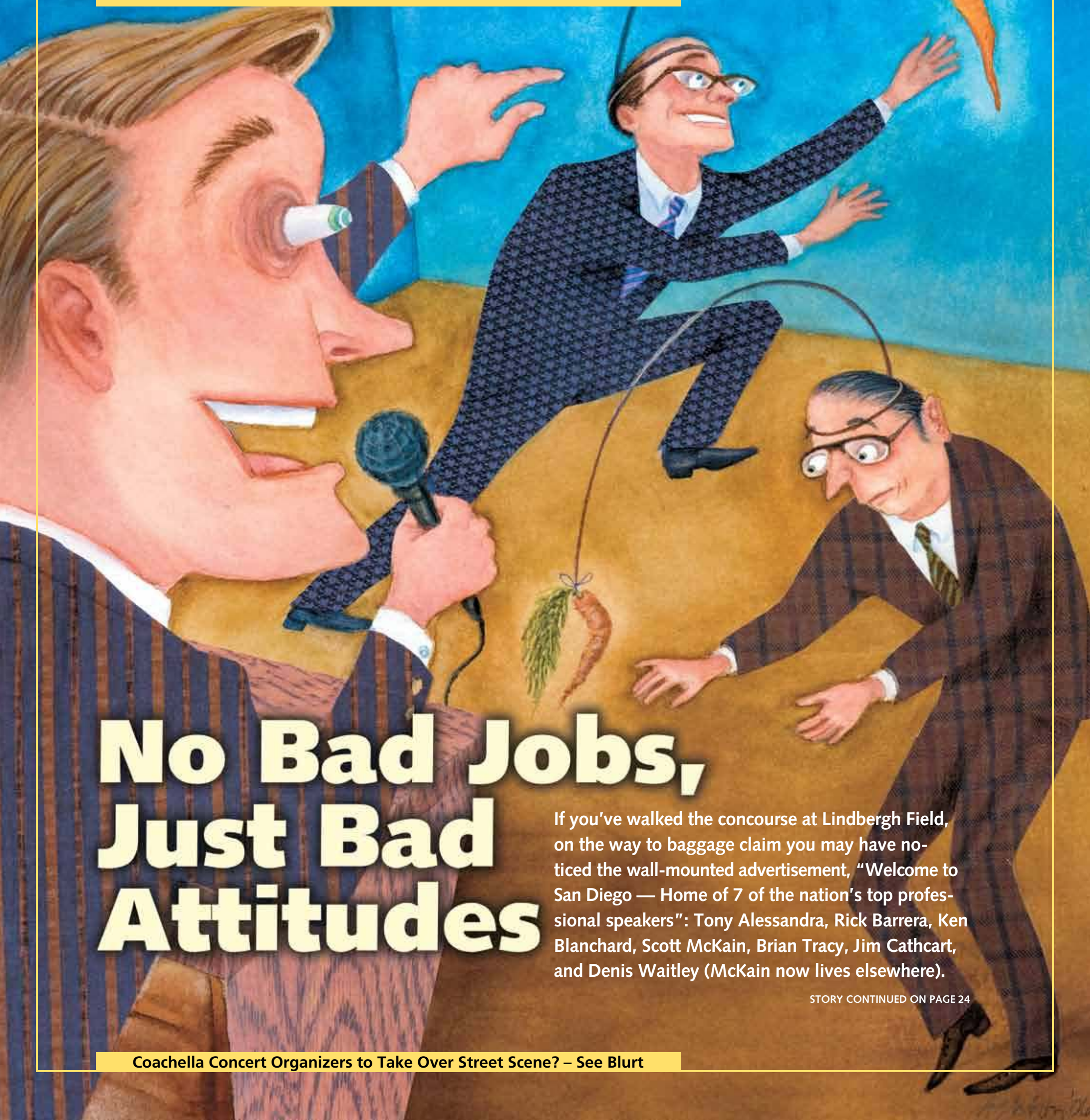


# Reader



## No Bad Jobs, Just Bad Attitudes

If you've walked the concourse at Lindbergh Field, on the way to baggage claim you may have noticed the wall-mounted advertisement, "Welcome to San Diego — Home of 7 of the nation's top professional speakers": Tony Alessandra, Rick Barrera, Ken Blanchard, Scott McKain, Brian Tracy, Jim Cathcart, and Denis Waitley (McKain now lives elsewhere).

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



**NEWS & FEATURES**

**No Bad Jobs, Just Bad Attitudes**  
These gurus of success. By Thomas Larson ..... **Cover**

**City Lights**  
Sub-prime lenders are sub-par these days;  
and City Lights shorts ..... **7**  
When history meets development ..... **8**

**Letters** ..... **14**

**Straight From the Hip**  
Grandma Alice's sit-down strike ..... **16**

**The Sporting Box**  
Annual sports roundup reads like police blotter ..... **17**

**Sheep and Goats**  
Funnel-cake cart in Snow Village ..... **18**

**Best Buys**  
Brand-new traditions ..... **19**

**Crasher**  
A gaggle of gift thieves ..... **20**

**Diary of a Diva**  
No fear ..... **22**

**When Elvis Came to San Diego**  
Mothers and sons and rock and roll. By Sharon Doubiago ..... **48**

**La Semana en Español**  
A week's worth of stories in Spanish ..... **129**

**Off the Cuff** ..... **148**

**Puzzle** ..... **149**

**Name This Place** ..... **154**

**Picture Story** ..... **158**

**News of the Weird** ..... **167**

**Blog World**  
Hairless in Egypt ..... **169**

**Blog Diego**  
Do these Uggs make my butt look big? ..... **171**

**Remote Control King**  
Not everybody loves Raymond ..... **173**

**T.G.I.F.**  
The end is in sight ..... **175**

**CALENDAR**

**Local Events** ..... **67**

**Roam-O-Rama**  
Butler Canyon awaits ..... **70**

**Reading**  
Larry Kahaner: AK-47 ..... **74**

**Classical Music Guide** ..... **77**

**Art Museum and Gallery Guide** ..... **77**

**Pop Music**  
Blurt ..... **78**  
Bass, guitar, piano, and synths in a blender ..... **82**

**Restaurant Reviews and Guide**  
The ordeal that is Addison ..... **106**  
Everything's huge at Honey's ..... **108**  
Wine: Not just a beer substitute anymore ..... **109**

**Theater Guide** ..... **118**

**Movie Review and Guide**  
Duncan Shepherd finishes his Christmas list ..... **121**



**Toe amputation and an itchy Santa. See page 20**

**ADVERTISING**

**Classified Ads**

Antiques & Collectibles ..... 172  
Appliances ..... 172  
Automotive: Cars ..... 174  
Automotive: Trucks/Vans/SUVs ..... 174  
Automotive: Classic/Custom Cars ..... 175  
Automotive: RVs ..... 175  
Automotive: Parts ..... 175  
Automotive: Services ..... 175  
Bicycles ..... 172  
Business Opportunities ..... 146  
Career Training ..... 142  
Classes/Lessons ..... 146  
Computers ..... 172  
Counseling/Support ..... 150  
Electronics ..... 172  
Employment Agencies ..... 142  
Employment Services ..... 142  
Furniture ..... 172  
Garage Sales ..... 172  
Health & Fitness ..... 150  
Help Wanted ..... 131  
Massage ..... 148  
Matches ..... 151  
Miscellaneous For Sale ..... 172  
Motorcycles ..... 173  
Music, Equipment/Instruments ..... 154  
Music, Musicians Avail/Wanted ..... 154  
Music, Services ..... 155  
Notices ..... 150  
Parent Resources ..... 150  
Personals ..... 151  
Pet Central ..... 158  
Photo ..... 172  
Real Estate, Condos ..... 170  
Real Estate, Houses ..... 168  
Real Estate, Miscellaneous ..... 170  
Rentals, Commercial ..... 156  
Rentals, Apartments/Condos ..... 158  
Rentals, Houses ..... 156  
Roommates ..... 155  
Roommate Services ..... 156  
Services Directory ..... 156  
Sports ..... 170  
Stage Notes ..... 150  
Tickets ..... 170  
Travel & Getaways ..... 150  
Wanted/Trade ..... 172  
Wedding/Party Guide ..... 150

**Display Ads**

Apartment Rentals ..... 159  
Automotive ..... 163  
Career Training ..... 139  
Getaways ..... 68  
Great Escapes ..... 68  
Health and Beauty ..... 46  
Help Wanted ..... 131  
Instruction ..... 149  
Music ..... 154  
Research Studies ..... 36  
Services ..... 152  
Wedding Guide ..... 70

