw this one shop in San Gimignano that had this mustard-colored wall, and I thought, 'That's it.' It

took me forever to get the color mixed right. And I brought some really beautiful things back from Florence. But then I realized that this wasn't a market for that kind of high-end giftware. People loved the look of the things, but they wanted them to be affordable. I really worked on bringing gracious living into an affordable price range."

That translates to scads of wine-related old-tyme signs: "Wine Tasting Here," "Wine Improves with Age: The Older I Get, the More I Like It," "Champagne," "Bordeaux"... Also, prints of vine-lined fields with villas in the distance, paintings of wine bottles and glasses, wine-related tapestries, wine-themed paper napkins, glassware, decanters, and baskets. "We sell so much — there are empty spots all over the wall. The shop becomes like home to them, and so they start decorating out of here. When people come in, they feel like they're

entertaining in someone's home" — provided that person's home doubles as a venue for live music a couple of nights a week.

"We're giving people the opportunity to come in and be greeted by wine enthusiasts," continues Bankerd, "so that, contextually, they're more willing to learn about wine and take some risks. It's an opportunity for them to taste wine and understand what they're buying, as well as the opportunity to see some of the things that go along with serving wine and creating a sense of hospitality with it. The shop is self-funded, so we work on a very tight financial plan. That's why we don't have a lot of luxury dollars to buy expensive furniture. But I think it's almost better that way — it keeps the homier atmosphere. People can relate to it."

Lest it sound as if Bankerd is operating a wine shop/tasting bar with an events calendar forever stuck on Ladies' Nite, it's worth noting that when I visited, three young Turks are sitting at the tasting bar, watching pro basketball and drinking beers. Beers served in stemware, but beers all the same. "We started out with some gift sets — German beer with glasses — and they became unbelievably popular," explains Bankerd. "Then we offered some specialty beers out of Belgium and England in the tasting room, and we started doing really well with it. Now, if the wife is really passionate about wine but the husband is not quite as into it, he can come and enjoy a beer. We do gift baskets, all kinds of things."

Gift baskets of beer — who knew? "Baskets" — beer and/or wine — "are a good portion of our



Carlsbad Wine Merchants

business. I was inundated with so many orders this year that several of my customers formed a little team and volunteered to come in and help put them together one Saturday. The husbands came in on the following Monday and delivered all 150 of them. That's the sense of ownership people have gotten with the shop — this is their place, and they want it to be successful."

(Of course, a wine shop is ultimately going to succeed or fail on the basis of the actual wines on the shelves. But atmosphere and camaraderie can go a long way in aiding the struggle to survive in the shadow of the Carlsbad Costco, which sells more wine than any other Costco in the country. "If Costco wasn't here," says Bankerd, "we'd probably be a lot larger. But we still get a lot of corporate orders here. If they send an admin out with a list of wines and the admin doesn't know about wine and has to make choices about substitutions on that list, Costco is not their place. They'll come to us and say, 'I was told to go to Costco, but I don't even know what these wines are.'" Bankerd & Co. can help to fill an order, and they can ship wines with a custom shelf-talker that describes the wine and lists any blockbuster scores it may have received. And if that shelf talker

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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

includes a word about the shop and Bankerd's favorite Italian blessing, so much the better.)

Once you've built that kind of devoted following, the next logical step is a wine club — guaranteed consistent sales to a customer base that trusts you to pick their wines for them. The club is humming along at almost 300 members, thanks in part to Bankerd's tweak on the typical structure. "We have three levels, and I pick around 18 wines a month for people to choose from. There are five options at the Winemaker level, eight in the Smart Buy, and five to seven in the Estate. On the second Wednesday or Thursday of the month, we have a pickup party, with all 18 wines available for tasting. You have to pick your wines from your membership level, but you can taste everything. It's become very, very popular."

And recently, it became very, very local. "I was in back, making gift baskets," recalls Bankerd. "Will Burtner, who runs our tasting room, came back and said, 'Kathy, I really want you to taste this wine. I'm thinking it would be a good candidate for the wine club.' I tasted it and said, 'This is really good. Where's it from, Paso Robles?' He said, 'No — Temecula.'" — it was the Chapin Family Vine-

yards Cabernet. "I said, 'No, no — we cannot give our wine club a Temecula wine.'" Whether or not the wine was good, the local stigma made it too much of a risk. "Will said, 'Kathy, I think you're wrong. This is really good wine.' I sat back there and sipped on it a little bit more, and it endeared itself to me. When we did it for the wine club, we tasted it against a Gigondas and a 90-point Malbec. They were both excellent, but the Chapin won hands down. We had people clamoring."

More next week. ■

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

The Reader's Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Barbara David, Ambrose Martin, Shari McCullough, Max Nash, Eleanor Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of over 700 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at

SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a midrange entrée. **Inexpensive:** below \$10; **moderate:** \$10 to \$19; **expensive:** \$21 to \$29; **very expensive:** more than \$30. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

BEACHES

Barbarella 2171 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-454-7373. This popular restaurant sits nestled in an English garden just blocks from the beach. You can dine amidst the flora at street-side tables, in the enclosed patio, or in the

small dining room. Once you're seated, the friendly staff provides fresh-out-of-the-oven sourdough wheat bread to nibble on. The menu changes daily, offering fresh fish, steak, chicken, pastas, soups, and pizzas, all cooked with a twist of imagination that delivers on the flavor. For instance: pizza topped with smoked salmon, crème fraîche, chives, and fried capers. Or delicate Alaskan halibut served over creamed spring onions with a watercress salad. If a fresh fruit crepe happens to be on the dessert menu, leap on it! Open for lunch and dinner daily. — S.M.

Brazil by the Bay Restaurant and Sports Bar 3770 Hancock Street, Point Loma, 619-692-1410. The pleasures of the Brazilian table go beyond the orgies of skewered meats served at *rodízios* (e.g., Rei Do Gado). Here you can eat like a real *carrioca*, sampling typical dishes of Bahia, Rio, and São Paulo. You can happily make a grazing meal of stuffed things — appetizers such as *coxinhas*, *pasteles*, *croquetes*, and *kube* (the Brazilian version of Lebanon's *kibbe*) — and don't miss the luxurious fried-bananas Milanese. Ask for the house's Brazilian hot sauce, hotter and livelier than the Mexican bottled sauces on the tables. The main-course masterpiece is *moqueca de peixe*, fish in a curry-like coconut milk stew. Other good choices include *prato feito* (beef, fish, or chicken, sprinkled with lemon juice and served over a sea of red beans) or *filet mignon with catupiry*, a stroganoff-like concoction made with a rich Brazilian cheese of the same name. Weekends, there's *feijoada*, the Brazilian national dish, but it's a rather thin and soupy version. Good desserts, including passion-fruit mousse. Beer, wine, sake-based cocktails. Lunch and dinner daily. Reservations accepted but not needed. Moderate. — N.W.

Bull and Bear Bar and Grill 1271 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-551-0077. "Bull" and "Bear," as in stock market moods. It's not surprising lots of soigné financial types gather here around sunset, but the food comes at proletarian prices. Of course the names kowtow to mighty Wall Street: the Broker Breakfast Burrito (eggs, bacon), Venture

Capital Veggie Burrito, Bull burger, Dow Jones dog, Franchisee Dog. Best bang for the buck: the Hot Stock burger, a half-pound patty with a split Louisiana sausage on top. Bottom line: it's a chew with a view. Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily (bar open till 2 a.m.). Inexpensive. — E.B.

Café Athena 1846 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-274-1140. With a more upscale, eye-catching decor and a longer and more serious menu than most Greek cafes, this is a popular destination, so be sure to reserve for dinner or you'll risk a long wait. The choices include good soups and appetizers (except for a sub-par *taramasalata*), outstanding moussaka, above-average gyros, and interesting, unusual desserts. There's plenty for vegetarians. Rather noisy when crowded. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

Café Japengo 8960 University Center Lane, La Jolla, 858-450-3355. Here Bentleys and Beemers far outnumber Buicks. Inside is contemporary with an Asian flair, complete with kimono stands and bamboo forests. Sushi is the specialty, and it's above average, although the sushi bar chefs aren't very friendly, and the seasoned rice tastes quite salty. The highly prized fatty tuna (*toro*) and flying fish roe *tobiko* are offered when available. Otherwise, they may be replaced by smelt roe, *masago*, which may be a minor disappointment. However, the *uni* (sea urchin roe) is pristine. If you appreciate subtlety, try the egg-omelet sushi (*tamago*), a delightful mixture of eggs, sake, and mirin. Creative party rolls are especially popular here, including the amusing Tootsie Roll — sweet and spicy, crunchy and spongy, with fried soft shell crab topped with grilled shitake mushrooms, avocado, and a sake marinade. Entrées are often a letdown, but diners may be satisfied to make a meal from appetizers like the *char su* duck salad with goat cheese, candied pecans, and pomegranate vinaigrette; duck wontons with coriander pesto and *ponzu* sauce; and an excellent kimchi martini. No reservations for the sushi bar; arrive early for prompt seating.

Lunch weekdays only; sushi bar opens at 5 p.m.; dinner begins at 6 p.m. Very expensive. — B.D.

Costa Brava 1653 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-1218. Cordial owner-host Javier Gonzalez opened this charming restaurant so that local Spaniards would have a place to gather with an authentic atmosphere of home, and indeed, the "Euro" atmosphere and late hours give a truly Iberian feel. The lively garlic-rich dishes here include a wide array of tasty tapas and, among the entrées, a paella that's made to order (sized to serve two or four; call ahead for larger groups). Patio seating in good weather. Parking lot and wheelchair access via the alley behind the restaurant. Open daily 11 a.m. to midnight, with bargain prices at Sunday brunch. Reservations advised for weekend evenings. Moderate. — N.W.

Clay's La Jolla 7955 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, 858-551-3620. In this oddly cozy penthouse with wide windows facing west, the curtains rise at sunset to reveal a panorama stretching to the sea. It's comfortable, attractive, not too formal — casual-chic. Here, chef-owner Clay Bordan cooks up a creative, sophisticated, seasonal California-Fusion menu with international flavors seamlessly integrated, featuring organic vegetables, wild fish, naturally raised meats and fowl. With his discerning palate, his fare is unusually delicious. And it's healthful, low-carb enjoyment with interesting veggies, little starch, minimal cream. Wine list includes some high-end French bargains; good choices by the glass. Full bar. Free parking. Elevator-accessible restrooms same floor. Dietary restrictions accommodated. No kiddie menu, but child-size plates half-price from regular menu. Reservations recommended. Live local jazz in lounge most nights after 7 or 8 p.m.; big band Sunday nights. Can be noisy. Three meals daily. Expensive. — N.W.

Cliff Hanger Café 2800 Torrey Pines Scenic Drive, La Jolla, 858-452-9858. "You should never leave the ground on an empty stomach," says the sign near the cliff, which is where this café hangs. What is it like to be at the Café at the End of the World? You sit,

munch, and watch men becoming birdmen, jumping off the cliff beside you. The view of the Pacific Ocean is spectacular. But, hey, grub's good too. Try the Launch (a breakfast burrito with scrambled eggs, bacon, cheese, onions, bell peppers, and salsa). Also great and grilled right there: generous half-pound hamburgers. Open daily for breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Daily's Restaurant 8915 Towne Centre Drive, La Jolla, 858-453-1112. The idea is brilliant: Just serve food that's really, really good for your customers. Low fat, low calorie, low sodium. Brainchild of cardiac surgeon Pat O. Daily. So what's the problem? It's the B-word. Bland. Not that they don't fight heroically to make all the dishes interesting, but lots of items have that lenti-y, bean-y feel. Or naked salad-y. Or steam-up-your-nose veggie. Among the more interesting choices is the Cajun chicken with black beans and brown rice with cayenne-paprika in the spices. The most popular lunch order, the buffalo burger, has a little gamy aftertaste — but that just proves it is the legendarily lean prairie beast. Nice outside seating in Restaurant Row, except you've gotta resist the smells from the more wicked eateries that aren't on the same crusade. Inexpensive. Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. — E.B.

The French Gourmet 960 Turquoise Street, Pacific Beach, 858-488-1725. In the mood for pâté, rata-touille, or calf's liver in a homey atmosphere? Make a reservation at the French Gourmet *tout de suite*. Start off with traditionally prepared escargots or mussels. The onion soup is good, but hope that the soup du jour is gingered cream of carrot. Entrées include lamb loin, veal tenderloin, bouillabaisse, and fish, with several preparation choices for chicken or filet mignon. The pan-roasted halibut is gently enhanced with a champagne *beurre blanc* sauce and topped with crispy braised leeks. Desserts abound, with an imported French cheese plate topping the list — along with pastries, meringues, etc., all freshly prepared in-house. Bakery, breakfast, and lunch



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daily; no dinner Sunday or Monday. Moderate to expensive. — S.M.

Humphrey's by the Bay 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577. Most diners at this resort/concert venue restaurant eat at the prix fixe preshow dinners because they guarantee good seats for the concerts at the next-door amphitheatre. But better food emerges once the music-mavens leave the premises. The kitchen features fine seafood, juicy meats, and prime steaks with seasonal veggie garnishes. Preparations are pleasing but in no way startling — it's a hotel restaurant, after all. Reserve for show nights or to snare a window table with a gorgeous marina view. Free parking when there's no concert, valet parking when there is. Dining room pleasantly quiet. Open daily breakfast through dinner; brunch buffet Sunday. Preshow prix fixe upper moderate, à la carte expensive/very expensive. — N.W.

Isabel's Cantina 966 Felspar Street, Pacific Beach, 858-272-8400. This cheerful café instantly became a gathering spot for many PB-ites, including the forsaken population of adults. Chef-owner Isabel Cruz, who calls herself "Food Girl," has imported much of her Mission Cafe menu of Latin-Asian-sorta-health-food to the beach. A self-confessed "lazy cook," she focuses on wholesomeness rather than authenticity. Breakfast and lunch are the main meals here and include competent eggs, luscious scrambled eggs, huge sandwiches, and weighty slabs of coconut French toast. Competent Latin-style dishes include tamales with airy masa. Devotees of Southeast Asian cuisines, however, may be disappointed by the simplistic stabs in that direction. If your dish is too mild, house sauces (chili oil, salsa, chipotle sauce, etc.) are available on request. Beer and wine. Small, free front parking lot; pay lot across the street at west end of the block. Three meals daily; closed 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

Joe's Crab Shack — Pacific Beach 4325 Ocean Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-274-3474. Joe's is silly with crab-shack ambience (campy nautical paraphernalia on down to souvenir gimme caps), but the food's not bad. You can choose buckets of steamed, barbecued, or garlic crab (of various subspecies), or go for fried or grilled seafood or steaks, or salads. Grown-ups may prefer the patio to the rockin', raucous interior. Full bar, not much wine. Inexpensive to low moderate. Also in Mission Valley, Oceanside, and downtown. — N.W.

Kaiserhof 2253 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, Ocean Beach, 619-224-0606. Even on weeknights, crowds fill this restaurant and *biergarten*, chowing down on hefty, hearty German cooking in a festive atmosphere. Flavors are authentic, but can be monotonous due to the kitchen's reliance on commercial products (especially a heavy-flavored beef base that makes all the sauces taste alike). Good schnitzels, potato pancakes. The excellent apple strudel is the only dessert made in-house. Reservations advised, especially for patio seating. Full bar. Lunch Friday through Sunday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — N.W.

The Mission Cafe and Coffee House 3795 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach, 858-488-9060. Gourmet and Latino breakfasts served in fancy surroundings. Outstanding are cinnamon French toast, blackberry-banana pancakes, and roast beef hash with rosemary potatoes and eggs. Chino-Latino lunch items. All dishes plus fabulous bread, scones, muffins, available for take-out. Open daily 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.W.

Nine-Ten 910 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-964-5400. Chef Jason Knibb's level of craftsmanship shows a culinary sophistication that would be at home in San Francisco or New York. You'll find adventurous, seasonal cuisine emphasizing "market fresh" local produce (much of it organic or sustainably raised), naturally raised meats, and wild seafood. It's not just the food that's fresh — the ideas are, too, and the flavor matches are flawless. The wine list is superb, and new personnel in the front of the house have brought up the standard of service. Validated valet parking, full bar. Reservations urged. Open daily, three meals. Expensive. — N.W.

Red Sails 2614 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-223-3030. One of the city's oldest eateries has been renovated to look like it always has, but fresher. The dining rooms resemble those on a river paddleboat or a small, rakish cruise ship, while the bayside patio is a funky waterside pleasure, beset by pigeons. The menu runs to simple seafood and steaks (wet-aged USDA Choice), but quality is uneven. Tasty starters include briny littleneck clams on the half-shell, an interesting clam chowder, and a classy house salad (but ask for vinegar and oil on the side to dress it). The coconut shrimp entrée is a good, guilty pleasure, but the fin-fish and fried entrées taste like supermarket frozen food. For the starch accompaniment, baked potato is the most flavorful option. Full bar, strong cock-

tails, weak wine list. Kiddie menu available. Daily three meals until 11 p.m. Low moderate. — N.W.

Roppongi 875 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-551-5252. The hard part is deciding whether to sit in the drop-dead gorgeous interior or to people-watch on the large, heated street patio. Then you have to decide what to eat from the long Euro-Asian fusion menu, with its vast choice of tapas and sushi options, as well as entrées. At lunch there are several imaginative sandwiches and appetizers. Reservations highly recommended at dinner. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Some tapas and sushi rolls are inexpensive, but if you enjoy grazing the bill can mount quickly. Entrées are expensive. — N.W.

Roy's 8670 Genesee Avenue, La Jolla, 858-455-1616. Our own noisy outpost of top Hawaii chef Roy Yamaguchi's ever-expanding chain has elements of both "top chef" and "chain" about it. Decoding Roy's Rules of Ordering can make the difference between a mediocre dinner and a very happy meal: 1. Steer clear of combination platters — the same dishes come off much better when ordered separately; 2. You can get any element of a combo by asking for it; 3. Don't waste your palate (or money) on weak umbrella drinks when the wine list is brilliant. The menu changes daily, but some frequent tasty choices are pot stickers, *lumpia* "Kahana," or chocolate soufflé. Special dietary requests accommodated, including vegetarian meals. Reserve, and hope for a table far from the raucous bar. Open nightly. Very expensive. — N.W.

Sadaf — La Jolla 613 Pearl Street, La Jolla, 858-551-0643. You worry — those formal fixtures and black-tux waiters, the gold-encrusted paintings, and the crisp, pink table linens all scream "expensive!" Actually, prices are easygoing, especially at lunch. After the basket of complimentary bread, try skewers of chicken or ground filet mignon with rice or salad, or *albalou polo* (rice, dried cherries, and chicken). Pistachio-and-rosewater ice cream is a great finale. Non specials and evening meals cost more, but at any price this is real Persian food, with typical riotous herbage and sybaritic spicing. Another branch in the Gaslamp turns into a nightclub after dinner, but the food's better at this La Jolla flagship. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Sante Ristorante 7811 Herschel Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-1315. The name is Italian for "saint," and the Northern Italian/regional cooking shines here, especially the fish and

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seafood dishes. Fresh seafood specials are available every night, in addition to those on the menu. Excellent pasta with mushrooms, ravioli with quail, and lamb chops. Separate room for bar; separate private dining room. Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner nightly. Enclosed patio for lunch. Not to be missed. Moderate (pastas) to expensive. — E.W.

Sapporo Japanese Restaurant 5049 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6686. It's small, but Sapporo has big deals, particularly the lunch specials that usually give you a miso soup, salad, and a combo such as chicken teriyaki and California rolls and white rice — all presented like a piece of performance art. Other specials include *yaki soba* (stir-fried sauteed chicken, vegetables, and noodles) and *champon* noodle soup (*udon* noodles, scallops, shrimp, vegetables), and the value-packed chicken bowl — a big plate of sliced chicken, broccoli, other vegetables, and a swag of rice. Dinner daily, lunch daily except Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

The Shores 8110 Camino del Oro, La Jolla, 858-456-0600. At this family-friendly resort on the oceanfront at La Jolla Shores, the hotel restaurant serves simple steak and seafood entrées, classic steakhouse appetizers, and sides. Friday evenings there's a seafood buffet. Although the legendary Bernard (the Marine Room) Guillas is officially in charge as executive chef, the food bears no sign of his involvement: It is thoroughly ordinary. Wines are mainly familiar top-shelf supermarket bottling, with few by the glass (reasonable corkage). Full bar. Validated parking (three hours) in underground garage. Resort-casual dress. Reasonably quiet. Three meals daily. Moderate to high, with weeknight inexpensive "early bird" three-course dinner. — N.W.



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Calendar RESTAURANTS

Sushi on the Rock 7734 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-1138. This noisy, high-energy spot — a boxy, sa-loon-like space with a sushi bar in back — draws a lively twentysomething crowd (although older folks will have plenty of company, too). Unlike more traditional sushi bars, there's a vast selection of "rock and rolls" — huge, creative party sushi. And they're fabulous, with sparkling fresh seafood and immensely clever combinations. Try, for instance, the shrimp tempura roll, which wraps fried shrimp, crab shreds, daikon sprouts, and Japanese mayo in deep-fried salmon skin — the combo would be just as impressive as an appetizer at a top Cal-French restaurant. The Orange Crush is another sublime invention, fresh and crunchy with veggies and tobiko wrapped in suave salmon. Even simple rolls are so well conceived, and the rice so nicely seasoned, you won't need soy-wasabi dip. No reservations, long waits (in cramped entryway) on weekends. Good sake list. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly, with deep discounts for happy hour specials. Moderate. Second (quieter, but with full bar) location at 1923 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad, 760-436-6261. — N.W.

BAJA

From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.

La Casa del Mole Aquiles Serdán #543, Baja, 664-682-9074. Colonia Libertad is where Tijuana's love affair with mole is said to have begun, around 1991. Herminia Amador dreamed of bringing the flavors of her native state of Puebla to Tijuana. That meant one thing: mole poblano, Mexico's major sauce statement. She opened this flower-filled restaurant, and then a second and a third. And all because Tijuana love mole poblano, a complex, sweet, dark sauce combination of maybe 20 different spices, chiles, nuts, and chocolate. Sit down here, and your big question is: What's going under

your mole? Thigh or breast of chicken? Pork? Perhaps enchiladas? Your call. Prices are so reasonable you can try several variations. Whichever, when you bite in for the first time, you're dialing direct back to the earliest days of the conquistadors in Aztec, Mexico. Start with mole poblano, learn its wine-like complexities, then move on to other moles, such as rancharo and verde. Open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

La Petite Cafe Avenida Constitución #720-Q, Baja, 664-688-2171. You're in a side eddy here from the storm of Revolución among Olmec sculptures, Aztec calendars, trees, and amazing quiet. It's standard casera (homestyle) food: Spanish chicken with rice and beans, pork chops in green sauce, red enchiladas, steak rancharo, liver-and-onion stew, chicharrón (crisp fried pork rind) in a red sauce, and of course carne asada, but cooked well and priced amazingly low. Vegetarian upon request. Check the generous five-item-plus-coffee breakfast special. Three meals, all-day breakfast and lunches, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Salón Azteca Rosarito Beach Hotel, south end of Boulevard Benito Juárez, Baja, 661-612-1111. This fabled old hotel's all-you-can-eat Sunday brunch buffet offers a great excuse to check out the gorgeous architecture and meet other travelers in town. To reach the buffet, go to the left behind the registration desk to the Salon Azteca, walk in, grab a plate, and start dishing up your breakfast from the long line of cafeteria-like bins filled with gringo, gringo-Mex, real Mexican (menudo), and international specialties. Expect to tip if you want something from the omelet or carving station. Next, plunk down at a table where a waiter will arrive to serve you juice and endless cups of decent coffee. Vegetarian upon request. Casual dress. Secure parking in hotel lot for a small extra charge. Three meals daily; brunch Sunday. Somewhat expensive for the area; Visa and MasterCard accepted. — N.W.

Saverio's Restaurant Mediterraneo Boulevard Sanchez Taboada #3151 (at Escuadron 201 Street), Baja, 664-686-6442. Javier Plascencia Huerta wanted to open an Italian restaurant and says he eventually "got interested in what Baja California has to offer." The result: an Italian palazzo offering an interesting and changing fusion of

Mediterranean-Baja food with dishes like roasted baby octopus, local oysters cooked on the mesquite grill, mesquite-grilled quail from Ensenada's valley of Guadalupe, mussels cultivated in Baja farms, and a delicious rack of lamb raised in the local San Vicente valley. The restaurant even grows its own herbs. Dish presentation is pure art. One of the tastiest: roast duck breast in a guava sauce with a little burrito of candied leg meat. Vegetarian upon request. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — E.B.

Super Antojitos 4th Street #1810 (between Constitucion and Niños Héroes), Baja, 664-685-5070. Sr. Lechuga's restaurant has been around for 40 years, for good reason. Early mornings, people line up for breakfast. You enter a sort of heaven: arches, hidden lighting, glass chandeliers, even a statue of the Virgin Mary. The breakfast special, called mole poblano, includes two eggs, enchilada de mole, rice, beans, and bread or tortillas. The delicious mole, Sr. Lechuga's own, contains raisins, avocado, plantain, almonds, peanuts, thyme, and cilantro. Plus, you're drinking Sr. Lechuga's own coffee. He grows it down south. Super antojitos means super snacks, so search out the pastes — pastries stuffed with mole, cheese, or ground meat and potatoes. Also delicious: pork rind gorditas. Vegetarian upon request. Open daily, three meals. Inexpensive. — E.B.

CENTRAL

Acqua Al 2 322 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-230-0382. Despite its monicker, this isn't a seafood trattoria, but a near-fishless branch of a restaurant in Florence that won success by eschewing the standard Florentine menu while maintaining Tuscan purity of style. Chef-owner Martin Gonzales trained there and serves as charming host of the local outpost. Best bets are the vegetarian pasta and rice dishes made with aromatic porcini mushrooms. The tasting of five pastas may sound tempting, but they're chef's choice — and he tends to choose the dull ones. "Tastings" of salads, cheeses, and desserts are also offered. Mains are mainly rather plain. Lunch weekdays, dinner daily. Moderate (pasta) to expensive. — N.W.

Aladdin's Café — Hillcrest 1220 Cleveland Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-574-1111. These cafés offer a bright, clean atmosphere for bright and clean, if rather generic, Middle Eastern favorites (hummus, tabbouleh, kebabs, shawarma, etc.), plus imaginative Levantine-flavored pizzas and salads. There are ample choices for vegetarians. Both locations offer beer and wine. Hillcrest's owners offer a more Lebanese cuisine. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

Andrés Restaurant 1235 Morena Boulevard, Linda Vista, 619-275-4114. This is a cozy cultural surprise on hard-to-define Morena Boulevard. The food is flavorful (and not spicy-hot like Mexican and South American dishes). A good introduction to it is ropa vieja ("old clothes"): shredded beef sautéed with mushrooms, green pepper, and tomatoes with ever-present rice and black beans. And the Cuban sandwich (roast pork, baked ham, and cheese) shows off the Cuban handling of pork. Other interesting dishes include alcapuria (pork and green plantain) and luscious, messy yuca con mojo (yuca root with garlic oil). Open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Anthony's Fishette 1360 North Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-232-2175. At the baby brother of Anthony's Grotto and Star of the Sea, the good news is you pay a fraction of the price, and you get to sit outside over the water. The chowder — New England or Fisherman — is fresh, thick, tasty. A meal. Their old-fashioned fish-n-chips or Baja squid steak sandwich are great fillers too. Also good: "hand-battered treasures," like catfish strips, swordfish, oysters, crab claws, and clam nuggets. Breakfast served during summer only. Open for lunch and dinner seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Antique Row Café 3002 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-9750. (Also in Lemon Grove and El Cajon.) Antique-land's favorite eatery is a serious exhibit in its own right, especially if you're into sports memorabilia. Look for signed photos of Mickey Mantle, Ted Williams, and Joe DiMaggio (all goggle-eyed with Marilyn) on the walls. The word for the food: generous. All-day breakfast dishes include "The Works" omelet, stuffed with bacon, sausage, ham, bell peppers, onions, tomatoes, and cheese bulging over a big oval plate along with skins-on breakfast potatoes.

"Philly Steak Heaven" (you choose: steak, ham, or turkey) is one of the more popular lunchtime dishes. Normal Heights and El Cajon, breakfast and lunch daily; Lemon Grove, three meals daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Asia Café 4710 Market Street, Southeast San Diego, 619-527-1917. May be Asian San Diego's best-kept secret. You have to look behind the smog shop at this all-Laoian shopping center to find it. The menu's Southeast Asian, but the owner — and most of the conversation around you — is Lao. Lao dishes include the famous larb-kai (chicken salad with hot peppers, lemon grass, and sticky rice). Good regional alternatives: bamee (egg noodle) roasted pork soup, Crying Tiger (ground beef salad with vegetables), and lard nar (seafood, beef, or pork with sloppy wide noodles and vegetables). Closed Tuesday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Berta's Latin American Restaurant 3928 Twigg Street, Old Town, 619-295-2343. Sampling the whole range of little-known cuisines from Guatemala down to Patagonia, Berta's lengthy menu reads like a culinary "pick hits" list of each country's best flavors, typically rendered with expertise and verve. Some outstanding dishes include sweet-savory Chilean pastel de choclo (a casserole of beef, chicken, and corn pudding) from Berta's homeland, spicy ceviche and subtle seco de cordero (citrus-flavored lamb stew) from Peru, earthy Guatemalan chilemal (cilantro-laden pork stew), aromatic beef curry from Trinidad, and a sensuous vatapa (seafood in coconut sauce) from Brazil's African-influenced Bahia coast. Vegetarians will find many meat- and fowl-free options. Open for lunch and dinner; closed Monday. Moderate. — N.W.

Big Daddy's 303 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-427-2477. This is one of those places that plaster unbelievable breakfast deals across their windows in red and yellow. It looks sparkling new inside but delivers old-fashioned roadside chow. Breakfast and lunch usually have a couple of specials, but come for the sizzling skillet breakfast. They have nearly a dozen excellent ones, such as the "Chula Vista" (three chicken taquitos on scrambled eggs with bell peppers, avocado, melted cheese) or the "Nashville" (diced country sausage, eggs, potatoes, and gravy) or the "New Orleans," basically Creole-style grilled chicken. Not diet food, but satisfying. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Bondi Bar and Kitchen 333 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-342-0212. What's loud, strange, and smart enough to catch the eye of every passerby? It's a huge, raucous Australian gastro-pub offering numerous Aussie brews — with

urban Australian cuisine for ballast — plus a full bar (several of them) of well-chosen wines plus hard liquor. Prime seating is on the front patio and in large straw fish-traps suspended from the ceiling in the front dining room. (Dining rooms in back are dim; bring a mini-flashlight to read the menu.) The food resembles California Fusion cuisine but is often spicier, made with home-country ingredients including grass-fed beef, South Pacific fish species, and herbs you've never heard of. There's great grazing on appetizers, including outstanding Pacific oysters on the half-shell, beef pies, tempura prawns, seafood pot stickers, and the fun of exploring cheeses from Oz. Mains are generally less exciting, with a tendency to overcook fish and meats. But it's a party. Dress code: Wear clothes. Three meals, seven days until 11 p.m., 2 a.m. on weekends. Mainly moderate, some entrées expensive. — N.W.

Brothers Family Restaurant 5150 Waring Road, Allied Gardens, 619-287-0880. Yes, it looks boring on the outside. Brick, reflective glass. But go in and you're surrounded by brothers: John and Bobby Kennedy, Hugh Grant and his brother Jamie, the Wright Brothers, the Blues Brothers, the Brothers Rico. They're there because this place used to be run by three brothers. Good old-fashioned cholesterol city rules here with no apologies, and the locals appreciate it. It's like a Cheers for eating. All the staples are served: country-fried steak and eggs, pork chops with eggs, Grandma Jennie's pancakes with ham, bacon, and sausage — even hefty beef or tuna or turkey sandwiches with soup. Open seven days for breakfast and lunch, with early dinner Wednesday to Friday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Buster's Beach House and Long-board Bar 807 West Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-233-4300. There really was a Buster, a surfer who traveled the world working in restaurants. Baja, Oahu, Fiji, Naples, Ocho Rios, Phuket — you name it, there's a dish from each of those waters, and every one of them ethnically incorrect. The menu's actually an international anthology of surfer-bar grub — and like Waimea Bay's waves, it has huge ups and downs. Skip the greasy "Short Board" pupu platter and risky daily fish special and go for the well-seasoned crab cakes, fish tacos, spicy "paella" (more like jambalaya), or pizza. The surfy, fun decor and breezy patio easily compensate for some of the spaciest service in town; a full bar offers a great beer list and decent umbrella drinks. To snag a patio table, reserve it and make sure they write it down. Three hours' validated parking, kid-friendly, plenty for vegetarians. Open three meals

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daily. Prices cover the waterfront. — N.W.

Café Delight 4646 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-298-5248. He used to run one of Baghdad's most famous restaurants, the Ishtar, when Saddam was Vice President. When the government asked him to spy on his customers, Sami and his wife Claudia left the country. You can tell from the cooking: this couple know what they're doing. They took over this little place (and little it is) from a Vietnamese-American couple, so the menu has echoes of Vietnam and the Middle East, as well as Italian dishes. Prices are very reasonable. Try the Vietnamese-style coconut milk soup with veggies, with a sandwich, or lamb shank with red curry sauce and couscous. Also the classy Greek coffee. Open daily from 10 a.m. to late; closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

California Cuisine 1027 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-543-0790. Tod Atcheson is now the chef of this long-lived neighborhood restaurant. Following house tradition, the menu is printed daily and the dishes are chosen according to the harvest and catch of the moment. Still, you can usually count on finding a relatively authentic Caesar salad, a huge and exuberantly garnished bourbon-brined Neiman Ranch pork chop, and irresistible grilled Asian barbecued jumbo shrimp. A summertime special of fresh corn and mussel bisque shouldn't be missed if it's on the menu. There's some day-to-day inconsistency but a preponderance of deliciousness. Save room for outstanding, adventurous desserts. Comfortable atmosphere, but interior gets loud when busy. A heated garden patio surrounding a fountain offers romantic al fresco feasting. Dinner nightly. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Chopahn Authentic Afghan Cuisine 750 Sixth Avenue, Downtown, 619-236-9236. Authentic Afghan cuisine resembles Indian and Persian food but is singularly itself: the spicing is exotic but the flavors are clear and unmuddled. It emphasizes grilled-to-order marinated meats (especially lamb), stews, and well-seasoned rice dishes, and uniquely delicious appetizers such as

leek ravioli (*aushak*), leek or meat turnovers (*bulanee*), and battered vegetables (*pakawra*). The grilled salmon is excellent, and don't miss the side dish of sweet pumpkin topped with yogurt and meat sauce (*kadu*). Plenty for vegetarians, too. Interesting, affordable wine list; Mexican and domestic beers. Small patio. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Moderate. — N.W.

City Pizzeria 1125 Sixth Avenue, Downtown, 619-531-0955. There's a cultural war going on here. "City" has a New York attitude — just listen to the guys in the kitchen grabbing dough, flailing it around, yakking, joking. But the dough has been a West Coast family's secret for 75 years. Try the "Ranch Chicken" pie with garlic chicken, basil, and ranch dressing, or the BBQ chicken with pineapple, red onion, BBQ sauce, and mozzarella. (Of course, no self-respecting New York pizzeria would ever consider serving such moonbeamish Left Coast toppings — not even if they were in New Jersey.) If those don't tempt you, there are 11 other "specialty pies" every day. Open daily till 10 p.m., 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Confidential 901 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-696-8888. Chris Walsh, whose "small plates" many fondly remember from California Cuisine and W Cafe, hits his stride here with a menu of creative international grazing foods, from one-bite nibbles to small entrées and mini-burgers. Unexpected, ultramodern techniques and combinations of ingredients make a trip through the menu an adventure in flavors and textures. This is truly eating for fun. Wide-ranging wine list with something for everyone; pricey creative cocktails. Eat early (or upstairs) if you prefer quiet; music (and patrons) grow louder later as "scenery" crowd comes in to drink. Many dishes on the sweet side. Reservations strongly advised for weekends and to ensure handicapped-accessible seating. Kitchen open Tuesday through Saturday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. (bar until about 2 a.m.). Wide range of prices, but many small bites do add up. — N.W.

Crest Café 425 Robinson Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-295-2910. "Hearty Homemade Comfort Food" is the boast, and this small retro-deco cafe backs it up.

Cecelia and her dad, Luis Moreno, took over this place back in 1985. Some staff have been here since the start. Loyal customers get their photos and names on an honor roll that fills one wall. Lots of lazy ceiling fans, long, hanging blue lights, and art. "Matisse in Morocco," Salvador Dalí, Frida Kahlo. Consider moms dishes like Sloppy Joes, honey-glazed pork chops, or the healthy vegetable steam basket. And don't turn down their 11 different kinds of burgers, including the fresh salmon burger, the OuiOui burger ("aged bleu cheese crumbled under melted jack cheese") or the wicked, spicy butter burger (half a pound of lean ground beef stuffed with garlic, tarragon, basil, parsley butter, topped with cheese, garlic-paprika-cayenne-cumin mayo and more butter). Best of all, late hours: open 7 a.m. to midnight, seven days. Dinner at 11 is no problem. How rare is that in San Diego? Inexpensive. — E.B.

Croce's 802 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-4355. "Live music is complimentary with purchase of a dinner entrée" at this restaurant and bar run by Ingrid Croce in honor of her late husband, Jim. Appetizers that mix flavors — like the baked Brie and honey-roasted garlic served with mixed greens and a Grand Marnier berry compote — are delicious. But despite creative dishes, like New Zealand sea bass with a pomegranate-macadamia crust, few entrées rise above the level of average Gaslamp fare. Simple is best here — the rich and creamy shrimp *carbonara* fettuccine with Italian pancetta, Kalamata olives, and basil in a white garlic cream sauce. For dessert, try the flourless chocolate cake with roasted walnuts and pecans served with Tahitian vanilla bean gelato and Verona chocolate sauce. The menu is seasonal. Sit by the window for great people-watching, or retire to the bar if you prefer live jazz. Open nightly for dining and music (breakfast and lunch Saturday and Sunday). Expensive. — B.D.