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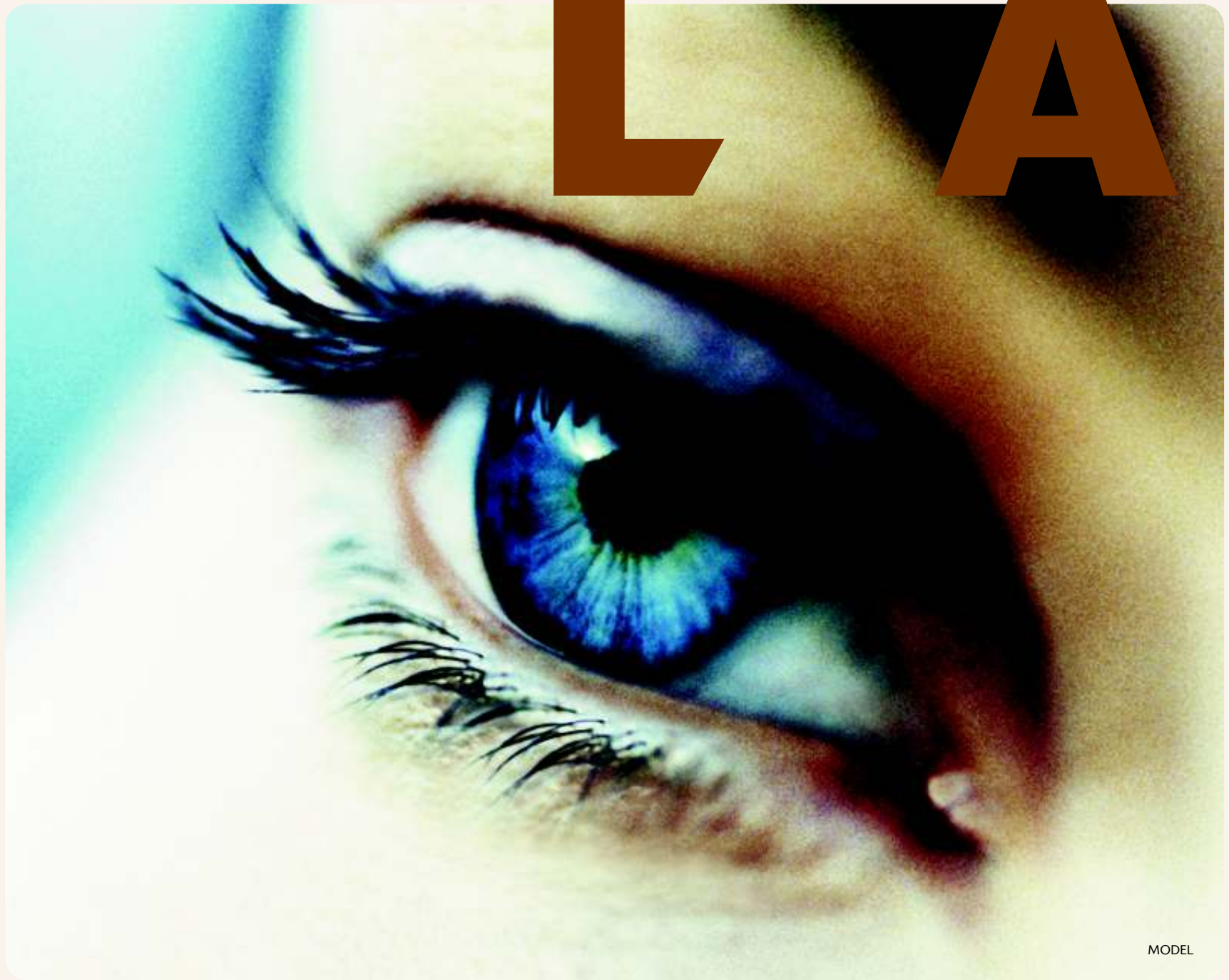
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"I always hated photos because of the glare in my glasses. But worse, I couldn't get out of bed or see the clock because my sight was 20/400 with astigmatism in both eyes."

loved as a girl had to be avoided. In fact I couldn't even remember what it was like to wake up and see. When I walked into Dr. Yaghouti's office I was very nervous. But the staff put me at ease and the procedure was over in minutes. When I woke up the next day I screamed, 'I CAN SEE!' And the tears came. For the first time in 42 years I could see the clock on the wall and other things in my room. No more hassle with glasses or discomfort from contacts. I can swim, snorkel and do anything I want with perfect sight. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."



— Michelle Stewart, San Diego

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— Mischa Shirazi, San Diego, CA

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### Q: How soon after the process can I begin normal daily activities again?

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— Sandra Macias, San Diego, CA

**Important note from Dr. Lakhani:** The effects of LASIK are permanent and do not wear off. However, a person's eye can still change internally, which is why many surgeons recommend having the procedure done after major eye changes have occurred in one's life.

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— Darush Mohyji, M.D., La Jolla, CA



### MEET DR. YAGHOUTI

Refractive Eye Surgery specialist from Harvard University.



### MEET DR. LAKHANI

Refractive Eye Surgery specialist from UCSD Medical Center.



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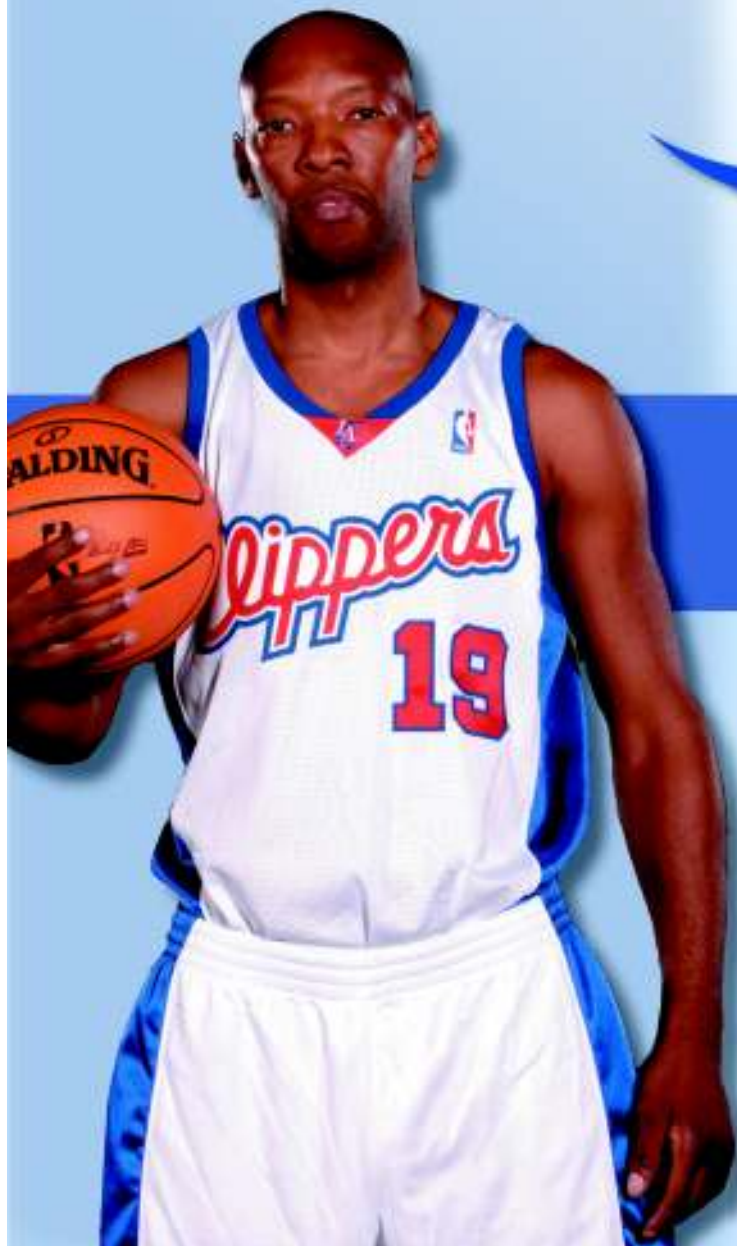


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An archive of City Lights stories can be searched on the Internet at [SanDiegoReader.com](http://SanDiegoReader.com)

**Field of suits** Alex Spanos, the megamillionaire developer from Stockton who is paying ex-Clinton aide **Mark Fabiani** to prospect around the county for a taxpayer subsidy for a new Chargers stadium, is also lobbying hard for federal government largesse. According to disclosure statements on file with the U.S. Senate, on July 1 of last year, the A.G. Spanos Companies retained the services of the big-name Washington



Alex Spanos

influence-peddling firm Patton Boggs to lobby Congress regarding House Resolution 3, the "Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, High Priority Projects," along with H.R. 3058, a Department of Transportation appropriations bill. The Spanos companies have laid out a total of \$180,000 through the middle of this year, the latest period for which filings are available. ... Meanwhile, Spanos is having a problem getting hold of land he wants to build on near Stockton. The GOP stalwart is seeking to create a 2231-acre retail and residential development dubbed Spanos Park North on the outskirts of town, reports the *Stockton Record*. But a group of property owners doesn't want to play ball. So Spanos has gone to court, claiming they reneged on an agreement reached with him three years ago to sell 315 acres of farmland in the middle of the project. In the suit, Alex's son **Dean** accuses the farmers of trying to back out of the deal — reached before Spanos Park North was announced — because the price of the land has gone up significantly since details of the mixed-use development were made public. The landowners have filed a counter suit, arguing that replacement land offered by Spanos as part of the deal did not meet the terms of their original agreement.

**Unhappy holidays** A few exiting editorial employees of Copley Newspapers are being



Gina Lubrano

allowed by management to say their glum good-byes in print. *Union-Tribune* "readers' representative" **Gina Lubrano** bid her polite adieu last week, beginning with "It wouldn't surprise me if you missed the article that is changing my life forever. On Nov. 2, *The San Diego Union-Tribune* ran a six-line announcement on Page 3 of the Business section saying that 67 employees who have been with the company 30 years or longer had been offered 'voluntary retirement incentive packages.' That includes me." Lubrano went on to laud her also departing support staffer. "Over the last 10 years, many of you have been telephone pals with my assistant, **Diana Mortenson**, to whom I will be forever grateful for her patience, good humor and diligence on behalf of readers. She ended 40 years of employment as a *Union-Tribune* employee on Friday, too." Another long-time employee, arts writer **Preston Turegano**, says his final column was spiked.

Back at the Copley-owned *Canton (OH) Repository*, **Rick Senften**, who has written the

paper's "Mustard Seeds" column since 1980, wasn't as politically correct as Lubrano in announcing the end of his career. "Now, it's time to say goodbye, well before I'm ready," he wrote. "The *Repository* is on the sales block, and I agreed to a buyout to help the company reduce the payroll. Copley Newspapers, the company for whom



Union-Tribune building

we've enjoyed working since 2000, wants to make sure the paper is attractive to potential buyers, and some positions must go for that to occur." He added, "Yeah, it hurts a lot, all the more each day as the calendar counts down to Dec. 29, my last day."

Then readers chimed in on the paper's website. One attacked "the bumbling at Copley" for offering buyouts "as they attempt to put their financial house in order — a house that they ransacked themselves, no matter what spin they [want] to put on it." Proclaimed another, "I think we should all prepare to say 'goodbye' to the *Repository*. I don't see anything good ahead for this newspaper. If you're going to buy out employees who've worked there for 35 years or so, you can usually kiss the rest of them goodbye too. Everyone better get a computer, and learn to use it. This will really hurt those that need this paper the most; the poor, who don't have pc's, the elderly, who look forward everyday to reading their paper."

But in the midst of all the Copley cutbacks, publisher **David Copley** continues to back his favorite charities, including Hollywood's American Cinematheque; Copley Newspapers was listed as a top-tier "platinum sponsor" — along with Warner Bros., Budweiser, Acura, **Lyn** and **Norman Lear**, *Vanity Fair*, and **Giorgio Armani** — of the group's October tribute to actor **George Clooney**.

**Arnold's digs** The *Sacramento Bee* reported last week that Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** and wife **Maria Shriver** took a tour of a new 15-story condo and hotel tower being built at 15th and L streets near the Capitol in Sacramento. Responding to rumors that



Maria and Arnold

the state's First Couple was looking to buy, spokesman **Darrell Ng** said, "He does not own and has not bought property there. Other than that, we have no comment." What the *Bee* didn't mention, pointed out by *Capitol Weekly*, was that the building, a Marriott Residence Inn with a Randy Paragary bar and kitchen, is being financed by three Indian tribes, including East County's Viejas Band of Kumeyaays. The other two are the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians from San Bernardino and the Sovereign Oneida Nation of Wisconsin.

— 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.

## Risky Mortgages Hurt Borrowers, Investors

By Don Bauder

**U**ltimately, putting people in a home we should be in." Daniel H. Mudd, head of

Fannie Mae, the big government-sponsored buyer of home mortgages, made this utterance recently at a Mortgage Bankers Association convention. Mudd shocked the attendees; the industry had been congratulating itself for making so many sub-prime loans, or high-interest mortgages, to people who cannot get credit from conventional sources. But lenders may have become too giddy in the real estate boom, suggested Mudd, whose name instantly became...er, uh, mud...among his peers.

The stock and bond markets are agreeing with Mudd, as a San Diego-based maker of sub-prime loans, Accredited Home Lenders Holding Company, has found out. Its stock has been more than cut in half this year, while the overall market has moved up sharply. Investors fear that a wave of mortgage delinquencies, defaults, and foreclosures among noncredit-

worthy people may whack companies like Accredited, whose earnings have plunged of late.

Fears are justified. The Mortgage Bankers Association reported in mid-December that in the third



Jim Cramer

quarter (July to September), the percentage of mortgage payments at least 30 days late jumped to 4.67 percent from 4.39 percent in the April to June period. But it was much worse for sub-prime borrowers. The delinquency rate

was 12.56 percent in the third quarter, highest in more than three years. For sub-prime borrowers holding adjustable-rate mortgages, the rate was 13.22 percent, also a three-plus-year nadir. And the sub-prime foreclosure rate is climbing. Last week, the Center for Responsible Lending predicted that 20 percent of sub-prime loans made in the last two years will wind up in foreclosure; more than a million people nationwide will lose their homes.

According to the *New York Times*, only 2.4 percent of all mortgages were sub-prime in 2000; now it's 13.4 percent, and more than half are adjustable-rate.

When housing was booming, everything was wonderful. Home prices were soaring. The sub-prime lenders dreamed up ever more creative loan terms for those with weak credit. The interest rates on the loans were scheduled to rise in a few years, but so what?

If borrowers had trouble paying the higher rate, they could refinance the mortgage, using their quickly appreciating houses as collateral.

But now housing prices, particularly in formerly hot markets, are going south.

continued on page 10

Contact Don Bauder at 619-546-8529 or [don.bauder@mac.com](mailto:don.bauder@mac.com)

### Neal Obermeyer





## I Own It

By Joe Deegan

**W**hile delivering flyers in University Heights one day last spring, Mary Wendorf saw the tenants of an old home she admired moving out. They told her the house was to be torn down and a condo complex put in its place. For years Wendorf, a member of Uptown Planners community planning group, was friendly with the home's prior owner. But the woman died recently, and her heirs sold the property to a prospective developer. The woman "would be rolling over in her grave," Wendorf told me, "if she knew what was about to happen to her longtime home."

Local residents knew nothing of the sale or plans for condominiums at 4374 Cleveland Avenue. Upon investigation, however, they discovered that Jennifer Poiset, wife of San Diego dentist Mitchell Poiset, had obtained a building permit from the San Diego Development Services Department to construct a fourplex on the property. But Wendorf and others living nearby weren't about to acquiesce in the destruction of what they considered a neighborhood treasure. So on the advice of San Diego councilwoman Toni Atkins, they contacted the City's Historical Resources Board to obtain historic des-

ignation for the old Craftsman house.

The board is composed of volunteers with training in history, archaeology, architecture, land-use law, and related fields. The mayor appoints the volunteers, who are then approved by the city council. The board came into being as a response to the Cal-



Christine Mann

ifornia Environmental Quality Act's demands that any building over 45 years old receive municipal review of its historicity before being torn down or substantially modified. In granting the Poisets a building permit at 4374 Cleveland, the City had already looked at the prop-

erty and concluded that the house did not have historic significance by standards of the U.S. Interior Department.

Local residents felt they should have been notified that condos were going to replace the old house. But according to the Poisets' architect, Tim Golba, there is no "noticing" requirement for a fourplex in University Heights. Anything larger, he told me by phone, say, a six-unit building, would have required a "discretionary permit" that carries with it the responsibility to give written notification to neighbors within 300 feet of the project.

"And the community," said Golba, "is not in a historically protected 'overlay zone,' which would have prevented my clients from tearing down the house. Before buying the property they did their due diligence. If they had discovered an overlay zone, they would never have purchased it."

Nevertheless, said Mary Wendorf, "these surprises are happening in San Diego neighborhoods all the time. Almost overnight people will look out their windows and see another old home gone. They never even know what's coming."

But thanks to Wendorf's discovery, residents interested in the Cleveland Avenue home were able to have their voices heard. They formed the University Heights Historical Committee and collected 159 signatures on a petition to save the house through historic designation. As Toni Atkins



4374 Cleveland Avenue

suggested, they took the petition to the Historical Resources Board in June, a step that prompted the City's Development Services Department to order an expert historical review. For a report on the home, the department instructed Golba to hire a researcher from the historical consultants list the board puts on its website.

Golba, who has gone through the process often, hired attorney and historian Scott Moomjian to write the report on 4374 Cleveland, as well as on the house immediately behind it, which was to be demolished in the project too. Moomjian examined both houses and consulted

San Diego County property records, which pinned down 4374 to a 1912 origin and 4376 to 1948.

To make its determinations, the Historical Resources Board uses six criteria involving such issues as whether renowned persons lived on the property or well-known historical events happened in connection with it. What became decisive in the case of 4374 Cleveland was Criterion C, which reads as follows: "[A building that merits historic designation embodies] the distinctive characteristics of the style, type, period or method of construction or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or

craftsmanship."

Although the University Heights Historical Committee was attempting to save only the 1912 home, Moomjian acknowledged in his late-June report that both 4374 and 4376 Cleveland had been designed as Craftsman homes. But his report stated, among other things, that architecturally the homes' "style is common and not considered unique." In terms of their use, he argued, "Single-family residential use is common and is not considered unique."

However, uniqueness is hardly a requirement for historical designation, or only one Craftsman home would have been designated. Part of Moomjian's argument was that so many Craftsmen have already been designated in San Diego that another is not needed. He went on to make a stronger case. In his report, Moomjian considered a number of alterations to both houses, including a protective stucco-like coating and brickwork on the 1912 house that were not used on original Craftsmen. These, he felt, compromised the houses' historical integrity. A major conclusion of his report was that the houses were "not historically or architecturally significant. In their current condition," he wrote, "the buildings do not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of Craftsman construction." Therefore, they did not war-



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN



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## CITY LIGHTS

### Risky mortgages

continued from page 7

Financial implications for homeowners and their financiers are daunting. First, the people who have these high-risk mortgages, often members of minority groups, pay interest rates about three percentage points higher than those who get conventional mortgages. Adjustable-rate mortgages present risks if interest rates rise. Many sub-prime loans have wrinkles such as balloon payments. As the statistics show, people with such loans are much more susceptible to delinquencies, defaults, and foreclosures.

The economy is slowing. Inflationary pressures still exist; interest rates may rise more than they already have. Some metro areas such as San Diego are experiencing sharp declines in their previously overheated residential real estate markets. The bubble is bursting; as always, the wee folks will be left holding the balloon's tattered remains.

But it's not just the wee folks getting walloped. The institutions that issue mortgages — prime or sub-prime — sell the loans, often to Fannie Mae or other large financial institutions. Those institutions in turn bundle up the mortgages into high-yielding, lower-rated bonds that are sold to mutual funds, pension funds, and the like. If defaults on the underlying mortgages pile up, those bonds will go down in value — something they have been doing this year.

Unfortunately, companies that generate and sell these mortgages are obligated to buy back those in which there is a default. That's one reason that potential acquirers of sub-prime lending companies are wary: they might get stuck having to buy back

## CITY LIGHTS

loans. Tax preparer H&R Block wants to dump its sub-prime unit. Orange-based ACC Capital Holdings wants to sell its Ameriquest operation.

There are worse signs. Agoura-based Ownit Mortgage Solutions, partly owned by Wall Street's Merrill Lynch, closed its doors early this month. It was the 11th-largest sub-prime lender. Its lending volume during the first half of this year had been up 44 percent. But as loans went sour and it had to buy them back, it ran out of money. Texas-based Sebring Capital Partners also shut its doors recently, as did Washington State-based Merit Financial.

As such news swirls around the capital markets, Accredited feels the sting. The company was founded in San Diego in 1990 with the mission of providing loans to people who can't qualify for standard mortgages because of high consumer debt, past credit difficulties, absence of income documentation, and similar woes. The company went public in February 2003, and in the three-year real estate boom, the stock soared from under \$7 to over \$60 early this year. But Accredited shares began losing altitude this year as loan originations fell and investors began shunning mortgage-backed bonds. In early November, the company revealed that third-quarter earnings per share were 83 cents, down from \$1.87 a year earlier. Recently, the stock has been selling around \$27.