D.Z. Akin's 6930 Alvarado Road, College Area, 619-265-0218. At arguably the best Jewish delicatessen in San Diego (it's not Katz's, but it's here, and the service is nicer), you'll find a full range of European-Jewish specialties from wonderful soups to nuts, including deli meats and fabulous smoked fish, house-baked breads and pastries, traditional Jewish-American dinner entrées (including a lively Rumanian skirt steak and an ethnic sampler platter), plus 110 different overstuffed sandwiches — among them the very popular corned beef. To start the day there are American and Jewish breakfasts, including a fabled matzo brei. The knishes, latkes, and chopped liver are all fine. A few acceptable, affordable wines by the bottle (only plonk by the glass), plus fountain drinks, sodas, some domestic and imported beers. Loads for lacto-vegetarians, less for vegans. (This cuisine is big on sour cream.) Open daily except major holidays, three meals. Inexpensive to moderate, with kiddie plates available at all meals. — N.W.

Dussini Mediterranean Bistro 275 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-4323. The one-time Old Spaghetti Factory has been remade into a more ambitious eatery. It's still huge — way too big to be called a bistro. It rambles over three floors, with a lounge and pool hall on the top. The menu dabbles with the cuisines of southern Europe: Provence, Italy, Spain. The cooking is uneven, night to night and plate to plate. A pleasing linguica and kale soup represents Portugal, while a tasty, reasonably authentic bouillabaisse flirts with southern France. Pastas and steak are also reliably good, but the house specialty paella is made with orzo pasta instead of rice — not the best idea. The wine list is a joy, with plenty of choices at all price ranges, and the corkage policy (first two bottles get in free) is remarkably liberal. Elevator access to top-floor restrooms. Reservations recommended for weekend dinners. Lunch and dinner daily. Expensive. — N.W.

Gathering Bar and Grill 902 West Washington, Mission Hills, 619-260-0400. "Beloved" is not a word you throw around lightly, but that's just what Gathering has become to Mission Hills regulars. When it reopened after a fire, they flocked back with flowers and hugs. The food is good quality, familiar comfort fare. From plates like the Southwest burger, with avocado, Jack cheese, and salsa, to the Monte Cristo (grilled egg, dipped Texas toast with Swiss, ham, and

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turkey, powdered sugar, and a side of jam). Last we checked, the owner, Dan, was as deft as ever with his magic cards, for any customer who needs to be bamboozled. Open daily, 8 a.m. till late. Magic sessions around 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

India Princess — Hillcrest 3925 Fourth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-291-5011. You walk in through a gold-and-red entrance. Inside it's all cream cloth-covered tables, vases with fresh flowers, teak chairs that look like giant cellos, silver art objects. This is classy. The deal here is to catch the daily lunch buffet, 20 items of interesting and fresh-tasting Northern Indian dishes like tandoori chicken or chicken *tikki masala*, *navratan korma* (veggies with nuts in cream sauce), or *keema muttar* (minced lamb curry with spices and peas). All for an unprincipled sum (dinner is more expensive). Don't miss the wonderful tamarind chutney. Inexpensive (buffet), moderate to expensive (à la carte dinners). — E.B.

Island Prime 880 Harbor Island Drive, Downtown, 619-298-6802. Deborah (Kemo Sabe) Scott is the chef and co-owner (with the Cohn Restaurant Group, owners of many San Diego restaurants) at this high-end steakhouse with a bay view. The steaks and roast beefs are delicious, as you'd expect, but also enjoy creative appetizers and sides like shaved corn with black truffle and a seared ahi stack. Salt runs freely, and the excellent international wine list runs high. Do reserve; free parking. Open daily, dinner only. Very expensive. — N.W.

Karl Strauss Brewery Restaurant 1157 Columbia Street, Downtown, 619-234-2739. One-time Pabst brewmeister Karl Strauss heads his own brewery and a bunch of brewery restaurants bearing his name, so you can't help but be a little wary of an over-slick operation. But at least at downtown's ivy-covered brick drink and eatery, the food's hon-

est, tasty, and sleek, not slick. And Karl's beers are still interesting. Go for honest-but-beautiful dishes like his "Hump Day" meatloaf (Wednesday only), which comes looking like a Magic Mountain. Beer influence is everywhere. Filet mignon has an Amber Lager glaze. Ribs boast a Red Trolley Ale barbecue sauce. It can get pricey; try to hit happy hour. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. Other branches at 9675 Scranton Road, Sorrento Mesa, 858-587-2739; 5801 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, 760-431-2739; 1044 Wall Street, La Jolla, 858-551-2739. — E.B.

Kazumi Sushi 3975 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-682-4054. A simple neighborhood sushi bar offering imaginative rolls, each one so distinctively seasoned that there's no need to mar the pretty fish-scapes with wasabi dip. The fish is super-fresh and includes salmon that Kazumi-san cold-smokes himself. For a family-style dinner, "The Ultimate Boat" (serving two or more) is an encyclopedia of Japanese specialties, a huge platter of sushi, *gyoza*, assorted appetizers, yakitori, teriyaki, and terrific tempura. Need comfort food? The tempura also graces the top of a satisfying bowl of *nabeyaki udon* (noodle soup) with an onion-sweet broth. With just a small staff of family members in the kitchen and house, expect a wait for food at busy times. Dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

The Kebab Shop 630 Ninth Avenue, Downtown, 619-525-0055. Food is one area where the Middle East is definitely taking over the world. Turkish-style *döner* kebabs are already on every street corner in Europe, and they're heading our way. Why? It's fast, flavorful, fresh food. The kebab's "meat" is usually lamb, chicken, or falafel, wrapped in a flatbread. The menu here specializes in all kinds of kebabs, including Moroccan shrimp, beef *kofte* (spiced ground meat with grilled vegetables), and the house special, Iskender, honoring Alexander the Great (lamb on bread with tomato sauce and yogurt). Try also minted zucchini, curried eggs, and Algerian eggplant. The ultimate compliment? Lots of Turkish San Diegans eat here. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m.

to 10 p.m.; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Laurel Restaurant 505 Laurel Street, Hillcrest, 619-239-2222. Business-class watering hole where for seven dollars per item — food or drink — on the bar menu, we can at least taste how the Other Half lives and dines. The drinks range from dragon's blood sangria (a combo of Bordeaux wine, port, fruit and Calvados brandy) to Road Dog stout (from Colorado's Flying Dog Brewery). As for the munchies, think lamby joes (luscious mini-burgers made of ground lamb), Mediterranean mussels (steeped in Old Monk beer broth), seafood salad (shrimp, squid, mussels, scallops, and sauce), or braised duck and stone-fruit flatbread. If money says one item only, lamby joes are most filling. Happy hour daily, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

The Living Room Coffeehouse 5900 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-286-8434. With deep-draft couches, Persian carpets, pictures on the wall, chunky wooden tables, and a tree-shaded patio, this Swiss-owned cafe is a student hangout with a lively notice board, a rental computer, and good cheap breakfast food in huge quantities. Try "The Works" omelet, with bacon, ham, onions, tomatoes, pepper, cheese on top, potatoes, fruit, and bread. Open daily, three meals, until late at night. Inexpensive. Additional locations in Old Town, Point Loma, La Jolla, National City, and Otay Mesa. — E.B.

Lucky Buck's Patio Bar and Grill 1459 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-297-0660. If you've got a craving for the wickedest-lookin' burger since Hodad's, this might be it. The only question: which burger? The Buck 'n' Bleu Ribbon Burger (with bleu cheese, bacon, onion strings, and chipotle sauce)? Buck's On Fire (pepper Jack, bacon, and jalapeño peppers)? Buck's Lucky Mushroom? Or the Texas Longhorn Buck (Cheddar, hickory bacon, BBQ sauce, and fried onion rings tumbling out of the burger like a Rolling Stones' tongue). All come with garlicky waffle fries. This'll take care of your cholesterol fix for a month. Next time try their healthier veggie burritos and Chicken Buck 'n' Caesar salad.

Daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (11 p.m. Friday and Saturday). Inexpensive. — E.B.

Magnolias 342 Euclid, Southeast San Diego, 619-262-6005. If you're looking for an authentic Louisiana-style feast, this is the best place in town. Bessie Johnson (of the once-famed Bessie's Garret) is back in business, and mouths are rejoicing. At her handsome, spacious restaurant, you'll find generous hospitality, huge portions, and a long, delicious menu of Cajun, Creole, and soul food specialties. The fried chicken is beyond compare, the jambalaya well-nigh perfect, and the BBQ shrimp, crawfish bisque, and étouffée are splendid. Great side dishes include candied sweet potatoes and cornbread dressing. Takeouts accepted. Full bar. Lunch and dinner six days; closed Mondays. Low moderate.

Mama's Bakery and Lebanese Deli 4237 Alabama Street, North Park, 619-688-0717. You'll remember this lovely little place for two reasons. One, the atmosphere: It's a tiny kitchen attached to an old red-and-green wooden house, with tables and green umbrellas on the sloping sidewalk and also inside a shelter of bougainvillea, green canvas, metal mesh, and white brick. Two, their *sajj*. It's a round Lebanese oven of ancient design which cooks the delicious flatbread (also called *sajj*) that goes with pretty much everything, including baba ghanoush (sweet daddy eggplant dip) and *fool madamas* (fava and garbanzo bean stew). Gotta-haves include beef *shawarma* wrap or falafel wrap and a meat pie unlike any you've had before. A lovely bonus: fresh Lebanese baklava and a little pot of thick, sweet, black Arabic coffee. Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday, weekends until 4 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

The Mission — Downtown 1250 J Street, Downtown, 619-232-7662. "Urban assault food for a revolutionary people," say the wait staff's black T-shirts. But the food here is less revolutionary than halfway between health-nut and greasy spoon. Still, their "conscientious cuisine" is generous, good-looking, and intelligent, if a little middle-class timid. Breakfasts are big here. The delicious chicken-apple sausage and eggs comes on a foot-wide plate loaded with unskinned rosemary potatoes, scrambled

eggs, and scrumptious baked-on-the-spot rosemary bread. Pancakes and French cinnamon toast are popular staples, as is the Zen Breakfast (scrambled egg whites, braised tofu, brown rice, with veggies). The roast beef hash can be chewy. Check out the "Chino-Latino" dishes (lunch only) like the mild-but-still-delicious ginger sesame tofu with brown rice and peanut sauce, which comes with a plethora of jicama-type veggies. The interior has an arty, post-industrial, coffeehouse feel. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Ortega's, A Mexican Bistro 141 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-692-4200. Owned by a member of the Ortega family, the Puerto Nuevo lobster pioneers, this is the Baja restaurant group's first north-of-the-border venture. You'll find Baja-style cuisine featuring seafood and grilled foods, with a focus on lobster. Unlike the typical Ortega's, the lobster isn't deep-fried before grilling — an improvement in tenderness and flavor. Of course, the crustacean's best in season (October to February). Fish ceviche makes a good starter course. Other choices include small tacos, steaks, kebabs, etc., plus the standard Puerto Nuevo side dishes — stewed (not fried) beans, and an oddly bland guacamole fixed tableside. Full bar; fun margaritas including almond and pomegranate variations. Reservations recommended for weekends. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Mainly moderate (lobsters and Kobe skirt steak expensive). — N.W.

Osteria Panevino 722 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-595-7959. At this Tuscan-style Italian restaurant, the appetizers and pastas are as close to heaven as you can get, particularly the spinach ravioli and potato gnocchi, which can come with a four-cheese sauce on request. The stuffed focaccias are simply incredible, and the pizzas are well-nigh perfect. The exposed brick walls enhance the European feeling. Open daily, lunch and dinner to 10:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday to 11 p.m. Moderate to expensive, wines rather high. — N.W.

Pappalecco 1602 State Street, Little Italy, 619-238-4590. Pappalecco ("Lolypop") is a different kind of Italian eatery. It doesn't play the nostalgia card

— it's an exact copy of an actual modern café in Pisa that three brothers created there and now here. The idea is for a quick, sophisticated coffee-gelato-eatery where if you ask for coffee you get espresso, customers often have at least one gelato a day "for health," and meals are mostly salad-charcuterie-cheese combos. Sometimes — and the brothers claim this is their idea — they actually combine gelato with their dishes. Expect a multilingual United Nations atmosphere. One delicious combo: the Rustico, different Italian cold cuts with pungent goat cheese and bread. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Patty's Fruitland 1789 National Avenue, Logan Heights, 619-239-3085. Patty used to sell fresh fruit drinks outside a church in Guanajuato. In 1994 she came to America and married Jose. "Why can't we sell fruit drinks in America?" she wondered. Now they've opened a place where you can get combos like the *pico de gallo* (rooster's beak) with lots of fresh-sliced fruit and raw veggies (jicama, cucumber), all dusted with cayenne pepper. They've expanded to non-fruit (roast beef and other sandwiches, shrimp tostadas, hot dogs), but the fruit and juices define the place. The most tempting: fruit salad with cottage cheese, granola, and honey. Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Picasso Spanish Restaurant 3923 Fourth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-294-3061. Interesting Spanish tapas and entrées are served in a small, modern, art-filled room that draws a casual neighborhood crowd. The regional style is Basque, from Northern Spain, but these aren't the tiny *pinxos* of that area — in fact, these bites are larger than usual, sized generously for two eaters. Some top tapas include chicken-stuffed *empanadillas*, baby eels in garlic sauce, stuffed greenlip mussels, and an outstanding paella (available as both a tapa and entrée). Moderate. — N.W.

Pizzeria Luigi 1137 25th Street, Golden Hill, 619-233-3309. They claim to make real New York pizza in this tiny storefront, and they're not lying. One of the owners is from New York by way of Italy, and his Big Apple experiences are

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written all over the pies. The sauce tastes right, and the crusts are thin enough that you can fold a slice into a "V" to eat on the run, New Yorker style. But it's better to take home a whole pie with your choice of toppings (or a stromboli or calzone) and enjoy it at leisure. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Pokez Mexican Restaurant and Vegetarian Cuisine 947 E Street, Downtown, 619-702-7160. Rafael — his buddies call him Rafa — started this cool student/artist hangout years ago when he was 18. Lunchtime business people come here. Evenings, seems like it's all Rafa's friends: people from downtown, Golden Hill, City College. The food is mostly Mexican vegetarian (though he's got meaty things like chicken or steak ranchero or sauteed chicken fajitas). Tip well: the servers volunteer and share the take from the gravy pot. Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; weekends 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. — E.B.

Red Pearl Kitchen 440 J Street, Downtown, 619-231-1100. An anthology of favorite Asian dishes creatively interpreted for American palates, with touches of fusion and some original dishes. Plenty of appetizers, but main dishes tend to be tastier, including a delicious Cambodian-influenced short rib and pumpkin hot pot — when it's in season. Great veggie side dishes. Sophisticated international wine list priced on the high side (few under \$30); short on choices by the glass. Full bar. Surroundings are chic. Reservations advised. Sound level painfully loud most nights. Open daily, dinner. High moderate. — N.W.

Salad Style 807 F Street, Downtown, 619-255-6731. Is this the tipping point? Whereas traditional meals have always been meat and taters with a side of salad, here, it's salad with a side of meat and taters. Salad's the main item, and it's delicious, even if salad's not your thing, because each concoction is so original. For example, Scott's Grilled Skirt Steak is an arty pile of organic greens, tomatoes, smoky, earthy mushrooms, hearts of palm, crumbled bleu cheese, plus red slabs of meat over it. Each dish does something, from the Moroccan couscous salad to the tuna and tomato salad. The Totally Vegan, with its golden volcano of quinoa and snowy tofu slabs, should be in a gallery. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

SoleLuna Cafe 702 Ash Street, Downtown, 619-232-0436. Put your climbing boots on. This place sits on the shoulder of the El Cortez hill, a sleek cave peeping out from under the historic hotel with an umbrella-strewn front terrace that's great for people watching. Its Italian roots show from the excellent coffee and the menu. Many items come straight from the streets of Milano, such as the breakfast croissant with prosciutto ham, smoked Mozarella cheese, and fruit or salad, or the Rustico Panino (with prosciutto, goat cheese, olive pâté), or *brisaola* (cured sliced beef), or the Siciliana salad (spinach, tuna, boiled eggs, capers, Mozarella). Other dishes include their homemade eggplant parmigiano and lasagna. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Spice House Cafe 9035 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Clairemont, 858-565-1028. When your "head feels like an old potato" and your "tongue like a button

hook" (to quote Kipling), Spice House's answer is its Hangover Omelet. We don't know if it's the Ortega chilies or Jack cheese or super tangy tomato sauce, but some guys swear they feel better for eating it. Other excellent choices include Portuguese sausage with three eggs; Italian sausage frittata with ham, tomatoes, mushrooms, and thick French toast topped with strawberries and whipped cream. Emphasis on Greek-American cuisine. Breakfast and lunch, closes at 3 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Star of India — Downtown 423 F Street, Downtown, 619-234-8000. It's the lunch buffet that can lead you by the nose into Indian (and here, specifically Punjabi) food. Pick among specialties like vegetable *pakora* — a bunch of veggies dipped in chickpea batter and fried — or a nice mess of eggplant with potatoes, chicken curry *masala*, and maybe the first cooked spinach you ever loved, *palak paneer*. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Tioli's Crazy Burger 4201 30th Street, North Park, 619-282-6044. Cheap eats can be great eats when made by people who care — like charming owner "Wolfe" and European-trained chef Lothar. The place looks like a dive, but inside you'll find creative, made-to-order burgers from beef to buffalo, gator, and ostrich (delicious!), and even fish and veggies — each with its own individualized seasonings and sauce, plus salads and flavorful German-style bratwursts. Even the turkey burger is juicy here. Try the house-made "Texas" beans and the house-made mustard and chipotle ketchup. Specialty and regular beers; affordable wines. Parking lot behind restaurant on Howard. Restroom is not wheelchair accessible. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

The Tractor Room 3687 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-543-1007. The folks who brought you the popular big-breakfast and lunch joint Hash House A Go Go (across the street) focus here on hefty portions of "plain American food" in a dinner house specializing in meat, game, and classic cocktails. The Brawny paper towel man would love it. The atmosphere combines a speakeasy (velvet curtains mask the doorway) and a hunting lodge. Menu highlights include identical steaks of wild boar and buffalo, grilled salmon, and Prime grade bone-in rib eye, plus good sides of acorn squash and heavy-cream mashed potatoes and gravy. Nothing to write home to Mom about — it is Mom, if she's a Midwesterner, and Dad's a guy who says, "I shot it, you cook it." Well-chosen wine list with lots of appropriate Rhones and Syrahs, few by the glass. Huge list of cocktails. Wheelchair lift (painted to blend in) to left of front staircase. Heated, roofed smoking patio above street level. Valet parking; reservations urged. Closed Tuesdays, dinner six nights until midnight or later, weekend brunch. Moderate to very expensive. — N.W.

Vagabond 2310 30th Street, South Park, 619-255-1035. Seasonal *world food* filtered through a Gallic sensibility, plus worldwide wines and tropical cocktails. Menu changes often, but don't miss the classic *moules-frites* or the deep-flavored Peruvian *seco de carne* meat stew. The tiny, painfully noisy dining room, decorated with exotic souvenirs of the owners' global travels, is perpetually SRO,

so dinner reservations are a must for any night. Evening crowd of hip South Park locals; lunch crowd dressed for success. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — N.W.

Vincenzo Ristorante Italiano 1702 India Street, Little Italy, 619-702-6181. The specialty at this tourist favorite is Sicilian seafood. The cooking is competent, but the restaurant's fishmonger settles for ordinary quality (as does the produce provider). The meat jobber does a better job, providing succulent veal that the chef grills expertly, and the Italian sausages (from Pete's Meats, up the block) are the zestiest in town. The restaurant's hard-surfaced interior is so noisy you'll hear every conversation but your own; reserve for the sidewalk patio for a quieter evening. Open lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Moderate.

NORTH INLAND

Bernard'O Restaurant 12457 Rancho Bernardo Road, Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-7171. Chef Patrick Ponsaty, a master of flavor, reigns in this unpretentious but beautiful high-ceilinged bistro, producing creative, classic-based French modern cuisine featuring fine seasonal ingredients. The food isn't merely creative, it tastes heavenly — the man's got a palate. You want to know what genuine (California-adapted) bouillabaisse should be? Or squab at its best? This is the place — and desserts are ravishing, too. Servers are mainly well-informed, enthusiastic fellow foodies who are right on the mark. Alluring wine list at all prices includes top French growths at near-bar-gain markups, plus full bar. One vegetarian entrée most seasons. Slightly dressy, reservations urged. Lunch Wednesday through Friday, dinner nightly. Expensive but not exorbitant. — N.W.

Bistro 221 221 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-737-7398. This genteel bistro — with comfortable chairs and linen-covered tables inside and a shaded patio on the sidewalk — is especially tasty at lunch, with its sophisticated quesadillas and a classic burger and fries cooked your way. At dinner simple starters shine, including a Florida version of gumbo and Maryland crab cakes with minimal filler. The dinner entrées are also the best. — N.W.

Cavaillon 14701 Via Bettona, Suite 200, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-433-0483. Cavaillon is likely to become your favorite neighborhood French restaurant, no matter how far you live from its neighborhood — it's, as Guide Michelin would say, "worth a detour." Provence-born chef-owner Phillippe Verpiande (former chef de cuisine at Tapenade) offers seasonal, classic French dishes emphasizing his home region in a retro bistro setting. Don't miss the signature starter of *panisse*, a chick-pea cake with the texture of a marshmallow. Other great dishes include transcendent coq au vin, superb slow-baked salmon; and a dream version of crisp-skinned duck confit. Monday night moderate-priced three-course prix fixe dinners (\$32) are as fine as the à la carte menu, although it's difficult to resist the siren songs of the alluring nightly specials. Interna-

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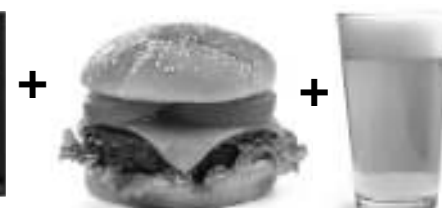
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Calendar RESTAURANTS

tional wine list at lower-than-average markups, French “bargains” on the pricier reserve list, and merciful corkage fees to BYO special bottle. Dinner nightly, brunch weekends. Moderate to very expensive. — N.W.

Dumpling Inn 4619 Convoy Street #F, Kearny Mesa, 858-268-9638. Hole-in-the-wall? Yes. But what a hole-in-the-wall. For those who love the Far East and its food, finding the Dumpling Inn is a little revelation. It’s located in the busy Jasmine/Korean Market Center among Oriental herbalists, man-size-vase shops, even feng shui experts. The Inn itself is tiny but charming. Long hanging lanterns, decorative strings of scarlet and gold firecrackers, Chinese flutes, and even the odd conical straw hat. The food is serious but not expensive. Dishes like ten fish and green chive dumplings, spicy stir-fried three-ingredient lo mein (thick noodles, jumbo shrimp, calamari, and chicken plus hot red peppers) are challenging and exciting, as is the Dumpling Dinner (including hot-and-sour soup, cold cuts, shredded pork bun, pot-stickers, shrimp and pork dumplings). Don’t miss their divine jellyfish salad — crunchy-tender, bright and spicy (but not too) — you’d be hard-pressed to find its like outside of Hong Kong. Open 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

El Bizcocho 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-675-8500. The deluxe restaurant in this rural golf-and-tennis hideaway features upscale, creative French-California cuisine, incorporating old-is-new techniques and imaginative combinations of seasonal ingredients. The weighty wine tome starts out expensive and goes up from there, with relative bargains at the high end and some half-bottles; by-the-glass choices are just adequate. To find it: Take Bernardo Oaks Drive (a long block west of Pomerado)

north to the end of the road to the RBI parking lot (with validated parking for restaurantgoers). If disabled, specify when you reserve, and they’ll set up your table in an accessible area. Otherwise there’s a maze of short staircases to negotiate en route to the restaurant. Tie-and-jacket requirement now relaxed, but still very dressy. Great service, luxury resort ambiance. Dinner nightly, Sunday brunch. Very expensive. — N.W.

El Galeón 503 West Mission, Escondido, 760-746-5951. Mexican seafood, along with the usual dishes, is featured in a bright coffee-shop atmosphere with comfortable booths, big windows, a lunch counter, and a salad bar. Shrimp and langostino (“squat lobster,” in fishermen’s terms) are the house specialties and are well treated. Also consider an intense little marlin taco (squeeze some lime onto this rich, strong fish), or the savory *albondigas* soup (lime it up, too). Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive (standard dishes) to moderate (seafood). — N.W.

Fish House Vera Cruz 360 Via Vera Cruz, San Marcos, 760-744-7346. Additional locations in Carlsbad and Temecula. This affordable seafood eatery packs in diners like sardines. Fresh fish and lots of it is the happenin’ thing. On a recent day, 23 different fresh fish selections were available as daily specials, on top of the regular menu of crab, lobster, oysters, shrimp, catfish, etc. All fish are grilled plain, with nothing added but a dab of tartar sauce. The seafood is so fresh you don’t really mind. Each entree includes a choice of side dishes, two for lunch and three for dinner. The Manhattan chowder is especially tasty, as is their “krab” salad. This is an ideal place for families, but don’t even think of it for a romantic meal out. Dinner daily, lunch daily except Sunday (dinner all day Sunday). Moderate. — S.M.

Gateway to India 9520 Black Mountain Road, Mira Mesa, 858-566-5522. This huge eating space fills half of Ker’s outlet warehouse. Friday or Saturday, it’s crowded with Indian families — the best guarantee that good veg-

etarian food is served here — and reasonably priced. Only problem with an all-you-can-eat buffet is deciding what to eat. It’s mainly northern, Punjabi and Gujarati, according to the Sikh cooks. Just have at the aloo curry, basmati rice, *chhole* (garbanzo beans), and *bengan bartha* (eggplant). See what you like. Some dishes are smoky and roasted, others yogurty, others nutty. Try to leave room for dessert, specially the mango concoctions — Asian mangos are sensational. Open for lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Hernandez’ Hide-Away 19320 Lake Drive, Escondido, 760-746-1444. The founder of Hernandez’ claims he invented the margarita at his previous restaurant in Bird Rock. True or not, the margaritas (rocks, not slush-ee) are terrific, on a par with Baja’s best. The food, though, is detuned for gringos, with a standard menu of Cal-Mex specialties. Even the guacamole is under-seasoned, but if you like this sort of thing, a pleasant “enchilada pie” is as good as any Midwestern mom’s. The huge bargain-priced brunch on Saturday and Sunday brings in the crowds; reservations urged for weekends to save a long wait. The exterior patio sports a big, funny mural, and the interior is carved into several rooms (helps keep the noise down) camped up with cute “Old West” cantina decor. Weekend brunch; lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

Hill Street Coffee House 524 South Coast Highway 101, Oceanside, 760-966-0985. Organic in Oceanside? Really! Look for the sign: “Organic Restaurant and Espresso Bar” in front of a restored yellow-and-white Victorian house from O’side’s past. Most of their meats, poultry, fish, and veggies are organic, and the menu is full of healthy dishes: tofu/spinach breakfast scramble, frittata *espinaca* (“Greek eggs”), and *pain perdu* (for us peasants that’s French toast) with fresh fruit and syrups. Some vegan items. After 11 a.m., try their Cajun chicken. Open daily, breakfast to dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Juanita’s Taco Shop Estilo Tepatitlan - Vista 248 Main Street, Vista, 760-758-4531. Enticing aromas of fresh tortillas and fragrant frijoles greet you as you enter this busy little taqueria, where the food’s cooked in the style of Tepatitlan, a small city near Guadalajara. Its local specialty is *carnitas* — which Juanita’s does up (by the plate or by the pound) as tender, non-greasy shreds, served with fresh, cilantro-laden mild tomato salsa. Standard wraps are fine, too, and the beans taste as good as they smell. Try a “Flying Saucer” — it really takes off, with shredded meat, onions, mild chiles, beans, sour cream, shredded orange cheese, and pureed guacamole riding high on an airy crisped flour tortilla. Open daily, three meals, until 3 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Korea House 4620 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-560-0080. Korea House offers floor seating or a table if you want to barbecue your own food. The menu offers fine “down-home” Korean food, such as traditional *mandoo* (beef) dumplings, and *yookhwe*, a steak tartare worth risking. Make a meal from enormous appetizers like *gul bosam* (raw oysters, pork, and cabbage leaves). Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — M.N.

Nijiya Market 3860 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-268-3821. If you’re not willing to sacrifice quality for convenience when eating fast food, try this Japanese market in Kearny Mesa. Nijiya Market offers prepared box lunches, or *bento*, that are pretty to look at, appetizing, and a real bargain. I suggest, however, passing by Nijiya’s steam trays and heat lamps and going straight to the coolers, where you’ll find delicious chicken cutlets, fresh sushi, and chilled noodles, as well as dessert delicacies like sweet bread roll filled with sweet bean paste. Inexpensive. — M.N.

Pampas Argentine Grill 8690 Aero Drive, Kearny Mesa, 858-278-5971. The Argentine specialties feature grilled grass-fed beef, including a somewhat Americanized version of the *gauchos’* great *parillada mixta* (mixed grill), with a great chorizo but minus any exotic

organs. The naturally raised meats are lower fat and lower cholesterol than feed-lot beef but are salted heavily in the kitchen unless you request otherwise. Specify rare or medium-rare, unless you really like brown cardboard. Lighter fare includes free-range chicken and fresh, well-treated seafood. Beef empanadas are a tasty, authentic starter. Potatoes (fries and mashed) are splendid, salads are exuberant. The full bar features Chilean and Argentine beverages with many affordable South American wines by the glass. Park in lot at restaurant’s front door, not the back-door lot. Lunch (mainly sandwiches) on weekdays. Dinner nightly. Entertainment (harp) Friday through Sunday. Closed Monday. Moderate. — N.W.

The Philadelphia Sandwich 3904 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-571-0888. This classic luncheonette is a monument to Philly culture, including sports pennants, historic photos, and colorful mummies’ costumes. The menu is equally devoted to the city’s cuisine, especially its two great cult sandwiches: the hoagie and the cheese steak. The mixed-meat hoagie is way more than a hero — its flavor array is similar to (and just as intense as) a New Orleans muffuletta. As for the cheese steak, it starts with steak strips, onions, and your choice of cheese, and expands from there. Philly natives may like the simple version with Cheez Whiz, but the luscious “Everything” with provolone is more likely to seduce the innocent. “Philly fries” (with garlic) are the right go-with. The menu also offers Pennsylvania-packaged foods (“Philadelphia Scrapple” to go, Tastykakes, Wise potato chips) to nostalgic émigrés. Lunch to early dinner nightly. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Puong Trang Vietnamese Seafood Restaurant 4170 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-6750. Tired of putting up with the crowds at the popular Convoy Street restaurant? Go east, where you’ll find the same menu without the hassles. The fare centers on Vietnamese “people’s food” emphasizing numerous genres of noodle soups, but there are a handful of

more elegant house specialties — including the extraordinary “Special Sauce” Dungeness crab from the live tank. (The sauce is tangy tamarind.) Call ahead to order steamed or grilled live-tank catfish. Reservations and credit cards accepted, both branches. Vietnamese beers including “33”; just two generic wines. Also bring a pad and write down the numbers of your orders to give the waiter, as staffers speak little English. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate (higher for live-tank seafood). — N.W.

The Place: El Parque 2659 Reche Road, Fallbrook, 760-731-2775. Just think Little Red Riding Hood — this is Grandma’s place. Okay, it’s not a little old, thatched cottage — it’s a cream-painted metal shed with a gazebo in front. But it is in the Live Oak woods, and you can sink your teeth into some pretty fair Mexican food here, sitting alongside an interesting bunch of agricultural workers and maybe some ruby miners. Good combination plates include the tostada and beef taco, and burrito and enchilada. The time to be here is Sunday morning, when those aggies pour in here for the *menudo*, cooked in a three-foot-high pot. Open daily, breakfast through early dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

San Tong Palace 4690 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-571-6837. This unassuming strip-mall restaurant is easy to overlook, but once found, impossible to resist. San Tong’s hybrid Korean-Chinese menu draws from these regions’ tastiest styles. The Rainbow Salad demonstrates this combination deliciously, and San Tong’s dumplings are outstanding. The seafood dumplings are especially remarkable. For the adventurous, I recommend the jellyfish salad, a novel treat for westerners. At San Tong Palace, curious appetites are rewarded well. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — M.N.

Shanghai City Restaurant 3860 Convoy Street #105, Kearny Mesa, 858-278-5883. Forget the blah strip mall it hides in — this little piece of Shanghai is a jewel. It feels like one of those century-old places in San Francisco’s Chi-

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natown. A two-foot-long, satin-silver arowana fish greets you as you come in. Brightly painted dragon columns support a gold dragon arch that leads you into the gold-walled dining room. Mainly, Chinese seem to come here, often eating Shanghai seafood dishes or choosing sumptuous specials like clay hot pots filled with eel and chestnuts or steamed rockfish on a big oval platter. Or, for around five dollars, you can choose lunches like Shanghai chicken, chicken chop suey, or Szechuan pork with crispy noodles, soup, steamed rice, a spring roll, and the main item. Open daily 10 a.m. to midnight. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

WineSellar and Brasserie 9550 Waples Street #115, Mira Mesa, 858-450-9557. This long-time favorite “splurge” restaurant, located in a soulless industrial park (there’s no “there” there), sits atop a serious wine store, and your dinner quaffs, from an encyclopedic choice of bottlings, will cost just 20% over retail. The food is the comfortably upscale French cooking that San Diego cherishes — luxurious and modern, without a hint of exoticism. And many dishes would shine in any galaxy — e.g., foie gras with mango and tender pheasant stuffed with foie gras, along with cured *hamachi* and yellowfin tuna tartare. Dining room up staircase, no lift; accessible seating in first floor tasting room, with full facilities. (Call ahead to arrange, and to arrange vegetarian meals.) Reservations usually necessary, as restaurant holds many sold-out special events. Ask for directions, too, as all the architecture for miles is identical. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday (closed between meals). Lunches high-moderate, dinners very expensive. — N.W.

NORTH COASTAL

Azafran 1001 South Coast Highway 101, Oceanside, 760-435-0005. This place just feels Cuban, with its echoey inside, bongos, washed orange walls, and giant Cuban jazz mural. We’re talking Caribbean-style food, not hot by Mexican standards. Most delicious intro: traditional Cuban pressed sandwiches, hot-pressed to mix the juices of, say, smoked ham, roast pork, cheese, mustard, pickles (“Cubano #2”), or roast pork (*lechón*) with a *mojo* (garlicky-citrus) sauce that makes it juicy. The bread, baked right here, is news in itself — crunchy and sometimes sweet (ask for *medianoche*). You

get a lot, but don’t leave without trying a plantain dish or the cheese flan. Or a cup of Cuban coffee. Lunch and dinner six days, closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Beach House 2530 South Coast Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-753-1321. This beautiful restaurant, with its breezy seafront patio, is a branch of an upscale beach mini-chain (others are in Dana Point and Laguna Beach). Its main menu features steaks, seafood, and some “Continental” warhorses (lobster thermidor, etc.) that are best avoided. The view is even more spectacular from the upstairs “Top of the House” which features pub grub and fish in a lighthouse-like setting. On Sundays, local families flock in for the moderately priced à la carte champagne brunch featuring the standard dishes of the genre plus some less-successful fancied-up ones, with endless Freixenet champagne (Wyclef is its house champagne, though). Whatever the meal, stay simple here — burgers, steak, unfussy eggs — and enjoy the atmosphere. Reserve for a view table or outdoor seating at Sunday brunch. Full bar but few wines. \$2 valet parking. Restrooms accessible by elevator, may be tight fit for wider wheelchairs. Daily brunch/lunch and dinner. “Top of the House” serves until 9:30 p.m. in winter and until 10 p.m. in summer. “Early bird” cut-price dinners daily. Brunch moderate, dinner moderate to very expensive. — N.W.

Charlie’s by the Sea 2565 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-942-1300. This seaside spot offers a blissful patio right on the breakwater and a terrific, authentic Boston-style clam chowder to match the view — it’s light, creamy, and loaded with clams, unpeeled red potato chunks, and bits of honey-cured bacon. The kitchen’s good with simple dishes, including fresh raw oysters and the lively “Bayou Burger” with Cajun seasonings and well-made spicy fries. The dinner menu includes more ambitious items, but the weekly main event here is Sunday brunch, with a menu of standard brunch dishes at affordable prices, featuring endless refills of champagne. (Hint: *Veuve Clicquot* it’s not.) Huge wine list, full bar. Free valet parking. Brunch reservations advisable. Monday through Saturday, lunch and dinner; Sunday is brunch only, no dinner. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Jimbo’s, Naturally! 12853 El Camino Real, Carmel Valley, 858-793-7755. Jimbo — and there is a real Jimbo — started out selling healthy eating with the famous OB Co-op. Now he

has these organic palaces of his own. Inside the Carmel Valley branch, it’s high ceilings and lots of color — yellow, purple, white — with all the ducts and pipes exposed like in a giant submarine. The deli bulges with cheese, hams, burritos, wraps, and an elaborate salad bar. At the juice counter they grind carrots and wheat grass and organic coffee. A “hot case” counter offers all kinds of ricey, tabbouleh-type preparations. Best deals are usually the daily specials. Try Seitan stew (a high-protein, low-fat meat substitute) or Shelton’s Jerk Turkey in Fig Sauce, served with organic mashed potatoes, gravy, and steamed vegetables. — E.B.