In its filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Accredited has warned investors of the sub-prime lending risks. Higher delinquencies, defaults, and foreclosures "would reduce our ability to originate loans and increase our losses on loans," it said in the statement accompanying its third-quarter earnings. "Loans we originate during an economic slowdown may not be as valuable to us because potential purchasers of our loans might reduce the premiums they pay for the loans." A big percentage of its loans have been made in two once-zooming, now-crumbling states: California, 16 percent, and Florida, 12 percent.

In its annual report to the securities agency last year, Accredited warned, "Existing borrowers with adjustable-rate mortgages or higher-risk

## CITY LIGHTS

loan products may incur higher monthly payments as interest rates increase, or experience higher delinquencies and default rates."

But when the market is giddy, it ignores such caveats. It overshoots to the upside. On the other hand, when the news turns gloomy, it often overshoots to the downside. Today, some analysts believe that the housing downturn is already ending. Those who believe that would be wise to invest in Accredited, which sells below its book value, or the worth of the company if it were liquidated immediately. Very few stocks sell below book value these days.

TV's frenetic Jim Cramer, cofounder of *TheStreet.com* and one who enjoys being labeled the "Mad Man of Wall Street," likes Accredited stock. Cramer believes that concerns about sub-prime lending are overblown and notes that Accredited is seeing an increase in mortgage applications. "They'll have a tough time for many months," says Cramer, but "they have a good [business] model."

However, the view that the housing downturn is ending requires a large pair of rose-colored glasses. As an investment, Accredited scores lower than 76 percent of stocks that rating agency Standard & Poor's follows. "I would be very cautious jumping into the sub-prime lenders until we see the extent of the shake-out," says Bud Leedom, publisher of *CaliforniaStocks.com*. "There is fear of what is in these underlying portfolios. A lot of investors feel that sub-prime lenders will be going out of business. The ticking-time-bomb scenario is alive and well." ■

## I own it

continued from page 8

rant receiving the City's official historic designation.

The practice of the Historical Resources Board is to allow the appellant to write its own report. Christine Mann, who received a master's degree from the NewSchool of Architecture and Design in downtown San Diego, volunteered her time and on July 27 submitted a 50-page report for the University Heights group. Her report rebutted Moomjian on key points and made a case for the 4374 Cleveland's historic designation.

continued on page 12

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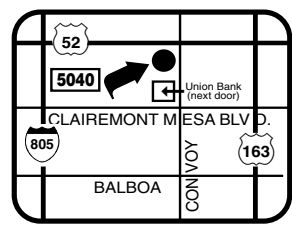
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# I own it

continued from page 10

Among other issues, Mann focused on Moomjian's contention that Craftsmen were one-story houses and on this statement in his report: "The typical Craftsman residence usually includes a low-pitched gabled roof..." "In fact," wrote Mann, "the higher pitched gabled roof was created to accommodate a second story. Two of the most famous California architects, Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene, are recognized for inspiring America to build simple one-and-a-half story bungalows... Many of these one-and-a-half story bungalows designed by the Greenes were publicized in magazines. Additionally many historically designated homes in Mission Hills have a similar higher pitched gable and second story... In fact, in a Report from Mr. Moomjian for a similar home located [in Mission Hills] dated June 10, 2005, he states [that it] 'possesses many distinctive characteristics of the Craftsman style including, but not limited to, its high-pitched, side gabled roof with eave overhang...'"

Mann believes that Moomjian and several other experts listed on the Historical Resources Board's website view their responsibility as proving what their clients want proved. She cited Moomjian's occupation as an attorney to bolster her case.

I called Moomjian to ask him if he considers the his-

torical-report-writing process to be adversarial in nature, like writing a brief defending a client in court. He replied that it is adversarial in cases of "involuntary site designation," such as at the Cleveland Avenue house, where someone other than the owner wants the house designated. "That's because clients don't want other people telling them what they can and can't do with their property," he said.

However, Ron May, an archaeologist also on the Historical Resources Board's consultant list, believes that when the Development Services Department asks for a report, it wants it to be objective. "The report should represent the house, not the client," he told me. "But there are experts on the list who act as hired guns to serve only their clients' desires. And the developers know who they are."

It occurred to me that in asking the developer to hire the researcher rather than appointing one, the City may not want the reports to be objective. After contacting the City's planning department to inquire, I received a call from Eric Symons of Mayor Sanders's office of communications. He said I might submit my questions regarding the historical-designation process through his e-mail address. "When Development Services...asks for a historical report on a property for the Historical Resources Board to consider," I wrote at the end of November, "does it expect the report to be objec-

tive rather than adversarial? If objective, what precautions are taken to ensure the reports are objective?" As of this writing, Symons has not written back.

After the property owners' and appellants' reports came in, the planning department's Kelly Saunders and Cathy Winterrowd wrote the city staff recommendation meant to guide the Historical Resources Board. "Staff's position," they wrote, "is that the issues which speak to the [historical] integrity of the property, namely the heavily textured paint, the replacement of the brick piers, the addition of [a concrete ramp in front], and the replacement of some wood windows, do impact and detract from the house and any potential significance to such an extent that the property is no longer eligible for designation."

"Furthermore, despite the Mann report's contention that the modifications are 'minimal alterations' which 'can easily be changed to restore the home to its original appearance,' the Board, as it is aware, may not condition designations to require restorations or modifications. All properties considered for designation must meet the criteria and be eligible for designation in their current condition."

Finally, echoing Moomjian, Saunders and Winterrowd wrote: "It should also be noted that the Craftsman style is not a unique or rare style within the City of San Diego and there are hundreds of Crafts-

man properties which have been designated, including several which are very similar in design and massing which exhibit far better integrity."

The decisive vote on 4374 Cleveland came in October, and the Historical Resources Board members who voted did not concur with staff. The board had first scheduled the University Heights committee's appeal for its August meeting. But at meeting time, only 8 of 15 boardmembers showed up. The University Heights organizers would have needed all 8 votes to prevail. Yet the quorum for an official meeting was also 8, so the board could have gone ahead. "During the meeting," said Christine Mann, "Poiset threw a fit that we only wanted to stop development. He was very angry. He had such a sense of entitlement. And to think it's a Craftsman that's nearly 100 years old."

The board delayed the hearing until October 26. During the interim, the City changed the number of boardmembers from 15 to 11, with the quorum being 6. When the October meeting came around, 7 boardmembers attended. Six votes were needed for the appeal to succeed. The vote was taken, 5 boardmembers voted in favor of the appeal, and 2 voted against it. So the appeal was denied. "Anyone who didn't show up," noted Mann, "was a vote for the developer."

In her report, Mann had argued that too much nega-

tive development had already occurred in University Heights. She explained to me later what she meant. "Too many ugly, boxlike condo buildings with parking rather than yards in front have already invaded University Heights," she said. This sentiment prompted a lecture in the city staff recommendations.

"Although the Board's function," wrote Saunders and Winterrowd, "is to address solely the historicity of the property... the extent to which the Mann report addresses redevelopment in the community and the potential redevelopment of the 4374 Cleveland Avenue property merits a side note. Although staff acknowledges that there has been demolition of older homes over the years to accommodate new development which takes advantage of updated zoning allowances, historical designation should not be used to hinder or attempt to control redevelopment. The appropriate avenue for design controls is through the long range and current planning processes, not through designation of a property which does not meet the established Board criteria for designation."

But except in the most obvious cases, how is one to know whether a property meets "the established Board criteria for designation"? Councilwoman Atkins had told the University Heights Historical Committee to find out 4374 Cleveland's historical status from the board.

Nevertheless, contended the Poisets' architect, Tim Golba, investors must be able to know ahead of time whether investment properties are going to be held hostage to the historical-designation process. "My clients are not big developers," he told me. "This was a first-time thing for them. They figured they could proceed safely because the Cleveland house was in such ghastly shape. The chimney was almost falling off, the roof was badly bowed, and the interior looked like it had been finished from Kmart. The most that could be said for that house was that it was a period piece. Yet those people in University Heights acted like this was a watershed moment in historical preservation."

Christine Mann thought Golba greatly exaggerated the house's condition. "It doesn't matter anyway," she said, "because it is historical, not structural, integrity that is a criterion for historical designation." The City's staff report admitted the same point.

I asked Golba why he thought the boardmembers on October 26 voted in favor of saving the house. "Lately," he said, "they've been erring in the direction of too much sensitivity to historical resources."

So maybe the Poisets should consider themselves lucky that they won with a 5-to-2 vote against them. On Friday, November 17, bulldozers appeared at 4374 Cleveland to tear the house down. By Monday it was rubble. ■

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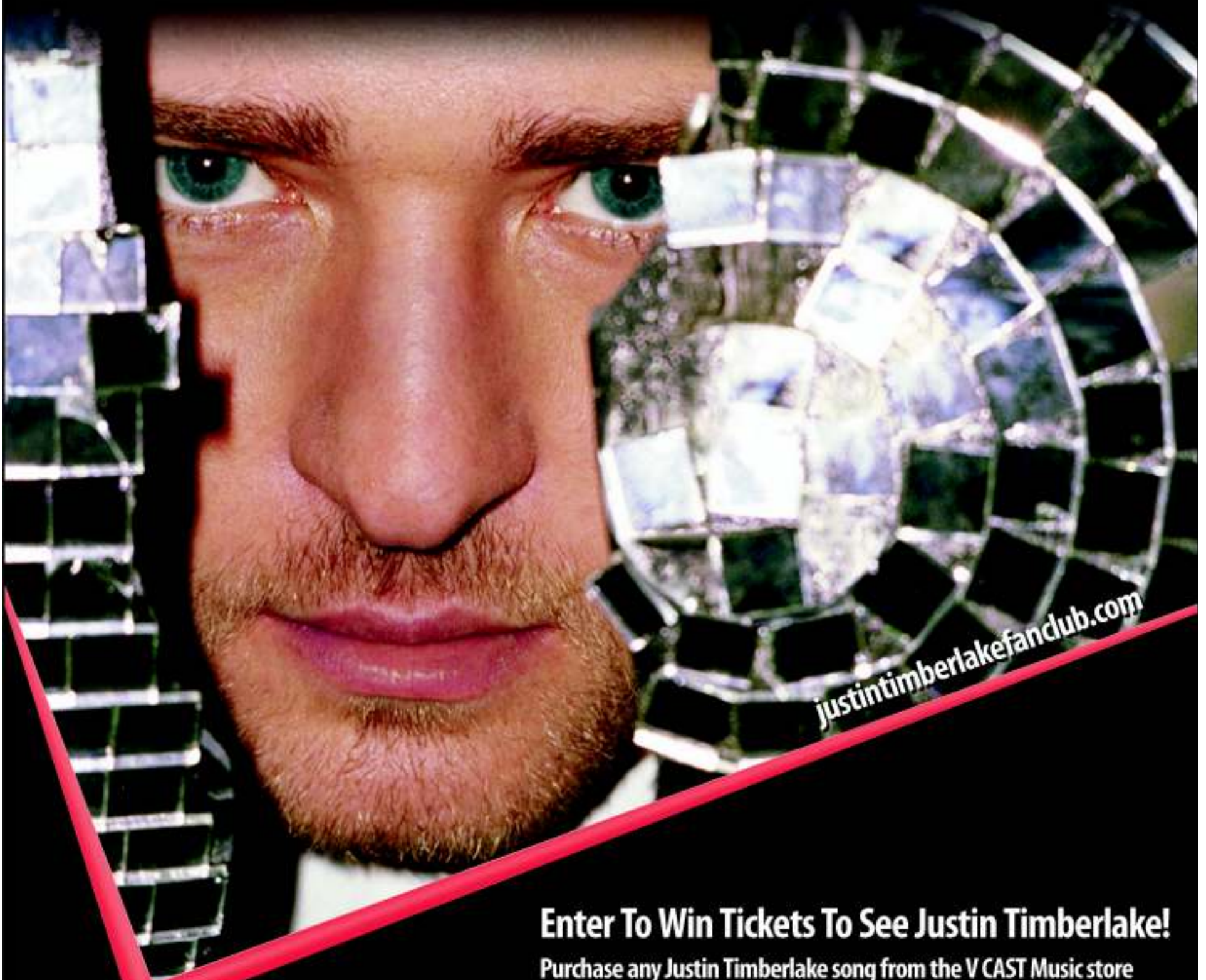
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## LETTERS

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Phone them in at 619-235-3000, ext. 460; address them to Letters to the Editor, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803; fax them to 619-231-0489; or use our web page at [SanDiegoReader.com/letters](http://SanDiegoReader.com/letters). Include your name, address, and telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

### Take That, You Waverati

Jeannette De Wyze is to be commended for an excellent and accurate cover story ("90 Years of Curl," December 14) because she wisely chose to include local surf historians in her work, notably John Elwell. Of most significance is the inclusion of the late Bob Simmons, perhaps the most influential surfboard designer of all time.

After doing a Google search of the story's author, I found that De Wyze is not a typical surf-industry type, which explains the inclusion of Elwell's comments on the era and especially Simmons's. The mainstream surf media is a tightly held group influenced by no more than two dozen individuals. If one like Elwell were to ever piss the magazine editors or publishers off, his voice would be forever muted in the spotlight of the "waverati." This is exactly what has happened.

Elwell has explained to me that he had a run-in with the publishers of the *Surfer's Journal*, known as the authority on global surfing history. After that point, according to Elwell, the *Surfer's Journal* essentially shunned him and his input as to the importance of Simmons's legacy. This is a shame, with a significant cost to preserving an incredibly important piece of surfing history.

There is a theory held by a few that is based on the information from Elwell about Simmons's life and his contribution to the shape of modern surfboards. The theory: Simmons was (and still is) the father of the modern surfboard. The evidence is there.

However, the publishers, advertisers, and editors of the mainstream surf me-

dia have falsely attributed Simmons's efforts to others, including Greg Noll and Joe Quigg. I believe, as I think Elwell would agree, that the media is aware of Simmons's important role. However, they have chosen to sweep Simmons under the rug. Thank you to De Wyze for including Elwell and his words about the era and, most importantly, Bob Simmons.

Scotty Breauxman  
Del Mar

### It Never Changes

This is in regards to your story "It's Not a Race Thing...It's Style" (Cover Story, December 21). It not so much offended me — the names and titles of different racist remarks — but it was the one, out of all of them, the "Honky is a derogatory term for a white person." It just told me that a white person wrote this, because all of these are derogatory terms, not just the "honky" one. So that right there was a racist remark, instead of saying all of them were derogatory. So I was very offended by that, and it just made me kind of laugh. But it also made me think, it never changes. It's still the same. I think at Christmastime you should be writing about something a little more cheery than something that is so racist and derogatory.

Davida McDaniel

### Bye-Bye

I picked up a copy of your *Reader* today, and to my surprise — I never thought that you guys would write such a thing on the front page ("It's Not a Race Thing...It's Style," Cover Story, December 21). I just thought that your front-page article was offensive. You know, using the word "chigger" on the front page. I just think it's offensive. You might not have intended that, but I've been reading the paper for eight or nine years now, and I would think that you would think more about it before putting such an article on the front page. I think you should recall this copy or do something. I'm very offended by it, and I'm sorry to say that I won't be reading the *Reader* again.

Jim  
Encinitas

### Do Your Homework

I just finished reading the article "It's Not a Race

Thing...It's Style," by Geoff Bouvier (Cover Story, December 21). I cannot understand the purpose of the article. The term "ebonics" is not, as stated, "the language of black culture used by gangstas." The definition given is extremely offensive. There are many people who speak ebonics who have never received proper education from our poor education system. It is also a cultural language used between blacks as well as other ethnic groups, not gangsta blacks. Lastly, the terminology in the article is incorrect in every way. The term "gangsta" is rarely used; it's been replaced by "gansta" (slang). This applies to "nigger" as well. Blacks refer to each other as "nigga," which is still derogatory. If you're going to speak on race, please emphasize the purpose. Most of the interviewees referenced how people stereotype them, but in the same story they stereotype others.

Natasha Ridley  
via e-mail

### Kindling

I really enjoy the *Reader* for the information you give on San Diego restaurants and for keeping us up-to-date on the local music scene. However, reading anything that Don Bauder writes makes your publication perfect fire starter. If the *Reader* were to print on soft cotton, I would also be happy to use Don's articles as toilet paper.

His hatred for any sports team in San Diego is ridiculous. You should not have a writer who obviously has a personal vendetta against any industry.

By the way, we went to the last playoff game against the Jets a couple years back. We actually could not sit in our seats (which were under the overhang), as rainwater from the whole upper deck was pouring on our heads. The stadium was leaking so bad that we were able to stay dryer standing in the rain rather than in our seats. Don Bauder should really do a little research before he writes an article on how Qualcomm is "an excellent facility" ("Will Owners Let Chargers Leave Bankrupt City?" "City Lights," December 14).

Greg Knight  
via e-mail

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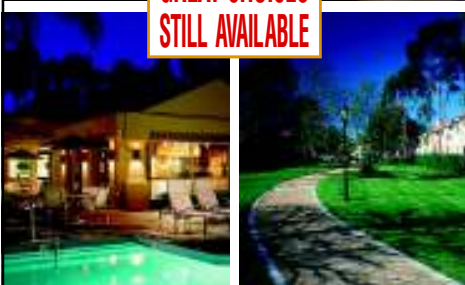
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# STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE



Illustration by Rick Geary

Two thousand six will go down as the year Grandma went on strike for Christmas. Usually she's all wound up planning festive meals, looking for new shiny things to hang on the tree, negotiating bulk discounts on underwear and socks for the elves. The rest of us sit around the place recovering from another year of smartening up the population while Grandma's whizzing around the room with dust cloths and spray cans and tinsel and those ugly little Hummel figurines. Man, if you don't keep alert and pick your feet up off the floor when she comes through with the vacuum cleaner, she'll just bash right into you. She's relentless.

Our first clue that something was wrong this year was when she didn't unpack her Twelve Days of Christmas aprons. I remember as a little know-it-all starting to get really excited when Grandma had gotten down to the Five Golden Rings model. We knew there were presents just over the horizon. By Three Calling Birds, I would be having trouble sleeping. The partridge and the pear tree signaled that it was *on*. For years I believed that a stork brought babies, a partridge had something to do with Christmas presents.

But this year, at some point, we realized she hadn't even taken out the mixing bowls for her mincemeat pie. Every year we refuse to eat anything called mincemeat pie, but that doesn't stop her from making it. So Ma Alice took over pie duties this year, but since she didn't have the recipe, we were screwed. Ma did go out and buy meat, and every day she minced it a little more, hoping it would transform itself into a pie, but no luck. Grandma wasn't talking, so we were on our own.

At least the roof looks festive. Regular listeners already know that Pa Alice had decided to leave up the Santa and His Reindeer light display year round. Why take it down when he's just going to have to put it up again next year? Typical Pa Alice thinking. He's always vigilant for opportunities to conserve energy. "Living green," he calls it. Grandma uses other colorful phrases.

Every year the elves volunteer to handle anything that needs decorating that is low enough for them to reach. That's pretty much nothing, so they take off on their scooters and we don't see them again until the eggnog's ready on Christmas Eve. This year we got the egg part handled, but we never did find nog.

In spite of Grandma's strike, we've managed to put together our traditional New Year's gift to you Alicelanders, the year-end quiz, in which you realize how much wiser you are in December than you were last January. No, no, please don't thank us. It's our pleasure.