Kim’s Restaurant 745 First Street #103, Encinitas, 760-942-4816. Both Vietnamese and Chinese dishes are offered in a calm atmosphere with quick, pleasant service. The menu lists 265 items, including many Vietnamese house specialties, 28 seafood dishes, and a whopping 45 vegetarian/vegan dishes, many made with *seitan* (mock poultry). The seafood isn’t necessarily fresh catch — some shellfish is evidently obtained frozen, scallops are phosphate-preserved, and the reasonably priced abalone dishes involve slightly chewy, rehydrated dried abalone from Asia. On the other hand, portions are enormous, and the cooking is careful and tasty, although some flavors have evidently been adapted to American palates and ingredients. Open Tuesday through Sunday, continuous service lunch and dinner; closed Monday. Moderate. — N.W.

A Little Moore Coffee Shop 1030 North Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-753-8228. How did this place slip by unnoticed for so long? Inside, with its low ceiling and snaky counter, it could be out of an Early California movie. The specials are named after recent local characters: “The Billy” is an omelet with ham, avocado, and cheese, plus home fries or hash browns (or cottage cheese or rice). “The Cindy” is two French toast with two eggs and spuds. A plate of grilled veggies and chicken or beef on a mountain of rice is “The Pablo.” It’s standard but generous fare, a formula that’s kept the place humming since at least the 1950s. Breakfast and lunch six days, closed Tuesdays. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Nobu Japanese Restaurant 315 South Coast Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-755-7787. No, this isn’t the famous fusion-food Nobu of NY, L.A., and branches located wherever the money is. Our Nobu has been in the sushi business ten years longer than his namesake, and what he creates is classic non-fusion Japanese sushi and sashimi, with well-seasoned rice, freshly toasted seaweed wrappings, and fresh, fresh seafood. If you’re in the mood for a different sort of grazing, you can settle at a table or booth to nibble on a score of appetizers, including a fine monkfish pate and enchanting *chawan mushi* (egg custard) soup served super hot in the cup it was baked in. The Japanese entrées are standard fare, with plenty for vegetarians. It’s all comfortable, casual, and kid-friendly, with gracious sushi chefs. Nobu himself usually works the bar Friday through Sunday nights. Dinner daily; open weekends until 11 p.m. Large free lot behind restaurant (via Sierra Street, a block west). Mostly moderate; some delicacies expensive. — N.W.

Oceanside Cafe 1938 South Coast Highway, Oceanside, 760-722-7337. This little place does lunch, with good burgers, but breakfast’s what a lot of folks come for. “Dieter’s Downfall,” a three-egg omelet stuffed with ham, bacon, sausage, tomato, Jack, and Cheddar, is wicked. Two other things to try: the “Sausage of the Week” is made next door at the Red and White Market (anything from bockwurst to French apple-chicken sausage). And the Dieter’s real downfall comes with their carrot cake or double chocolate cake — rich, moist, and fresh out of their oven every morning. Breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Pizza Port 135 North Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-481-7332. “Tasty Grub & Grog,” says the sign, and that’s just what it is. You come here for three things: the pizzas, the beer, and the scene. The place is cavernous, but the tables are communal, with long wooden benches. Rub shoulders with surfers, students, yuppies, and locals. Pizza Port brews their own beer (try Sharkbite Red) and flings their own

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South Bay & Coronado

Lai Thai **50% off entrée**

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pizzas, New York style. Filling combos can be great, like the pesto, mesquite-grilled chicken, sun-dried tomatoes, artichoke hearts, and feta ("Pizza Carlsbad"), or shrimp, clams, onions, olives, bell peppers, and mushrooms ("Pizza Solana"). Inexpensive. — E.B.

Sammy's Woodfired Pizza — Del Mar 12925 El Camino Real, Del Mar, 858-259-6600. It's not Italian or New York pizza, it's...San Diego pizza! The crusts are Californian: thick and slightly sweet. The toppings range from ordinary to exotic. The menu includes many salads and a handful of American-Italian entrées. Continuous service, same menu lunch and dinner. Open daily. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Samurai Japanese Restaurant 979 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach, 858-481-0032. Set in a suburban mall, Samurai is rumored to have the longest sushi bar in California — 50 feet, stretching around 2 walls — with up to 12 chefs. The pure Japanese sushi is made from never-frozen seafood, and the visual side of the art isn't neglected: The friendly chefs take care to make their compositions look as beautiful as they taste. There's also a spirit of something extra — e.g., not just free — edamame — to nibble, but the *ama ebi* often includes a delicious miso soup made with extra shrimp heads. Additional dining choices include standard Japanese fare in the pretty dining room, *kaiseki* (prix fixe) dinners in the Tatami Room (for groups of 4 to 14, advance reservations required), or grilled items in the Teppan Room (two people minimum, reservations required). Open weekdays for lunch; dinner served nightly. For sushi, best to arrive early or lateish, as it gets crowded at prime time. Mostly moderate; *kaiseki* and some *teppan* items expensive. — N.W.

Sbicca — Encinitas 897 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-634-3350. Chef-owner Susan Sbicca creates pristine California Cuisine at both of her restaurants, highlighting fresh (and usually organic) local produce on a menu that changes with the seasons. The irresistible lobster-crabmeat croquettes and lobster-shrimp bisque are pure Del Mar deluxe. Some simpler dishes cleverly complete themselves as you eat them: Salmon served with peas and mushrooms to one side, a creamy sauce on the other, creates a whole new sauce when you broach the fillet. A lemon-pistachio cake, too, changes as you cut it, the pieces crumbling into a berry coulis. It's a fun way to eat, engaging the mind along with the palate. Both settings are family-friendly (only well-mannered kids come here) with

handsome, airy dining rooms and charming patios. Wide-ranging wine list emphasizing California, plenty by the glass and even some half-bottles. On different weekday evenings, Del Mar and Encinitas each feature \$5 martinis, no corkage fee, and 50% off all bottles of wine from the fine California-centric wine list. Call for specific days. Del Mar branch crowded during racing season. Reservations advisable. Lunch and dinner daily, bar menu ongoing. High moderate to expensive. — B.D.

Spices Thai Cafe — Del Mar 3810 Valley Centre Drive, Del Mar, 858-259-0889. Superb Thai restaurant that's not only elegant but whose food contains no MSG and very little fat. The seafood dishes rate highly. Among other delicacies are duck and frog legs. Put Spices Thai Cafe at the top of your list. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.W.

St. Tropez — Encinitas 947 S Coast Highway 101 # 103D, Encinitas, 760-633-0084. If you love continental breakfast, these bright cafés with indoor-outdoor seating offer scores of house-baked pastries (including brioche) and good coffee. Parisian-style brunch/lunch choices embrace *croque monsieur* and *croque madame* (grilled ham and cheese sandwiches, topped with either light cream sauce or an egg), crêpes, quiche, onion soup gratinée, or chicken-filled puff-pastry. Omelets are rather weighty. Some of the sandwiches offer Mediterranean flavors — try a *pan bagnat* (*salade niçoise* on a baguette) or one of the grilled *panini*. Desserts range from cookies on up to elaborate cakes. Beer and wine. Open daily, breakfast to early dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Swami's Cafe 1163 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-944-0612. No coincidence it's near the famous surf break and the Self-Realization Fellowship compound. You gotta love the very Encinitas vegetarian-spiritual-surfer origins. You eat surrounded by gurgling fountains, wind chimes, wheat grass racks, a rainbow-colored wind sock, and the manager's 1969 surfer van. There are plenty of standard dishes, like eggs Benedict or black bean burrito, but the big emphasis is health. Try the protein veggie wrap, with avocado, feta cheese, tofu, and mole, or the Indian curry with tofu. Open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

SOUTH BAY

Bino's European Coffees and Crepes 1120 Adella Avenue, Coron-

ado, 619-522-0612. This little round-the-corner café (south of the post office) has to be good: it's a favorite retreat for local chefs. Bino bakes his own breads and croissants daily and creates great crunchy sandwiches. Try the Brie Fantasy (chicken breast, roasted marinated peppers, double-cream Brie cheese) or the roast beef and jack cheese. Even the veggie sandwich squishes with luscious eggplant, and the crêpes are delicious and filling too. Bino's wife is Austrian and makes great Viennese-style coffee. Open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, to 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

MZM Seacoast Bistro 875 Seacoast Drive, Imperial Beach, 619-424-5800. If you can make it past the bland exterior, you'll discover a well-disguised classy joint inside. A harbinger of a new I.B.? Interior is all peach-colored walls, trendy blue sconce wall lights, tweedy booths, and photos of owners Marek and Zofia Migdalski with people like President Bush, Lloyd Bentsen, Sam Donaldson, and Joan Kroc. Migdalski is a recognized private chef who has decided to put I.B. on the gastronomic map. Breakfast, available Saturday and Sunday, tends to be simple but sophisticated, like frittata with Polish sausage, prime rib steak and eggs, or scrambled eggs with smoked salmon. Burgers at lunch are often lamb sirloin. Dinner can be anything, including filet mignon or flatiron steak. Reservations recommended. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Zorba's Family Restaurant 100 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-422-8853. We haven't got to plate-breaking yet, but Greek dancing is alive and well at Zorba's on Fridays and Saturdays. That includes the *zembekikos*, where the dancer picks a glass of ouzo off the floor with his mouth and drinks it. The rest of the week? Families fill this place. They're here for the buffet, spooning up the *spanakopita* (spinach in deliciously flaky pastry), *dolmathes*, (ground beef and rice rolled in grape leaves), *moussaka* (eggplant, zucchini, and ground beef), and lamb. Try dividing your meal into three: first visit the salad section. Grab their real, strong-tasting olives, tabbouleh, hummus, onions, lettuce, and pita bread. Return for the heavies, the lamb and beef dishes. Then leave room for baklava and other desserts. It may not be the gourmet's method, but there's no better way to fill a belly. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

EAST COUNTY

Jasmine Bistro 315 Parkway Plaza, El Cajon, 619-588-8228. A gleaming little architectural jewel surrounded by the big white boxes of its mall, Jasmine Bistro is a spin-off of the well-known Jasmine Hong Kong Seafood Restaurant on Convoy. By day, the fare centers on fresh, expertly made Chinese dim sum (elaborate finger-food) offered both by cart and by menu. At night, with a reservation, a fresh crew of multiethnic chefs step in to cook up a Pan-Asian panoply, so if you're in the mood for Mandarin and your date wants Thai, no problem. Unfortunately, eaters in this suburban milieu won't stand for too much authenticity, so sophisticated diners may find the fare a little dumbed-down. Mainly California wine list suggests wine pairings for the food; numerous Asian beers, fruity drinks. Reserve for weekend dinners. Daily brunch/lunch through early dinner (until 9 p.m.). Mainly moderate (except for some special entrées). — N.W.

The Olde Homestead Fudge Factory 590 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, 760-767-7782. The Fudge Factory's greatest dish is not what it's named for, and some of its pick hits aren't fudge, either. Of the 24 flavors of housemade fudge, barely a half dozen are available on any given day. The chocolate walnut is especially delicious, but the real masterpiece when in season is the "date shake" — a cold quaff that's ambrosial on a hot afternoon. Then, too, this is one of the few spots in town with an espresso machine. Open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed Monday. (Closed summer months.) Inexpensive. — N.W.

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Art on Trial

“Hurry up and torture the prisoner, we have to shoot him in half an hour.”

A woman walked into Ion Theatre’s intimate space, glanced at the set, and froze. The stage is an interrogation room: institutional gray, cinderblock walls, a rickety table, and a blindfolded prisoner on his knees, downstage right. “I thought you said we were seeing *Pillow Talk*,” she told her companions, “the musical.”

Martin McDonagh’s *Pillowman* is light years from *Pillow Talk*. Grim, relentless, and bizarrely playful, *The Pillowman* unfolds like a tale by Kafka, only in six or eight constantly shifting dimensions.

At once hyperreal and surreal, *The Pillowman* puts art on trial. And in the end, not just art but life itself.

His middle initial, Katurian K. Katurian explains to his interrogators, also stands for Katurian. “My parents were funny people.” Hold that thought. Funny? If what he later tells us is true, Katurian’s parents were Josef Mengele-minded experimental-

ists: they tortured his older brother for seven years and, to make him a better writer, tormented him as well. Like much else in *The Pillowman*, “funny” becomes a complex word.

REVIEW

JEFF SMITH



The Pillowman

The Pillowman, by Martin McDonagh
Ion Theatre, the Lab at the Academy of Performing Arts, 4580-B Alvarado Canyon Road (below the Grantville Trolley Station), east Mission Valley
Directed by Claudio Raygoza; cast: Jeffrey Jones, Matt Scott, Jamie Effros, Ari Lerner, Kim Strassburger, Bill Dunnam, Zev Lerner, John Polak, Jessalyn Hernandez; scenic design, Raygoza and Scott; costumes, Jeannie Galioto; lighting and sound, Raygoza
Playing through February 16; Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Sunday at 7:00 p.m. 619-374-6894.

Katurian’s written 400 short stories, 398 about child abuse and murder. Only one’s been published. In *Libertad*. Is that why he’s getting the third degree, because a left-leaning mag liked him? He has no axe to grind, Katurian insists, “no social anything whatsoever.” Tupolski, a self-described “high-ranking police officer in a totalitarian dictatorship,” doesn’t say. He just tears up a form about bad things happening to a prisoner in custody.

The police, as abusive as his parents, interrogate Katurian and his brother Michael, who’s “slow to get things” and can’t foresee the consequences of an action. Michael may have committed crimes he copycatted from his brother’s stories (like the little girl who thought she was Jesus, so her parents stuck a spear in her side).

Three children have been murdered. Is Katurian guilty? Michael? Katurian’s short stories?

The Pillowman takes a police state view of art. It triggers evil, says Ariel, the #2 cop on the case. He had a childhood as problematic as Katurian’s and is the opposite of Prospero’s sprite. “I stand on the right side,” Ariel tells Katurian. “I would torture you to death just for writing that story!”

The play’s title refers to a fable about a nine-foot pillow being who looks “soft and safe” and who stages tragic accidents for children so they’d “avoid

the years of pain” ahead, “facing an oven, facing a shotgun, facing a lake.”

Ion Theatre has matched McDonagh’s intensities with a tight, ferocious staging. Under Claudio Raygoza’s expert direction, and with one of the best casts ever assembled at Ion, we are either slumming in a hellhole or, as McDonagh insists, seeing the world unmasked. The excellent production is “funny,” in Katurian’s complex sense: people laugh in odd places out of self-defense, just to break its spell.

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Craig Noel Award-winner Jeffrey Jones shines as Katurian, who has a fresh, albeit lethal, innocence. Unlike Josef K, tried for crimes unknown in Kafka's novel *The Trial*, the more we learn about Katurian, the more his guilt and innocence expand. Jones crafts an oxymoron: a sympathetic killer.

Tupolski doesn't let his "emotions come out at work." In repressing them, Matt Scott makes the detective as deep as an iceberg — and as cold. In Scott's terrific performance, he gives matter-of-fact line readings tinged, at the edges, with monster ironies, as when Tupolski tells Ariel, in measured tones, "Hurry up and torture the prisoner, we have to shoot him in half an hour."

The San Diego Theater Critics Circle held its annual award ceremony last week. The evening included a tribute to the late Dr. Floyd Gaffney, the presentation of a lifetime achievement award to the Old Globe's Jack O'Brien (who enters the Broadway Hall of Fame this week), and a new Jack O'Brien Versatility Award, given to Esther Emery, director of *Yellowman* and *Communicating Doors* at Cygnet and *Devil Dog Six* at Moxie, three of the best, most diverse productions of 2007.

Craig Noel, in his early 90s, handed out the awards. Before the ceremony began, we put a cushion on his chair.

"Could I have another?" he asked. "No, make that two."

For the Father of San Diego Theater? Are you kidding? "You need four, we've got 'em," I said, joking and dead serious.

Noel, who had sat down on three cushions, jumped up and said, "Yes, one more please."

On the spot, Noel devised a four-cushion launching pad that shot him upward to greet each new recipient. He handed out the awards with the energy of a teenager.

Best Musical: *A Catered Affair*, Old Globe Theatre

Resident Musical: *West Side*

Story, Moonlight Stage Productions; *Ragtime*, Starlight Musical Theatre

Lyrics for a Musical: David Javerbaum and Adam Schlesinger, *Cry-Baby*, La Jolla Playhouse

Score for a Musical: John Bucchino, *A Catered Affair*, Old Globe Theatre

Direction of a Musical: John Doyle, *A Catered Affair*

Music Direction: Don LeMaster, *The Full Monty*, San Diego Musical Theatre; Justin Gray, *The Buddy Holly Story*, Welk Resort Theatre

Lead Performance in a Musical, Female: Deborah Gilmour Smyth, *Ragtime*, Starlight Musical Theatre; Faith Prince, *A Catered Affair*, Old Globe Theatre

Lead Performance in a Musical, Male: Robert Barry Fleming, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, San Diego Repertory Theatre

Lead Performance in a Musical, Female: Alli Mauzey, *Cry-Baby*, La Jolla Playhouse

Choreography: Robin Christ and Kathy Meyer, *Sailor's Song*, New Village Arts; Rob Ashford, *Cry-Baby*, La Jolla Playhouse

Original Music for a Play: Andrew Pleuss and Benn Sussman, *after the quake*, La Jolla Playhouse

Direction of a Play: Kristianne Kurner, *Sailor's Song*, New Village Arts

Sound Design: Paul Peterson, *Bell, Book, and Candle*, The Old Globe; Jeremy Siebert, *Cowboy Versus Samurai*, Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company

Costume Design: Jessica John, *Sailor's Song*, New Village Arts; Karen Perry, *Two Trains Running*, Old Globe Theatre

Lighting Design: Brian MacDevitt, *A Catered Affair*, Old Globe Theatre

Set Design: Nick Fouch, *Yellowman*, Cygnet Theatre; *Sailor's Song*, New Village Arts; *Devil Dog Six*, Moxie Theatre

Ensemble Cast: *Sailor's Song*, New Village Arts

Featured Performance in a Play, Female: Sandy Campbell, *Communicating Doors*, Cygnet Theatre

Featured Performance in a Play, Male: Joshua Everett Johnson, *The Adding Machine*, La Jolla Playhouse; Luke Marinkovich, *Victoria Martin: Math Team Queen*, Moxie Theatre; Jonathan McMurtry, Old Globe Shakespeare Festival, 2007

Lead Performance in a Play, Male: Chuck Cooper, *Two Trains Running*, Old Globe Theatre; James Sutorius, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Old Globe Theatre; Matthew Weeden, *Torch Song Trilogy*, Diversionary Theatre

Lead Performance in a Play, Female: Monique Gaffney, *Yellowman*, Cygnet Theatre; Rosina Reynolds, *W;t*, North Coast Repertory Theatre

Solo Performance: Ron Choularton, *St. Nicholas*, Cygnet Theatre; Adrianna Sevan, *Taking Flight*, San Diego Repertory Theatre

Touring Production: *Jersey Boys*, San Diego Civic Theatre

Dramatic Production: *Yellowman*, Cygnet Theatre

New Play: Itamar Moses, *The Four of Us*, Old Globe Theatre; Mary Fengar Gail, *Devil Dog Six*, Moxie Theatre ■

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

Anton in Show Business
6th at Penn Theatre presents Jane Martin's backstage comedy about an ill-fated production of Anton Chekhov's *The Three Sisters* that skewers every sacred cow in theater. Dale Morris directed.
6TH AT PENN THEATER, 3704 SIXTH AV.

ENUE, HILLCREST. THROUGH MARCH 2; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. 619-688-9210.

Death and Taxes
New Vision Theatre stages an audience participation murder mystery. The town council becomes the jury, but guess what? All the suspects're on the council.
SUNSHINE BROOKS THEATRE, 217 NORTH COAST HIGHWAY, OCEANSIDE. THROUGH FEBRUARY 10; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. 760-529-9140.

Fences
Cygnet Theatre and the San Diego Black Ensemble present August Wilson's complex portrayal of Troy Maxson, a man fenced in and out. Delicia Turner Sonnenberg directed.
CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, SUITE N, COLLEGE AREA. THROUGH FEBRUARY 24; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., MONDAYS, 7:30 P.M. 619-337-1525.

Guys and Dolls
Even though she's never been in love before, Miss Sarah Brown will know when her love comes along because she'll ring like a bell. Unlike Miss Sarah, Miss Adelaide's been in love so long she's developed a cold and wants to tell beau to take back his mink and his "poils." San Diego Musical Theatre's opened its first full season with Frank Loesser's great "Fable of Broadway." One could wish the male performers spoke more formally (one of Loesser's ironies: Damon Runyon's characters talk a stiff, pretentious dialogue), and one could beg that the show be more brightly lit (due to lazy followspots, faces are either in the dark or half lit, and a

gloom hovers over every scene). As Sky Masterson, Robert J. Townsend looks too All-American, as if he came from an Arrow shirt ad, circa 1925, rather than from Broadway's "bloodhounds," but he's got the chops for "I'll Know" and "Luck Be A Lady." Jamie Torcellini and Terra C. McLeod are a delightfully mismatched set as Nathan Detroit and Miss Adelaide (whose "Second Lament" stops the show). Amy Biedel's a clear soprano'd, wonderful Miss Sarah. And it's a treat to hear Ole Kettleon, San Diego theater legend, sing the splendid "More I Cannot Wish You" with such gentle sagacity.

Worth a try.
EAST COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 210 EAST MAIN STREET, EL CAJON. THROUGH FEBRUARY 3; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. 619-440-2277.

Handbag: The Life in Your Bag
Cal State San Marcos hosts a collaborative performance piece, "relations on the most intimate relationship in a woman's life," including musings from a Katrina survivor, Baghdad evacuee, shaman, slam poet, and others. Lisa Berger directed. Admission is free. CSU SAN MARCOS, 333 SOUTH TWIN OAKS VALLEY ROAD, SAN MARCOS. THROUGH FEBRUARY 4; MONDAYS, 7 P.M. 760-750-4000.

Highly Caffeinated Comedy
Hugh Butternut's done his lounge act at the Triple Espresso Coffeehouse 20 years to the day. While patrons sip a house blend — "Grape," "Scandinavian Blizzard," or "Mokoko Cocoa Mocha" — Hugh plays '70s tunes on the piano. He and his companions, here to celebrate Hugh's anniversary,

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Saturday, August 2
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got stuck in the '70s. The trio used to be Maxwell, Butternutt, and Bean, a comedy group that never went far. They're "losers," they admit, but not "ordinary" ones. And hey, their reunion could help them face searing issues from their mediocre pasts. The story line's straight from *Forever Plaid*. There's also the *Forever Plaid* problem: the three comedians are far too talented to play inept characters. One's a whiz at the piano. Another's a first-rate mime, and the third's a crackerjack magician. The trio's so talented, when the plot has them complain of difficulties to overcome, you wish they'd quit trumping up the pseudo-drama and get on with this highly entertaining, if lightweight show.

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN. THROUGH FEBRUARY 17; THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 5 P.M., SATURDAYS, 5 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 3 P.M., SUNDAYS, 3 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M. 619-234-9583.

In This Corner

Steven Druckman's drama retells the relationship between Joe Louis and Max Schmeling, whom the press turned into ideological icons for their 1936 and 1938 Fights of the Century. But, the play insists more often than need be, they weren't: Schmeling detested Hitler, and Louis, once he stepped out of the ring, became yet another segregated African-American who couldn't have his picture taken with a white woman. The play retells Pygmalion. Louis becomes re-engineered out of words into a racist white's ideal black man. He can clobber opponents but must never smile or gloat. When he leaves the ring for good, and the media can no longer exploit him, Louis nosesdives from celebrity like an Icarus. The world premiere script has crisp dialogue and flashes of sharp writing, but Louis and Schmeling exist more in theory, as verbal constructs meant to prove a point about verbal constructs, than in depth. And the ending (a tidy summation about winning losers with echoes of *Rocky III*) is weak. As if sensing that the text needs more grounding, director Ethan McSweeney has drenched the Cassius Carter with atmosphere and pugilistic detail. The stage is a boxing ring, a near-perfect fit, and al-

though the play's about Main Event headliners, McSweeney and seven talented performers make it an engaging ensemble show, in spite of the script's lack of a knock-out punch.

Worth a try.

CASSIUS CARTER CENTER STAGE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. THROUGH FEBRUARY 10; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., TUESDAYS, 7 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 7 P.M. 619-234-5623.

Oklahoma!

The Welk Resort Theatre stages Rodgers and Hammerstein's ageless musical about the opening of the Oklahoma territory and the blooming of love. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DRIVE, ESCONDIDO. THROUGH APRIL 6; THURSDAYS, 1:45 P.M., THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 1:45 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., TUESDAYS, 1:45 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 1:45 P.M. 888-802-7469.

Ordinary People

OnStage Playhouse presents Nancy Gilseman's dramatic adaptation of Judith Guest's novel. The loss of an older brother may change Conrad Jarrett's "ordinary" family entirely.

Jay Mower directed.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVENUE, CHULA VISTA. THROUGH FEBRUARY 9; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. 619-422-7787.

Pericles

UCSD Theatre & Dance presents Shakespeare's late romance about the Prince of Tyre's Job-like odyssey. Andrei Belgrader directed. UCSD: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO, 9500 GILMAN DRIVE, UCSD. THROUGH FEBRUARY 2; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. 858-534-2230.

Playwrights Project: Plays by Young Writers

Four works, selected from 289 submissions by teenagers statewide, receive full professional productions in the 23rd annual Playwrights Project. For individual plays and performance times, call 619-544-1000.

LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN. THROUGH FEBRUARY 10; SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., MONDAYS, 7:30 P.M. 619-858-0322.

Readings of August

Wilson's Plays: Jitney
San Diego Black Ensemble and Cygnet Theatre continue their im-

mensely popular series of staged readings of one of American theater's rarely performed but most important playwrights. Twice winner of the Pulitzer Prize (for *Fences* in 1987 and *The Piano Lesson* in 1990), August Wilson wrote a cycle of dramas that probe the African-American experience through the decades of the 20th century (he concentrated, he said, "on the largest idea that confronted blacks in each decade"). The readings will be staged at Cygnet, the City Heights Performance Annex, and other locations. For specifics, check with Cygnet, and arrive early, since many of last year's readings were SRO.

CITY HEIGHTS PERFORMANCE ANNEX, 3791 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE, CITY HEIGHTS. THROUGH FEBRUARY 2; SATURDAYS, 3 P.M. 619-641-6123.

Route 66

Moonlight Stage Productions presents Roger Bean's "musical revue of songs for the road." Brian Wells and David Brannen co-directed. AVO PLAYHOUSE, 303 MAIN STREET, VISTA. THROUGH FEBRUARY 24; THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. 760-724-2110.

Sea of Tranquility

According to Howard Korder's comedy-drama Santa Fe, New Mexico, has replaced California as the place, if not to find, heal, or reinvent oneself, then at least the site for major deppressurization. Everyone - a Whitman's sampler of various neurotics - has toxic underpinnings (even a house). Re-

actions to their burdens range from allergies to murder. A relocated family counselor (and demoted psychiatrist) wants to do good but — physician heal thyself finds that his meddling magnifies peoples' troubles. Korder raises some fundamental questions: Can people change? Are our emotions, as psychobiologists aver and antidepressants corroborate, just chemically induced? Are spells, curses, and charms for real? Korder's written a funnier and much deeper play than the one currently at the Old Globe. As if reticent to face its implications, director Michael Bloom has staged *Tranquility* just this side of sitcom, his actors chipper-mannered and wavy-gestural and clinging to a "type." The result is a consistently strange tone that, when in doubt, encourages easy laughs over more upsetting matters. David Kay Mickelsen's costumes run the New Age gambit. Scott Bradley's set, a 70-year-old rough wooden plank house with cracking adobe walls, is a gem. And Robert Wierzel's expert lighting has a creamy, high-desert feel.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. THROUGH FEBRUARY 10; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., TUESDAYS, 7 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 7 P.M. 619-234-5623.

Songs for a New World

White Dog Theatre Company presents Jason Robert Brown's stories of "hope in the face of adversity; of knowing when to believe in our dreams and when to lay them to rest." Liz Sabicer directed. THEATRIX, 155 E GRAND AVENUE, ESCONDIDO. THROUGH FEBRUARY 17; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. 760-405-3212.

String of Pearls

A string of perfectly matched, rosee pearls goes on a 35-year odyssey in Michelle Lowe's sketchy, episodic, at times moving drama at North Coast Rep. Along the way it encounters tragedy,

hope, emptiness, and performs Houdini-like escapes, for example, from a grave and the belly of a fish. The 100-minute, intermissionless play has 27 characters, most of whom are unidimensional and sprint by too fast. Unlike Lowe's hip, funny *Smell of the Kill* at NCRT in 2005, much of *String* is narrated, which makes for long, undramatic passages. The play's not only talky, it often describes, rather than feels, its emotions. The pearls come in a blue velvet box, which Marty Burnett's spare, appealing set recreates on stage, the pearls a shiny, cream-colored platform and table. Four women play all the characters (and do some amazing, split-second costume changes). At times the acting's uneven and lacks subtexts, due in part to the thin script's preference for hugging the surface. When given room to roam, however, the actors deliver some sharp portrayals: Kwana Martinez's Beth, a lifelong innocent from whom the pearls depart and return; Christy Yael's exhausted Kyle, who needs a break from her mother's Alzheimer's; Jennifer Seifert's Abby, who gets an unmentionable wish; and Crystal Sershen, who creates seven distinct characters, from a snoot to a 300-pound gravedigger.

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH. THROUGH FEBRUARY 10; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M. 858-481-1055.

Sweet Charity

The Coronado Playhouse stages the Tony Award-winning musical (book, Neil Simon; music, Cy Coleman; lyrics, Dorothy Fields) about Charity Hope Valentine, the club dancer searching for true love. CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. THROUGH FEBRUARY 17; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. 619-435-4856.

Ten-Minute Madness

GB Productions presents seven new short plays by local authors, performed by an ensemble cast. NORTH PARK VAUDEVILLE, 2031 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, NORTH PARK. THROUGH FEBRUARY 16; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. 619-647-4958.

The Cemetery Club

The Poway Performing Arts Company stages Ivan Menchell's comedy about three widows who make monthly visits to their late husbands' graves. POWPAC, POWAY'S COMMUNITY THEATER, 13250 POWAY ROAD, POWAY. THROUGH FEBRUARY 10; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. 858-679-8085.

The Pillowman

Ion Theatre stages Martin McDonagh's 2004 Olivier Award winner for best new play, an eerie, disturbing drama about the interrogation of a short story writer. Claudio Raygoza directed. ION THEATRE COMPANY, 4580-B ALVARADO CANYON ROAD, GRANTVILLE. THROUGH FEBRUARY 16; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M. 619-374-6894.

Where There's a Will...

There's a Winner
Mystery Café Dinner Theatre presents James Pascarella and Will Roberson's interactive comedy, set in a 1920s speakeasy where suspicion shrouds every "gangster, game, and dame." Pascarella directed. MYSTERY CAFE, 505 KALMIA STREET, HILLCREST. OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. 619-544-1664.

THEATER DIRECTORY

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Christian Community Theatre

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(619) 588-0206 www.expactive.com

Civic Theatre

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(858) 570-1100 www.sd civic.org

Clairemont Community Players

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(858) 560-5114

Community Actors Theatre

2957 54th St., State College
(619) 264-3391
www.communityactors theatre.com

Copley Symphony Hall

750 B St., Downtown
(619) 235-0804
www.sandiegosymphony.com

Coronado Playhouse

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Cygnet Theatre Company

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(619) 337-1525 www.cygnettheatre.com

Diversivory Theatre

4545 Park Blvd., Normal Heights
(619) 220-0097 www.diversivory.org

East County Performing Arts Center

210 E. Main St., El Cajon
(619) 440-2277 www.ecpac.com

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644 7th Ave., Downtown
(619) 238-1153 www.evoeke.org

The Fault Line Theatre

3152 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest
(619) 692-3382 www.faultlineprod.com

Fern Street Circus

(619) 235-9756 www.fernstreetcircus.org

The Fritz Theatre

(619) 233-7505 www.fritztheatre.com

Grossmont College

Stagehouse Theatre, El Cajon
(619) 644-7234
http://grossmont.gcccd.cc.ca.us/

The Hispanic Arts Theatre Of San Diego

(619) 475-7496

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(619) 561-8673 www.dinnertheater.net

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New Village Arts Theatre

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North Coast Repertory Theatre

987-D Lomas Santa Fe Dr., Solana Beach
(858) 481-1055 www.northcoastrep.org

North Park Vaudeville

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(619) 647-4958

The Old Globe Theatre

Cassius Carter Centre Stage
Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, Balboa Park
(619) 23-GLOBE (234-5623)
www.oldglobe.org

Onstage Playhouse

291 Third Ave., Chula Vista
(619) 422-7787 www.onstage.itgo.com

Palomar College Theatre

1140 W. Mission Rd., San Marcos
(760) 744-1150 x2453 www.palomar.edu

Patio Playhouse

201 E. Grand Ave., Escondido
(760) 746-6669 www.patioplayhouse.com

Pine Hills Lodge

2960 La Posada Way, Julian
(760) 765-1100 www.pinehillslodge.com

Point Loma Nazarene University

Salomon Theatre
3900 Lomaland Dr., Point Loma
(619) 849-2433 www.ptloma.edu

Poway Center For The Performing Arts

15498 Espola Rd., Poway
(858) 748-0505 www.powayarts.org

PowPAC, Poway's Community Theater

13250 Poway Rd., Poway
(858) 679-8085 www.powpac.org

Ramona MainStage Theatre

626 Main St., Ramona
(760) 789-7008

The Rehearsal Room

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(619) 589-9963

San Diego Actors Theatre

P O Box 880285 92168
(858) 268-4494 www.sdactorstheatre.net

San Diego City College Theater

15th and C Streets, Downtown
(619) 230-2676 www.sdcity.edu

San Diego Junior Theatre

Casa Del Prado Theatre, Balboa Park
(619) 239-8355 www.juniortheatre.com

San Diego Musical Theatre

(858) 560-5740
www.SDMT.org

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The Show May Go On

We have bigger elections to worry about in 2008.

By practice and principle, the Oscar nominations are not an occasion for me, as they are for so many in my fraternity, to guess the winners, to lament the omitted, or to fill out an uncounted ballot. Nor are they, anymore, an occasion for me to restate the reasons why they are not an occasion for me. Those don't really

change, although there appears to be a deepening schizophrenia in the Oscar shows of recent years (however many it has been since the last chapter of *Lord of the Rings* took top honors), a widening divide between the kinds of movies that Hollywood, in its Sunday best, one night out of the year, pretends to value, and the kinds of movies it values throughout the remainder of the calendar. As much as the major studios might like to have the accolades of *No Country for Old Men* and *There Will Be Blood*, they'd rather have the receipts of *Spider-Man 3* and *Transformers*. The art of steering a middle course is one of the many lost arts. Studios nowadays are in the business of making obscene

profits off movies with indecent budgets. Making "prestige" movies is left to their "specialty" subdivisions, if not to total independents. Dissociation personified. The studios of old did not have to apologize for frittering their

resources on the likes of *The Best Years of Our Lives* and *On the Waterfront*.

As of this writing (though things could change between writing and publishing), the striking Writers Guild threatens to darken the Oscar show, same as it did the Golden Globes show a couple of weeks ago. There's no reason to think the world would come to an end. Life went on, let's remember, even after the baseball players sat out the World Series. Please don't misconstrue. It is not in my nature to wish economic hardship on anyone (in particular, the Little People, the caterers, the chauffeurs, the whosies, the whatsies), so I am not actively rooting for cancellation. Should it come to pass, however, I could make an easy transition to looking upon my three and a half hours of free time on February 24

REVIEW

DUNCAN SHEPHERD



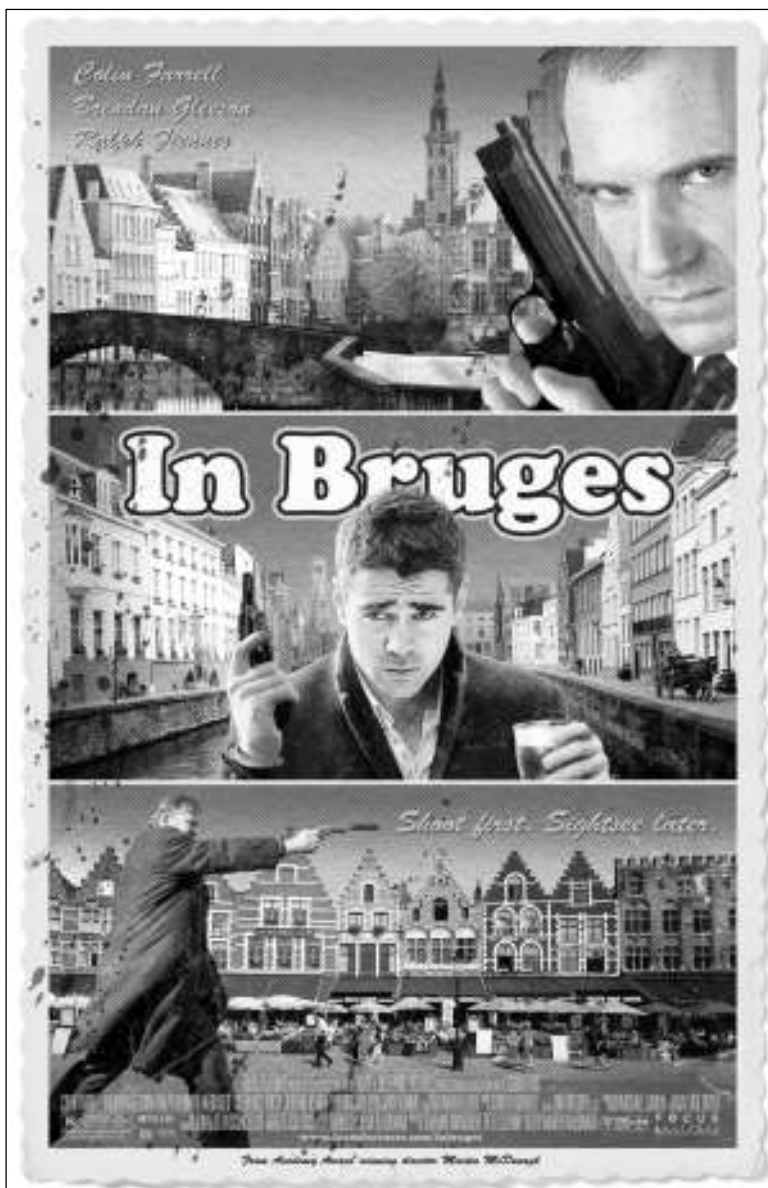
Joel and Ethan Coen

(maybe five and a half, counting the Red Carpet parade) as something of a silver lining. Some commentators, harder of heart, openly applauded the cancellation of the Globes show, citing the disrepute of the Hollywood Foreign Press and the golden opportunity for reform. I don't make that distinction with the Motion Picture Academy; and the Globes, not sidetracked into

the byways of Best Sound Editing and Best Sound Mixing, not disposed to create a category (Best Makeup) that could accommodate *Norbit*, are a better television show. And in view of the Oscar show's annually falling ratings, the front offices have been presented here with a chance not simply to play hardball with the writers, but also, as a sizable bonus, to pun-

ish the members of the Academy for their hypocrisy, a chance implicitly to put it to them to bring the list of nominees more in line with the list of top-grossers, a chance to restore some distance between the Oscars and the day-earlier Independent Spirit Awards. Their own opportunity for reform.

However that shakes out, artistic value, if I may succinctly reiterate my



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Calendar MOVIES

fundamental quarrel with the Oscars, cannot be decided by consensus. The Academy might as well be casting ballots on whether Brad Pitt ought to stick with Angelina Jolie or go back to Jennifer Aniston. Results of such a vote would mean no more to Brad Pitt (or *should* mean no more, at any rate) than the outcome of the Oscar vote will mean to me. Or you. We have bigger elections to worry about in 2008.

Two things, even so, compel me this year to break my customary silence and to pay some attention in print to the nominations. One is that the only new movies available to me this week are *Rambo*, *Untraceable*, and *Meet the Spartans*. The other, which would compel me at the same time to root for resolution of the writers' strike, is that the Coen brothers are in the running in several categories. Now, I don't need *No Country for Old Men* to take home the Best Picture prize in order to validate my view of the movie or its makers, but I'm not so sure of what other people need. Over the summer I was hovering around the snack bar at Landmark's La Jolla Village when I overheard an indecisive customer at the ticket stand balking at *Paris, Je T'Aime* on the grounds that the Coen brothers had something to

do with it. They, and I quote, "can be really weird." An endorsement from the Establishment might have some benefit with such balkers. Win or lose, the Coens should already have gotten a re-charge in their careers; doors should have been opened wider; purse-strings loosened. For the next little while at least, I needn't lose sleep over that.

Nice as it might be to see them troop up to the microphone time and again (not that I would bet on it), my own rooting interest centers on the directing award. They've won a screenwriting award already, for 1996's *Fargo*, arguably their best piece of writing. *No Country*, in spite of its nod as an Adapted Screenplay, is arguably their least piece of writing, more precisely a piece of copying down the writing of Cormac McCarthy; and it quite rightly throws the spotlight on their masterly direction. They earned their master's degree in that department with their sophomore film, and if the perennial studently direction of Martin Scorsese could finally get its Oscar last year, there can be no objection to the Coens' getting one, too.

I might almost be content, though, with nothing more than a public unmasking of their Roderick Jaynes persona in the editing category. (Would they take the stage in person? Send up an impostor in their place?) To make the case, just look at the scene wherein the softened criminal returns

to the killing field with a jug of water for a dying drug runner. Look at it, say, from the appearance of a second, silhouetted truck alongside the softy's truck on the ridge of the hill, and keep on looking at it through the charge of the attack dog at the river's edge as the softy sure-handedly reloads his sidearm. Look at it. Study it. Show it forever after in film schools. A master class in itself.

The scrapings....

Rambo. As if to concede his depletion of ideas, Sylvester Stallone, star and director, has not troubled to think up a new title for the resuscitation, after twenty years' slumber, of his embittered Vietnam vet ("Fuck the world"), settling for the title of the second film in the series, minus its little-used subtitle: *First Blood Part II*. He could have taken a cue from his recent *Rocky Balboa* and given it the full name of *John Rambo*, or taken the usual route to *Rambo IV* or *Rambo: First Blood Part IV* or perhaps *Rambo: Fourth Blood*. But no. ("Fuck the world.") Not much thought of any sort seems to have gone into it, and yet Rambo/Stallone knows without need of thought that books and medicines aren't going to "change anything" in the war zone of Burma, and if you want to extract some misguided American missionaries from the clutches of the kill-crazy militia, in under ninety minutes, no limit on casualties — well, he's your man. Without need, either, of an up-to-date head count of hawks and doves in the general populace, he'll stick to his guns (and his bow and arrows), and the grisly mayhem will throttle any impulse to snicker. The viewer can only aspire to a state of acceptance ("Fuck the world"), well shy of a state of awe.

Untraceable. The filmmakers (director Gregory Hoblit, a trio of scriptwriters) wish to "comment" on the ghoulish appetite of the American public while simultaneously feeding it. They have set up a demonic, taunting, diabolically clever (etc.) serial

killer in a Portland basement, from where his tortures and murders are "streamed live" over the Internet, the victim's demise hastened by every "log-on." (There's a great deal of indigestible computerese.) An ugly spectacle all around, not least in the blood-draining cinematography. Diane Lane, as a cyber-crimefighter with the FBI, takes three showers in the course of the movie, but doesn't come out clean.

Meet the Spartans. I disrespectfully decline. ■

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of release and by rating, are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

American Gangster — Formula underworld drama poured into an epic template. Like Jiffy-brand waffle batter spread over an iron the size of a billiard table. "Based on a true story," it traces, in separate intertwined storylines, the converging upward paths of criminal and cop: the former (Denzel Washington) starting out as the servile driver and bodyguard for the legendary Bumpy Johnson, a big fish in the small pond of Harlem into the late Sixties, then expanding the pond, upon his boss's death, into an ocean; and the latter (Russell Crowe) working his way up as an undercover narc in New Jersey, studying for the bar in his spare time. Their eventual meeting comes, and drags on, as something of an anticlimax, after an excitingly staged drug raid from which the ganglord is lucky to be absent. The opposing paths up to that point are smoothly graded and well greased; and director Ridley Scott, the epitome of slick (*Alien*, *Blade Runner*, *Thelma and Louise*, *Gladiator*, *Black Hawk Down*, and so on), moves things along at a tolerable pace, although there's the distinct impression that even if he knew any shortcuts, he wouldn't take them. His goal is epic, and he would gladly drag his feet to get there. At two and a half hours plus, he indeed does get there. Washington, to pay him a back-

handed compliment, is never quite as credible as a through-and-through baddie, even though that seems to be the way to the Oscar (i.e., *Training Day*). Crowe on the other hand is a perfectly credible crusader, overcoming no greater obstacles on the road to respectability than his buoyant white sneakers and his unflattering, inexpensive period haircut, framing his face with folded wings. With Chiwetel Ejiofor, Josh Brolin, Lymari Nadal, and Ruby Dee. 2007. ★ (GASLAMP 15)

Atonement — British, bookish period piece, from an Ian McEwan novel, about a young girl's misreading of the amorous activities of her elders, and its tragic consequences. (A mole on the right cheek links the three different actresses who play the role, Saoirse Ronan in the Thirties, Romola Garai in wartime, and Vanessa Redgrave in modern day.) The movie starts rather sedately, despite some point-of-view tricks, in a commonplace country estate; and it then gets rather overblown in the war sequences, including a marathon Steadicam single take of the evacuation at Dunkirk. But all in all it's well-mounted, well-dressed, well-acted, and, well, dull. With Keira Knightley, James McAvoy, Brenda Blethyn, and Harriet Walter; directed by Joe Wright. 2007.

★ (ESCONDIDO 16; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Bucket List — A feel-good death trip, directed by the crowd-coddling Rob Reiner, about two terminal cancer patients, a billionaire WASP and a blue-collar black, who bond as hospital roommates and set out together to do the things and see the sights they never had time for: skydive, car-race, get a tattoo, visit the Riviera, the Dark Continent, the Pyramids, the Great Wall, and along the way open themselves up to epiphanies: "The stars — it's really one of God's good ones." (Although they often have a book at hand in bed or on an airplane, you can't expect a screen character to use his final months to curl up at last with *The Pickwick Papers*.) The good feelings extend even beyond the grave: the action is narrated posthumously in the first-person omniscient, implicitly settling the amicable debate on the afterlife. A fair measure of your regard for Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman would be your pain at seeing them in such pap. Perhaps the closest contact with a real concern emerges in the former's probing question to the latter: "You always had those freckles?" Sean Hayes, Rob Morrow. 2007.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Cassandra's Dream — With this, Woody Allen looks like he has overextended his stay in England. The refreshment is gone. Less engrossing than *Match Point*, less engaging than *Scoop*, it spins a yarn of working-class brothers (Ewan McGregor, Colin Farrell, working their thespian tails off) who, in exchange for financial favors from a rich uncle, become literal brothers in crime, new to the game and unfit for it. Allen, writer and director, and absentee on screen, slides the chess pieces around on their felt bottoms, no friction, no deception, no hesitation, carrying out a telegraphed plan of attack. An air of detachment is the closest he comes to humor; a Dreiser-esque moralism spreads a wet blanket. One listens for his voice through the thick British accents, and one hears a frequent tone of whining and pleading, and just a snatch of highbrow chat about Greek tragedy. One looks for his fingerprints, and one sees a sedentary camera and a bur-nished surface. The spectator's search for the familiar filmmaker generates most of the sparse suspense. With Hayley Atwell,

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Tom Wilkinson, Phil Davis. 2007.

★ (LA JOLLA 12)

Charlie Wilson's War — Didactic poli-sci lesson on How the System Works, entertainingly illustrated by screenwriter Aaron Sorkin and director Mike Nichols. The titular war is the one between the Soviets and the Afghans in the Reagan era, and Charlie Wilson is a nonfictional Texas congressman (played with supreme complacency by Tom Hanks) who, ideally situated for budgeting purposes, spared some time from his enjoyment of the perks of power (single malt, cocaine, strippers in the hot tub) in order to do the bidding of a rabid Right-wing fundraiser in his home state (Julia Roberts, fully surrendering to her natural or enhanced grotesquerie, at one point intrepidly separating her gluey eyelashes with an open safety pin) and broker a covert alliance between the Pakistanis and the Israelis, combatting the Evil Empire from discreetly behind the scenes. This is not your typical tale of the cavalier cynic getting involved, finding religion, committing himself to a cause. The protagonist's profligate ways are typical enough, and the refugee camp that opens his eyes is depicted very straight, but there remains, even after that, a sense of irony about his crusade — no more solemnity in his demeanor than in that, let's say, of the surgeons in *MASH* — so that his commitment is forever perceived as something of a pose, something within quotation marks. The job gets done all the same. Philip Seymour Hoffman, sporting a lush mustache and full head of dark hair in testimony to the character's Mediterranean ethnicity, goes Hanks one better (several better, in fact) as a disgruntled CIA spook who, irked at not getting the Finland assignment after studying Finnish, cannot even throw a tantrum without a wink. Not only does Hoffman walk away with the show, he also gets to recite the Buddhist parable whose punchline frames the entire picture, turning an ostensibly happy ending into an up-in-the-air ending, or in other words no ending at all. We know too well what happened next. With Amy Adams, Emily Blunt, Ned Beatty. 2007.

★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12)

Cloverfield — Vindication for the grainy, jiggly image of the handheld camcorder, the mockumentarist's best friend and a corner-cutting, cost-cutting device for any purpose. The premise — the excuse — is the making of a video souvenir at the going-away party for a Manhattan yuppie, the night before his departure to a plum job in Japan; and the product, by its very nature, is an exercise in subjective camerawork as extreme as, though not as strained as, Robert Montgomery's anomalous *Lady in the Lake*, 1946. Amateu-rish by design, with the camera in the hands of a conscripted novice, the evolving souvenir is all we get for the first twenty minutes of the movie, leading to suspicions of padding in what turns out to be barely an hour-and-a-quarter movie. It might have led also to squirms of impatience if the document had not been labelled at the top as the property of the Department of Defense, retrieved from the "area formerly known as Central Park." You know something's coming. What finally comes at the twenty-minute mark, revealed bit by bit, fleeting glimpse by side-long glance, proves to be a distant relative of Godzilla — the yuppie didn't have to go to Japan; Japan came to the yuppie — a composite creature combining on a gargantuan scale the slimy squid, the plucked chicken, and the skinned calf, shedding like fleas some spidery creatures of more human dimension. (Additional aerial footage from a cable news network lends some helpful perspective.) It is quite understandable and quite realistic, in the post-Rodney King era, that the party videographer would choose to keep the tape rolling as his small circle of friends fights to survive the night ("People are gonna wanna know how it all went down"), and the shaky, sketchy coverage of the events only enhances their immediacy and intensity. And the monsters themselves, even allowing for their extended tendency to play peek-a-boo, are expertly realized. This is *Blair Witch* on a looser budget. Lizzy Caplan, Jessica Lucas, T.J. Miller, Michael Stahl-David, Mike Vo-

gel, Odette Yustman; directed by Matt Reeves. 2008.

★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly — Julian Schnabel relates another true-life tale from the wide world of art, this one a little more liberated from convention than his *Basquiat* or his *Before Night Falls* (though it immediately and continually brings to mind Alejandro Amenábar's *The Sea Inside*), the tale of Jean-Dominique Bauby, an editor at *Elle* magazine, who in the prime of life suffered a stroke that left him paralyzed but for his left eyelid (and his imagination and his memory), and who dictated a memoir, letter by letter, through a system of blinks. The first three-quarters of an hour or so are reasonably audacious, subjectively visualized through the eyes of the invalid (Mathieu Amalric, at this point unseen), with cropped faces and figures, blurred edges, off-kilter angles, etc., and yet the camera looks awfully free-swinging and the editing awfully jumpy for the P.O.V. of a paralytic, as if Schnabel felt he had to lend a helping hand to keep things hopping. (The rotation of comely coquettes to serve as speech therapist, physical therapist, and amanuensis seems to have been assembled out of similar motives.) Much of the remainder of the film feels drawn out and padded, with the major exception of a tense scene in which the wife, operating the speakerphone in the hospital room, is re-

quired to mediate a call from the mistress. The essential subject matter is one that demands in its treatment purity and rigor, and that receives instead disorder and indulgence. (This really wasn't the time and place for further proof of the director's hip taste in music, U2, Velvet Underground, Tom Waits.) A big critical favorite, nonetheless, perhaps owing to the special dispensation granted the handicapped, the quickness to applaud the least little show of humor, verve, perseverance. With Emmanuelle Seigner, Marie-Josée Croze, Anne Consigny, and Max von Sydow. 2007.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Driving Lessons — A summer job with an over-the-hill actress (Julie Walters) emboldens a timid minister's son (Rupert Grint, the Ronald Weasley of the Harry Potter series) to throw off the yoke of his smothering mother (Laura Linney). Coming-of-age confection, sweet enough to cause tummy ache. Written and directed by Jeremy Brock. 2006.

● (SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 2/4, 6:30 P.M.)

The Eye — Hollywood re-do of a Hong Kong horror, with Jessica Alba and Alessandro Nivola, directed by David Moreau and Xavier Palud. (CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; FROM 2/1)

First Sunday — A pair of backed-up-against-the-wall black Baltimoreans (Ice Cube, Tracy Morgan) go into a ghetto church with the intent to rob it, enter into endless negotiations at gunpoint with the fundraising committee, fix the air-conditioning, and come out better, and not poorer, men. A caper comedy devoid of

laughs. With Chi McBride, Malinda Williams, Katt Williams, Loretta Devine, and Michael Beach; written and directed by David E. Talbert. 2008.

● (CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15)

Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour — 3-D musical documentary of the teen pop star in concert.

(CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; POWAY 10; FROM 2/1)

A Hard Day's Night — The Beatles' hyperthyroid first film, directed by Richard Lester with a sense of comic and cinematic inventiveness — funny, silly, and stupid, by turns — that never stops asserting itself for a minute. 1964.

★★★ (KEN, 2/2 MIDNIGHT)

How She Move — She move pretty good. Her name Rutina Wesley, step-dancin' fool. But she have troubles, man, big troubles. Her sister O.D., and she drop out of school and go back to the hood, and her only way out be the Step Monster competition in D-Town, fifty G's on the line. And she be photographed in lighting like the morgue, y'unnerstan? And she act bad, man, real bad. With Dwain Murphy, Tracey Armstrong, Brennan Gademans; directed by Ian Iqbal Rashid. 2008.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ES-

CONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

I Am Legend — The third screen treatment of Richard Matheson's post-apocalyptic vampire tale is the first to retain the original title (cf. *The Last Man on Earth* and *The Omega Man*), and the first to bring to it the total commitment of top dollar, most helpful in creating a weed-overgrown New York City. It also brings to it some very wet sentimentality, with Will Smith having a hard time shouldering the burdens of being a Renaissance man amid a population of nocturnal zombies: he's a brilliant scientist, a hardbodied soldier, a tender dog lover, a Bob Marley aficionado, a *Shrek* memorizer, and so on. The situation nevertheless keeps a good grip until the fortuitous appearance of a second (and third) human being, after which the grip loosens. With Alice Braga, Charlie Tahan, and briefly an uncredited Emma Thompson; directed by Francis Lawrence. 2007.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Into the Wild — Illustration, in a sketchy hand, of the Jon Krakauer nonfiction book on Christopher McCandless, a 1990 college graduate, on the doorstep of Harvard Law School, who gave away his tuition fund to Oxfam, obliterated his identity, renamed himself Alexander Supertramp, and swapped the evils of society for the purity

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SEEN ON
DVD



Serenity

ZAKIYA KHABIR

San Diego market coordinator, Landmark Theatres

Many have said it before, but HBO's series *The Wire* should be required viewing. Not only is it incredibly addicting, it's scarily realistic. Having lived in Baltimore for nine years and taught in its public schools for two, I can say with some authority that the series accurately captures the dignity and degradation of this American city.

An archetypal story set in a visionary world, *Serenity* is one of the most fun sci-fi movies I've seen in a decade. The intro and commentary by Joss Whedon on the DVD illuminate the interesting story of how the failed TV series, *Firefly*, became a theatrical release.

I can't put my finger on what was the creepiest thing about *House of 1000 Corpses*, but it still sticks in my mind as being terribly unsettling. Horror usually doesn't faze me, but Rob Zombie created something disturbing with his first film.

THE WIRE: THE COMPLETE FIRST THREE SEASONS (USA) 1999-2004, HBO

2002-04, HBO

List price: \$179.98 (15 discs)

SERENITY (USA) 2005,

Universal

List price: \$29.98

HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES (USA)

2003, Lionsgate

List price: \$14.98



Pennies from Heaven

ROBBIE LAWSON

Employee, Landmark Theatres

Judd Apatow and Paul Feig got a lot right with *Freaks and Geeks*, their series about high school outcasts in the 1980s. Their greatest achievement may be the casting of unknowns (Seth Rogen, James Franco, Linda Cardellini) who filled their roles beautifully. The tone's consistently perfect, thanks to stellar writing and direction.

Pennies from Heaven, the 1981 box-office flop, took fans of Steve Martin's "wild and crazy guy" by surprise. Looking back, it makes perfect sense. It shows off his exceptional gifts. Based on Dennis Potter's miniseries, it features elaborate dance numbers that'll leave you wondering why other movies with dance numbers are so bad.

In *Stella Shorts*, David Wain, Michael Ian Black, and Michael Showalter make you re-evaluate everything you thought was funny. These shorts inspired the Comedy Central *Stella* series that was very good, but nowhere near this pinnacle.

FREAKS AND GEEKS: THE COMPLETE SERIES (USA) 1999, DreamWorks

List price: \$69.90 (six discs)

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN (USA)

1981, Warner Home Video

List price: \$19.98

STELLA SHORTS (USA) 1998-

2002, stellacomedy.com



In the Mood for Love

GINA TRIBOTTI

Chief of staff, Landmark Theatres

The Adventures of Prince Achmed by Lotte Reiniger is a 1926 animated tale, a treasure you must discover. Inspired by 1001 *Arabian Nights*, the intricate, silhouette images in the film were all created by manipulating cardboard cutouts frame-by-frame.

Get ready for Wong Kar-wai's English-language debut, *My Blueberry Nights*, with one of his Hong Kong classics, *In the Mood for Love*. Easily one of his most visually sumptuous films, it captures the slow, melancholy longing of two neighbors in the restrained world of 1960s' Hong Kong.

With an aesthetic that vaguely echoes the silent-film era, David Lynch's *Eraserhead* is guaranteed to suck you into its eerie world and spit you back out both enthralled and appalled. Choose to decipher its linearity or just go along for the ride — either way, you're about to have an incredibly intense movie experience.

THE ADVENTURES OF PRINCE ACHMED (Germany) 1926,

Image Entertainment

List price: \$29.99

IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE (Hong Kong)

2000, Criterion Collection

List price: \$39.95 (two discs)

ERASERHEAD (USA) 1977,

Absurda

List price: \$29.95

of the northern wilderness ("No longer to be poisoned by civilization," he carved into a wooden shingle at his encampment), where ultimately he starved to death in 1992. It may not sound like much of an idea for a film. It isn't. A Seventies-style road movie, redolent of Seventies-style disaffection, it has a strong element of travelogue, as our happy-go-lucky hobo rides his aging Datsun westward to South Dakota, abandons it at Lake Mead, kayaks down the Colorado River, drifts into Mexico, train-hops up to L.A., thumbs his way to the Salton Sea, Anza Borrego, and Alaska. In that final destination, the travelogue veers toward nature documentary. At nearly two and a half hours, the film feels very, very long, albeit short on relatable incident: the protagonist goes places, he meets people, and then he goes to a place where he won't

meet people, where he will meet only his end, a martyr to something or other. Director Sean Penn unmistakably takes himself very seriously, and takes his protagonist almost reverently, painting him as something of a holy fool (a reader of Tolstoy, even though an eater of meat when he can get it), and offering up this speculative reenactment as nothing less than an endorsement. At the top, he sets the tone with a high-flown epigraph from Lord Byron: "I love not man the less, but Nature more" — that one. The kid sister periodically supplies some explanatory narration ("I understand what he was doing"), and Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder chimes in with a half-dozen or so acoustic songs in sympathy and support. Of the real protagonist's earnestness and conviction, the film can tell us next to nothing. Of the filmmaker's, it can tell us much. And

then it can tell us again. And again. With Emile Hirsch, Marcia Gay Harden, William Hurt, Jena Malone, Vince Vaughn, and Hal Holbrook. 2007.

★ (GASLAMP 15; LA PALOMA)

Juno — A slow starter. In the title role of a pregnant Minnesota high-schooler (named after the Roman goddess of marriage, fidelity, fertility), the dry flat sardonic line-delivery of Ellen Page, the angelic avenger of *Hard Candy*, is not easy to warm up to, no matter how much we might try to see it as an adolescent defense mechanism, or how much as humble emulation of Janeane Garofalo. And the garishly colorful dialogue, from first-time scripter and former stripper Diablo Cody, often tends to push too hard ("Being pregnant makes me pee like Seabiscuit"). The heroine, interested in

simply finding a good home for the baby, not in making a profit off it, finds a possible taker in the weekly *PennySaver* ("next to the exotic birds"), a neat-freaky suburban couple in the gated confines of Glacial Valley Estates. It's there that things really begin to get interesting. Our initial arrival at the housing development is alone sufficient to convince us of Jason Reitman's directorial bona fides: a series of static shots of anti-septic House Beautiful after House Beautiful as the car passes across the screen, left to right, in front of each. And the prospective mother, Jennifer Garner (her piano-wire tautness put to good use), turns out to be the neater of the pair, someone who will studiously ponder "custard" versus "cheesecake" as the color for baby's room, while the prospective father, Jason Bateman, proves to be the freakier, a stay-at-home composer of advertising ditties and a frustrated rock-and-roller. A curious, potentially dangerous after-school relationship blossoms between him and the heroine: he may be a commercial sell-out as a composer, but he's a person who can talk music to a teenager, and he demonstrates "decent taste in slasher movies" (e.g., Herschell Gordon Lewis's *The Wizard of Gore*, another impediment to our warming up to the heroine). Over time, the film builds, and it does so with proficiency, patience, and foresight. If the heroine is never wholly embraceable, the surrounding characters go far to compensate, specifically J.K. Simmons as her droll laconic dad, Allison Janney as her worldly-wise, even-keeled mom, and above all, Michael Cera as her shunted-aside, unassertive, but ever-faithful boyfriend, the baby's biological father, and a cooler dude than you'd ever guess from his track-team togs. And if the dialogue is unabatingly overcolored, at least the hues are spread around democratically. 2007.

★★★ (CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HILL-CREST CINEMAS; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Kite Runner — From the Khaled Hosseini novel, directed by Marc Forster (*Finding Neverland*, *Stranger Than Fiction*), a story about a storyteller, and in large part a story truly worthy of a storyteller. The remaining parts are hackneyed and/or hokey. Main elements: two boyhood pals in Kabul, 1978, the sons of master and servant, and the psychologically penetrating betrayal of the second by the first, our evolving storyteller. Notwithstanding the graphic barbarities of the Taliban in the year 2000, the film takes a tactical and tactful approach to the Islamic topic, and the nostalgic re-creation of life in the Afghanistan of yesteryear (handsomely photographed in the bargain) is highly beneficial: the competitive, combative, and colorful kite flying, the Pashto-dubbed print of *The Magnificent Seven* (Charles Bronson's accent giving him away as a native Iranian), the swanky comforts of the hero's home, the imposing figure of his principled, civilized, dignified father (ably embodied by the star of *Taste of Cherry*, Homayoun Ershadi), destined to run a gas station in Fremont after fleeing the Soviet invaders. The besetting problems of dividing a screen role between a younger and an older actor are brutally spotlighted in the scene where a Taliban bully tells the now adult hero that he never forgets a face, when in truth the face little resembles the one that the bully last saw. It is not surprising that the hero, in turn, doesn't recognize the bully. With Khalid Abdalla, Zekeria Ebrahimi, and Ahmad Khan Mahmudzada. 2007.

★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Mad Money — A demographically diverse trio of women (Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah, Katie Holmes) are of undivided mind about the wisdom and fun of siphoning off wrinkled old bills, marked for shredding, from the Kansas City Federal Reserve. The director, Callie Khouri, makes a unanimous fourth. A caper comedy heedless of consequences, completely inconsequential. With Ted Danson. 2008.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ES-

CONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Meet the Spartans — Spoof of 300, with Sean Maguire, Carmen Electra, and Kevin Sorbo, co-written and co-directed by Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Michael Clayton — The title figure is the designated fixer for the elite Manhattan law firm of Kenner, Bach & Ledeen, touted as a "miracle worker" but more modest in his self-assessment: "I'm not a miracle worker, I'm a janitor. The smaller the mess, the easier it is for me to clean it up." And a three-billion-dollar class action suit against his firm's biggest client, United Northfield, or UNorth for short, makes a very big mess. Aside from being George Clooney, the hero doesn't look like much. Crushed under a mountain of debt, sworn off the gambling habit (notwithstanding a prefatory relapse at the poker table), run ragged by his job, begging his boss for an advance and getting the brush-off, he has little time for his neglected son and none for a shave. In addition to all that, Clooney has firmly suppressed the head-wagging smugness that so often chills his charm. In fact he has sunken into the part quite deeply and depressively. We keep waiting to see some sign of a miracle. And waiting. In its bald essentials — the soulless law firm, the monolithic corporation, the robotic hit men, the stirrings of conscience and poses of piety, the mechanics of comeuppance — the film is fairly standard-issue. But screenwriter (the *Bourne* series) and first-time director Tony Gilroy, beginning with the nonlinear narrative arrangement, has devised an all-over strategy of tease and obfuscation, very clever at disguising the lack of cleverness. Very clever, that is, in presentation, not in plot, character, idea. If we sometimes grow weary of not knowing what the hell people are talking about, we never altogether get weary of wanting to know. Tilda Swinton, Tom Wilkinson, Sydney Pollack. 2007.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Nanking — Bill Guttentag's and Dan Sturman's historical documentary on the Japanese invasion of China in 1937. (KEN, 2/1 THROUGH 7)

National Treasure: Book of Secrets — National disgrace: another overtaxed premise with an eye to a Franchise. ("This doesn't involve another treasure hunt, does it?") The honorable name of Gates has been implicated in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and rather than finding this historically intriguing, the present-day Gateses find it personally insulting. Exoneration will lie on a path through the Statue of Liberty, Buckingham Palace, the White House, Mount Vernon, Mount Rushmore, and the legendary City of Gold, as well as through exaggerated CG-aided action. With Nicolas Cage, Diane Kruger, Justin Bartha, Jon Voight, Helen Mirren, Harvey Keitel, and Ed Harris; directed by Jon Turteltaub. 2007.

● (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

No Country for Old Men — The Coen brothers' first literary adaptation, from a Cormac McCarthy original, an overwhelmingly bloody pulp thriller, plumped up with folksy first-person social commentary in italics, about a Texas good ole boy who stumbles upon the internecine scene of a

drug deal gone bad, makes off with a satchel of cash, and tries to ditch the implacable hired killer (among others) on his trail. Sharing the writing credit as always and sharing the directing credit as they only began to do with *The Ladykillers*, the brothers were smart to cut down the social commentary — the Decline of Western Civilization as viewed by an aging third-generation lawman — to a single block of voice-over at the outset (“Some of the old-time sheriffs never even wore a gun”), and to sprinkle any additional such commentary lightly into the dialogue (“Once you quit hearing ‘sir’ and ‘ma’am,’ the rest is soon to follow”). Without those repeated and repetitive interruptions, the simple pursuit narrative — the killer pursuing the filcher, the lawman pursuing both — unfolds as lean, linear, streamlined, and yet slow, steady, and long, never very deep. And on the Coens’ part, never very inventive. They have followed McCarthy’s blueprint scrupulously, even slavishly, and have bountifully harvested his lip-smacking dialogue; and the major unconventionalities in this mostly conventional thriller are all his. (For better or for worse.) To be sure, the Coens are meticulous technicians, supremely skillful, attentive to the minutest detail. And while the body count climbs numbingly high, the tension in individual set pieces is teased out to an exquisite agony, and with no artificial boost from any background music. (The Coens’ regular composer, Carter Burwell, gets credited for the exit music.) Certainly a personal touch, a personal sense of humor, comes into the local-color cameos of gas-station attendant, motel clerk, hotel clerk, trailer-park manager, etc., etc. And perhaps a somewhat unseemly humor, or at least unseemly delight, comes into the characterization of the psychopathic killer, with his robotic delivery of lines, his torturous banter, his gimmicky weapon (a compressed-air tank for blowing locks out of doors and blowing holes in heads), and above all his Engelbert Humperdinck haircut circa 1972 (hair humor always being big with the Coens). Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Kelly Macdonald, Woody Harrelson. 2007.

★★★★ (ESCONDIDO 16; FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

One Missed Call — Serial deaths with a pattern: a young person receives a cell-phone message of his or her own voice, saying his or her last words, dated two days before he or she says them, ultimately dying on schedule with a marble of rock candy in his or her mouth, after seeing nightmarish visions of millipedes, zombies, and such. “What the hell’s happening?” someone naturally inquires. There must be an explanation, though it can’t hold water — or interest. Drudging remake of a Japanese horror film, manifestly not one of the better ones. With Shannyn Sossamon, Edward Burns, Ana Claudia Talancón, Azura Skye, Johnny Lewis, Ray Wise, and Margaret Cho; directed by Eric Valette. 2008.

● (MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

The Orphanage — Spanish ghost story that strives at all times to stay within arm’s reach of ambiguity — real ghosts or overheated imagination? — in the mold of the Henry James prototype, *The Turn of the Screw*, or at any rate in the mold of the academic squabbles over it. James may have set out to write a straightforward ghost story, but was, bless his unsullied soul, incapable of it. Director J.A. Bayona is no James, nor is he even a Jack Clayton, the judicious filmmaker who turned *The Turn...* into *The Innocents* on screen. The basic situation without doubt seems primed for “resonance,” and the lead actress, Belén Rueda, seems primed almost for spontaneous combustion. An adopted orphan returns to the palatial orphanage thirty years later, with plans to reopen it, and with an adopted, HIV-positive orphan of her own. The boy, already inclined towards imaginary playmates, appears to have made contact with the ghosts of half a dozen children

still hanging about the place, and soon goes missing. His mother then goes bananas. Bayona’s tightwired act of trying to walk a line of psychological subtlety while also trying to keep genre addicts on the hook tends to make the obligatory jolts feel all the more forced and factitious: the premonitory music, the startling noises, the creaking hinges, the magnified eyes of the pruned old lady behind her coke-bottle lenses, the fingers slammed in the bathroom door and the backward jackknife into the tub, the plowed-over pedestrian and the gruesome makeup on the carcass. Through all that, we are apt to remain, in common with the rational husband and police-woman, unconvinced and unmoved. Ambiguity will have that effect. The climax, when the heroine is at last left alone in the house, nevertheless crams in two or three good shivers, but it goes on three or four steps too far. Fernando Cayo, Roger Príncipe, Geraldine Chaplin. 2007.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Over Her Dead Body — Eva Longoria Parker as a jealous ghost, with Paul Rudd and Lake Bell, written and directed by Jeff Lowell.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 2/1)

Persepolis — Cartoon recap of the comic-strip memoir by Marjane Satrapi, covering her childhood in Iran under (and then out from under) the Shah, her adolescence in Austria to escape the strictures of the Islamic Revolution, her return to her homeland as a depressed and medicated young woman, then a bride, then a divorcee, and her ultimate exile in France, stretching from the late Seventies, to put dates on it, to the early Nineties. The animation is not all that animated. With stiff movement, a flat visual field, and a black-and-white palette (but for the lightly colored framing scenes in the present tense), it is the furthest thing from the limitless taffy-pull of contemporary computer animation. It is in fact quite deliberately reactionary, a return to “nature” if you will, a homespun product of the human hand, staying as close as possible (notwithstanding some decorative embellishment here and there) to the naive style of the original drawings. And since Satrapi herself is credited as co-director along with a fellow comic artist, Vincent Paronnaud, we can be sure the result has her stamp of approval. The general effect, overriding any risk of trivialization, is something in the vicinity of the Brechtian “alienation effect,” something distancing, something cushioning, so that we experience such painful subjects as political oppression, imprisonment, torture, execution, etc., less viscerally and (for all the outward resemblance to a Saturday-morning TV kiddie cartoon) more cerebrally. That’s not to say the film goes in for in-depth analysis of Middle Eastern modern history. It goes at these subjects strictly from the point of view of a growing girl trying to make sense of them, and the emphasis gradually and

eventually shifts to the individual. If she started out to bear witness to the events of her time, she wound up in the long run a witness primarily to the witness. And she delivers her unblushingly personal testimony with candor, with humor, with self-deprecation, and with aesthetic distance — a distance commensurate to that provided by the primitive animation. Whatever mixed feelings we might have about that animation, they fall away as it becomes merely a serviceable vehicle, frugal and no frills, to convey the unhackneyed story. A useful medium, plain and simple. With the voices of Chiara Mastroianni, Catherine Deneuve, Danielle Darrieux, Simon Abkarian, and Gabrielle Lopes. 2007.

★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

P.S. I Love You — The overhanging question is whether a two-time Academy Award-winning actress, Hilary Swank, can lighten herself into the thespian weight-class of a Sandra Bullock or a Kate Hudson. The answer seems to be no, not when the director and co-writer, Richard LaGravenese, who directed her also in *Freedom Writers*, is intent on sniffing out pockets of genuine emotion in a mechanical tearjerker (and laugh-jerker) about a turning-thirty widow who learns to live again under the guidance of pre-written missives from her dear departed, Gerard Butler, a life-loving, beer-chugging Irish minstrel. (“Why,” she wonders in front of the TV screen one night, “can’t I be Bette Davis?” — another two-time Academy Award-winner, but an unequalled ten-time nominee.) Swank may

not be able, in a flashback to the meet-cute, to look quite like a college coed on her first tour of Europe, but she can touchingly act like one, and remind us in the process that one of her rarest gifts is her totally uncool enthusiasm. Kathy Bates, merely a one-time Academy Award-winner, has her moments, too, as Swank’s sourpuss mother. With Lisa Kudrow, Gina Gershon, and Harry Connick, Jr. 2007.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15)

Rambo — Reviewed this issue. With Sylvester Stallone, Julie Benz, Matthew Marsden, and Graham McTavish; directed by Stallone.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Savages — Philip Seymour Hoffman in the male lead, blond and bearded, as a Buffalo drama professor at work on a tome on Bertolt Brecht. And Laura Linney in the larger female lead, brunette and bedraggled, as an unproduced dramatist at work on a “subversive, semi-autobiographical play” (as she describes it in her grant applications) inspired by the works of Jean Genet, Eugene O’Neill, and cartoonist Lynda Barry. They are brother and sister,

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forced into the same yoke to deal with their demented father (Philip Bosco) after his Sun City “girlfriend” of twenty years kicks the bucket and her family kicks him out. These are big performances in a small film made up of small moments, a life-is-messy comedy of small (but not few) laughs. Writer and director Tamara Jenkins, not heard from since her (subversive, semi-autobiographical) *Slums of Beverly Hills*, seeks the universal in the individual — the particulars, the peculiarities, the normal abnormalities (the lachrymosity of Hoffman, the mendacity of Linney) — which is the right way to go about it. The peculiarities needn’t have been so artsy-fartsily peculiar. With Peter Friedman and Cara Seymour. 2007.