1. Because science long ago appropriated the name "meteorology" for the study of the weather, people who study meteors are forced to call themselves "meteoricists" and the study of meteors "meteorics." Therefore, Matthew Alice might be called a (A) facticist, (B) truthicist, (C) realiticist, (D) hotairicist.

2. Mom told you to wear clean underwear every day in case you're in an accident. But we investigated the doo-doo of death question, and now Matthew Alice recommends that everyone wear: (A) Depends, (B) porcelain jockeys, (C) Charmin boxers, (D) a maxi-pad thongs, (E) nothing.

3. Our longest investigation this year had to do with unique vehicles you'll see only on the streets of San Diego. These are: (A) Mars rovers, (B) the research elves on those little Shriners bikes, (C) Ma Alice's home-built quarter-scale Oscar Meyer Weiner cars, (D) motorcycle-powered bumper cars from amusement parks around the world.

4. From the Matthew Alice Do-It-Yourself Law Files, we got plenty of handy, fee-free tips. Which of the following will get you arrested, and which is a clever idea? (A) Go right ahead and make a citizen's arrest of anybody who is acting especially stupid, since acting like a jerk in a public place is a felony, and we all know the jerks of the world are just asking for it. (B) If you bump off your annoying neighbor in a rowboat 600 miles offshore, you're pretty much in the clear, arrest-wise. (C) Make a citizen's arrest of someone throwing his chewed-out gum on the sidewalk and the police will not laugh at you when they show up. If they show up. Well, actually, they won't show up.

5. We had a fun question about animals at play. We found out that: (A) the Association for the Study of Play is an association for the study of play, (B) Bugs don't have enough free time to play, (C) One scientist actually believed he could find examples of play behavior in octopuses, and by golly he did! (D) Even though the science guys claim to have observed play behavior in birds, reptiles, amphibians, and exotic mammals, they still aren't sure how to define "play."

6. The Ad Council is responsible for some of America's most memorable slogans. Which one is not an Ad Council creation: (A) A mind is a terrible thing to waste, (B) Loose lips sink ships, (C) Friends don't let friends drive drunk, (D) This is your brain on drugs, (E) Waaaaaaazzzuuup?!

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**Got a question you need answered?** Send an email to [heymatt@cts.com](mailto:heymatt@cts.com) or fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186.

# 2006 Sports Roundup

Close the drawer on 2006. On the yahoo side, we can mark up Jim Harbaugh and the University of San Diego Toreros football team. They went 11-1 this year and last. Harbaugh won two I-AA national championships in his three years as coach. Hate to see him go. What else? The Padres made the playoffs again. Somebody from the NL West had to go; it's the law. And the Chargers are on a beautiful run.

The Chargers also did pretty well on the crime front too. Linebacker Steve Foley was shot by an off-duty Coronado policeman. It's still to be determined whose crime that was. There's a DUI charge out there as well. Foley double-dipped in 2006, also collared in April for resisting arrest and drunken driving. Shaun Phillips, linebacker, was arrested last April on suspicion of obstructing or resisting an officer in the performance of his duty.

(A note on the methodology: I'm counting arrests, not convictions. Everyone remembers arrests...that's what upsets the league and the money changers. Eight months later, when the charges are dropped, nobody cares. It's unfair; a lot these arrests are bullshit, are for the crime of being young, scary-big, black, and rich in public. Philadelphia linebacker Dhani Jones was arrested in Miami for failure to stop dancing. They're trying to keep their streets dance-free down in Miami. On the other hand, being rich is very close to having an automatic get-out-of-jail pass the first, second, and third time you're busted. Maybe it balances out. Maybe it doesn't.)

Cornerback Cletis Gordon arrested for DUI. Strong safety Terrence Kiel arrested on a truly loony felony drug charge of mailing 15 bottles of prescription cough syrup to cough-syrup addicts in Texas. John S. Fernandes, DEA special agent in charge of the San Diego Field Division, told the AP that codeine-based cough syrup mixed with soft drinks are the coming thing in Texas and that a pint bottle, called "lean," can cost \$200 to \$325. Kiel made \$383,00 in 2005, but apparently that was shy of his needs. Looks like Kiel wanted some of that big, easy money that 15 bottles of "lean" would get him.

This, by the way, is how you can tell we're winning the War on Drugs. Here we are in San Diego. Evildoers are smuggling drugs, every kind of drug you can think of, every hour of every day, through, over, and under the U.S.-Mexican border, a border located 15 miles south of city

hall. In the midst of what alarmists might call "an ongoing drug invasion," it's comforting to know the DEA has the time and manpower to go after cough syrup. No worries for me!

Finally, defensive back Markus Curry, then on the Chargers practice squad, was arrested in October for domestic assault. That makes five players arrested, which is not bad. But, it's not great either.

For great we must turn to the Cincinnati Bengals and the crime-stoppers of Cincinnati, Ohio. This year, eight team members have been arrested, *15 percent of their 53-man roster*, and the regular season has one more weekend to go. That's a very high bar indeed.

I know what you're thinking: "Cincinnati has impressive stats, but what about the quality of their arrests?"

Of course you'd go right to the nub of it. This is why fans hate the BCS college-bowl system. How are we to measure the numbers Cincinnati puts up against the spectacular inventiveness of Joe Cullen, Detroit Lions defensive line coach and the crime-stoppers of Dearborn, Michigan?

On August 24, Cullen was driving his SUV around Dearborn and decided, like many Americans do, to turn into Wendy's. Coach Cullen spoke to the Wendy's talking menu and ordered one of their delicious value combos; in this instance, a burger, fries, and soft drink. (You get a price break when you order a Wendy's combo.) A Wendy's wage-slave received his order and then, when Coach Cullen drove to the pickup window, in order to pay for and retrieve his order, said employee called the cops. The coach's crime, according to the police citation, was for "driving on a public street without any clothes on (NUDE)."

Here is a man living free in the privacy of his SUV, bothering no one but fast-food workers, yet that was enough to arrest him on indecent and obscene conduct charges. That was August 24. One week later, Cullen was arrested for DUI, again in Dearborn, again after a citizen dropped a dime on him. But, here's the strangest part of this story: Cullen still has a job with the Lions.

Let us end with a vision of Marty Schottenheimer. He's driving a restored 1963 Corvette Stingray convertible. Azure blue. It's summer. The Stingray glides into one of San Diego's 119 McDonald's, say the one on Garnet Avenue in Pacific Beach....

## The Vegas Line

NFL - Week 17 (Home Team in CAPS)				
Favorite	Spread	Over/Under	Underdog	
N.Y. Giants	2 ½	43	WASHINGTON	
			<u>Saturday</u>	
BALTIMORE	9	34	Buffalo	
CHICAGO	2 ½	36	Green Bay	
CINCINNATI	6	44 ½	Pittsburgh	
DALLAS	12 ½	44	Detroit	
HOUSTON	4	38 ½	Cleveland	
INDIANAPOLIS	7 ½	43	Miami	
KANSAS CITY	2 ½	36 ½	Jacksonville	
St. Louis	2	44	MINNESOTA	
CAROLINA	3	35 ½	NEW ORLEANS	
N. Y. JETS	12 ½	34	Oakland	
PHILADELPHIA	7 ½	43	Atlanta	
TAMPA BAY	3 ½	36 ½	Seattle	
TENNESSEE	3	43	New England	
DENVER	10 ½	41	San Francisco	
SAN DIEGO	14	44	Arizona	

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# SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

**Denomination:** Wesleyan

**Address:** 11330 Campo Road, Highway 94 at Jamacha Road, La Mesa

**Founded locally:** 1954

**Senior pastor:** Dr. Jim Garlow

**Congregation size:** about 2800

**Staff size:** 14 pastors

**Sunday school enrollment:** about 1800, including small groups

**Annual budget:** \$5 million

**Weekly giving:** \$90,000

**Singles program:** yes; one for under 35, one for 35+

**Dress:** dressy-casual

**Diversity:** mostly Caucasian, a fair number of African-Americans, and some Hispanics

**Sunday worship:** 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.

**Length of reviewed service:** 45 minutes

**Website:** [www.skylinechurch.org](http://www.skylinechurch.org)

The craft show was housed in the building right at the top of the entrance steps, so that's

where I ended up first, my oldest son towing me along. He admired the \$8 handmade, one-of-a-kind beanies while I tried to take in all the merchandise: bird-houses; towels and blankets; wood-handled pens; English black breakfast tea; knives and cutting boards; embroidered quilts ("As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"); scented candles (white chocolate!); and all manner of Christmas-themed decorations, ornaments, plates, and cards.

Outside, we found the funnel-cake cart. While we waited, I listened to the children's choir: a dozen or so kids on risers, most of them dressed entirely in white, singing in unison: "It's Christmas time of the year/ Ring those bells and start to cheer/ He is the savior and king/ He's the reason why we sing." Side-steps and jazz-hands and turn-arounds as they sang; traded-off solos and even a lip-synched groovy tune. The show concluded with a rendition of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Shortly after the children finished, the surrounding Christmas trees — eight small and one large — put on a show of their own: strands of multicolored lights executing a series of fades, crawls, and flashes, all synchronized with a synth-rock version of "The Carol of the Bells."

On the landing above the choir, Santa sat amid a cluster of white trees hung with red-and-white ornaments, receiving children and their Christmas wishes. "What do you want, buddy? You been good?" Parents took pictures with their cell phones; children got shy.

Meanwhile, my wife took the other kiddies on the sled run — two long and gently sloping trails, lined with hay bales and filled with an icy snow. "The line moves very quickly," she reported. "If you want to race, they'll put you on opposite sides, say 'One, two, three, go!' and push you."

Acrobats performed routines on hanging scarves and trampolines, first accompa-

nied by a breathy emo performance of "Little Drummer Boy," then a pop ballad sung over a synth-heavy take on Pachelbel's Canon in D. "This night we pray/ Our hearts will show/ This dream we have/ Each child still knows/ On this night, on this night, on this holy Christmas night..." Then it was back to tradition: a hand-bell choir, gracefully chiming out "Joy to the World," before we headed to the bleachers for the main event.