★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street — The Grand-Guignol Broadway musical (words and music by Stephen Sondheim), Tim Burtonized for Hollywood. Which means, among other things (such as less music), a ton-of-bricks production design, an ashen color scheme sometimes edging up to the border of black-and-white (excluding the rivers, lakes, geysers of rich red blood), and the *de rigueur* Johnny Depp, showing off a confident singing voice, as a frightfully frigid avenger, chilling in quite the wrong way. (Whoever said revenge is a dish best served cold can’t have meant straight from the freezer.) Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, and Timothy Spall are likewise not singers. 2007.

★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; SANTEE DRIVE 1N)

There Will Be Blood — Based loosely, so they say, on *Olliv*, a muckraking, boat-rocking, banned-in-Boston novel by Upton Sinclair (a writer partial to exclamation points in his titles), this is a kind of anti-epic, an anti-*Giant*, about a miserly, misanthropic,



Untraceable

nothing short of murderous American oil man in the first decades of the last century: warped beyond recognition as an exemplar of the enterprising capitalist. (The accompanying music credited to Jonny Greenwood of the British rock group Radiohead, edgy, skittery, dissonant, helps set the tone: not music to Build an Empire By, such as a Dimitri Tiomkin or a Max Steiner might have composed, but instead music to Squirrel Away Nuts for the Winter By.) The hard dirty work, at the outset, of digging a well all by his lonesome is vividly and wordlessly captured by writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson, yet it’s hardly adequate to explain or excuse the character’s subsequent aberrance, and his particular animus towards a hayseed faith healer (the initially very young and insufficiently aging Paul Dano), each of whom has his own inflexible reasons for not deferring to the other: the Self-Made Man versus the Man of God. Daniel Day-Lewis, ever the risk-taker, even if the risk (immurement in Victorian melodrama) is much the same as in *Gangs of New York*, makes of the protagonist a real

and repellently compelling figure when he’s not breaking the spell with his John Huston rollercoaster cadences. (Why would this depraved money-grubber, we keep asking ourselves, be impersonating the director of *The Maltese Falcon*, *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, whatever?) But two and a half hours, if all we’re going to do is gape, are a long time to spend in the company of such a man, a good hour or more too long. There will, as promised, be blood, though not any time soon, and never all that much. Kevin O’Connor, Ciarán Hinds. 2007.

★ (ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18; VISTA VILLAGE)

Touch of Evil — Orson Welles at his most rotund as director, but not quite most rotund as actor. Rotund enough, though. (“You’re a mess, honey,” he is told by a wise Mexican whore. “You ought to

lay off those candy bars.” And later, after he has sent an underling to fetch coffee, he mutters with sincere disappointment, “Didn’t you bring me any donuts or sweet rolls?”) As for orotund: the effect is made by wide-angle photography, sharply receding perspectives, and a tendency to keep the actors on the run, herding them directly toward or away from the camera. Because of all that, the movie appears to be taking place in some sort of wind tunnel, with the dialogue having to fight upwind to reach the audience and only doing so on a several-second delay. The grotesque characters are a lot of fun, most of all Dennis Weaver’s skittish, woodpeckerish motel manager, but the dime-novel truths about police corruption, Mexican bordertowns, the drug trade, etc., are trivialized (if possible) by the comic-book sensibility. With Charlton Heston, Janet Leigh, Marlene Dietrich, Akim Tamiroff, and Mercedes McCambridge. 1958.

★★★ (MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LA JOLLA, 1/31, 7 P.M.)

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14
4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 1:50) 4:15, 7:00; **Atonement** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:45) 4:20, 7:00, 9:40; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:45, 2:20) 5:20, 7:55, 10:25 Sun. (11:45, 2:20) 5:20, 7:55, 10:10; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 2:40) 4:55, 7:50, 9:55; **How She Move** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 7:05, 9:25; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:30) 5:00, 7:25, 9:50; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 2:25) 5:05, 7:20, 9:35; **Michael Clayton** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:25) 4:50, 10:20 Sun. (11:25) 4:50, 10:00; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (1:55) 7:30 Sun. (1:55) 7:20; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri.-Sun. 9:20p.m.; **Pirates Who Don’t Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie** (G) Fri.-Sun. (11:55, 2:15) 4:35; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:15, 2:35) 5:15, 7:45, 10:05; **Strange Wilderness** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:20, 3:00) 5:25, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (12:20, 3:00) 5:25, 8:00, 10:05; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 2:05) 4:45, 7:40, 10:15 Sun. (11:30, 2:05) 4:45, 7:40, 10:10; **Untraceable** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:40, 2:10) 4:40, 7:15, 9:45

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15
701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400)
Call theater for program information

Horton Plaza 14
Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)
Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour (G); **Charlie Wilson’s War** (R) Fri. (4:10) 7:05, (8:50, 11:20, 1:45) Sat.-Sun. 4:10, 7:05, (8:50, 11:20, 1:45); **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri. (5:30) 7:45, 9:50, 11:55, (8:45, 11:00, 1:10, 3:20) Sat.-Sun. 5:30, 7:45, 9:50, 11:55, (8:45, 11:00, 1:10, 3:20);

The Eye (PG-13) Fri. (9:15, 11:35, 1:55, 4:15) 7:00, 9:25, 11:45 Sat.-Sun. (9:15, 11:35, 1:55) 4:15, 7:00, 9:25, 11:45; **How She Move** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 9:30, 11:45; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sun. 7:50, 10:15, (8:55, 11:45, 2:10); **The Kite Runner** (PG-13) Fri. (5:00p.m.) Sat.-Sun. (5:00p.m.); **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri. (11:55, 5:10) 7:35 Sat.-Sun. (11:55) 5:10, 7:35; **Michael Clayton** (R) Fri. (9:05, 11:50, 2:35, 5:15) 8:00, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (9:05, 11:50, 2:35) 5:15, 8:00, 10:45; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (9:00, 2:20) 10:10; **The Savages** (R) Fri. (11:50, 5:05) 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (11:50) 5:05, 10:25; **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R) Fri.-Sun. (9:10, 2:25) 7:40; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri. (9:30, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00) 7:30, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (9:30, 12:00, 2:30) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; **Untraceable** (R) Fri. (9:00, 11:25, 1:50, 4:20) 7:10, 9:35 Sat.-Sun. (9:00, 11:25, 1:50) 4:20, 7:10, 9:35

LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12
8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)
The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri. 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (10:15) 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20; **Cassandra’s Dream** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 1:00, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00; **Charlie Wilson’s War** (R) Fri. 1:45, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40 Sat. (11:10) 1:45, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40 Sun. 1:45, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri. 12:20, 2:30, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30 Sat.-Sun. (10:15) 12:20, 2:30, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri. 12:50, 3:15, 5:50, 8:25, 10:55 Sat.-Sun. (10:35) 12:50, 3:15, 5:50, 8:25, 10:55; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 1:25, 7:10; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri. 1:15, 3:30, 5:35, 7:55, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (11:00) 1:15, 3:30, 5:35, 7:55, 10:10; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri. 1:35, 4:30, 7:35, 10:35 Sat. (10:45) 1:35, 4:30, 7:35, 10:35 Sun. 1:35, 4:30, 7:35, 10:35; **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13) Fri. 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (10:10) 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:45; **Rambo** (R) Fri. 12:35, 2:45, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (10:20) 12:35, 2:45, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri. 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (10:10) 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45; **Untraceable** (R) Fri. 1:05, 3:20,

5:45, 8:15, 10:40 Sat. (10:50) 1:05, 3:20, 5:45, 8:15, 10:40 Sun. 1:05, 3:20, 5:45, 8:15, 10:40

La Jolla Village

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)
Atonement (R) Fri. 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. 11:05, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55; **The Kite Runner** (PG-13) Fri. 4:15, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. 10:55, 4:15, 9:45; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri. 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. 11:15, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05; **The Savages** (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:30, 7:00; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri. 2:00, 5:15, 8:30 Sat.-Sun. 10:45, 2:00, 5:15, 8:30

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa 18
10733 Westview Parkway (858-635-7700)
Call theater for program information

MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18
7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:20) 1:50, 4:15, 7:00, 9:20; **Charlie Wilson’s War** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:30) 2:10, 4:50, 7:25, 9:55; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35) 2:05, 4:40, 7:05, 8:05, 9:15, 10:20 Fri.-Sun. (11:35) 2:05, 4:40, 7:05, 9:15; **The Eye** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 12:50, 3:10, 5:35, 7:55, 10:25; **First Sunday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 10:00p.m.; **How She Move** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:10) 7:35; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sun. (10:55) 1:35, 4:10, 6:50, 9:25; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:15) 1:45, 4:35, 7:20, 9:50; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:00) 1:15, 3:35, 5:55, 8:15, 10:35 Sun. (11:00) 1:15, 3:35, 5:55, 8:00, 10:10; **Michael Clayton** (R) Fri.-Sun. 4:45p.m.; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sun. 1:05, 4:05, 7:15, 10:10; **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:40) 1:10, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:45 Sun. (10:40) 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:20; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 1:55, 10:05; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:45) 12:00, 1:00, 2:15, 3:15, 4:30, 5:30, 6:45, 7:50, 9:10, 10:30; **Strange Wilderness** (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:35) 12:55, 3:20, 5:50, 8:10, 10:40 Sun. (10:35) 12:55, 3:20, 5:40, 8:05, 10:25; **There**

Will Be Blood (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:50) 2:20, 6:10, 9:40; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:05) 12:05, 1:40, 2:35, 4:20, 5:20, 7:10, 9:45; **Untraceable** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:50) 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15

Mission Valley 7
7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)
Atonement (R); **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Cloverfield** (PG-13); **Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour** (G); **Michael Clayton** (R); **There Will Be Blood** (R); **27 Dresses** (PG-13)

Mission Valley 20
1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); **Atonement** (R); **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Cloverfield** (PG-13); **The Eye** (PG-13); **First Sunday** (PG-13); **Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour** (G); **How She Move** (PG-13); **I Am Legend** (No Rating); **Mad Money** (PG-13); **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13); **Michael Clayton** (R); **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG); **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13); **Rambo** (R); **Strange Wilderness** (R); **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R); **There Will Be Blood** (R); **27 Dresses** (PG-13); **Untraceable** (R)

STATE UNIVERSITY
Ken
4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
A Hard Day’s Night (1964) (G) Sat. 11:55p.m.; **Nanking** (R) Fri. 5:00, 7:15, 9:30 Sat.-Sun. 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas
3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)
Juno (PG-13) Fri. 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri. 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. 10:55, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55; **Persepolis** (PG-13) Fri. 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05;

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)

27 Dresses — Girly fairy tale to do with the proverbial always-a-bridesmaid, twenty-seven times by actual count, with a closetful of once-worn gowns to prove it, who stands mutely by as her slutty younger sister returns home and steals her dreamy boss right out from under her nose. Screenwriter Aline Brosh McKenna and director Anne Fletcher unapologetically accept all the romantic-comic conventions, the contrivances, the clichés, and tidy them into shape as if with a nail file and vial of varnish. Katherine Heigl, blandly beautiful whenever her face-crumpling fierceness isn’t spoiling the effect, gets an opportunity to play a more coherent character than in *Knocked Up*, and demonstrates a fine control of the light and shade of legible emotion. She keeps the blahs at bay. James Marsden, Malin Akerman, Edward Burns, Judy Greer. 2008.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

U2 3D — Documentary on the Irish rock band’s “Vertigo” tour, directed by Catherine Owens and Mark Pellington. (MIRA MESA 18)

Untraceable — Reviewed this issue. With Diane Lane, Billy Burke, Colin Hanks, and Joseph Cross; directed by Gregory Hoblit. ● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

War/Dance — Patongo Primary School, from the rebel-infested war zone in northern Uganda, qualifies for the National Mu-

Chronos (Not Rated) Fri. 6:00p.m.; **Dinosaurs Alive!** (NR) Fri.-Sun. 1:00, 5:00; **The Living Sea** (Not Rated) Fri. 3:00, 9:00 Sat. 11:00, 3:00, 7:00 Sun. 11:00, 3:00; **Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure** (No Rating) Fri. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 8:00 Sat. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 Sun. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00; **Wild California** (NR) Fri. 7:00p.m.

San Diego Natural History Museum
1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)
Ocean Oasis (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18
405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)
Call theater for program information

LA MESA

Grossmont Center
Grossmont Center (619-465-7100)
Atonement (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:50) 4:25, 7:05, 9:45; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:10) 4:40, 7:15, 9:40; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 1:45, 3:50) 5:55, 8:25, 10:35; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:40, 3:05) 5:30, 8:00, 10:25; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:25, 1:40, 3:45) 5:50, 8:20, 10:30; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:50, 3:15) 5:35, 7:50, 10:05; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00, 10:20; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 2:50) 5:15, 7:45, 10:10; **Untraceable** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:20, 2:45) 5:10, 7:35, 9:55

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Rancho San Diego 15
2951 Jamacha Road
Call theater for program information

SANTEE

Santee Drive In
10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)
The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; **Clover-**

sic Competition for the first time ever. Glossily photographed documentary (with an overreliance on warping wide-angle lenses), but very skimpy in its coverage of the actual competition. And after an hour's worth of horrific war stories from the

mouths of children, you may be in no mood. Directed by Sean Fine and Andrea Nix. 2007.

★ (KEN, THROUGH 1/31)

The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep — A fatherless lad during WWII finds the egg of “the rarest of all creatures” — only one on the planet at a time — and nurses the hatchling into the Loch Ness Monster, easily mistakable for a

Nazi submarine. Spectacular scenery (New Zealand supplementing Scotland) as the backdrop for a gruesomely cute CG critter and some strong-arm manipulation. With Alex Etel, Emily Watson, Ben Chaplin, David Morrissey, and Brian Cox; directed

by Jay Russell. 2007.

● (MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

field (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sun.; **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R) Fri.-Sun.

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista 10

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214) **Alvin and the Chipmunks** (PG); **Cloverfield** (PG-13); **The Eye** (PG-13); **First Sunday** (PG-13); **Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour** (G); **How She Move** (PG-13); **Mad Money** (PG-13); **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13); **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13); **Rambo** (R); **27 Dresses** (PG-13); **Untraceable** (R)

Otay Ranch 12

Eastlake Parkway at Olympic (858-558-2262) **Atonement** (R); **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Cloverfield** (PG-13); **The Eye** (PG-13); **Juno** (PG-13); **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13); **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG); **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13); **Rambo** (R); **Strange Wilderness** (R); **27 Dresses** (PG-13); **Untraceable** (R)

Palm Promenade 24

770 Denny Road (858-558-2262) **Alvin and the Chipmunks** (PG); **Atonement** (R); **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Cloverfield** (PG-13); **The Eye** (PG-13); **First Sunday** (PG-13); **Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour** (G); **How She Move** (PG-13); **I Am Legend** (No Rating); **Juno** (PG-13); **Mad Money** (PG-13); **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13); **Michael Clayton** (R); **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG); **No Country for Old Men** (R); **One Missed Call** (PG-13); **The Orphanage** (R); **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13); **Rambo** (R); **Strange Wilderness** (R); **There Will Be Blood** (R); **Trailer Park Boys: The Movie** (R); **27 Dresses** (PG-13); **Untraceable** (R); **The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep** (PG)

Rancho Del Rey 16

East H Street (619-216-4707)
Call theater for program information

IMPERIAL BEACH

South Bay Drive-In

2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)
Call theater for program information

NORTH INLAND

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Carmel Mountain

11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770) **Alvin and the Chipmunks** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (12:45, 3:05) 5:30, 7:45 Sun. (12:45, 3:05) 5:30; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:25, 2:50) 5:15, 7:30, 9:50 Sun. (12:25, 2:50) 5:15, 7:30; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:40, 2:45) 4:50, 7:15, 9:40 Sun. (12:40, 2:45) 4:50, 7:15; **How She Move** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 7:20, 9:50 Sun. 7:20p.m.; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 10:10p.m. Sun. 7:45p.m.; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:15, 2:20) 4:35, 6:45, 9:30 Sun. (12:15, 2:20) 4:35, 6:45; **Michael Clayton** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 2:30) 5:05, 7:40, 10:15 Sun. (12:00, 2:30) 5:05, 7:40; **Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie** (G) Fri.-Sun. (12:50, 2:55) 5:00; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:20, 2:40) 5:10, 7:35, 10:00 Sun. (12:20, 2:40) 5:10, 7:35; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 3:15) 6:30, 9:45 Sun. (12:00, 3:15) 6:30; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:30) 4:30, 7:10, 9:45 Sun. (12:30) 4:30, 7:10; **Untraceable** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:35, 3:00) 5:25, 7:45, 10:05 Sun. (12:35, 3:00) 5:25, 7:45

ESCONDIDO

Escondido 16

350 W. Valley Parkway (760-291-0119) **Alvin and the Chipmunks** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:50, 3:55) 6:30, 9:30; **Atonement** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 3:35) 6:55, 10:00; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:15, 2:55) 6:40, 9:40; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 3:50) 8:00, 10:20; **The Eye** (PG-13) Fri. (12:55, 4:10) 7:10, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (12:55) 4:10, 7:10, 9:50; **How She Move** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (2:45) 10:30; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri. (4:30) 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (4:30) 10:40; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:20, 3:10) 7:15, 9:45; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri. (12:05, 5:10) 7:55 Sat.-Sun. (12:05) 5:10, 7:55; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri. (12:45, 3:00, 5:15) 7:30, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. (12:45, 3:00) 5:15, 7:30, 9:55; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sun.

(12:35, 3:40) 6:45, 10:05; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:00) 7:45; **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13) Fri. (1:05, 4:50) 7:20, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (1:05) 4:50, 7:20, 10:10; **Rambo** (R) Fri. (12:10, 2:40, 5:05) 7:50, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (12:10, 2:40) 5:05, 7:50, 10:15; **Strange Wilderness** (R) Fri. (1:15, 4:20) 7:40, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (1:15) 4:20, 7:40, 10:45; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00, 10:25; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:40, 3:20) 6:50, 9:35; **Untraceable** (R) Fri. (1:10, 4:40) 7:25, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (1:10) 4:40, 7:25, 10:35

FALLBROOK

River Village

5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784) **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13); **No Country for Old Men** (R); **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13); **Persepolis** (PG-13); **27 Dresses** (PG-13)

POWAY

Poway 10

13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423) **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Cloverfield** (PG-13); **Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour** (G); **Juno** (PG-13); **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13); **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13); **Rambo** (R); **There Will Be Blood** (R); **27 Dresses** (PG-13); **Untraceable** (R)

SAN MARCOS

San Marcos 18

1180 West San Marcos Boulevard at Old California Walk (760-471-3711) **Alvin and the Chipmunks** (PG) Fri. (11:40, 2:00, 4:40) 7:05 Sat.-Sun. (11:40, 2:00) 4:40, 7:05; **Atonement** (R) Fri. (1:25, 4:20) 7:10, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (1:25) 4:20, 7:10, 10:00; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri. (11:50, 2:15, 4:45)

7:15, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:50, 2:15) 4:45, 7:15, 9:45; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri. (1:55, 4:15) 7:00, 9:20 Sat.-Sun. (1:55) 4:15, 7:00, 9:20; **The Eye** (PG-13) Fri. (12:00, 2:30, 5:00) 7:30, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (12:00, 2:30) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; **How She Move** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 9:30p.m.; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sun. (12:50, 3:50) 6:40, 9:15; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:55, 3:40) 6:50, 9:25; **The Kite Runner** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (3:10) 6:55; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:45) 9:55; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri. (12:20, 2:55, 4:55) 7:25, 9:40 Sat.-Sun. (12:20, 2:55) 4:55, 7:25, 9:40; **Michael Clayton** (R) Fri.-Sun. 7:10, 10:10; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri. (1:15, 4:10) 7:55, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (1:15) 4:10, 7:55, 10:45; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri. (4:45) 7:45, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. 4:45, 7:45, 10:45; **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13) Fri. (12:15, 2:45, 5:15) 7:45, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:20; **Pirates Who Don't Do**

Anything: A VeggieTales Movie (G) Fri. (12:10, 2:20, 4:50) Sat.-Sun. (12:10, 2:20) 4:50; **Rambo** (R) Fri. (12:05, 2:35, 5:05) 7:40, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (12:05, 2:35) 5:05, 7:40, 10:05; **Strange Wilderness** (R) Fri. (12:25, 2:50, 5:10) 7:35, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (12:25, 2:50) 5:10, 7:35, 10:25; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 3:15) 6:45, 10:15; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri. (11:55, 2:40, 5:15) 7:50, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (11:55, 2:40) 5:15, 7:50, 10:30; **Untraceable** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 3:05) 7:20, 9:50; **The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:05)

VISTA

Vista Village

Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7469) **Alvin and the Chipmunks** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 2:15, 4:30); **Atonement** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:50) 7:10; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 2:10, 4:35) 7:05, 9:30; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:05, 1:20, 3:35, 5:45) 8:00, 10:20; **The Eye** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 2:20, 3:15, 4:50, 5:40) 7:20, 8:10, 10:40; **First Sunday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:25, 4:45) 10:00; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:15, 2:35, 5:00) 7:25, 9:50; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:45) 9:40; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15) 7:35, 9:50; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:40, 4:35) 7:30, 10:20; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri.-Sun. 7:00, 10:05; **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:15, 2:40, 5:05) 7:25, 9:50; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 3:05, 5:25) 7:50, 10:15; **Strange Wilderness** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:30) 7:45, 10:00; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00, 10:25; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:00, 5:00) 7:40, 10:15; **Untraceable** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:15, 4:45) 7:15, 9:45

NORTH COASTAL

CARLSBAD

Plaza Camino Real

2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469) **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 7:45, 9:55 Sun. (12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 7:45; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:45, 2:10, 4:45) 7:15, 9:40 Sun. (11:45, 2:10, 4:45) 7:15; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:10, 3:30) 7:00, 10:10 Sun. (12:10, 3:30) 7:00; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 2:30, 5:00) 7:30, 9:50 Sun. (12:00, 2:30, 5:00) 7:30

DEL MAR

Del Mar Highlands 8

El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road (858-646-9420) **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Cloverfield** (PG-13); **The Eye** (PG-13); **Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour** (G); **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13); **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13); **27 Dresses** (PG-13); **Untraceable** (R)

Flower Hill 4

2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425) **Atonement** (R); **Juno** (PG-13); **No Country for Old Men** (R); **There Will Be Blood** (R)

ENCINITAS

La Paloma

471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-SHOW) **Into the Wild** (R) Sat.-Sun. 3:00, 6:00, 9:00

LA COSTA

La Costa 6

6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221) **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Cloverfield** (PG-13); **Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour** (G); **Juno** (PG-13); **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13); **27 Dresses** (PG-13)

OCEANSIDE

Mission Marketplace 13

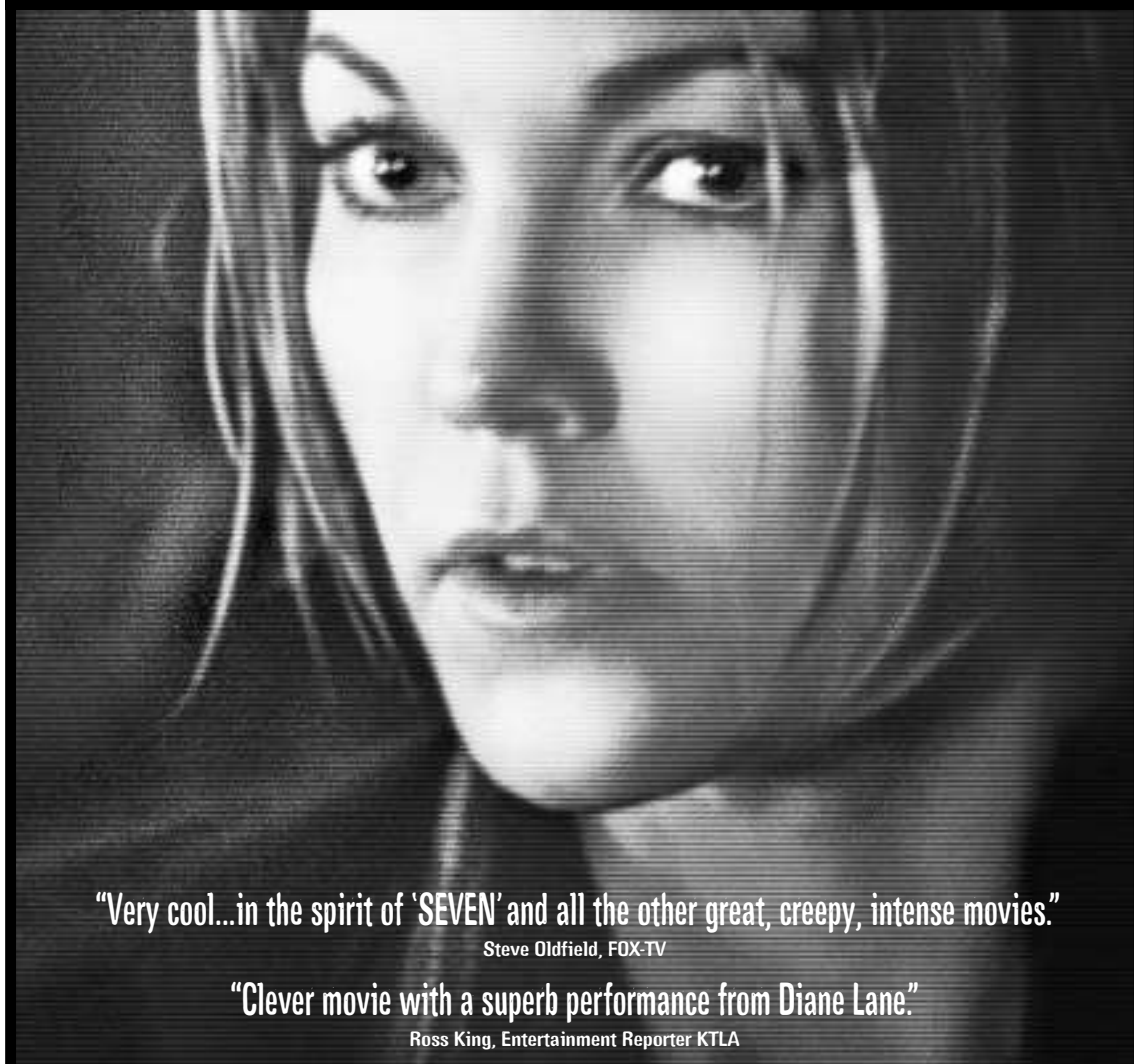
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Oceanside 16

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CLOTHING BY JACQUELINE COLETTI
COSTUME DESIGNER ANDY BRINKER
COSTUME COORDINATOR ANDY BRINKER
COSTUME STYLING BY JACQUELINE COLETTI
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AIDE/HELPER. Pacific Beach. House chores, some cooking, some driving (using my car). Saturday/Sunday 5 hours a day, 10 hours total/week, 1pm-6pm/flexi-

ble. Living nearby helpful, check not cash, \$9.25-\$9.75/hour. 858-274-5078.

AIRLINE ATTENDANTS: Group interview 5pm Thursday, February 7, at Holiday Inn Express Old Town, 3900 Old Town Avenue, San Diego, CA, 92110. Please bring a copy of your resume and apply online. www.skywest.com/careers.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT Counselors. We are seeking treatment counselors to help us meet the needs of our dual-diagnosed clients at our licensed facility in the Flynn Springs area of El Cajon. Treatment Specialist II (\$11/hour) requires A.A. degree or CAARR certification and related work experience. Treatment Specialist I (\$9.25/hour) requires HS/GED, willingness to enroll in

A&D certification program. Requires passing criminal background check. Full and part-time available. Call: 619-282-8211; e-mail: hr@voa-swalc.org; or mail: Volunteers of America Southwest California, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

ANIMAL CARE ASSISTANT. 2 positions. City of Chula Vista. \$2722-\$3308/month. Performs routine animal shelter maintenance and operations work. Apply by 2/15/08. City of Chula Vista, 263 Fig Avenue, Chula Vista 91910. www.chulavista.gov.

ANIMAL CARETAKER. Part-time Pet Sitter. Permanent. 7 days plus holidays. Split shift. Infrequent traveler, bonded, positive

mindful, ethical, prompt. Reliable car. 619-685-7979.

APARTMENT ASSISTANT MANAGER Part-time, off-site, assistant manager. Experience in computers and office skills. Strong renter with transportation. Call 619-692-3124.

APARTMENT MANAGER. Best compensation package: apartment, salary, bonuses, cell. 2 and 3 bedroom apartments. Full-time maintenance on-site. 2 years minimum residential manager experience required. goldenstateaviation@yahoo.com.

APARTMENT MANAGER. Experienced manager for an onsite 92 unit complex in El Cajon. Substantial salary. Lodging.

Nice atmosphere. Couples welcomed. Fax resume to 619-303-2080.

APPOINTMENT SETTER. \$50K plus earning potential! Experienced, aggressive, persistent only! Good telephone voice. Cold calling to businesses/individuals. Hourly rate plus bonus per sale/appointment. 619-922-5105.

APPOINTMENT SETTER. No selling! \$10/hour base pay. Earn up to \$20/hour! No experience needed. Just book appointments. Money motivated, reliable people for 9am-3pm shift, Monday-Friday. Additional hours available. Gateway Marketing, San Diego: 619-697-5600. Escondido: 760-743-0050.

APPOINTMENT SETTER. www.monarchjobs.com. Up to \$500-\$1000+ weekly! Paid weekly. AM/PM shifts. Full, part time. Medical, dental. Near Grantville trolley. Call today, start today! Mission Valley: 619-516-4276.

ARTIST WANTED. Paint on kitchen closet, pantries, Hawaii tropical scenery, plumerias. Birds of paradise. Scenery should be mural. Realistic style painting. Pay cash, 760-723-7373, 818-535-9955.

ASSET PROTECTION OFFICERS. Guard Management, Inc. provides all training, Guard Card testing, Live Scan for GMI potential hires. Hiring full/part time countywide. Immediate placement with valid California Guard Card. Excellent compensation, growth potential to \$20.00/hour for Field Officers. Recruitment bonus, 401(k), health, professional certification. Apply: 8001 Vickers Street, San Diego. Eligibility is conditional. 858-244-1896 or e-mail resume: FJohnson@GMIweb.com.

BALLROOM DANCE INSTRUCTORS. San Diego ballroom studio. Full-time positions for ambitious, outgoing individuals. Salary: \$15-\$25/hour plus commission. Paid vacation, sick days. 858-451-3775. www.dancemotionstudios.com.

BARTENDERS NEEDED. Looking for part/full time bartenders. Several positions available. No experience required. With hourly wages and tips make up to \$300 per shift. Call 800-806-0082 x200. (AAN CAN).

BOOTH RENTALS. Hair Menagerie in Clairemont. Off Balboa and Genessee near Conroy's Flowers. Small salon, great fun yet professional attitude. Join us! Cindy, 858-569-6233; 619-300-6629.

CALL CENTER. (Outbound). MDI offers paid holidays after 520 hours and vacation bonuses after 2000 hours. MDI Staffing, 8316 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, #204. Fax 858-277-5621. Call 858-277-5680.

CAREGIVER LIVE-IN. Experienced for active male quad. Good driving record a must. Salary plus room and board. Background check. For more info: 619-466-9189.

CAREGIVER. Provide assistance to adults with developmental disabilities. Apply: Home of Guiding Hands, 1825 Gillespie Way #200, El Cajon, CA, 92020, on-line: www.guidinghands.org, call: 619-938-3057.

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Petco Park, Home of Your San Diego Padres

We are looking for team players for the "Team behind the Team."

Concessions, Retail & Warehouse

Saturday, February 2, 2008: 11:00 am-4:00 pm

Wednesday, February 13, 2008: 4:00 pm-8:00 pm

Tuesday, February 26, 2008: 4:00 pm-7:00 pm

At the Western Metals Building located across from the Marriott on Tony Gwynn Dr.

Qualified applicants should have food service or retail background, but we will train the right individuals.

Positions available include:

Stand Leaders, Stand Attendants, Event Porters, Day Porters, Food Preps, Cooks, Vending Commissary Leaders, Vending Commissary Workers, Food & Beverage Vendors, Team Store Clerks, Program Vendors
Non-union positions: Level Supervisors

****Must be able to work Padres home games, including playoffs****

Fine Dining (Suites, In-seat & Clubs)

Tuesday, February 19, 2008: 4:00 pm-8:00 pm

Saturday, February 23, 2008: 11:00 am-4:00 pm

At the Western Metals Building located across from the Marriott on Tony Gwynn Dr.

Qualified applicants should have fine dining food service background, but we will train the right individuals.

Positions available include:

Bartenders, Bar Backs, Club Servers, In-Seat Servers, In-Seat Runners, Suite Runners, Cooks (event-only & pre-event), Food Preps (event-only & pre-event), Host Persons
Non-union positions: Level Supervisors

•DNC Sportservice requires pre-employment drug testing and criminal background checks.

****Must be able to work Padres home games, including playoffs****

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Please dress in appropriate interview attire (no jeans, sneakers, sandals, T-shirts, etc.).

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CAREGIVERS. Beautiful assisted living facility in Poway has day shifts available (7am-7pm). Benefits, bonuses, extra pay for weekends. Must be kind and caring! Call 858-674-1255 x206.

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CAREGIVERS. Home Instead Senior Care needs cheerful, dependable people to help seniors stay at home with our non-medical home care services. Competitive pay/training. Flexible hours. Great benefits. Central/East Jobline: 619-433-6200. South Bay/Coastal: 858-277-3722.

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CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Minimum 1 year experience non-medical home care for seniors. Valid California Driver's License. Serving Santee/La Mesa/Del Cerro/San Carlos. Maureen, Visiting Angels, 619-749-7525.

CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Visiting Angels, America's Choice in Homecare. Now hiring compassionate, caring Caregivers/Companions. Requires minimum 1 year experience in non-medical home care for seniors and valid CA driver's license. Serving Poway, Rancho Penasquitos, Scripps Ranch and Mira Mesa areas. Call for an immediate interview: 760-703-2192.

CAREGIVERS/HOME HEALTH/Personal Assistants/CNAs. Get paid weekly! Hourly and live-in. Compassionate and dependable. Flexible hours, competitive pay. Apply weekdays, 8am-3pm: Right at Home 858-451-7844; 16486 Bernard Center Drive #124, San Diego, CA 92128. www.rahencintas.com.

CAREGIVERS: LIVE-INS, 2, 3, 4 or 5 days/week, \$120/day including sleep and meal periods. Weekends and hourly: 4-hour, 8-hour and 12-hour shifts, AM/PM. Top pay, flexible shifts 24/7, 401(k), production bonus, rewards for good work. Requires valid driver's license, vehicle/insurance, registration, one year of paid elder caregiving experience, eligibility to work in the United States. \$50 Hiring Bonus after 90 days of employment. Comfort Keepers, 2006 Workplace Excellence Medallion Award SDSHRM, San Diego: 619-795-6036. San Marcos: 760-598-3400.

CAREGIVERS for group home in El Cajon. Part-time. High school diploma or GED, fingerprinted. 619-441-5982.

CAREGIVERS needed immediately. 1 year experience. All shifts available. Hourly and live in. Call Assertive Home-care Services, 3774 Grove Street, Suite L-1, Lemon Grove. 619-466-6890.

CARPET CLEANER for growing carpet cleaning company in San Diego County. Must have clean DMV. Call today, start tomorrow! 858-577-0341.

CHEMICAL HANDLERS: JOB FAIR: Monday-Friday, February 4-8, 10am-3pm, at 10717 Camino Ruiz, Suite 252, Mira Mesa, CA 92126 (corner of Mira Mesa Boulevard and Camino Ruiz). The Eastridge Group, in partnership with Kyocera America, has the following temporary and temp-to-hire open positions: Machine Operators, Microscope Inspectors, Chemical Handlers. Benefits available! Attend our job fair or call for more info: 858-566-9111.

CIRCULATE PETITION. Circulate statewide political petition. \$100-\$200/day. Paid 3 times per week. All areas. Work immediately after a brief orientation. Call 24/7, 619-819-8950.

CIRCULATORS. Collect signatures on statewide petitions. No experience necessary. Paid 3x/week. \$10-\$30/hour. Independent contract work where/when you want. Full/part time. 619-230-9020.

CLASSROOM AIDES. Work with developmentally disabled children in non-public school. Experience preferred. Allied Gardens, Chula Vista, La Mesa. Monday-Friday, 7:30am-1pm. \$9.75/hour to start. EOE. www.vistahill.org. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453. EOE. Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

CLOSERS WANTED to generate leads for home improvement. No selling of products! Average income \$20-\$30+/hour, part-time! Monday-Saturday, day/evening. More info, 1-866-DRHARTY (1-866-374-2789). www.thhd.net.

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Exam Dates:

February 2, 2008 • 7:30 am Arrival

Southwestern College Cafeteria
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Sheriff's Administrative Center
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CNAs AND HHAs, Caregivers/Homemakers. We offer weekly pay, flexible schedules, and training. Hourly and live-ins wanted. Apply: Right at Home. 858-451-7844; or e-mail resume: employment@rahencinitas.com.

COMMERCIAL LOAN OFFICERS and Branch Manager positions available now. Generous commission splits, leads and proven marketing plans, work from home or office. No fees. 8 positions available. Fax resume to: 858-630-2236 or e-mail to: info@mortgageanexpertsinfo.com.

COMMUNITY TRAINING Specialist/Job Coach. \$9.75/hour to start. Assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. Behavioral and instructional programs. Implement schedules. 32.5

hours/week. Benefits. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453. Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm, Stein Education Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

CONSTRUCTION, REMODEL, room additions, carpentry. Must work in all trades. Truck and tools required. Call 619-280-3650.

CONSTRUCTION: Project Managers, Service Technicians, Installers. Seeking motivated, organized people experienced with design, blueprints, A/V systems installation. Benefits offered. Send resume: dplotkin@audioassociates.com; fax 619-461-9469. EOE.

CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY PROBATION Officer I. County of San Diego Probation De-

partment now hiring. Test Dates: February 2, 2008, 8am or March 1, 2008, 8am. Montgomery Middle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. High school diploma/GED. \$35,068-\$44,740/year. www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

CORRECTIONAL MONITOR. Want experience in the field of corrections? Monitor the activities of clients at our parolee program located in downtown San Diego ensuring the safety of the clients, the facility, and ensuring normal operations. Requires HS/GED and related work experience (\$8.25/hour). Call Human Resources: 619-282-8211; e-mail resume: hr@voa-swc.org; fax: 619-282-8210; or mail: Volunteers of America, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San

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CUSTOMER SERVICE/DISPATCHER. ARS of San Diego is seeking a motivated multitasker with good communication and leadership skills for a fast-paced environment. Must be a team player with a minimum of 5 years experience. Kevin, 858-677-5455 x113. kkeillington@ars.com, www.jobswithars.com. Drug-free work environment. License #791820.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/Front Counter for growing, fast paced reprographics company. Excellent Customer Service skills (verbal/handwritten). Paid weekly. Medical Dental, Life, 401k and incentive program. Work 6:30am-3:30pm. Call: 619-232-8440. Fax: 619-232-8043. E-mail: careers.sandiego@ocbinc.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE: Mayer Reprographics is seeking to train a detail-oriented individual with computer skills to

learn our business. Full time with benefits. 8:30am-5pm Monday-Friday—no weekends! Friendly work environment. E-mail resume to mike@mayer.com or apply in person at: 6331 Nancy Ridge Drive.

DATABASE EDITOR. Work with manufacturer catalogs & price lists to maintain/update both product & price data for electrical/plumbing distributors. High-level detail orientation/strong computer skills required. Carmel Mountain Ranch area. Approximately \$12.50/hour. Full-time temporary position. Reply with resume: Shirley_Vaughn@TradeService.com.

DELIVERY DRIVER. Full-time/part-time. \$8/hour. Weekends a must for well-established flower shop in Pacific Beach. Bring DMV printout to 1560 Garnet Avenue.

DELIVERY DRIVERS. Valentine's deliveries; flexible hours. Potential to earn up to \$50/hour! Own vehicle, insurance. Must have Thomas Guide. Kelly, The Flower Garden, 858-635-5503.

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DEMONSTRATORS. The ultimate job. \$15-\$25/hour. Pacific Home Remodeling, Inc. is seeking energetic and professional Demonstrators to promote our energy-efficient/green living products for our Show and Events Department. Make great money! No resume required. No experience necessary, training and materials provided. Growth opportunities. Call 877-411-4700. www.pacifichomere remodeling.com.

DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICER. County of San Diego Probation Department is now hiring. Test Dates: February 23, 2008 or March 22, 2008. Qualified applicants will be notified by mail of the time and location of the test. Applications must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to exam date. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree with experience. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony con-

victions. \$50,752-\$61,672/year. Safety Retirement-Sworn Officers 3% at age 50. Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply. Applications can be accessed online from the Job/Current Recruitment section of the County website at: <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov>. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

DEPUTY SHERIFF and Deputy Sheriff Detentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Hiring for two types of positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam Dates: Saturday, February 2, 2008, 7:30am arrival, Southwestern College Cafeteria, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista CA 91910 or Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 5:30pm arrival, Sheriff's Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123. Registration by e-mail or phone is required for the Ridgehaven test ONLY at: recruit@sdsheriff.org. Detention/Courts: \$39,796-\$61,608 annual salary, plus benefits. 18-year-olds eligible to apply! Deputy Sheriff: \$49,704-\$71,099 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applicant for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID and \$3 for parking at Southwestern. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www.joinsdSHERIFF.net, 858-974-2000.

DIRECTOR, PERFORMANCE Accountability and Compliance. Volunteers of America Southwest California, a faith-based social service non-profit is seeking a candidate to join our management team to develop and implement an ongoing contract and regulatory compliance audit program to ensure that contract performance expectations and quality assurance standards of Volunteers of America, State, County and Federal regulatory and funding agencies are met or exceeded for all service divisions and operations. Responsibilities include developing audit tools, conducting random compliance audits, providing reports and reviewing monthly, quarterly and annual financial billing reports and service performance reports for funding sources. Requires a B.A. and 3-5 years of related experience. Call Human Resources: 619-228-2047; or mail resume and cover letter to: Volunteers of America, Attention: Human Resources, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108; or fax to: 619-282-8210; or e-mail: hr@voa-swc.org. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

DISPATCHER/CUSTOMER SERVICE. ARS of San Diego is seeking a motivated multitasker with good communication and

HELP WANTED

Special Education, Prevention Services and Treatment Programs

Applications/résumés are accepted Monday-Friday 9 am-4 pm.

Recreation Assistant • \$10.33/hr. to start, with benefits

Supervise direct care of children with autism and other disabilities. 12 units ECE or related field, CA driver's license. Pre-employment screening/background check. Monday-Friday 9:30 am-6 pm.

Community Training Specialist/Job Coach • \$9.75/hr. to start, DOE

To assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. Behavioral and instructional programs. Implement schedules. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits.

Transition Specialist • \$9.75/hr. to start, DOE

Assist teachers in group- and community-based instruction for developmentally disabled adults. Implement behavioral management programs. 30 hours/week.

Classroom Aides • \$9.75/hr. to start, DOE

Work with developmentally disabled children in a nonpublic school. Experience preferred. Allied Gardens, Chula Vista, La Mesa. Monday-Friday 7:30 am-1 pm.

Stein Education Center, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego, CA 92120

Fax: 619-281-0453, E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org

All applications/résumés must include job title. www.vistahill.org

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Test Dates:

Sat., February 2, 2008 • 8:30 am
Balboa Park Club Ballroom
2150 West Pan American Road
& Presidents Way

Wed., February 6, 2008 • 6 pm
Balboa Park Club Ballroom
2150 West Pan American Road
& Presidents Way

Fri., February 8, 2008 • 8:30 am
Balboa Park Club Ballroom
2150 West Pan American Road
& Presidents Way



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(619) 531-COPS
Or visit our website at:
www.sandiego.gov/police



Careers in



Probation

Correctional Deputy Probation Officer I

Minimum Qualifications

- 21 years old • Good physical condition • No illicit drug usage
- U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen
- No felony convictions • High school diploma or GED

Salary:

\$35,069-\$44,741 annually

Safety Retirement—Sworn Officers 3% at age 50.

Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply.

Test dates:

February 2, 2008 • 8 am
or March 1, 2008 • 8 am

Montgomery Middle School

2470 Ulric Street • San Diego, CA 92111

Applications available at the test site.

For additional information, contact the department's

Jobline: 858-514-8558

www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation

leadership skills for a fast-paced environment. Must be a team player with a minimum of 5 years experience. Kevin, 858-677-5455 x113. kkellington@ars.com, www.jobswithars.com. Drug-free work environment. License #791820.

DOG BRUSHER/BATHER 9am-5:30pm Wednesday-Saturday. Fun, busy environment. Experience helpful. Call 858-456-1552 or apply Wednesday-Saturday: 508 Nautilus Street, La Jolla, 92037.

DRIVER. Bus tours of San Diego and Tijuana, charters and SPAB. Class B/P/A license required. To \$14/hour plus medical, dental, and vision benefits. Call: 619-520-5200.

DRIVER. Lakeside area. Class B with P endorsement and current DOT medical card. Experienced operating 16-26 passenger minibus with wheelchair equipment. California driver's license and clear DMV required. Full-time. 7am-4pm, Monday-Friday. Excellent benefits. \$10.25/hour to start DOE. Unyeway Inc.: 619-562-6330.

DRIVER. Tow truck. Full time. Experienced preferred but will train. South Bay area. Clean DMV. Background checks required. Salary plus commission and benefits. 619-543-8951. seveltow@aol.com.

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DRIVERS WANTED. Requires valid CA driver's license, current H-6 DMV printout and good, safe driving skills. Must be 25 years or older. Apply in person at Xpress Shuttle, 1065 Bay Boulevard, Suite B, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

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EDUCATION. San Diego County Office of Education seeking qualified applicants for permanent/temporary positions: Child Aide Worker \$11.96-\$13.21/hour, Food Service Worker \$11.96-\$13.21/hour, Program Secretary \$16.45-18.14/hour. Accepting applications at www.sdcoc.net/apply. EOE.

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HAIRSTYLIST. New Urban Chic Salon, Point Loma, looking for Stylist. Good location. Owner with established clientele. Must see: 2145 Poinsettia Drive. Contact Lynnel, 619-226-6188.

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HAIRSTYLISTS. Great opportunity to build! Booth available at high-end salon in UTC area. Lots of advertising. Call Salon David Perez, 858-457-1221.

HAIRSTYLISTS/MANAGER. Color, cuts, texturizing, waxing... you can do it all. We're looking for skilled Hairstylists motivated to make money and have fun at the same time. Mira Mesa and UTC areas. Call 858-344-2332.

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HOTEL HOUSEKEEPING. Rancho Valencia Resort in Rancho Santa Fe has housekeeping job openings! We are looking for Room Attendants, Turndown Attendants, and Housepersons. For requirements and online application, please visit <http://www.ranchovalencia.com/resort/openings.php> or apply in person at 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067. No phone calls please. EOE/Drug-free workplace.

HOTEL POSITIONS. The Handlery Hotel and Resort is hiring for service oriented positions. We have competitive pay and excellent benefits. Please apply to: 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA, 92108 or fax resume to: 619-298-3948.

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Highway, fax resume: 619-296-0524 or email: oldtowninn@nethere.com.

HOTEL FRONT DESK. Full-time, 3-11pm, weekends required. Customer service experience required. Apply Old Town Inn: 4444 Pacific Highway, fax resume: 619-296-0524 or email: oldtowninn@nethere.com.

HOTEL. Assistant Front Office Manager for Doubletree Del Mar. Contact 858-481-5900 or in person: 11915 El Camino Real, Del Mar.

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JOB FAIR: Monday-Friday, February 4-8, 10am-3pm, at 10717 Camino Ruiz, Suite 252, Mira Mesa, CA 92126 (corner of Mira Mesa Boulevard and Camino Ruiz). The Eastridge Group, in partnership with Kyocera America, has the following temporary and temp-to-hire open positions: Machine Operators, Microscope Inspectors, Chemical Handlers. Benefits available! Attend our job fair or call for more info: 858-566-9111.

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LIGHT INDUSTRIAL. Volt Services Group has immediate Temporary, Temporary-to-Direct Hire and Direct Placement opportunities. Competitive wages, paid weekly, paid holidays and vacation. Medical and dental insurance plans, state of the art training, career management and more. www.jobs.volt.com. Call Volt Services Group for more information. EOE. San Diego: 858-576-3140; e-mail: clairmont@volt.com. Carlsbad: 760-729-8916; e-mail: carlsbad@volt.com. El Cajon: 619-401-1524; e-mail: elcajon@volt.com. San Marcos: 760-471-0800; e-mail: sanmarcos@volt.com. Scripps Ranch: 858-578-0920; e-mail: scrippsranch@volt.com.

LOAN AGENTS/SALES. No real estate license required. Training provided! Leave message 24 hours a day for return call, 888-313-7226. Fax resume: 858-454-2437.

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MACHINE OPERATORS. JOB FAIR: Monday-Friday, February 4-8, 10am-3pm, at 10717 Camino Ruiz, Suite 252, Mira Mesa, CA 92126 (corner of Mira Mesa Boulevard and Camino Ruiz). The Eastridge Group, in partnership with Kyocera America, has the following temporary and temp-to-hire open positions: Machine Operators, Microscope Inspectors, Chemical Handlers. Benefits available! Attend our job fair or call for more info: 858-566-9111.

MACHINE PROGRAMMER (CNC). Machine Operator, Mail Sorters, Quality Assurance, and Production Workers. MDI offers paid holidays after 520 hours and vacation bonuses after 2000 hours. Apply at MDI Staffing: 858-277-5680.

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MACHINE SHOP/MACHINE OPERATORS. GPR Stabilizer is the producer of motorcycle related machined parts. Our steady growth in the motorcycle industry has reached a point for us to open immediate positions in the machine shop. Great opportunity for qualified person(s) in a growing company. Salary, vacation, and benefits negotiable for qualified applicants. Apply: GPR Stabilizer, 8715 Dead Stick Road, San Diego, CA 92154, 619-661-0101. Or fax/e-mail: 619-661-0707. Attn: Ralph Norman (ralph@gprstabilizer.com) or Randy Norman (randy@gprstabilizer.com).

MAGAZINE PACKER. Cox San Diego Auto Trader is hiring Magazine Packers part time. EEOC/drug testing. E-mail

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MAINTENANCE. Volunteers of America Southwest California, a faith-based social service nonprofit, is seeking a qualified candidate to perform general maintenance and repair duties at a licensed adult residential facility for mentally ill adults in Spring Valley. Must clear fingerprints, complete criminal background check, and have a clean driving record. Part-time, 30 hours/week (\$11/hour). Call Human Resources: 619-282-8211; fax: 619-282-8210; e-mail: hr@voa-swc.ca, or org@mail.resume; Volunteers of America Southwest CA, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

MAINTENANCE for older buildings. Must have experience. Tools and transportation required. Call 619-692-3124 or 619-234-7572.

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then e-mail resume, subject line "Massage Therapist": massageenvysd@yahoo.com.

MENTAL HEALTH AIDE. Volunteers of America Southwest California, a faith-based social service nonprofit is seeking qualified entry-level candidates with an interest in working with the mentally ill. You will monitor clients, assist with setting and administration of medications, do light charting, assist with preparation and serving of meals for clients located at our El Cajon and Spring Valley facilities (\$8.25/hour). Call Human Resources: 619-282-8211; e-mail resume: hr@voa-swc.ca; fax: 619-282-8210; or mail: Volunteers of America, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR. Exciting full-time opportunity working with SED, high-risk youth/families. BA in psychology or related; minimum 1-year experience working with the population. Bilingual preferred. MHS, Inc. is an EOE, offers excellent benefits/competitive salaries. Please send resume/cover letter to famford-admin@mhinc.org or fax 858-569-1873.

MICROSCOPE INSPECTORS. Job Fair: Monday-Friday, February 4-8, 10am-3pm, at 10717 Camino Ruiz, Suite 252, Mira Mesa, CA 92126 (corner of Mira Mesa Boulevard and Camino Ruiz). The Eastridge Group, in partnership with Kyocera America, has the following temporary and temp-to-hire open positions: Machine Operators, Microscope Inspectors, Chemical Handlers. Benefits available! Attend our job fair or call for more info: 858-566-9111.

MOBILE DJs. \$35-\$40+/hour. Are you a fun, energetic and good looking guy who enjoys entertaining? If so, you could be looking at a lifelong career of making great money at a fun job. Music knowledge important but positive attitude is more important. Truck or hatchback required with good driving record. Bilingual DJs very welcome. 3 positions available. If you know a friend who fits this description, tell them about it! Send e-mail with qualifications and contact information to saplyak@hotmail.com.

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NANNY PART-TIME, Boys ages 5 and 9. Point Loma area, 2-3 afternoons, 2-6pm.

Must love Football, dogs, board games. Need Ca drivers license, 619-507-1528, dana5035@gmail.com.

OFFICE ASSISTANTS. MDI offers paid holidays after 520 hours and vacation bonuses after 2000 hours. MDI Staffing, 8316 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, #204. Fax 858-277-5621. Call 858-277-5680.

OPEN HOUSE! Free! San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Thursday, January 31, 2008, 6pm-8pm. Great opportunity for anyone interested in a Law Enforcement career. Talk to the heroes of the Sheriff's Department about the hiring process, qualifications, benefits, career advancement, the Academy and much more! San Diego Sheriff's Department, 9821 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123, EOE. Contact Deputy Laura Legler, 858-974-2336. Laura.Legler@sdsheriff.org.

OUTDOOR YOUTH COUNSELOR. Do you love the outdoors and helping troubled teens? Immediate openings at Eckerd outdoor therapeutic programs in North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Vermont, New Hampshire. Year-round residential position, free room/board, competitive salary/benefits. Info and apply online: www.eckerdoutdoor.org or fax resume to Career Advisor/AN, 727-442-5911. EOE/DFWP (AAN CAN).

PART-TIME HOUSEKEEPER, In Santee. 2 days/week, flexible, 619-308-2961 x159.

PART-TIME PRODUCTION. Newspaper. Minimum 2 years layout experience. Knowledge of QuarkXpress, Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop. Creative, ability to deal with deadlines. Team oriented. E-mail resume: susands4@yahoo.com.

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PLUMBING APPRENTICE. Need a trade? No experience necessary. Work in plumbing, drain cleaning trade. We train. Earn up to \$900/week with opportunity for advancement. Must have small truck or van. 858-530-3265. 619-440-4336. 760-741-7503.

POLICE OFFICERS. San Diego Police Department is hiring! Ready for a career change? See our upcoming test block dates on our website. Police Recruit earns \$42,723 per year. Police Officer I earns \$43,596 per year. Police Officer II earns \$61,110 per year. For more information, call 619-531-COPS or visit our website at: www.sandiego.gov/police.

PRESCHOOL. Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA is looking for a full-time Preschool Head Teacher. \$13.50-\$14.50/hour. Check out ecke.ymca.org, or call Kate at 760-942-9622.

PROBATION CAREERS. Correctional Deputy Probation Officer I. County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Dates: February 2, 2008, 8am or March 1, 2008, 8am. Montgomery Middle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage, U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. High school diploma/GED. \$35,069-\$44,741/year. www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation. Jobline: 858-614-8558.

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operations, casework and services at our licensed facility for the mentally ill and dual diagnosed located in the Flynn Springs area of El Cajon. Position requires a Bachelor's degree in related field, 3-5 years related experience working with the mentally ill and dual diagnosed. Previous supervisory experience required. Requires knowledge of CCL regulations and Title 22. Excellent written and verbal communication skills required. Must be able to pass fingerprinting and criminal background check and TB test. (\$28,000-\$31,000). Call Human Resources: 619-282-8211; e-mail resume: hr@voa-swcal.org; fax: 619-282-8210; or mail: Volunteers of America Southwest California, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

PROJECT ACCOUNTANT. Come join our team and make a difference! You would provide accounting services to social service programs including: A/P, A/R, processing claims, assisting with budget preparation, monitoring financial activities and variances, assisting with audits, preparation of financial reports. Requires B.A., 3-5 years of related experience, excellent computer skills, prefer experience with Great Plains and Excel. Call Human Resources: 619-228-2047; or mail resume and cover letter to: Volunteers of America, Attention: Human Resources, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108; or fax to: 619-282-8210; or e-mail: hr@voa-swcal.org. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant. \$12-\$15/hour. Requires advanced computer skills, professional demeanor. Phones, coordinate travel arrangements, customer service. San Diego location. Call TriStaff today! 858-597-4000. Fax: 858-453-9632; E-mail: staffing@tristaff.com.

RECREATION ASSISTANT for the Stein Education Center, a private special education school serving children with Autism and other disabilities. Candidates must possess 12 units of Early Childhood Education or 12 units in a related field and a valid California driver's license. Duties include supervising direct care, scheduling social and recreation activities. Computer knowledge preferred. Monday-Friday, 9:30am-6pm. Starting salary \$10.33/hour with benefits. Pre-employment screening (drug test, TB) and Background Check (FBI and Department of Justice). EOE. Apply in person, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120 or fax resume to 619-281-0453.



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Mindy Denison
Waitress
Downtown

I should really think about this longer before I answer. But off the top of my head, I'll say I'd like to go to Africa. I'd like to sky dive. I'd like to meet Johnny Depp. Oh, and design my own clothing line.



Don Ayres
Radio Producer
Mira Mesa

My first thing would be to see Italy, especially Abruzzi and Tuscany, where my family comes from. Stateside, I would love to check off a list of the top rivalries in college football. I want to see Michigan/Ohio State at the Big House. I want to see Florida/Tennessee on the third Saturday in September at Neyland Stadium. The same goes for the Red River Shootout, Army/Navy, and USC/Notre Dame. Also, as much as I hate the Yankees, this summer, I plan to see a game at Yankee Stadium before it dies.



Mike Usher
Director
Kearny Mesa

I enjoy nostalgia. Historic districts of cities, '50s diners, stuff like that. One of the things I'd most like to do is travel the Mother Road, historic Route 66, from Chicago to Santa Monica. I'd like to be able to take the time, at a leisurely pace, and see all the places along Route 66. So much of it is being restored while some is in ruins. I'd like to explore it all and imagine what life in the USA was like when the road first opened.



Brandon Plum
Engineer
Rancho Peñasquitos

There are a lot of things that come to mind. First, I want to spend the Fourth of July in Washington, D.C., at the National Mall. I'd also like to travel around the world on a sailboat with my wife. Last and most important, someday I'm hoping to be able to teach my future grandkids how to fish.



Kat
Waitress
Escondido

I want to cruise the Mediterranean on a sailboat. And, I'll write a book and have it published. But hey, if you're writing this and it's going to be in the Reader, I'm sort of being published already. So, that's kind of cool. But it would be a novel I'd really like to see the light of day.



Adrienne Peterson
Consultant
San Carlos

I would like to ride my motorcycle from Alaska to Panama. I'd also like to jump 20 buses, in memory of the late Evel Knievel. I would like to vote someone into office that was actually someone that I liked and felt good voting for. Maybe that last one I will do before I die. But I'm doing less and less riding on my bike, so I doubt I'll ever do the long treks I've often thought about.

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RESTAURANT LINE COOK: For Irish pub, bar and grill. Experience necessary. Apply: 554 4th Avenue, Gaslamp or fax: 619-239-5828, or e-mail: dublinsquare@yahoo.com.

RESTAURANT MANAGER for Doubletree Del Mar. Contact 858-481-5900 or in person: 11915 El Camino Real, Del Mar.

RESTAURANT. No nights or weekends. If you are a positive, energetic team player, we want you. North County and Kearny Mesa areas. Established corporate dining service has all positions (except bartenders) available. Fax resume: 858-627-6918. E-mail millenniumdining@aol.com.

RESTAURANT. Now hiring! Deli Clerks (Del Mar); Kitchen Supervisor and Baker (4S Ranch); Deli Clerk and Prep Cook (Carlsbad); Prep Cook (Escondido). \$9-\$15.50/hour. See ad under Grocery/Natural Foods. Jimbo's Naturally!

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RESTAURANT: OPERA SINGERS. Macaroni Grill now hiring Opera Singers, part-time or full-time, must be 18 years or older. Apply in person 2pm-4pm, Monday-Thursdays: North County Fair, 202 East Via Rancho Parkway, Escondido.

RESTAURANT: PETCO PARK. Delaware North Companies (DNC) Sportservice hiring for 2008 Padres Baseball Season. Job Fair for Fine Dining (Suites, In-Seat & Clubs)— Tuesday 2/19 4pm-8pm, Saturday 2/23 11am-4pm. Western Metals Building across from Marriott on Tony Gwynn Drive. Qualified applicants should have fine dining food service background but will train the right individuals. Positions available include: Bartenders, Bar Backs, Club Servers, In-Seat Servers, In-Seat

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RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATE. Full or part-time. Good opportunity. Flexible hours. Reliable. Bridal & Tuxedo Shop, 4242 Camino Del Rio North, #14, Mission Valley. Fax resume: 619-281-1304. 619-281-1717; 619-549-4690.

RETAIL SALES. Flexible hours, fun working environment, free parking. Fun boutique in La Jolla looking for energetic and motivated individuals. 858-349-5208.

RETAIL SALES. North County Drum and Percussion in Vista is looking for qualified sales staff for retail operation. Part/full time. Hourly plus commission and bonuses. No experience necessary. E-mail resume to northcountydums@gmail.com. or call Daniel, 760-822-5372.

RETAIL/RECEPTIONIST, full time. Aveda salon and spa in La Jolla seeking highly motivated, outgoing individual to promote customer retention. Setting appointments and some retail involved. Multi-tasking a must. Call 858-457-3334, fax 619-697-9571. www.youngattitudes.com.

RETAIL/BILINGUAL. Wireless provider expands to El Cajon. Full/part time. Available weekends/holidays. Experience. HS diploma required. Call today! 858-597-4000. Fax: 858-453-9632; E-mail: staffing@tristaff.com.

RETAIL/RESTAURANT: PETCO PARK. Delaware North Companies (DNC) Sport-service hiring for 2008 Padres Baseball Season. Job Fair for Concessions, Retail & Warehouse— Saturday 2/2 11am-4pm, Wednesday 2/13 4pm-8pm, Tuesday 2/26 4pm-7pm. Western Metals Building across from Marriott on Tony Gwynn Drive. Qualified applicants should have food service or retail background but will train the right individuals. Positions available include: Stand Leaders, Stand Attendants, Event Porters, Day Porters, Food Preps, Cooks, Vending Commissary Leaders, Vending Commissary Workers, Food & Beverage Vendors, Team Store Clerks, Program Vendors. Non-union positions: Level Supervisors. Must be able to work Padres home games, including play-offs. Requires pre-employment drug testing and criminal background checks. On-site interviewing, please dress in appropriate interview attire (no jeans, sneakers, sandals, T-shirts, etc.). For more information: www.sdbaseballjobs.com. Or call: 619-795-5901. EEO/D/V/M/F.

SALES ASSISTANT. The San Diego Reader is looking for a bright, capable and self-motivated person to assist its team of employment display advertising sales reps. Must possess excellent customer service skills and be able to work comfortably with the public and coworkers. Duties include preparing and scheduling display and classified ads to appear in the Reader and its employment publication, Job Giant. Customer contact involving discussion of rates, policies, deadlines and accounting issues included. Must be organized and detail-oriented. No actual sales involved. Benefits include health coverage paid 100%, 401(k) with employer match, free downtown parking in Little Italy, and more. E-mail: hrdept@sreader.com. Mail: Human Resources, PO Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803. Fax: Attention Human Resources, 619-231-0489.

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SALES REPS. Seasoned, for outbound Call Center. \$13.50/hour plus bonus! Monday-Friday. Located in Miramar. Serious applicants only. For interview, call 866-860-7113 or e-mail schapman@webnetglobal.net.

SALES, ONLINE ADVERTISING. San Diego Reader, SDReader.com, a leading website in the San Diego market, has openings for Online Sales Executives to join our team. We are seeking seasoned sales professionals with a strong background in Internet Media sales, proactive in developing revenue, increasing our client base, and selling marketing solutions for SDReader.com. As a sales executive you will also be responsible for developing proposals, managing the current portfolio of business, and generating opportunities in a quickly changing industry. Skills/requirements: Consultative selling skills. Strong communication, sales presentation, and closing skills. A proven track record of quota achievement. Cold calling and lead management experience. Proficient in MS Office Suite software. Minimum 2-5 years Internet advertising sales experience. Must own a vehicle; have a good driving record and a valid California Driver's License to perform duties. Desired but not required: Strong understanding of online marketplace. Previous experience with media online sales teams. Experience with marketing material creation. Understanding of the Search Engine marketplace. Preferably have large rolodex of key clients and/or advertising agency contacts. A generous compensation plan. Health, dental and paid time off benefits. 401(k). Free parking in Downtown San Diego. No phone calls, please. No telecommuting. Please send resume and cover letter to hrdept@sreader.com.

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SALES. Excellent income potential! \$10 starts you in a new career. Full- or part-time. Build your business working with top-selling Avon representatives. Perfect for self-starters. Kathleen: 619-429-1253; 888-429-1253.

SALES. Heavy sales, light work! Sales experience preferred. \$1000-\$2000+ weekly average. You will need a Van, SUV, or a truck with topper required. Call 858-527-0143.

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SALES. Outside Sales, eLifeLife.com—sell Salon & Spa certificates door-to-door and/or frin promotional trade show booths, must be outgoing, positive! Kiosk Sales, eLifeLife.com—Mission Valley, Inside Sales, American Satellite-Mission Valley, 2667 Camino del Rio South #204—DirecTV phone center, \$300-\$500/day. 619-398-5050 or e-mail resume to info@eLifeLife.com.

SALES. Part-time Subscription Sales Representatives. 5 evenings/week, 5:30pm-9pm. Self motivated with prior sales experience. Call Claire at 858-550-1070 x203 or e-mail resume: cchataalsingh@ltp.org.

SALES/B2B Sales Representative to contact former customers of major telecommunications company asking them to switch back services. Excellent training/support. Best commissions plus residual income on all sales. Average

\$500-\$750/week. Top producers \$1,000/week. Prior sales experience required. Make \$40,000-\$60,000 first year. 619-717-2939.

SALES/FINANCE. Community One's Vista location is hiring! If you have considered going into the real estate field and making a six-figure income, give Community One a call. Please call to find out what opportunities are available. Great training is provided. The only requirement is to have the drive and desire to be successful. To apply, call Edgar at 858-663-0472.

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SALES: COMMISSION ONLY Telecom Sales for AT&T subagent. Create own leads. 85% of my commission to sub-agents by 20th of month. 100% commission/spiff paid for February. No resumes; serious inquiries only. e-mail phone.lady@hotmail.com or send name, fax number, e-mail to 707-762-9778. *Previous phone message lost in power outage, please contact Amy again!

SALES: GUYS AND GALS! Travel. Now hiring 18-25 sharp people free to travel with nationwide coed group. All expense paid training. Transportation furnished. No experience necessary! Call Bill Step 10am-5pm: 866-580-5257.

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card. Training available. Drug/background. EOE M/F/D/V. Apply: Weekdays, 9am-4pm, ABM Security Services, 1620 Fifth Avenue, Suite 875, San Diego. Email: eric.wallis@abm.com. 619-338-9360.

SECURITY OFFICERS. Allied Barton Security Services. Up to \$12/hour, medical/dental/vision, 401(k) with company match, holiday pay, paid vacation, free uniforms, Guard Card assistance, free basic and advanced training, career advancement. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma/GED. DOD clearance, secret or higher, a plus. Criminal background check and drug screen required. Apply online: www.greatsecurityjobs.com. Or apply in person 8am-4pm Monday-Friday: 7670 Opportunity Road, Suite #210, San Diego. Call: 858-874-8200.

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SECURITY. Bald Eagle Security hiring licensed Security Officers. Full/part time. Downtown San Diego locations only. No car or cell phone required. Guard Card required. Must be able to work flexible hours, mostly swing and graveyard shifts every weekend. Background check. EEO/Drug free. Call 619-230-0022, e-mail jonny@baldeaglesecurity.com, or apply in person at 2049 Main Street, San Diego, CA 92113.

SECURITY. International Services, Inc. is one of the largest private American-owned security providers in California, with a variety of job opportunities and good benefits. Hiring full-and part-time Officers. Field Supervisor up to \$16/hour. Security Officers up to \$13/hour. Must have a valid guard permit and pass pre-employment background and drug screen. Interviews available Monday-Friday. International Services, Inc., 6494 Weathers Place, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92121. 858-278-4310. E-mail resumes: recruitment@karawia.com.

SECURITY. Pinkerton Government Services, one of the oldest names in security,

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SERVICE TECHS/PLUMBERS with experience needed now! Rescue Rooter offers: Medical/dental, 401(k), vans/tools, paid vacations/overtime, high income, drug-free workplace. To apply, e-mail: lmyking@ars.com or call: 858-457-6506. License #765155, AA/EOE.

SERVICES COORDINATOR- Parolee Program. Volunteers of America is a faith-based social service nonprofit. Come join us in our life saving mission to help individuals and families obtain the tools they need to improve their quality of life. Conduct orientation of new residents, assist residents with assessing needed community services and job seeking efforts, provide general counseling and maintain case files. Requires A.A. degree with 3-5 years related work experience. Experience with vocational guidance services preferred. (\$10-\$11/hour). Call Human Resources: 619-282-8211; e-mail resume: hr@voa-swcal.org; fax: 619-282-8210; or mail: Volunteers of America Southwest California, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

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SOCIAL SERVICES. Promising Futures, Inc., is hiring reliable, caring individuals to work with the developmentally disabled in East County and Ramona. Part-and full-time positions. \$8-\$10/hour plus benefits. Overtime opportunities available. pificareer@yahoo.com. Fax resume: 619-440-6864. Call 619-440-6802.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Work with developmentally disabled children and adults. Experience preferred. Allied Gardens, Chula Vista or La Mesa. Monday-Friday, 27-32 hours/week. Start \$9.75/hour. EOE. www.vistahill.org. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453. Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm, Stein Education Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

SOCIAL WORKER: MSW/MFT/LCSW. Volunteers of America southwest California, a faith-based social service nonprofit is seeking a Social Worker who is committed to working with troubled adolescents for our Adolescent Treatment Program located in El Centro. Requires MSW, MFT, or LCSW and 2 years related experience. Call Human Resources: 619-228-2047; or mail resume and cover letter to: Volunteers of America, Attention: Human Resources, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108; or fax to: 619-282-8210; or e-mail: hr@voa-swcal.org. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

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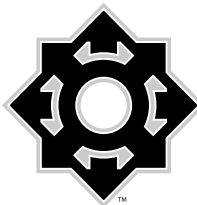
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TRANSITION SPECIALIST. Assist Teachers in group and community-based instruction for developmentally disabled adults. \$9.75/hour to start. 30 hours/week. Benefits. EOE. www.vistahill.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453. Apply Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org.

TRAVEL USA, 18-25 years. Visit major cities: New York, DC, Hawaii, Los Angeles, etc. Be around successful, positive oriented individuals! Money motivated? Return trip guaranteed. \$500 sign-on bonus! Call today, start tomorrow. Kristen, 1-888-856-7086.

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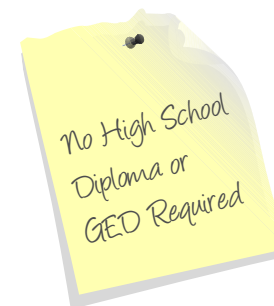
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THE READER PUZZLE

Across

- Year Claudius I was born
- Hook or Cook: Abbr.
- Itch
- Calendario page
- Herr's home
- Poker holding
- Battling
- Rombauer of cookery
- Pull a few strings?
- "Huh?"
- Notre Dame's Parseghian
- Quick refresher
- Nouveau _____
- Succeeded
- "Huh?"
- Golf's "Slammin' Sammy"
- Fab Four film
- NFL gains
- "Huh?"
- Functioned as
- Thomas _____ Edison
- Parotitis, familiarly
- "Huh?"
- New Jersey college until 1995
- Incline
- That woman
- Opposite of FF
- "Huh?"
- "That's _____ need!"
- Kick out
- Dish
- Dish
- 404, in old Rome
- Specialized fisherman
- Like JFK or LAX
- Some boy toys
- Enjoys a whodunit, say

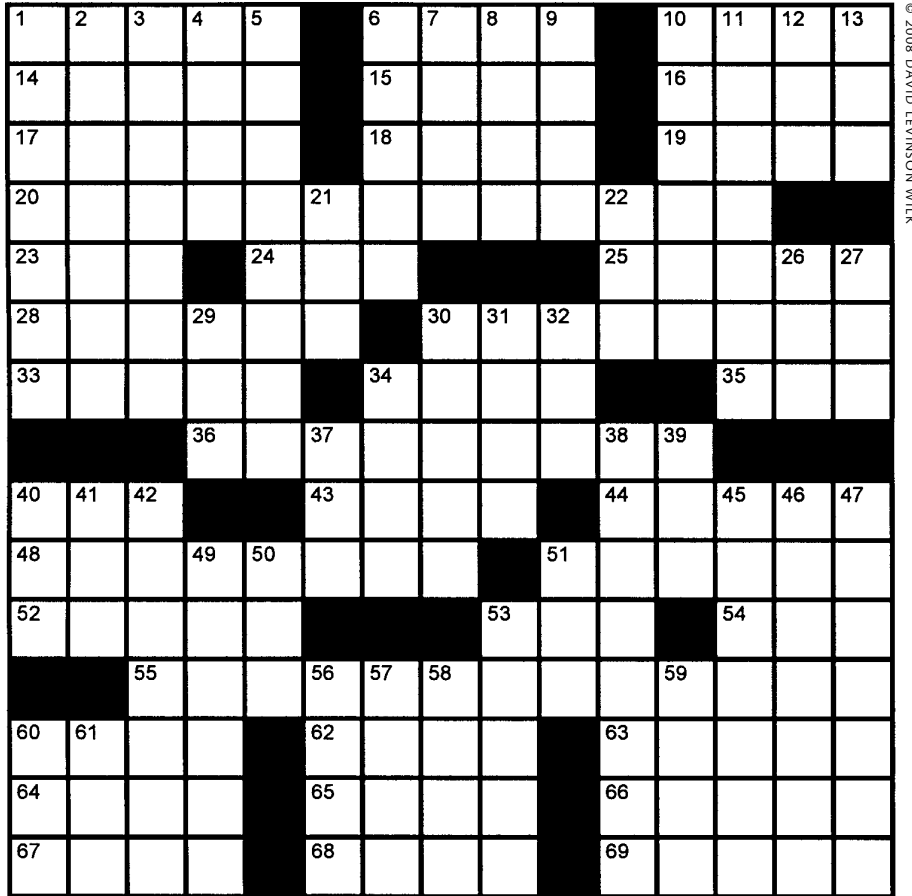
Down

- They often have strings attached
- Enron's name before it was discovered the word meant "intestines"
- Historic London prison
- Petting zoo sound
- 16th-century Spanish explorer who reached the Rio Grande
- Tweet
- Org. for boomers, now
- Fast feline
- Former Russian royalty
- Able
- Lewd
- Beefeater, e.g.
- Prior to
- Former Mideast polit. union
- OB/GYNs, e.g.
- Suffered from
- Sci-fi invaders
- Univ. body

- Lift with effort
- Olympian Korbuto
- New Deal org.
- Navigator's position
- West of Hollywood
- Not suitable
- Frat letters
- Director Craven
- Rose of Guns N' Roses
- Give a mean look to
- Sweet Sicilian wine
- Like a tuxedo shirt
- Diane and Tom
- Like some battles
- Blue expanse
- Road reversal, slangily
- Modern wall hangings
- Clock sound
- Bro
- "Love _____ the air"
- 1997 Peter Fonda title role
- "Who _____ to argue?"
- Novelist Deighton

RULES OF THE GAME

- The prize for solving the *Reader* Puzzle will be a *Reader* T-shirt.
- All entries in the *Reader* Puzzle contest must be received by the *Reader* by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date (Fax to 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803).
- All entries must be accompanied by your name and address.
- Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.
- In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and arbitrary. We've only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are more than five winners, we'll have a lottery.
- All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to our office.
- One entry per person.



DDE PIAF DITSY
 ERA ASTO SIRREE
 BAGPIPES LEVEES
 RKELLY SAO ANI
 AERO BEGPARDON
 TRIO RENAMED
 AMB OGRE OGIVE
 LAR BOGDOWN LIE
 ADANO SPAY LLD
 NEGATES ERMA
 BIGBOPPER CHAT
 ANA SAL FALALA
 TURNTO BUGJUICE
 ESTEEM OSHA ROB
 SASES WEIR YAO

Solution to and winners of the *Reader* Puzzle for 1/24/08.

There were 79 entrants. The winners are:

- Alaina Allen, San Diego
- Eugene Lutes, San Diego
- Mary Arana, Encinitas
- Pamela Swain, San Diego
- Dan Schick, Oceanside

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NAME This Place



Clue: Honk if you like pretty lake birds

Describe this location, name the nearest cross-streets, and win a Reader T-shirt. E-mail to NameThisPlace@SanDiegoReader.com; fax to 619-231-0489; or mail to Reader, Name This Place, Box 85803, San Diego 92186 — include your name and address. (Deadline, Tuesday, 9 a.m. In case of ties, lottery will determine top five winners.)



Last week's place: (clue: Holy wisdom in the House of Gold?) Santa Sophia Catholic Church, 9800 San Juan Street, Casa de Oro, Spring Valley. "Santa Sophia" (Hagia Sophia, in Greek) means "holy wisdom." The church, dedicated in 1958 at the foot of Mount Helix in Casa de Oro ("house of gold"), is renowned for its tapering bell tower, egg-shaped church structure, and 36-foot-tall indoor wooden crucifix, the largest in North America. (Last week's winners: Valerie Benavidez, Richard West, Jeannette Deane, Roger Gorman, Maurice Deleon)

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sun tints. Ar coating, etc. <http://zennoptical.com>. (AAN CAN).

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Say What?



Shawn Hays | Age: 30-ish | Occupation: Wedding Planner | Lives: Lakeside

Don't Yuck My Yum

It's the best thing to say whenever anyone tries to shove their opinion on you. I hate it when I'm into something and someone comes over and starts yucking and making faces. I eat weird

foods, like squid and tripe and bologna on bagels, so I get a lot of reactions like that. I used to take it personally and try to defend whatever it was; now I just smile and tell them to stop yucking my yum. I don't care if

it sounds like something a six-year-old would say; it makes me laugh.

See the video

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Click on Say What

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MALE GROUP MEMBER NEEDED for mixed process/support group. Relationship difficulties, intimacy, self-esteem, childhood issues. Tuesday evenings, UTC area. Insurance accepted. Susan Jorgensen, MFT-22281, 858-622-0632.

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THERAPY FOR SHOPLIFTERS. Group or individual, in Mission Valley. For details, call Joyce Nease, PhD (license PSY17073), 25 years experience with the legal system, 619-283-5090.

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ALANON. Grupo paz mental. Sufre por el alcoholismo en su familia? Juntas sesionan Martes, 5:30pm-7pm, y Sabados, 1-2:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road, #207, Bonita, CA 91902.

ALANON-GRUPO REENCUENTRO. Hay problemas de alcoholismo en su familia? Sesiones Lunes y Jueves de 5:00-6:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road #207, Bonita, 91902. 619-470-6955.

ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS. Problemas con el alcohol? Nosotros le ayudamos a vivir mejor. Sesiones Lunes-Viernes, 7am y 8pm. Sabados, 8am y 7pm. Domingo

8am y 5pm. Grupo Bonita Hispano, 3450 Bonita Road, #207. 619-280-7224.

ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS. Tiene problemas con la bebida? Llamemos 24 horas. Oficina Central Hispana, 3628 University Avenue, San Diego, 92105. 619-280-7224.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL works for human rights. Meetings: 7pm, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. First Unitarian Church, 4190 Front (opposite UCSD Medical Center). Information, 619-283-1637.

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SurfDIEGO

Name: **Chuck Bragg**
Lives: **Ocean Beach**
Surfing: **O.B. Pier**

"I needed a job that would pay me to travel and surf," Chuck Bragg says about his decision to join the Navy. He's surfed Hawaii, Baja, the east and west coasts of Australia...but as a forward-deployed meteorologist for the Navy, Lieutenant Commander Bragg has had the opportunity to ride in Palau, Hong Kong, and the United Arab Emirates in the Persian Gulf.

Chuck began surfing over 30 years ago in his hometown, Cocoa Beach, Florida. He moved to San Diego with friends, set up a home in an apartment on Newport Avenue in Ocean Beach, and never left. His 22-year-long career in the Navy keeps him riding waves around the globe, but he always comes back to O.B.

"I surf mostly the beach here every day before work.... I love the community. It's all about the community. The people, our church, home [are] here, our friends are here, everybody we know is here...my wife. My kids grew up here."

His worst wipeout was in 2004 when he sev-



ered the arch of his foot on the fin of his flipped-over board.

"I came up, wiped out, and the board just flipped up and I just happened to step right down on it." He was off his feet for four months because his foot "just opened right up."

Fukushima, Japan, stands out as his favorite trip.

"My son, he was about 15 or 16 years old, and we went with a couple of Japanese friends and went and spent a week up there surfing in the August/September time frame.... It was perfect surf, but more importantly,

I think I watched my son grow up; kind of go from being a boy to a man. I remember sitting there and just watching him just change during that week."

See the video

Go to SanDiegoReader.com

Click on SurfDiego

CANNABIS PATIENT(S) ACT. (Association Cannabis Therapeutics.) Nonprofit. Seeks caregiver/patients with questions about cooperatives, clones, medicine, growing guidelines. Proposition 215 local guidelines. Meth kills. 619-528-0907.

CODEPENDENT? Suffering from codependency? Codependents anonymous 12-step recovery program. The only requirement for membership is a desire for

healthy and loving relationships. 619-222-1244 or www.sdccoda.org.

DEBTORS ANONYMOUS, 619-525-3065, www.dasandiego.org.

DISABLED MARINE VETERAN, Stroke victim, requesting financial assistance. Nothing too small. Send to Marvin, 1245 Market Street, #1419, San Diego, CA, 92101.

DIVORCECARE meets every Sunday at 9am at 4926 La Cuenta Suite 203-A, Tier-

rasanta. Special Free support group for those divorcing, divorced, or broken live-in relationship. 4926 La Cuenta, Suite 203, Tierrasanta. Bruce, Bruce@sdffunding.com or 619-461-4480.

FREE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS! "How to Start a Business" for people with disabilities. Wednesday 2/20 1pm-4pm at United Cerebral Palsy, 8525 Gibbs Drive #100, 92123. Bus 25 from Fashion Valley to Aero Drive/Afton or from Clairemont to Aero Drive/Glenn Curtiss Road. Off-street parking available. Sponsored by Able-Disabled Advocacy. Call Cindy Lennon, 619-231-5990 x315 to reserve your spot.

FREE EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING services for individuals with disabilities, ages 18-21 on probation or parole. Able-Disabled Advocacy, 2850 6th Avenue #311, San Diego 92103. 619-231-5990 x305.

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING, Lecture Clinic. Free readings for new visitors. Every month's first Monday, 7:30pm 1/7/08, 2/4,

3/3, by Vessa's Clairvoyant Program students. 4455 Morena Boulevard, #108. 858-509-7582.

GAIN SKILLS TO SUCCEED. Are you 16 to 21, low income, need high school diploma or GED and work experience? Turning the Hearts Center, 619-691-9643.

HAD UNUSUAL EXPERIENCES? Have beliefs, thoughts, perceptions different than others? Wonder how stress relates? Stress can lead to unusual experiences. Between 18-35? To participate: mjuan@alliant.edu.

HORIZON HOSPICE announces upcoming volunteer program. Training begins February 19 through March 13. Contact Patricia Thompson, LCSW, for further information, 858-748-3030.

MENOPAUSAL, overweight, underweight, trouble sleeping, hot flashes? UCSD studying the effects of estrogen (taken for 8 weeks) on sleeping, hot flashes, and mood in menopausal women. 5-month

study. 6 overnight hospital stays required. Call 619-543-7393.

METAPHORS BE WITH YOU: Using life stories, rituals, and metaphors in Change-work. Join author/therapist Bill O'Hanlon on Friday, 2/15, Alliant University. 858-455-9888; 619-281-1932 x5.

MOVIE BUFFS. Interested in watching movies then discussing it afterwards (like book clubs)? Ages 25 to mature welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-272-8727.

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE Anonymous 12-step meeting for people with OCD. Mondays, 6-7pm, Department of Health Services Complex, 3851 Rosecrans Street, Mission Room. Information: OCAhelp@cox.net.

PATHWORK DISCUSSION, "The Challenge of Relationship" February 19, 2008. 7-9pm Eureka Street/Mission Valley. Open meeting, no fee, materials available. Please call for directions 619-296-9046.

PRAYER HEALS, Discover freedom and wellness. Find out how prayer works for you to eliminate chronic disease, pain, fear, depression. 858-652-0728.

PRIVATE COUNSELING. Your journey can be clearer, more peaceful; relationship issues, body image, self-esteem, anger. I can help. Work toward acceptance of yourself. Fee. 619-838-6817.

RECOVERY GROUPS for men and women seeking freedom from addiction/co-dependency. Fridays, 7pm. Celebrate recovery, First Lutheran, 867 South Lincoln Avenue, El Cajon. 619-444-7444. www.recovery4u.cc.

RESEARCH STUDY. Women living with smoker needed for 9-day research study. Leave message, 619-594-8827 or email TRDRPPDAStudy@projects.sdsu.edu, for more information.

SEX and/or relationship problems? Out of control? You are not alone. Call Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, a 12-step fellowship. PO Box 3791, San Diego 92163 or 619-685-7211 or www.slaa-san-diego.org.

SINGLES FOR JAZZ is a new not-for-profit club for singles interested in attending various concerts and clubs in the San Diego area. Membership is free. Call 760-445-5459.

SUPPORT GROUPS. Six groups monthly, SOSL (Survivors of Suicide Loss). Call 619-482-0297 or email soslsd@yahoo.com.

WRITERS (2) looking for "Chicken Soup" type pet stories for new book and ton series, with photos if possible. claudia@writersetc.com or piedpiper@newsblaze.com or 858-693-3939.

WRITERS WANTED. The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The 8-week program (June 22-August 17, 2008) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in alternative-weekly style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit <http://aaj.aan.org>. You may also e-mail us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by February 8, 2008. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN).

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DRUM SET, 6-piece Yamaha Stage Custom Advantage, excellent condition, \$925/best. Cash only. Scott in Poway, 858-513-0961.

EFFECTS PEDALS-100s of different kinds in stock! Fulltone, Menatone, T-Rex, Maxon, Visual Sound, Barber, Xotic, Durham. Choose from many brands. www.SuperSoundMusic.com or call 760-739-9099.

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FENDER AMERICAN HSS STRAT, Sienna Sunburst with case, 40% off! \$899 (list \$1500). Limited supply. Guitar Trader of San Diego, 7120 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92111. Toll-free: 877-687-4276.

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BASS AND VOCALS needed for death metal. Influences: Cephalic Carnage, Mastodon, Candiria, Meshuggah, etc. Check out myspace.com/blackambulanceand/orcallShaun, 619-417-4751.

BASSIST, 46, seeking working classic rock band. 5-string equipped. Mark, Escondido, 760-738-8059.

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BLUES VOCALIST wanted, male, funk style, join professional-level players with 25 years national/international gigging experience. Check out www.myspace.com/gregbach. Kearny Mesa rehearsal: www.muchtooloud@hotmail.com, 619-302-1411.

COUNTRY MUSIC/BLUEGRASS jam. Guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo players interested in getting together to play country music and bluegrass. Call Bob, 858-753-1775.

FEMALE GUITARIST NEEDED, With strong vocals for British Invasion tribute band. Management, agent involvement. E-mail MP3s, photos, bio to Jondelanoee@aol.com. Check www.tracksarentertainment.com. No phone calls.

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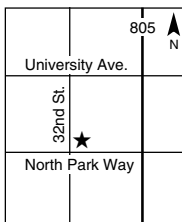
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BANKER'S HILL. \$2250. Extra nice 2 bedroom townhouse with den. Open and bright! Garage, fireplace, large storage. Cat OK. 2233 5th Avenue. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

BANKER'S HILL. Large studio. Victorian building, laminated hardwood floors, new ceramic tile. \$795 with \$500 deposit. OAC. Cat OK. 2132 Albatross. Call 619-549-9726.

BANKER'S HILL. Large studio, \$795. Utilities included. Victorian building. Completely renovated. Hardwood floors. \$500 deposit. OAC. Private entrance. Cat OK. 2142 Second Avenue. 619-549-9726.

BANKER'S HILL. \$1625. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with partial view. Great location, modern style, fireplace, central heating and air, washer/dryer in unit, porch. Nonsmoking unit. Under 25 pound pet with \$500 additional deposit. 1-car garage. 2930 Columbia Street #B. CCPM, 619-296-6699.

BANKER'S HILL. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo, covered parking, pool, near Balboa Park/Downtown/Hob Nob. 2244 2nd Avenue. \$1150. 714-323-9317.

BANKER'S HILL. Will go fast! \$800-\$900 per month. Deposit \$800-\$900. Spacious studios in secured vintage building with great views. First Avenue/Hawthorn. Full size kitchen and bath. On-site laundry. On street parking. Cats only with \$200 deposit. 619-325-7332.

BANKER'S HILL. \$800. Garden View studio. Charming gated building with laundry, barbecue, community view deck, parking. 128 West Maple. 619-234-1994.

BANKER'S HILL. \$895. 1/2 off first month. Large studio, wood floors, full kitchen, private patio. Cat ok. 2271 4th Avenue. 619-885-5915.

BANKER'S HILL. Move-in special! Half off first month's rent! \$1495, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$1695, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Immaculate community, luxury apartments, corner unit, underground parking. New carpet, blinds, granite counters, cabinets and more. Close to all. 140 West Kalmia. Open house 1/26, 11am-3pm. 619-231-1059.

BANKERS HILL/BALBOA PARK, New condo. Bay view, 2 bedroom 2 bath, all appliances, fireplace, porch, pool, 2 car garage. Medium dog ok, \$1950/lease, 951-264-5135.

BAY PARK. \$1420. Deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath, panoramic sailboat views/your terrace! Dishwasher. Berber. Gated. Laundry. Parking. No stairs. Cat friendly! Beach/freeway. 2805 Morena. 858-459-1544.

BAY PARK. 3907 Gresham Street. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Awesome view! Fireplace, balcony, dishwasher, washer/dryer. 2 underground parking. \$2395/month, deposit \$2395. www.tmcassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

BONITA. Great view. \$1150, utilities included. 1 bedroom cottage. Balcony, deck. Across from golf course. Parking. 619-894-0536.

CARDIFF BY THE SEA. Beach front, 2 room studio, quiet, 2-level. Spiral staircase, washer/dryer. Ocean view deck. Sunsets. Available 3/01/08. Pet ok \$1775/month. 760-436-5168.

CARDIFF. \$1795. Large, remodeled, upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Some ocean view.

Walk to beach, library. Parking, granite, washer/dryer. Quiet complex. Nonsmoking/pets. 2111 Manchester. 760-942-7559.

CARLSBAD from \$1100. Beautifully remodeled 1 and 2 bedrooms. Fantastic views! Walk to beach. Spacious floor plans. No pets. 2303 Ocean Street. 760-434-7721.

CARLSBAD. \$925. Spacious Junior 1 bedroom. Bright and airy. Laundry, pool, outdoor community kitchen, dishwasher, parking. Garages also available. No pets. 1000 Chinquapin. 760-729-8681 or e-mail woodridgemanager@sbcglobal.net.

CARLSBAD. \$1295. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, dishwasher, fireplace, newly upgraded exteriors with controlled access in downtown. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

CARLSBAD. \$1375. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse-style apartment with large patio. 3 blocks to beach. Secluded garden complex. 2 parking spaces. No pets. 370 Chinquapin Avenue. TPPM, 760-729-8132.

CARLSBAD/Alta Mira II. \$1800. Ocean view, 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath with fireplace, garage, new paint and carpet. 917-B Caminito Estrada. Leasing Unlimited, 760-436-7273.

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. \$1495. Large, luxury 2 bedroom, 2 bath in beautiful garden complex with views over La Costa golf course. Fireplace, washer/dryer, air conditioning, pool, spa, sauna. 2381 Caringa Way. Alicante Views. TPPM, 760-431-7575.

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. \$1625. Large, luxury 3 bedroom, 2 bath in beautiful garden complex with views over La Costa golf course. Fireplace, washer/dryer, air conditioning, pool, spa, sauna. 2385 Caringa Way. Alicante Views. TPPM, 760-431-7575.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN RANCH. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. 1-car garage. Vaulted ceilings, washer/dryer, beige paint. 1-year lease. Available now. \$1795. Peter, 858-663-5695.

CARMEL VALLEY. Looking for affordable luxury living? 1 and 2 bedrooms. Flexible leases; call for current rates. Near beaches, shopping, easy freeway access, quiet neighborhood! Free tennis, swimming lessons! Washer/dryer. Parking. Fitness center. Pool. No pets. The Club Torrey Pines, 12646 Torrey Bluff Drive. 1-866-354-2096. www.torrey.cc. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2106.

CASA DE ORO. Half off first month, OAC! \$1050. 2 bedroom, \$1299. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Spacious. Laundry, balconies, pool. Military accepted. Espanol. 619-857-0365.

CASA DE ORO/RANCHO SAN DIEGO. \$685 includes utilities. Immaculate, large studio. Quiet, private, nice. Off-street parking. Near shopping/freeway. No smoke/drugs/pets. 619-465-0482.

CHULA VISTA. \$855, including garage, large 1 bedroom apartments. Walk-in closets, laundry on site. Pool, jacuzzi, gas grill, park-like setting. 619-425-0670.

CHULA VISTA/OTAY RANCH. \$975. 1 bedroom with full bath, kitchenette and living room. Private entrance. Air conditioning/heater. Utilities included. Microwave, refrigerator. 619-656-

available. Utilities included! Microwave, Mini-refrigerator. Laundry, Pool, spa. Central location. Garden surroundings. Parking. No pets. California Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. 1-888-475-7147. www.sdrreader.com/news/rent2035.

CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. "Unbeatable move-in Specials!" Up to \$250 off move on select units. Newly remodeled 1, 2 bedrooms. 1 bedroom starting \$1085, 2 bedrooms starting \$1300. Air conditioning. Movie theatre. Pet deposit. Gym, Yoga, Pool. Coral Bay Canyon, 3309 Cowley Way. Toll free: 1-877-585-1146. www.CoralBayApartments.com. www.sdrreader.com/news/rent1031.

CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. Up to \$250 off! 1 bedroom, 1 bath from \$1085, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath from \$1300. Dishwasher, microwave, Tennis, basketball. Movie theatre, pool, gym, yoga lessons. Pet with deposit. Available now. Monday-Saturday, 9am-6pm, Sunday, 10am-5pm. Coral Bay Park, 3309 Cowley Way, www.CoralBayCanyonAndParkApartments.com. Call: 1-877-585-1146. www.sdrreader.com/news/rent1070.

CLAIREMONT. \$875. 1 bedroom. Upstairs. Pool. Laundry. Off-street parking. No pets. Close to I-163. Available now. 7322 Mesa College Drive. 858-560-6204.

COLLEGE AREA. From \$1195. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condos. Balcony/patio. Gas stove, microwave. Central air/heat. Dishwasher. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Gated. Pet on approval. Near all/golf course. 619-285-3822.

COLLEGE AREA. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo, gated community. Available now. No Section 8. Pets considered. Call for appointment: 619-980-6076.

COLLEGE AREA. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome with attached garage. Patio, full size washer/dryer, central air. Tile floors throughout, upgraded granite. \$1975. Allison, 858-395-2632.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1350. Deposit \$600. Extra large 3 bedroom, 1 bath, parking, laundry, close to all. No pets. Available now. 4205 49th Street. 619-564-8764.

COLLEGE AREA. Private 2 bedroom, 1 bath upper unit with tranquil views, granite kitchen, stainless appliances, gated complex. Move-in special. No Section 8. \$1275. 619-980-6076.

COLLEGE AREA/TALMADGE. \$695-\$725 rent. \$600 deposit. OAC. Large 1 bedroom. Parking. Laundry. No pets. At 4423 Menlo Avenue #12 or #16. 619-990-5021 or agent, 619-299-8515.

COLLEGE AREA. \$100 off first month's rent! 1 bedrooms from \$950. Military discount, 1/2 first month's rent! High-speed Internet access. Gourmet kitchen. Microwave. Gas range. Air conditioning and heating. Large walk-in closet. Controlled access. Pool. Barbecue and picnic areas. Cat-friendly. Parking. Walking distance to campus and trolley! Convenient freeway access. Aztec Pacific, 8663 Montezuma Road. Toll free: 1-800-433-6120. See www.pacificliving.com; www.sdrreader.com/news/rent1042.

COLLEGE AREA. 1 bedroom, special rate \$795/month. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse, \$1150. On approved credit. Gated entry, laundry, air conditioning. Assigned parking. Pool. No dogs, cat OK. 4601 63rd Street. 619-229-9248.

COLLEGE AREA. 1 bedrooms, \$900. Fireplace. Central heat/air. Microwave, dishwasher. Balcony. Gated. Intercom entry. 4828 Art Street. Agent, 619-298-7724.

COLLEGE AREA/TALMADGE. \$735. Nice 1 bedroom apartment. Quiet building, downstairs, large rooms. Coin laundry.

Cat OK. 4438 Menlo Avenue. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

COLLEGE AREA. From \$785. 1 and 2 bedroom. Sparkling pool, on-site laundry, barbecue. Central location, near SDSU. No pets. 4333 College Avenue. 619-287-8380.

COLLEGE AREA/TALMADGE. Extremely large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Controlled entry. All amenities. Parking. Laundry on premises. Park-like grounds. Near shops and bus. 619-287-1996. 619-461-9415.

COLLEGE AREA. \$700. Studio. New carpet, new bathroom, new kitchen. 4 blocks from SDSU. \$700 deposit. Utilities paid. Available now. No pets. 619-229-1570.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1095. Extra large lower 2 bedroom 2 bath with stove, refrigerator, laundry, off-street parking. Near SDSU. Cat ok. 4644 Soria Drive #1. 619-804-3325.

COLLEGE. \$950. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, upper unit. Off-street parking, on-site laundry. Minutes from SDSU. 4910-1/2 67th Street. No pets. Move-in special. 619-565-7300.

DEL MAR. \$2000. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Some with ocean views! Heated pool, spa, fitness center, dishwasher, microwave. No pets. 526 Camino Del Mar. 858-755-4721.

DEL MAR. Ocean view 2 bedrooms, \$1945. Non-view 2 bedrooms, \$1845, 3 bedrooms, \$2195. Block to ocean. 201 Fourth Street. Call for special! 858-481-9585, mikeatla@aol.com.

DOWNTOWN MARINA. Condo. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 1250-square-foot. Balcony, Sub-Zero fridge, dishwasher, microwave, floor-to-ceiling windows, view, reserved parking, fitness, pool/spa. \$2495. abz715@yahoo.com, 619-656-2539.

DOWNTOWN. San Diego's first hip hostel hotel. From \$49/night. From \$245/week. From \$19/bed in hostel. Free wireless Internet. Near bus/trolley. Flat screen TVs. European-style detached bathrooms. Restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. 500 West Hotel. 500 West Broadway. Toll free: 1-888-895-0875. 619-234-5252. www.500WestHotel.com, www.sdrreader.com/news/rent1114.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. February move-in special! Only \$613-\$736/month with 12 month lease! Utilities included! Office hours: daily 8am-6pm. Near Petco Park, bus/trolley. Fully furnished. Bay/ ballpark views. Underground parking. Air conditioning. Laundry. Internet. Clubhouse/library. Income quality! Island Village. 1245 Market Street. For details, 1-800-351-0613. www.sdrreader.com/news/rent2070.

DOWNTOWN. Studios with kitchen and bath, \$625-\$700. Single room with private bathroom, \$500-\$550. No smoking or pets. 10th and E Street. Hughes Management. 619-239-1639 x103.

DOWNTOWN. Comfortable rooms, \$450/ up. Studios, \$650/up. Near Gaslamp District. Very quiet and clean. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, community kitchen, shared bathrooms. Near shopping, restaurants, movie theatres and Horton Plaza. No pets. Arlington Apartments, 701 7th Avenue. Hughes Management. 619-231-2385. www.sdrreader.com/news/rent2097.

DOWNTOWN. Cozy rooms, \$450-\$625, grab these little jewels today! Very comfortable, convenient location, historic building near C Street trolley. Choice of shared or private bathrooms. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator, no pets. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B, Hughes Management. 619-239-3808. www.sdrreader.com/news/rent2099.

DOWNTOWN. Economical furnished rooms, \$400-\$500, best price, save money. Conveniently located on C Street trolley line, near restaurants, free cable TV, shared bathrooms, on-site laundry facilities, vending machines, elevator service, no pets, 636 C Street (between 6th and 7th), C Street Inn, Hughes Management. 619-234-4165. www.sdrreader.com/news/rent2098.

DOWNTOWN. Gaslamp area. Move-in special. \$280. Community kitchen, shared bath, on-site laundry, vending machines, no pets, Star Hotel, 522 7th Avenue. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management.

DOWNTOWN. Outstanding furnished rooms, \$400-\$500. Heart of Gaslamp. Shared bathrooms. Community kitchen. Free cable TV. No pets. 843 4th Avenue. Windsor Hotel. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management.

DOWNTOWN. Attractive rooms. Shared bath. Utilities included! Near City College! \$400-\$595 per month. Weekly rates from \$125! 719 14th Street, Villa Victoria. Hughes Management. 619-231-2385.

DOWNTOWN. Furnished studios. From \$59/daily, from \$210/weekly rates! Ideal, affordable, short-term stays. Private bathroom, kitchenette, microwave, refrigerator, cable TV. Air conditioning, laundry, voice mail. High speed Internet. Food service daily. Near trolley/bus/freeway, Balboa Park, Gaslamp. West Park Inn, 1400 4th Avenue. www.westparkinn.com. 619-236-1600. www.sdrreader.com/news/rent2037.

DOWNTOWN. Brand new rooms near City College. Single rooms with kitchenettes from \$140/week plus deposit (long-term). Includes utilities/cable. Quiet, secure. Shared bath/laundry. Hotel Mediterranean. 619-231-8656. www.hotelmed-sd.com.

DOWNTOWN. Condo for rent, Santa Fe Grand. 2 bedroom, plus den, 2 bath, 1700 square feet. Bay view, underground parking. Available 2/1. Lease \$3400/month. 619-544-1797.

DOWNTOWN. \$1850. 550 Park Avenue. Spacious, modern, upstairs 2 bedroom 2 bath. Fireplace, granite, stainless appliances. Laundry in-unit. Gated, underground parking. Available 2/1. Agent 619-463-2971.

DOWNTOWN. Beautiful building, new furnished rooms. Refrigerator, microwave, TV, cable. Starting at \$175 weekly. 920 Beech Street. Call 619-234-1952.

DOWNTOWN. Furnished/unfurnished. Large studio, wonderful view. Walk to Seaport Village, block from Gaslamp. Community rooftop patio, gym, more. 101 Market. No pets. 858-270-3372.

DOWNTOWN. \$1599. Luxurious, historic El Cortez. Unfurnished/furnished. 1 bedroom corner unit. Pool/spa, gym, deck, valet parking, laundry. Excellent location near everything. Pets welcomed. 858-274-3487.

DOWNTOWN. Cortez Hill. \$170/week. Rooms for rent. Centrally located. Clean, quiet, secure. Furnished, microwave, cable TV, refrigerator, 4th and Beech Street. Ask for Linda, 619-559-1954.

DOWNTOWN. 2 bedroom, \$1200. Includes all utilities except electricity. Hardwood floors. View, quiet complex, gated parking, remote entry, laundry onsite. No pets. 1830 Market. 619-405-REN(7368).

DOWNTOWN. \$675. Studio, 1 bath apartment, great views, all utilities paid, near Petco Park, controlled access building. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, cat OK with deposit, hardwood floors, paid water/frash/gas. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$1800. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths 934-square-foot condo, 1-car garage parking, near the great restaurants/nights in Little Italy. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$1750. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths apartment, pet OK, covered parking, barbecue/picnic area, business center, spa, fitness center. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$3000. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo, 2-car garage parking, security, window blinds, fitness center, pool, spa, gym, clubhouse. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. Newer 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Available now. Parking, gated, fitness center and pool. Balcony and fireplace. Pets OK. 850 Beech Street. \$2000. 619-334-6781. www.possidonproperty.com.

DOWNTOWN. 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo, \$1750, or ready to move into fully furnished, \$1900. 3rd floor with private balcony, upgraded kitchen with island and all appliances, washer/dryer in unit, underground parking. 235 Market Street #303. Agent, 858-560-1178.

DOWNTOWN. Condo. \$500 off! \$1995/month. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. The Mark, 3rd floor. Community pool, gym, 1 parking space, storage. Pets OK (30 pounds.) Agent, 619-471-2201.

DOWNTOWN. \$5000 off first month! \$5995/month. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath, 2-story penthouse. 20th floor, Horizon Towers. A+ views! 2 parking, pool, gym. Agent, 619-471-2201.

DOWNTOWN. Beautiful 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms. Some with lofts. Parking. Amenities. 1-year lease. \$2000-\$3000. www.elisabethsellssandiego.com. 619-788-2720.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. City views! 2 bedroom, 2 bath loft/condo. 2 balconies, high ceilings, all appliances. Valet parking, pool, fitness. \$2500 with 12-month lease. 619-677-2435, email mike@9210turbanliving.com.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. From \$800/month. Private bath, cable TV, microwave, refrigerator. Utilities included. Secure, quiet, charming. Efficiency apartments with laundry. Near trolley/bus lines, blocks from harbor. On-site manager. Villa Caterina, 1654 Columbia Street. 619-232-3400.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. Newly remodeled rooms available for weekly/monthly rentals, \$495-\$600 plus \$300-\$400 security. Controlled access, shared bathrooms/kitchens. Full size beds. Laundry facility. Patio area. Palms Hotel, 619-233-2740.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Bright, corner studio, \$940. 9' ceilings, hardwood floors. Ideal location. Charming, secure, quiet building with laundry. 1534 Front, near Beech Street. 619-233-7428.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Rooftop penthouse, 900 square feet, \$1440. 1 bedroom, 360-degree windows, 9' ceilings. Charming, secure, quiet building with laundry. 1534 Front Street, near Beech Street. 619-233-7428.

DOWNTOWN/HARBOR VILLAGE. Move-in special! \$750. Unique 1 bedroom. Balcony. Laundry. Parking. Close to base, Downtown, Coronado, NASSCO. Bay views. 2850 Main Street. 619-246-1275.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. \$99 moves you in! Live/work lofts. Penthouse, 1546 square feet, \$2750. Loft, 1463 square feet, cement floor, \$2425. Loft, 1163 square feet, carpeted, \$1720. Pets OK, parking available, keyless entry system, laundry facility, high speed Internet capability, central air/heat, high ceilings. Penthouse extras: granite kitchen countertops, Brazilian cherry wood floors, stainless steel appliances, 9 French doors. Toll free: 1-888-241-3523. www.sdrreader.com/news/rent2145.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. 1 bedrooms from \$725. Totally renovated. Vintage building, 10 blocks from water. Authentic hardwood floors. Fresh paint. New tile. New appliances. Cats OK. 619-997-1133.

DOWNTOWN/CORTEZ HILL. \$995. Large 1 bedroom, 3 closets. Secluded. Near Gaslamp, Balboa Park, Petco Park. NO pets. \$800 deposit. 941 Date Street. 619-670-7484. 619-917-3121.

DOWNTOWN/Heart of Gaslamp. \$1800. 1 bedroom condo, furnished or unfurnished. Top floor with city view, pool, gym, parking, full-size washer/dryer in unit. Small dog ok. 450 J Street. 619-291-4698.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Las Flores Hotel. Small, quiet, \$120/week and up. Four-week minimum. Color TV with basic cable. Refrigerator in most rooms. Secure. 619-235-6820.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Move-in Specials. Live/Work Lofts in the heart of the Gaslamp! Roof decks with barbecue. Laundry on every floor. Parking available. Seven locations Downtown. Select pets OK. Visit loft leasing office: 315 Fourth Avenue. 619-231-1505 x12. www.trilogymanagement.com. Also visit www.sdrreader.com/news/rent2064.

EL CAJON, \$775. 1 bedroom. New carpet, refrigerator, air conditioning. Barbecue, pool, laundry, parking, gated. 718 South Magnolia. Ask about move-in special! Section 8 OK. 619-312-0606.

EL CAJON. \$695. 1 bedroom. Fabulous pool/courtyard complex. Super clean apartments. No pets. \$895 moves you in! 314 Wisconsin Street. TPPM, 619-742-7600. www.palmestates.info.

EL CAJON. \$700. 1 bedroom. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$800 & up. Great amenities, air conditioning, laundry on-site, pool, recreation room, parking, Lushly landscaped. No pets. 294 Ballantyne. 619-334-7934.

EL CAJON. Cajon Villas. \$785, 1 bedroom, \$1000, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1325, 3 bedroom. Pool. Parking. Air conditioning. No pets. 933 Peach Avenue. 619-447-9193.

EL CAJON. 1 bedroom, \$825. 2 bedroom, \$975. \$200 off first month's rent. OAC. Smaller, quiet community. Patios, balconies around nice courtyard. Pool area. Cats and small dogs welcome on approval. Section 8 OK. Las Haciendas, 1294 North Mollison. 619-444-7934.

EL CAJON. \$990. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry, garage. Pet on approval. Garbage disposal. 556 South Magnolia Street. Call 858-490-1600.

EL CAJON. \$1095. Now offering 1/2 month free, off the first month's rent. The \$1000 security deposit can be paid in two installments (\$1047.50 to move in). Beautiful, 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse. Air conditioning. Parking. Backyard. New carpet/paint/tile/appliances. On-site laun-

dry. Parking. No dogs. Credit check. 1236 Persimmon Avenue. 619-938-3242.

EL CAJON. \$900/up. 2 bedroom, 1 and 2 stories. Amenities. Pool, park-like grounds, parking. Near town, shops, bus. 743 South Magnolia Avenue. Call 619-579-0174, 619-464-1818.

EL CAJON. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo, gated, 2 off-street parking, on-site laundry, granite counters, all stainless appliances, 300 Filbert Street. No pets. \$1300. 619-820-0003.

EL CAJON. Large studio condo, all new stainless appliances, off-street parking, on-site laundry, gated. NO pets. \$750/month. 619-820-0003.

EL CAJON. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhome, in-unit washer/dryer, pool, off-street parking, gated. \$1150. No pets. Available 3/1. Harold 619-820-0003 or Debbie 619-890-3355.

EL CAJON. \$850. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. Carpet. Dishwasher. Laundry room. One assigned parking. No pets. Available now. Section 8 OK. 1423 Peach Avenue. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686 or Pablo, 619-249-2770.

EL CAJON. \$705. 1 bedroom. Beautifully maintained apartments with sparkling pool. No pets. 234 West Park Avenue. TPPM, 619-850-9722. www.palmtowers.com.

EL CAJON/RANCHO SAN DIEGO. \$1300. 1 bedroom, one-car garage. Refrigerator, washer/dryer, new carpets, paint. Air-conditioning. No smoking. No pets. Pool, tennis courts. 858-344-1827.

ENCINITAS. \$1195. 1 bedroom, \$1410, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Balcony or patio. Sky-light. Small complex. Assigned parking, laundry. New paint. Bright and airy. Garden setting. 1-1/2 blocks to beach. Close to shopping, freeway, Coaster. No pets/smoking. 1353 North Vulcan. 760-929-1950.

ENCINITAS. Treat yourself to this elegantly furnished 1 bedroom at Moonlight Beach. Walk to shops, restaurants, Coaster. Gourmet kitchen, washer/dryer, dishes, linens. \$2195/month. 760-753-4101.

ENCINITAS. \$900 & up. Sick of roommates? Cozy beach trailers in quiet park. Near beach, Coaster, restaurants, shops. 152 North Coast, Highway 101. 760-753-4101.

ESCONDIDO, NORTH. Castle Creek. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome. 1850 square feet. 2-car garage. Deck overlooking pool. All electric. No pets. HOA paid. \$1000 cleaning deposit. \$1850/monthly. 760-751-1937.

ESCONDIDO. Call for specials! Spacious 1 bedrooms from \$835, deposit \$400, 2 bedrooms from \$995, deposit \$500. Great floor plan. Pool, spa. Covered parking. Laundry. RV parking. Cats are welcome. 640 West Lincoln Street. 760-489-8989.

ESCONDIDO. Move in special: half off first months rent! \$895-\$1695. Tired of apartment living? Beautiful 1, 2, & 3 bedroom manufactured homes offer spectacular hilltop views. Full-sized washer/dryer, some small yards. Peaceful community, sorry no pets. 1924 Sheridan Avenue. 760-745-1677.

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LA MESA. \$1195. rent. \$600 deposit. OAC. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse duplex. No pets. Open daily, 3:30-6:00pm at 4857 Jessie Street. 619-299-8515.

LA MESA. \$870. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Dishwasher. Pool. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 5436 Vincetta Court. Call 619-462-8896. www.kandriproperties.com.