My boys argued about whether the donkey in the stable at the foot of the cliff was real or fake. Eventually, the donkey raised his head and showed himself to be as real as the rest of the animals that joined him for the living nativity scene.

Pastor Garlow welcomed us and explained that some of the lights had been impacted by the previous night's rains. There would be no lightshow, just standard theatrical spots. He offered CDs to every family to compensate; all you had to do was fill out an information card.

He also gave a CD to the oldest attendee (85) and a DVD to the family with the most children (9).

Showtime: an overture medley sung by a huge choir in robes and sandals. Bits from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," and "What Child is This?" — the huge sound and grand harmonies giving way to a single male voice: "Mary did you know/ That your baby boy/ Would give sight to a blind man?/ Mary did you know/ That your baby boy/ Would calm the storms with his hand?"

The innkeeper narrated the nativity story while the characters played out the scene under the stars: Mary and Joseph in the stable with their newborn son, the angel rising above the shepherds to proclaim the good news, the kings riding in on camels and paying homage. The choir veered

between pops-concert excerpts from traditional carols (the soprano on "O Holy Night" fluttering around the high notes like Mariah Carey) and modern, jazzy strains: "Oh, when they saw the star/ They rejoiced with great joy..."

"Every story has a beginning," concluded the narrator. "This one has no end.... So many great men have come and gone, but He lives on.... It is no exaggeration to say that nothing has affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life."

Pastor Garlow had the final word. "What is it about that story that is so compelling? The answer is that you were made in the image of God.... Within you is a longing to be connected to the eternal, and you have some sense that this story is the answer to that quest within your heart.... Don't miss this opportunity.... There may be a tug on your heart right now, and that tug has a name: the Holy Spirit of God, saying, 'Now. Receive me now.'"

— Matthew Lickona



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★★½

#### Sermon

content.....★★½

delivery.....★★½

#### Liturgy.....★★

#### Music

congregational.....n/a

choir.....★★½

#### Snacks.....★★★

#### Architecture.....★★★

#### Friendliness.....★★½

Poor to satisfactory.....(none)

Good.....★

Very good.....★★

Excellent.....★★★

Extraordinary.....★★★★

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# BestBuys

—EVE KELLY

My friend Christine fears her two children are growing up without enough family traditions. As she, another friend Celia, and I power-walked through the neighborhood, Christine lamented, "I need to start some family traditions. There's nothing special about our holidays and parties. For example, our Christmas gift giving, decorations, and dinner were completely generic. I felt so unimaginative. I want 2007 to be the year we start traditions in my family. And I might as well start with New Year's traditions."



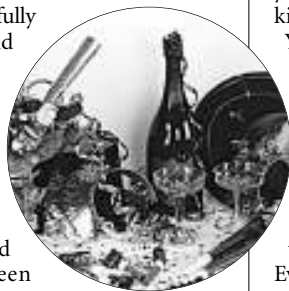
I suggested the New Year's Eve tradition I grew up with: running around the house banging pots and pans at the stroke of midnight. That didn't strike Christine's fancy. "My children turn into devils at the stroke of 10:00. I don't want to see what they look like at midnight."

Even after I told her our neighbors would stay awake just to watch us run around making as much noise as possible, she still wasn't interested. It had been my father's tradition in his neighborhood of Yonkers, New York. "Supposedly, you are making noise to chase away the evil spirits," he said, "but we just did it to wake up the neighbors."

Nor was she keen on Celia's idea. "Where I grew up in Argentina, there were lots of fireworks and firecrackers that go on until five o'clock in the morning," she offered. "And they were very loud. And every year, there was an army of children that ended up with bad burns because their parents were letting them set off these firecrackers."

As our walk wound down, I offered to scrounge up a few other possibilities for Christine and made a round of calls to acquaintances. The traditions that I discovered came in many flavors.

A few were a bit superstitious. "My mom always makes ham and black-eyed peas on New Year's Day," offered Bernice. "When she was a young bride, her mother-in-law told her to eat black-eyed peas on New Year's Day for good luck. She hated the peas, but would dutifully cook up a batch and eat one or two. Then years later, when she was vacationing in Branson, Missouri, the restaurant served 'Ozark Caviar': black-eyed peas with red and green peppers, green onions, and cilantro covered with an oil and vinegar dressing. She enjoyed it, and from then on she has made her peas the Ozark style."



Bernice continued on with another story. "My mom's best friend Claudine cooks what she calls Copper Pennies: sliced carrots served in a sweet sauce. It's supposed to bring prosperity in the New Year. Frankly, the carrots were easier to swallow than the peas."

Bernice added one last thought. "My parents always drank sweet pink champagne called Cold Duck. As a kid, I had no idea what it was, but I was always struck by the name."

*"If you finish the grapes, you are in for a year of good luck."*

My mom said her parents used to drink sparkling burgundy on New Year's Eve, but they couldn't find any, so they started having Cold Duck instead."

A couple New Years traditions were spiritually bent.

My friend Carl's family says a Marian prayer at the stroke of midnight to dedicate the New Year to Mary. "It is beautiful," he says, "but a bit of a buzz kill. The bell strokes midnight, and it's 'On your knees for prayers,'" he joked.

My aunt shared an old Irish tradition. "It was considered lucky to be the first one to be blessed in the morning on New Year's Day," she stated. "The Irish would always greet people with a 'God bless you,' and to be the first one blessed that morning was considered an honor."

Husband Patrick's family eats cornbread and chili for New Year's Eve, and at the stroke of midnight, they break out singing the Hallelujah Chorus in four parts. It is not a surprise, considering they're all singers.



I discovered a few other foreign traditions to add to the list.

My niece Elizabeth, who now calls London home, says singing Auld Lang Syne is the tradition in England. "People will switch on the tellie to hear the Big Ben chime on the hour and then start singing," she offered.

Not surprisingly, the French have a tradition involving food. My friend Jessica, whose mother is from France, and her family eat 12 mini desserts on New Year's Eve. "The 12 desserts represent the 12 Days of Christmas," she stated.

Carmen, a Spanish friend of mine, said in her homeland, grapes are the item for New Year's Eve. "The tradition is to quickly eat 12 grapes the 12 seconds before midnight as the bell in Puerta del Sol Square is tolling," she explained. "If you finish the grapes, you are in for a year of good luck. The tradition started years ago when after a big grape harvest, the king gave all the people grapes to eat on New Year's Eve."

And a couple New Year's Eve traditions were memory themed. "The New Year's Eve before the new millennium," friend Sarah said, "my father gathered his family around and gave an emotional toast to all of us. Then he showed us a slide show of our life, all the memorable moments. I am going to start a yearly tradition, each New Year's Eve, of having the family watch the past year's momentous occasions on our home videos."

My sister Cathy has a different memory tradition. "In my home, on New Year's Eve, my husband and I sit down with some tea and the family's calendar. And we read through the past year week by week, remembering all that happened through the year. It is joyful and sometimes also painful remembering the events, so we do not do this with the kids. And when we are finished, we pray for all the people involved in our year."

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# Crasher

## REINDEER GAMES

by Josh Board

**S**ince I had several holiday parties to attend, I didn't always bring my camera and recorder. I went to a few Hanukkah parties where I wished I'd had a note pad. At the first one, an Indian gentleman who is a teacher at UCSD told several interesting stories. I remember he told me about one of his colleagues at the party who met a woman through a dating service. She lived in L.A., and the colleague decided to get a job at UCLA to be near her.

At the other Hanukkah party I attended, everyone got high before I showed up. They couldn't stop laughing as they spun the dreidel and then we were forced to play Bingo.

The next day, a friend brought me to her work Christmas party. Again, I left the camera at home and wished I hadn't. The gift exchange was interesting. Several people brought wrapped bottles of booze. Other people brought gift cards. Everyone stole the gift cards, which was allowed at this gift exchange. I got a two-



pound box of See's candy, which I was able to trade for a set of James Bond books. After we traded, I discovered the guy had opened them — he said he didn't know if they were DVDs or books. I told him I should've opened the See's chocolates and bitten a few before I handed them over.

them." As she asked me more questions, I realized that she was the last person who would

been that honest if I knew what she was up to. At the last minute, she decided to steal something else.

When we were on the back patio drinking wine, I realized she had something on her foot. "I just had my toe amputated the other day. When I was little, I got my foot caught in the spokes of my bike. They were able to save the toe, but it was badly damaged. They needed to

cut it off now because of some complications." She told us that she took off her bandages to gross out kids. Her boyfriend said, "I've got to take good care of her. She took care of me when I was going through my cancer treatments."

The group looked at me, and it was silent. I said, "Yeah, well, I stubbed my toe on the coffee table this morning. It's still throbbing." They laughed, and she said, "I won't have to worry about that anymore."

She asked the lady who does her nails why it wasn't any cheaper, since she has one less toe to paint. Her boyfriend added, "Yeah, and it's the biggest one. Instead of being 10 percent off, it should be about 18 percent off."

The following day I went to a Christmas party where I did bring my camera. Susie in Del Mar had hosted a holiday party last year, and I missed it. This year, she asked everyone to bring a toy for the Toys for Tots program, and by the time I left the party, she had over 140 toys under the tree.

**"I think Santa has been on Phen-Fen. He's looking thin."**

As the gift stealing was wrapping up, a woman next to me asked if I liked my set of books. I said, "My dad will love them. I'm going to re-gift

be stealing a gift. She said, "I won't feel guilty about stealing your gift, since it's not even for you. And I love reading." I had been duped. I would never have

# Too much holiday spirit?

## Santa knows who to call - do you?



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I showed up early because I had plans to meet friends later in the evening. The only people there were the guys in the band, 20 Miles South. One said, "We actually broke up. But we get together for gigs like this."

I wanted to light a cigar but forgot my matches, and nobody in the band had a lighter.

One guy asked his buddy, "Is that your dad's sweater?" When his buddy told him where it was from, the guy said, "Interesting. Where are the stains from?"