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LA MESA. \$750. Spacious studio, private bedroom area, patio, newer carpet, barbecue area. Garage included. Call 619-462-1550.

LA MESA. \$770. studio, \$350 deposit. \$900, 1 bedroom, deposit \$450. Air conditioning. Dishwasher. Carport. Storage. Pool. Gated. No pets. 5435 Morengo Avenue. 619-698-7926. villaknollsapts.com.

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LA MESA. \$1095. Extra large upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath, extra large balcony, stove, refrigerator, air conditioning, laundry, off-street parking. Pet negotiable. 6006 Lake Murray Boulevard #E. 619-804-3325.

LA MESA. 1 bedrooms, \$890/up. Spacious apartments. Near Grossmont Center. Great neighborhood. Convenient to all! Villa Morocco. 5545 Morro Way. Available. 619-985-3500.

LA MESA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1200. Ask about move-in special! Upstairs. Free credit check. Pool, saunas. Off-street parking. On-site laundry. Close to downtown La Mesa, trolley, shops and freeways. Cats welcome. Crestview Apartments, 4515 3rd Street. 619-465-9934.

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LA MESA. Huge 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1250. New carpet, air conditioning, covered parking, laundry. Available now. 5430 Lake Murray Boulevard. Agent, 619-260-1368. View at www.sevillamgmt.com.

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LA MESA. Very large apartment homes in a lush garden complex. Lots of storage space. Near all. No Section 8. 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$925, 2 bedroom, 2 bath \$1195 upstairs. Community pool. 619-697-3285. For photo, floor plans, map and directions, see website: www.sreader.com/news/rent1035.

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LEMON GROVE. \$800. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Nice, spacious, upstairs unit. Close to all. Laundry. Small backyard. Available now. 3320 Vista Avenue #7. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

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LINDA VISTA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Totally remodeled, new kitchen/bath, washer/dryer, shed for storage. Pet allowed. 2717 Wheatstone. 858-277-1760. housing.molamini.com.

LINDA VISTA. \$1295. 3 bedroom, 1 bath two-story townhouse. Brand new custom paint and carpet throughout! Parking and laundry onsite. No pets. 6504-10 Kelly Street. Open Saturday 2/2, 12-4pm. Agent, 619-820-2584.

LINDA VISTA. \$1225. Extra large, upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath, large private patio, appliances, new carpet, vinyl, paint. Laundry. Across from USD. Pet negotiable. 5651 Mildred Street #B. 619-804-3325.

LINDA VISTA. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2-story. Brand new paint, carpet, counter-tops! Open Saturday 2/2 from 12-4pm. Don't miss out! 6512 Kelly Street. Manager, 619-820-2584.

LITTLE ITALY. \$1525. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Deck. City/bay views! washer/dryer. Acqua Vista. Pool/spa. Cats ok. Greg Bernave, Downtown specialist. 619-696-9935. www.downtownspecialist.com.

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MISSION HILLS/HILLCREST. \$1580-\$1690. 1 bedrooms. \$2175, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Central air/heat. Dishwasher. Gas stove. Underground parking. Crown moldings. Vaulted ceilings. Fireplaces. Walk-in closets. Washer/dryer. Internet access. Elevator. Gym. Cats welcome. Mission Hills Commons Apartments, 4021 Falcon Street. missionhills@sbcglobal.net. Please call today, 619-220-0707. www.sreader.com/news/rent2032.

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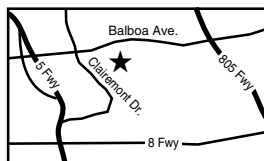
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NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$950 2 bed 1.5 bath townhome clean quiet sorry no pets. gated, patio area. Street parking. \$1000 deposit. Kansas street 858-270-7699.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$995 rent, \$600 deposit, OAC, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet and paint. No pets. At 4742 East Mountain View Drive #10. 619-299-8515.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$695. Studio. Gas, water, trash paid. New cabinets. Ceramic tile floors. Laundry. No pets. 3355 Madison Avenue. www.SeeTheUnit.com. Agent, 619-298-7724.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1095. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Private patio. Parking. Laundry, 4744 33rd Street. Xlarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1095. Downstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath corner apartment. Berber carpet, air conditioning, parking. 4527 39th Street. Xlarent.com, 619-683-7638.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$950. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet/paint, parking,

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, \$1050. Large kitchen, new paint. 2-car garage. On-site laundry. No pets, nonsmoking. Mr. A's Property Management, 619-697-1888.

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NORTH PARK. \$1175. Upper 2 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, underground gated parking, cat OK, dishwasher, balcony, storage, laundry. Close to freeway and bus. Call 619-795-1723.

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NORTH PARK. \$725. 1 bedroom apartment. Patio. Carpet, blinds. Laundry on-site. Parking. No pets. 3753 Cherokee Avenue. www.SeeTheUnit.com. Agent, 619-298-7724.

NORTH PARK. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo, 850 square feet. Section 8 OK. Garage, washer/dryer, water/sewer/trash paid. 3745 Swift Avenue #4. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

NORTH PARK/HILLCREST. Small 1 bedroom, \$775. Gated, dishwasher, laundry facilities, parking. No pets. Close to Naval Hospital, shops, freeways. 3722 Alabama Street. 619-299-1699. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upper. All new decor, carpet, and appliances in gated building. Must see! Broker, 619-286-4250.

NORTH PARK. \$835. 1 bedroom. Cute cottage in well-kept complex. Convenient location near freeways and shops. 4241-1/2 33rd Street. Call Jon, 619-583-8391.

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NORTH PARK. \$1225. Extra large, upper 2 bedroom, 2 bath, gated complex, all appliances, air conditioning, balcony, 3928 Illinois Street #204. 619-843-0796.

NORTH PARK. Beautiful large, lower 2 bedroom, 2 bath, mirrored closets, ceiling fans, new flooring, laundry, off-street parking, near all. 3746 31st Street #2. 619-804-3325.

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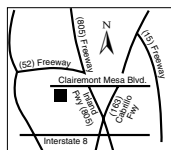
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OCEAN BEACH. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, refrigerator, stove, approximately 800 square feet, paid water and trash. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

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OCEAN BEACH/POINT LOMA. West. \$1295. 2 bedroom, 2 bath in great building with views. Gated entrance and parking. Free laundry. Convenient location near Robb Field, beach and YMCA. No pets. Open Saturday and Sunday 11am-12pm. 4457 Temecula at West Point Loma Boulevard. TPPM, 619-770-1959.

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OCEANSIDE. \$1175. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo, pool, on-site laundry, stove, dishwasher, patio, air conditioner. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

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PACIFIC BEACH. 1/2 off first month's rent! Rent extra large 850 square foot 1 bedroom apartment homes in Pacific Beach at \$1175. 2 bedrooms at \$1495. Bike trail to Mission Bay. Equipment and free weight room. Cardio fitness center. Computer lab with printer. TV lounge, pool, spa, Sundeck. Barbecue lounge. Storage. Covered/garage parking available. Cat friendly. Fabulous floor plans! Spectacular bay views. Mount Soledad! The Pacific at Mission Bay. 2636 Grand Avenue. 1-800-490-6372. pacificatmissionbay_pacificliving@crossfiremail.com. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent1049.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1195. Just steps to beach! Downstairs 1 bedroom. Walk to Garnet restaurants and shopping! Carpeted floors. Appliances. Parking. 726 Emerald Street. 858-272-9547.

PACIFIC BEACH. Security deposit \$250, OAC! February move-in specials! Studios from \$945. 1 bedrooms from \$1195. 2 bedrooms from \$1650. Air conditioning/heat. Cats welcome! Heated pool, water aerobics. Fully equipped gyms. Spas. Tennis. Basketball. Business center. Bay Pointe, 3866 Ingraham Street. www.progressmanagement.net. Toll free: 1-888-759-7435. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2081.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2250. 2 bedroom, 2 bath plus loft style den. Stove, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, laundry hookups, fireplace, attached garage plus space. Private balcony. No pets. 1 block to ocean. 1 year lease required. Available 3/1. 833 Chalcedony. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1115. 1 bedroom. Large, downstairs. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Coin laundry, carport parking. 2 private patios. No pets. 5 blocks to ocean. Available 2/16. 1180 Grand. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$900. 1 bedroom. \$1325, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upper unit.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$825. Downstairs studio unit. Cute and cozy. Near bay. Large kitchen/dining area. Excellent location. Sorry, no pets or smoking. Available mid-February. 4210 Haines Street #1. Agent, 619-692-4121.

PACIFIC BEACH. Great values, nice, clean, convenient apartments in multiple Pacific Beach locations. Studios from \$765. 1 bedrooms from \$935. 2 bedrooms from \$1375. Parking, laundry. Some buildings with gated entry, pool and/or deck. No pets. 858-483-3796.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$900. Unfurnished, 1 bedroom, completely refurbished, laundry, pool, sun deck, 3 blocks to beach, private gate. Nonsmoking. No pets. 1027 Felspar Street.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1375. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment available immediately. 2 blocks to the beach. 765 Agate Street. Alta Vista Properties. 858-274-3600. www.altavistamanagement.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2200. 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment available immediately. 1522 Hornblend Street. Alta Vista Properties. 858-274-3600. www.altavistamanagement.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1050. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 2 blocks to beach. Available immediately. 4928-1/2 Mission Boulevard. Alta Vista Properties. 858-274-3600. www.altavistamanagement.com.

Laundry. First come parking. 3726-3728-1/2 Ingraham Street. Call 858-490-1600.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2125. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath with dishwasher, microwave, garbage disposal. 1 parking space. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Fireplace. Patio. 2027 Emerald. Call 858-490-1600.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$825. Downstairs studio unit. Cute and cozy. Near bay. Large kitchen/dining area. Excellent location. Sorry, no pets or smoking. Available mid-February. 4210 Haines Street #1. Agent, 619-692-4121.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, cat OK, refrigerator, stove, complex is being remodeled, paid water/trash. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Fireplace and private balcony. Great central location. Walk to shops and restaurants. 1939 Emerald Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Very well-maintained complex. Updated appliances. Walk to Vons. Must see! 2112 Garnet Avenue. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1595. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. 2 blocks to Tourmaline Beach. Fireplace, garage, new carpet and appliances. Open Saturday, 1-2pm. 829 Opal Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$925. 1 bedroom. Cat OK with extra deposit. 1 parking. Open Saturday 2:30pm-3:30pm. 2112 Balboa Avenue #1. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1450. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Immaculate property in best Crown Point location. Two blocks to bay. 2-parking spaces. No pets. 3803 Jewell Street. TPPM, 619-933-7400. www.villalaplaza.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$895. 1 bedroom in garden setting. Easy access location. Pool, recreation room, laundry. No pets. 2710 Grand Avenue. TPPM, 858-273-8657.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1075. 1 bedroom with garage. \$600 deposit. Quiet. Laundry. Close to shopping. No pets. 1920 Felspar. lan, 360-223-2167 (cell).

PACIFIC BEACH. Junior 1 bedroom, downstairs, newly painted, new carpet. Duplex. Near bay. Need to see to appreciate! No pets. 1971 Grand Avenue. \$1025. 858-483-5111 x10 or apply online at www.melroyproperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. All utilities paid. 860 Missouri Street. Spacious studio apartment. Great location, only 1/2 blocks to the beach! No pets. \$995 rent, \$950 deposit. www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

PACIFIC BEACH. 860 Missouri Street #H. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Great location, only 1/2 block to the beach! \$1450. www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$3400 per month. 4 bedroom, 3 bath townhouse, 1/4 block to Sail Bay. Fireplace. Deck. Large rooms. Laundry, Parking. No pets. Available now. 3945 Gresham Street at Pacific Beach Drive. 858-273-4820 or cell 858-525-5238.

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dry on-site, off-street parking. 1043 Chalcedony Street. 858-270-1556, 858-344-4555.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$975. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment in a small quaint complex close to shops and the bay. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$825. Studio, 1 bath apartment, upstairs unit, walk-in closet/dressing area, centrally located, paid water/trash/gas. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, cat OK, refrigerator, stove, complex is being remodeled, paid water/trash. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Fireplace and private balcony. Great central location. Walk to shops and restaurants. 1939 Emerald Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Very well-maintained complex. Updated appliances. Walk to Vons. Must see! 2112 Garnet Avenue. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1595. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. 2 blocks to Tourmaline Beach. Fireplace, garage, new carpet and appliances. Open Saturday, 1-2pm. 829 Opal Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$925. 1 bedroom. Cat OK with extra deposit. 1 parking. Open Saturday 2:30pm-3:30pm. 2112 Balboa Avenue #1. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1450. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Immaculate property in best Crown Point location. Two blocks to bay. 2-parking spaces. No pets. 3803 Jewell Street. TPPM, 619-933-7400. www.villalaplaza.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$895. 1 bedroom in garden setting. Easy access location. Pool, recreation room, laundry. No pets. 2710 Grand Avenue. TPPM, 858-273-8657.

PACIFIC BEACH. Well maintained 1 bedroom, \$875. Clean, quiet, parking, laundry, ceiling fans, pool. No pets. Available beginning of February. 619-276-5520.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1100/month: large 1 bedroom apartment, upstairs with balcony. \$1500/month: spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, upstairs. Parking. Pools, Laundry facilities. Cats OK. 3883 Jewell Street. Call Manager, 858-272-0068. See www.apartments.com/

tuscanaapartments for photos and floor plans.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1125. Extra large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, stove, refrigerator, laundry, carport. 2 blocks from beach/bay. Pet negotiable. 1480 Fortuna Avenue #2. 619-804-3325.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upper, on alley, \$1300. Open beam ceiling, new paint, parking. Available now. 1464 Grand Avenue. Agent, 619-260-1368. View at http://www.sevilllemgmt.com.

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BACK WHEN

In the Reader

Thirty Years Ago

Ever since the Ocean Beach Planning Board has begun recommending how the beach community should grow, they have given fast-food franchises a cold shoulder. Now, however, the antifranchise wall may be cracking; although the planning board turned down a proposed Winchell's Donut stand in September, the regional coastal commission rejected that recommendation, and the state commission now has refused to hear any appeal from the O.B. board.

—CITY LIGHTS: **"MORE GLAZED LOOKS FOR OB,"**
Jeannette De Wyzę, February 2, 1978

Twenty-Five Years Ago

The tangled junction of freeways I-8 and I-15 in Mission Valley is such a mess.... When the new layers of asphalt spaghetti are completed in August of 1984, navigating that stretch of freeway (the busiest in the county with some 200,000 cars passing through daily) will be easier. One of the worst problems — the criss-cross merging of cars going from northbound Fairmount Avenue to northbound I-15 and those coming from westbound I-8 to northbound I-15 — will be alleviated by a new series of on-ramps.

—CITY LIGHTS: **"WHEN YOU GET THE URGE, MERGE,"**
Paul Krueger, February 3, 1983

Twenty Years Ago

Such are the conceits of first-world living — they follow you. A late-night call from San Diego slips through a satellite onto the shore of a beleaguered nation with the news of my psychiatrist's death. My upbringing hadn't prepared me for this.

"How much was he charging before he died?" I asked the caller, a fellow patient.
"One hundred and fifteen bucks for forty-five minutes," she says.
"My God..." boomerangs through static. I should feel *something*, I thought. "My God..."

I had paid him to know me at a time when my "two projects for adulthood" (as Freud outlined them), work and love, were both in disarray. I was reeling from calamity to calamity. A causal chain had led me to his cluttered Pacific Beach office with its moldering terrarium.

—**"THE DOCTOR IS DEAD,"** Abe Opincar,
February 4, 1988

Fifteen Years Ago

It's one day later and I seem to have enough energy for another critique of Duncan Shepherd's movie review. Today let's look at his encapsulated review of *A River Runs Through It*. He describes it as a "gentle snore on the

subject of two brothers...."

The brothers were not boring. I found them interesting because they were active, adventurous in a Hemingway sort of way (remember the waterfall shoot?), and they seemed to have some idea of who they were.

—LETTERS: **"DUNCAN FOE IMPLIES SAN DIEGANS ARE YOKELS WHO NEED DOUGHY MOVIE CRITICS TO PANDER TO THEIR SHABBY STANDARDS,"**
February 4, 1993

Ten Years Ago

Democratic San Diego City Councilwoman Christine Kehoe, who wants to run against Republican Congressman Brian Billbray, is soliciting financial support from the members of arts groups receiving money from city hall. In a letter touting a fund-raising party last week, the Kehoe campaign told would-be supporters that the councilwoman is champion of the National Endowment for the Arts and would as a congresswoman "strongly denounce efforts to censor free speech" — an apparent reference to the campaign of Republican Senator Jesse Helms and others to punish the NEA for funding controversial efforts such as Robert Mapplethorpe exhibits.

—CITY LIGHTS: **"LEFT VS. RIGHT,"** Matt Potter,
February 5, 1998



San Diego Reader, February 4, 1988

Five Years Ago

The most notable politico missing in action during last week's Super Bowl buildup was Susan Golding. When she was San Diego mayor, Golding devoted much of her time to serving the needs of Chargers owner Alex Spanos in hopes he would be a key financial backer of her run for the U.S. Senate. But today, done in by the Chargers ticket guarantee she championed for Spanos, Golding is a virtual nonperson.

—CITY LIGHTS: **"FALL OF THE MIGHTY,"** Matt Potter,
January 30, 2003
Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com

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A Mite Bitter

She was like a statue: beautiful and cold. She had dyed her hair so many times that I doubted that she could remember what the original color was. Her eyes were unusually dark brown. Her shirts always accentuated her bust; her tight jeans showed off the shape of her hips.

We were both first-year students at a community college, paying for everything ourselves. Twice a week we would sit together before class, complaining about whatever troubled us, talking about whatever amused us. I still remember the clove-tobacco smell of her clothes and hair.

The first red flag rose when "Rochelle" began speaking of...let's call him Frank. I can't remember his real name, anyway. She never had anything nice to say about Frank, but this faceless phantasm would pop up in our conversations like a weed. Frank was a lovable, thoughtless bastard, so she hated his guts and loved him to death.

Even so, she would smile and laugh at the things I said. She once rested her head on my shoulder before class when she had had a long morning at work. She would often place her hand on my knee and lean in for a conspiratorial whisper. I didn't know what to make of it. My roommate advised me: "Go for it! What's the worst that could happen — she says, 'No'?"

So I went for it. Our professor, who was never easy to understand, was particularly unintelligible that day. The Botox had shrink-wrapped the old woman's skull so tightly that she could barely move her lips. Half of the class had given up on trying to take notes, and our professor had stepped outside, presumably to try to massage the life back into her face.

I turned to Rochelle and asked if she wanted to "maybe go see a movie or something sometime." I had carefully posed myself into a position indicative of nonchalance. I worked my vocal cords like a practiced opera singer, everything about me precisely tuned for optimal output of Confidence and Casual.

She smiled and shrugged. "Sure, sure."

I had recently lost my job, but I managed to scrounge together enough for two matinee cinema tickets and a cheap lunch. She said to meet her at the theater because she would have to rush there from work to make it on time. I paced, tickets in hand. Ten minutes after the listed start time she sauntered up, talking on her cell. "I'm not too late, am I?"

Ah, the smell of clove cigarettes and vanilla. She had changed from her job uniform to the usual tight jeans and tank top. Of course I said, "No problem!" For the life of me, I can't remember which movie we saw.

I'm no Casanova, but that afternoon I was about as charming and witty as I get. Her lips would brush against my ear when she leaned in to comment on something. Her hand rested on my knee; my hand on her thigh.

We were halfway through lunch when she got a call: She had to go! My mind flooded with anguish over the wasted money, but she assuaged me, as I walked her to her car, with a suggestion that we go "someplace else." She had parked her van so that it faced one of the cement pillars supporting the parking structure. The side and rear windows were tinted. Inside she had gutted the middle and back rows of seats and replaced them with blankets and pillows. I thought I spied a bottle of baby oil sticking out of the silken folds. Aromatic candles twinkled on the dashboard and on shelves

installed in the back, oozing spicy scarlet blood onto little plates. Clearly, things were arranged for a specific purpose.

Rochelle inserted a CD of Spanish love songs into the stereo. She claimed to be fluent in Spanish and translated a few sensuous lines from one of the songs. I knew enough Spanish from high school to know that she was making up most of it. Then she stopped and stared at me in silence. Phrases that I had memorized in my first year of Spanish for situations just like this ran through my mind: "Bésame." "Tus ojos son como estrellas." "¡Hay un fuego en mis pantalones!" I said the first one.

"What?" said Rochelle. "Base on me?"

Never mind. I leaned in.

Rochelle pulled back, her body going nigh horizontal. She was like a supernatural limbo champion. I blinked at her, testosterone boiling, utterly at a loss. Her hand flew to her pocket and she pulled out her cell phone. She flipped it open and carried on a brief conversation with mostly one- or two-word responses. She stared right at me the whole time. She flipped it shut. "Well, that was Frank. He's, uh, throwing a party in Encinitas for a mutual friend of ours."

This was blatantly a lie. "I guess I'll take you home now. This was fun." (Well, thanks for spending all that money on me. Now I'm going to have sex with someone else who doesn't respect me as a human being.)

I never saw her again. This was over a year ago, but I will risk seeming petty by admitting that I am still a mite bitter about the whole thing. It's not about the money. Every time I think about it I can't understand why she would send so many obvious signals and then act repulsed when I responded — or why women like her are so often attracted to abusive, negligent men when a kinder alternative stands before them.

While writing this I have fantasized Rochelle accosting me about this article, a copy of the *Reader* rolled up in one angry little fist, and of the things that I would then say to her. This scenario is unlikely to happen, so I'll just say it here: Your *español* is terrible. The class we took wasn't difficult — you were too stupid and lazy to pass it. Your mother could have afforded to let you live at home a while longer if she had wanted to — she did not. And the acting jaded, the sex with strangers, and the drugs you take to try to forget it all don't make you sophisticated or worldly.

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At [one] point, I felt there were people in the audience who had paid to come to see a conference about porn, who didn't necessarily have any feminist concerns. I realize that I am approaching porn from the viewpoint that it is empowering to reclaim our sexualities, which I see as part of third-wave feminism. Still, I realized that not everyone in the room agreed on that point. I stayed because I realized that a little discomfort is good. I know that a lot of my work makes people uncomfortable, and I consider that valuable, challenging people's accepted notions of gender, sexuality, and desire.

One thing definitely left unmentioned at the conference was any serious critique of the hosts of the conference, *kink.com*. It appeared that everyone was so grateful to have such a dangerous space for the conference, or maybe so grateful to be in close proximity to the "real" porn industry, that there was no critique made of *kink.com*. Yet, even in Monochrom's opening-night talk about their punch, there was a lot of critique made of capitalism and the bourgeoisie. *Kink.com* is a profit-oriented business, fully supporting and benefiting from capitalism. In addition, in the videos that I have seen from *kink.com*, their "talent scouts" seem to think that talent means fitting within the oppressive beauty standard doled out in mainstream media and mainstream porn. Anyone who is

not very skinny, with perfect skin and a hairless body, will not be chosen by the *kink.com* talent scouts.

What I heard was Mark Dery's conceptually in-depth keynote discussing commodification of sexuality and the more recent move toward gore porn and war porn and a critique of Pornotopia. Mark's talk was one of the most conceptually rigorous and most critical of porn as a panacea, which was important as an opening keynote at this kind of event.

I heard Violet Blue's talk. She said flatly that the LGBTQ(IA) community need their online privacy, and that women need their online privacy, because they are all targets of violence. Still, I don't think I heard the word "feminism" or "feminist" all weekend, which seems strange to me. There are feminist porn awards, so it's not like there's some inherent conflict between gender liberation and porn. But there are no feminist technology awards that I know of. Could some of the latent misogyny at the

conference be thanks to the high-tech community's unaddressed gender inequality?

What I didn't see was Violet Blue seriously challenging Eon McKai of Vivid Alt. Throughout



the interview, he answered questions by rambling in every direction and name-dropping porn industry all-stars constantly. Eon showed a trailer for his film *The Doll Underground*, which purports to be radical. It shows a radical underground group of women who make the call, "Don't buy anything! Don't sell anything!" One of the "communiqués" in the film talks about how women have been duped by men into being

wives and housekeepers and how this has to end. But I asked him, "Is this video going to be sold by Vivid Alt? Do you think it is radical or transgressive at all?" And yes, this video, with heavily made-up skinny white girls pulling up their skirts while making anticapitalist communiqués will be sold as a DVD by one of the biggest mainstream porn companies, and the profits will go to the old white men who own it. Eon's answer to my question: "As an artist, if you can find an audience for your work in your lifetime, that's a big thing," which I can understand, but I don't see why that necessitates totally violating the principles of your work in the process. As far as I'm concerned, *The Doll Underground* is an excellent example of industry co-optation of radical imagery and discourse for profit. It clearly shows the limits of radical porn production when the content is the only radical part, and the anticapitalist or the feminist values are not extended into production and distribution.

What I heard was Annalee Newitz's talk about a history of sex and technology, which laid out the clearest question and challenge that I heard all weekend. She said that the vibrator had introduced a wholly new sensation into our sexual vocabulary and asked what sex toys of the future might do to similarly add an entirely new experience.

Another thing I didn't hear was much in-depth discussion about transgender relationships to sexual technology, or much in-depth discussion of gender and how it affects sexual technology in general, or how more fluid conceptions of gender might spur new thinking about sex tech. Annalee Newitz did talk about having sex as an octopus, referring to conceptions of gender identity outside of male and female that are common in spaces like Second Life.

Overall, my impression was that Arse Electronica was mostly populated with geeks interested in studying and talking about sex. Newitz said in the conclusion of her talk that — I'm paraphrasing here — "We will take these technologies into our own hands and shape them to increase our own pleasure." The statement was empowering, if also consciously ironic and sly, but my question is, who is the "we" that she is talking about and who will get to use these new technologies? Who gets to play in our new virtual-cyborg-sexual wonderland? Who gets invited? Who even knows it exists, and what are we challenging?

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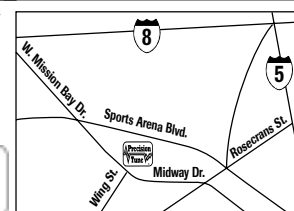
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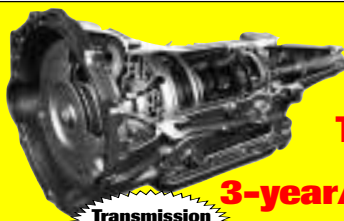
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I INTERVIEW THE BILLBOARD DOWN THE STREET

ME: Hey, how's it going?
BILLBOARD: Not bad. It's been rainy, but I usually get good sun, just sort of standing here.
ME: Yeah, that's not bad. You just people-watch all day? I guess that's pretty good. Get tired of watching the same street?
BILLBOARD: Yeah. Don't get me wrong, I love San Diego, but I've been watching El Cajon Boulevard for, like, 25 years now. [The billboard pauses and sighs.] God, I'd love to see Barcelona.
ME: What's the best part of being a billboard?
BILL: Well, in the summer, boy, the street gets so hot. Like those wavy vapor lines come up off the asphalt and the girls...oh, man, they wear almost nothing at all. That's my favorite part of being a billboard.
ME: Uh, you're attracted to women?
BILL: Mostly. I identify as heterosexual, but I've seen some handsome men in my life too. And who knows, you know? I like to think that I'd fall in love with the person, not their gender.
ME: Get lonely up there?
BILL: Kinda.
ME: I see. So what's the worst part of being a billboard?
BILL: Well, first of all, I'm huge and ugly....
ME: No, no, you're just the right size for you. You know, billboards are supposed to be, you know, *your* shape.
BILL: No, it's all right. I know I'm big and ugly. People hate me. You know I can see dozens of back yards from up here. That means they see me. You think people want to cook out in the summer and stare straight into a douche advertisement? Or worse, life insurance. [Shivers.] Those old people with the insane grins and that little piggy bank. My God.
ME: So, you hate the life insurance ads. What ads do you enjoy?
BILL: I'm not wild about any of them. But at least they're decent looking these days. I mean, for a billboard. You should see pictures of me from the '80s. MTV and day-glo green, and someone painted my metal structure bright pink with these yellow polka dots. What were they thinking?
ME: I'm not real sure. Do you even know what MTV is?
BILL: I was erected at night, but not *last* night. I can see into people's houses; I get glimpses of TV, some movies. And [Bill laughs], I see people in their underpants.
ME: Well, thanks for talking with me today, Bill.
BILL: Sweet, man. Take it easy.

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

SAN DIEGO LIVING

FOX 9:00 A.M.

Man, I am hungover, like gorilla stink on toast. I'm not even making sense. I feel like my body's been filled with sharp, tiny shards of glass, and my brain's been chewed by a gang of miniature dachshunds and then spit back into my head. Now, I get to sit at my desk and pretend to work, and I'll bet I stink like booze. I'm totally getting fired. I know it.

I haven't been fired yet. But I had to sit through a meeting where Marcy, my "teammate" in marketing, and our manager, Josh, had a contest to see which of them could waste more time. Josh reminded us he had a Porsche every three minutes, and Marcy yacked about her 19 kids. Okay, we know you drive an expensive car, Josh, and someone had sex with you, Marcy. Congratulations to the both of you. I think I'm going to take a nap in the bathroom.

STILL STANDING

FOX 11:00 A.M.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS

CBS 11:00 A.M.

Whoa, that was a bad idea. I saw myself in the mirror. I look like I spent the night outside. In these clothes. My hair is oily and sticky-icky in back. Did I not shower this morning? Oh, God, I didn't. I was late, half-drunk, and I rushed out the door. I wonder if anyone would notice if I lie down under my desk.



Happy Days

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

WHAT NOT TO WEAR

TLC 12:00 P.M.

Super. Marcy found me. I said I was checking my computer's power supply, and she said my snoring was disturbing the rest of the "team." Now my clothes are more wrinkled than they were and the left side of my body is asleep. I *really* don't want to see my hair. Oh, this day is shot to hell. I'm going to get some coffee.

COPS

FOX 12:30 P.M.

Damn! Marcy totally caught me pinching some of her vanilla creamer. I told her I didn't know whose vanilla creamer it was, and she pointed out the fat magic marker all over it that reads, "Marcy's creamer, stop stealing." In three places. She was so steamed! Whatever, I got coffee filled with rich creamy goodness and she's got a huge butt. I could probably sleep in my truck without anyone noticing.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

EL FUGITIVO

TELEMUNDO 1:00 P.M.

Josh noticed. That was awful. I caught a good look at myself in the rearview mirror. My hair looks like there's some sort of party on my head, and I have the impression of a seatbelt receiver on my cheek. It's all red and tender. Worst of all, Josh came out and knocked on my window and asked if I was all right. He said maybe I should go home.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4

GENERAL HOSPITAL

ABC 2:00 P.M.

I don't want to use my sick days because I need them for Coachella. Oh, great, a bare wire from the seat of my pickup tore a hole in my pants. I can feel it; it's under my right butt pocket. Oh, I'm pretty. There's a bleeding hole in the

seat of my pants, my hair is oily like salad, and my face has lines from my seatbelt. I'm setting the financial world on fire. I am going to own this insurance company.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

DECORATING CENTS

HGTV 2:30 P.M.

Uh-oh, Marcy's outraged. She's bitching about something at the top of her lungs in Josh's office. What the...? Oh, man, there was a dime stuck to my neck, right behind my ear. It must've been there for, like, an hour. I went to the store and got a sandwich like that.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

FAMILY FEUD

ABC 3:00 P.M.

Marcy came out of Josh's office and she glared at me when she passed my desk. Whatever. She's taken, like, a grand total of 16 months of maternity leave. It's as if the company pays her to drop a new piglet and take half of every year off. And I can't blow one day of work at my desk, reeking of booze, and checking my email 9000 times? Bite it, Marcy.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

HAPPY DAYS

CASD4 4:00 P.M.

Ah, it's 4:45. Fifteen minutes left of this rotten workday. Sure, Marcy's pissed off and Josh probably has me on a short list of people who are getting canned this year, but I wasn't fired today. And tonight there's this band playing at the Casbah, and there are drink specials till 10 at the Pink Elephant. It's going to be relaxing to finally get out of this office, and I might have a drink just to forget about this awful day.

black lacquer, brown lacquer wood extension, good condition, \$2950/best. Rene, 858-452-1179.

DINING ROOM TABLE, maple, with 6 up-holstered chairs and hutch, excellent condition, \$600. 619-886-6929.

DINING ROOM TABLE, round, 49"W without the 2 table extensions, 4 chairs, midback, no arms, vintage wood, medium color wood, \$175. 619-867-6767.

DINING SET, china cabinet, server, 42" round table, three 18" inserts by Krohler, 5 rattan chairs, antique white, good condition, \$225. 619-225-0584.

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I find his material to be very funny: a deranged Dennis Miller or an edgier George Carlin.

By John Brizzolara

It has been suggested, and rightly so, that I have gone a bit far afield regarding what's going on in San Diego on Friday nights. I have been given much freedom, and it seems it is time to rein me back in somewhat to what is — oh yeah, that's right, what I was originally hired to do here. For some weeks now I will be pretty much confined to a three-story walk-up with a broken ankle in San Marcos sans transportation. With a computer, however, one can reach out and at least take the pulse of Fridays here in town. I could also read a newspaper now and then, something that, ironically, I rarely do these days, as my supply of antidepressants is sporadic. So...

This strikes me as a promising Friday night in San Diego: comedian/writer/enraged pundit Lewis Black will appear at Copley Hall on Friday, February 1. Black is probably most famous for his association with Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*. He has, however several other and varied credits to his name; a string of plays, a second book in progress, CDs, DVDs, film shorts, and acting roles in, generally, smart comedies. My initial reaction to Black was one of love/hate. The theme for his tirades is never far from "human stupidity," a favorite subject of mine. My objection was his constant tendency to hysteria: his portrayal of a man about to pull his own hair out as his voice rises to mad-

ness pitch.

Getting past his histrionics, I find his material to be very funny: a deranged Dennis Miller or an edgier George Carlin. An entire evening with this guy might prove to be exhausting, but in the sense of leaving audience members sore from laughing — even if it is reluctantly. A graduate of Yale Drama School, Black tends to avoid scatological humor and obscenity (maybe just on television). I can't say for sure that Black's Yale education accounts for his avoidance of excessive sex and bathroom material. The use of the word "vulgarity" below does not equate, in my mind, with obscenity or the scatological.

The following is taken from Wikipedia online.

Nothing's Sacred is the autobiography of comedian Lewis Black. It was published in 2005, and republished in 2006 (paperback edition). The 2006 publication contains new material and one of the plays he wrote during his "career" as a playwright. The book has also been released in unabridged audio CD format, narrated by Black himself. The book is narrated in the same fashion as Black's stand-up routines, with vulgar language, sarcasm, and constant fits of rage.

The book primarily accounts Lewis' admiration for his seemingly eccentric family, his disregard for authority, his education, past habitual drug use, his perspectives on current issues, and other real-life events such as his hitchhiking trip in Europe or his late pet dog, John-John. The book's layout is in semi-chronological order. The book has no table of contents and a lengthy page of acknowledgments.

Excerpts from *Nothing's Sacred*:

- "So many leaves, so little time. I will buy a leaf blower."
- "If there is a hell, it is modeled after Jr. High."
- "Just the memory of it makes me want to go to the bathroom."
- "I was lucky to have an animal like that as my owner."
- "Somehow, psychopaths always get service."
- "We are passing on a legacy of shit."
- "One doesn't shit in a bidet, because one has to clean it up."
- "If the post office didn't already exist, Kafka would've invented it."

Another blurb from one of the promotional websites is as follows. I include it for those who may not be familiar with Black's material, though he is hard to miss if you have cable television. He has also performed to sell-out crowds pre-



Lewis Black

viously in San Diego.

"Outspoken and uncensored, the Grammy-nominated Black offers his sharp-edge observations on topics such as the Iraq War, Hurricane Katrina and FEMA, gay marriage, the Dick Cheney shooting, President Bush, and fossils and evolution. He'll leave you feeling red, white and screwed."

There is little that is subtle about Black's humor, and while he is hardly in the tradition of baggy-pants comedians, he will provide traces of it with his over-the-top outrage, as in the cleverly titled CD *Rules of Enragement*.

While I am not a huge fan, personally, I find myself as often "engaged" by his shtick as I find myself changing the channel if I am not in the mood. If you are in one of those "I'm-mad-as-hell-and-I'm-not-going-to-take-it-anymore" frames of mind and realize there is little to do about any of it except laugh and watch someone else on the brink of tearing his hair out over the stupidity we are all mired in, Copley Hall on Friday night February 1 might be just the ticket.

DINING SET, table, 6 chairs, buffet, Duncan Phyfe, mahogany, needs some work, \$450/best. 619-280-9083.

ENTERTAINMENT ARMOIRE, Ethan Allen, 84"x45"x22", quality piece, will fit TV to 33"W, excellent condition, 2 CD drawers. Original receipt \$3162; asking \$300. Rob. 619-890-6848.

EXECUTIVE DESK and matching conference table, faux emerald marble, very nice condition and easy move, \$850. Pictures available. City Heights, 619-280-5155.

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SOFA AND CHAIR. Beautiful white embossed fabric, rolled arms, tropical pillows. Excellent condition, \$300. 619-540-9246.

SOFA TABLE, wood, medium oak color, 56"Lx27"Hx16"D, nice, \$40. 619-867-6767.

SOFA, dark chocolate leather, excellent condition, 7"Wx3'Hx3'D, \$600. Entertainment center, gray base/body, glass shelves, 31"Wx18"Hx19"D, \$100. Mission Valley. Please call 858-232-2942.

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HANDBAG, new Louis Vuitton, black with colored lettering, sacrificing at \$500/best. Call Bleu, 619-741-7557 or 619-342-5103.

JACUZZI BUBBLE SPA, by Homedics. A Jacuzzi for the bath tub! New with remotes, pillow and controller. Still in the box \$65. 619-466-8663.

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