Someone standing nearby told me about a holiday party that he went to the previous week that had an ugly Christmas sweater theme. He said, "I couldn't believe how many ugly Christmas sweaters are actually made."

Susie, a petite Asian woman, was running around trying to get things organized. She came over, offered us drinks, and then ran back into the house.

One guy in the band had an unusual name, and we started talking about weird names. Someone said that his dad's name is Terry Kerry, but he goes by Terrence. Another guy said he knew a woman named Robin who married a guy with the last name Hood.

There was Christmas music playing, and when "Santa Baby" came on, someone said, "I bet nobody here knows who sang this." The first name that came to me was Katrina Witt. I corrected myself: "Oh, no, wait, I think she's an ice skater. I meant to say Eartha Kitt." When someone asked who that was, nobody could remember the TV show she played a villain in.

A bus pulled up, and a large crowd got out to join the party. Someone had rented it to pick up a bunch of people who live in PB. A guy in a Santa Claus suit came out, and one of the band members said, "I think Santa has been on Phen-Fen. He's looking thin." Santa was popular with the crowd, and I had to laugh every time he

adjusted his beard as he was talking to someone. (I had played Santa twice and found the itching to be the worst.)

There were fake reindeer around a tree, and two guys were trying to make them mate with each other. Just then, Susie's mom

arrived. She came down from Monterey. I wondered if she saw what the guy was doing with the reindeer.

One guy showed up in a white suit and red shirt. He came over and introduced himself to everyone and shook our hands. When he walked away, one guy

said, "That was weird." Another said, "It looked like he was wearing one of those Don Johnson suits from the '80s."

I heard someone say, "Hey, Salsa Susie, when will you be dancing?" She said, "Probably around 9 o'clock."

As the band started playing, it started to rain. There was a canopy on the back patio, but it was raining hard, and someone said to me, "Look at all the water that's seeping over to the amplifiers. What will happen if one of those guitarists gets electrocuted?"

"I'll have a great ending to my column." ■

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- 72 WRONGFUL DEATH
- 75 SLIP AND FALL ACCIDENTS
- 76 PRODUCT DEFECT LIABILITY
- 77 PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE

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- 20 OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL SECURITY
- 21 FILING A CLAIM
- 22 RETIREMENT BENEFITS
- 23 SURVIVORSHIP BENEFITS
- 24 LUMP SUM DEATH BENEFITS
- 25 FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS
- 26 DISABILITY BENEFITS
- 27 HIV AS A DISABILITY

## ■ EXTENSION 1007 ■ TENANT/LANDLORD

- 80 EVICTING A TENANT
- 81 CAN I BEAT MY LEASE?
- 82 WARRANTY OF HABITABILITY
- 83 RENTAL AGREEMENTS
- 84 SECURITY DEPOSITS
- 85 ENFORCEMENT OF THE LEASE
- 86 30-DAY NOTICE

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- 20 WHEN DO I NEED AN ATTORNEY?
- 21 WHAT IF I'M WRONGLY ACCUSED?
- 22 SHOULD I ANSWER QUESTIONS?
- 23 MUST I SUBMIT TO A SEARCH?
- 24 COULD I RESIST AN ARREST?
- 25 WHAT IF I FAIL TO APPEAR?
- 26 CAN MY RECORDS BE CLEARED?
- 27 ALCOHOL, DRUGS, HIGH CRIMES

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- 30 NEW BANKRUPTCY LAWS
- 31 WHAT IS CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY?
- 32 WHAT IS CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY?
- 33 WRONGFUL CREDITOR FEES & ACTIONS
- 34 COLLECTION AGENCY HARASSMENT
- 35 VEHICLE REPOSESSION
- 36 FORECLOSURE ON YOUR RESIDENCE
- 37 INACCURATE CREDIT REPORTING

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- 10 ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
- 11 EMPLOYEE HANDBOOKS/POLICIES
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- 13 HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT
- 14 NON-COMPETITION AGREEMENTS
- 15 SEVERANCE AGREEMENTS
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- 60 DIVORCE - AN OVERVIEW
- 61 WHAT WILL IT COST?
- 62 CHILD SUPPORT - HOW MUCH?
- 63 CHOOSING A PARALEGAL
- 64 MILITARY FAMILY ISSUES
- 65 PREPARING FOR DIVORCE
- 66 MEDIATION AND THERAPY
- 67 WILLS AND TRUSTS

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- 40 INSURANCE BAD FAITH
- 41 DUTIES OF INSURANCE CO.
- 42 FIRST PARTY CLAIMS/HEALTH/  
UM/UIM/AUTO/PROPERTY
- 43 TIME LIMITS
- 44 DISPUTES WITH INSURANCE CO.
- 45 DEPT. OF INSURANCE HELP LINE
- 46 DO I NEED AN ATTORNEY?

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- 22 BUSINESS VISAS
- 23 EMPLOYMENT VISAS
- 24 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
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- 26 VISA DENIALS & DEPORTATION

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- 55 UNSAFE WORKING CONDITIONS
- 56 WRONGFUL DISCHARGE
- 57 HARBOR & LONGSHOREMAN'S ACT

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- 71 DISCRIMINATION
- 72 WRONGFUL TERMINATION
- 73 EXECUTIVE TERMINATION
- 74 WHISTLEBLOWER-RETALIATION
- 75 FRAUD AGAINST THE U.S.  
GOVERNMENT (FALSE CLAIMS ACT)
- 76 LEGAL FEES

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by Barbarella

## Total Wreck

*It often happens that the real tragedies of life occur in such an inartistic manner that they hurt us by their crude violence, their absolute incoherence, their absurd want of meaning, their entire lack of style.*

— Oscar Wilde

**D**avid and I stared out over the ocean from the green pier on Catalina Island. Every few minutes, I'd point to a luminous orange Garibaldi fish and announce how amazed I was by the clarity of the turquoise water. We had six hours to kill before we would board the same ferry from Dana Point

that had brought us here two days prior. This was my birthday present to David, a three-day escape from the real world, timed to fit between our return from the East Coast and the holidays (a hectic enough time, but this year we have the added stress of preparing for our first trip to Tokyo the week after Christmas).

After two hours of intense relaxation, of

inhaling the crisp sea air, and watching the small waves lap at the sand, I fished my phone from the bottom of my purse.

"Whatcha doin'?"

David asked.

"Checkin' my messages," I answered. He approved — we'd already been on the undersea tour, already walked the span of the boardwalk several times, and I wanted to save the last chapter of my book for the long ferry ride — what else was there to do?

David watched as, with my phone to my ear, the smile faded from my lips and the furrows he calls my "elevens" appeared between my brows. "Heather called," I said, scrolling to her number and pressing "Dial."

When I heard the first ring, I added, "My mom was in an accident, I'm calling to find out what's— *Hey*," I said into the phone when Heather answered, "*What happened?*"

Physically, I was still on a quaint little island with my favorite person. But every other part of me had been transported back to the real world the moment I heard my sister's voice. Heather relayed the facts.

It was a typical weekday morning in December; the air was misty and cool. My mother had left her house in Chula Vista shortly after 7 a.m. for her daily commute to her office. They say most car accidents happen within a mile and a half of home. Mom had only made it as far as the fifth house from her own when the distracted driver of a huge truck plowed into her head on, forcing her luxury sedan into a parked car. Both airbags had deployed. As a tow truck hauled away my mother's accorioned car, an ambulance hauled away my mother.

The other driver, a neighbor my mother had never met, pulled her vehicle to the side of the road, hopped out, and, wearing a nightgown, ran to her house up the street. Later, in shirt and pants, she defended her actions to the police by explaining that she had crapped herself.

My mom suffers from a rare genetic disorder for which she takes medication

to thin her blood. She was transferred to the trauma unit at UCSD where, on the chance that the accident had resulted in any internal bleeding, she was given a transfusion of frozen plasma to counter the effects of her meds. Fortunately, the only injuries reported by the doctors so far were the massive hematomas on Mom's knees, and whiplash. Jane and Jenny were on their way to lend moral support, and hospital techs were administering an ultrasound.

"No broken bones, some potentially torn ligaments; with a collision like that, sounds like she lucked out," I said to David after I'd given him the lowdown. "Heather's gonna call if anything changes." A cold front enveloped the island. David was silent, gauging me. "Let's go get coffee," I suggested.

Visiting hours ended at 8 p.m. Heather had told me they would be discharging Mom at 11:30 the next morning, but when I called after noon they were still waiting for an orthopedist to meet with her. Knowing that she might be there for some time, I decided to stop by the hospital with flowers.

I held my breath as I walked down the hallway to my mother's room. Hospitals gross me out. They're filled with sickness emitters — people exhaling contagions and leaking fluids. I swear that I can actually *smell* illness. Suppressing

**Suppressing my  
fear that I will  
inadvertently  
inhale someone  
else's disease. I  
force myself to  
continue breathing.**

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my fear that I will inadvertently inhale someone else's disease, I force myself to continue breathing. I feel the same way on airplanes and buses.

Entering her room, I saw my mother splayed on the bed. "Jesus," I said, "you look like shit." Despite my childlike honesty, or perhaps because of it, Mom smiled, happy to see me. A tray hovered over her lap, on which a half-eaten plate of broccoli and macaroni covered in a congealed yellow substance had grown cold.

Mom winced. "I hurt all over," she complained.

"I bet you do," I said, noting that the tubes dangling off of the IV needles in both of her arms were no longer connected to anything.

I held Mom's hand for a moment and then, kissing her on the cheek, I spotted the dried white crust surrounding both of her bloodshot eyes. "You have pinkeye!" I shrieked. Mom nodded. "Oh, my God, I touched you! Do you know how contagious that is? Shit."

Heather was fast on my tail as I made for the Purell dispensers, two of them conveniently located on the wall opposite my mother's bed. We pumped at them frantically, each pump yielding only the tiniest drop of antibacterial goop. *I would make a horrible mother*, I thought, rubbing my hands together with the desperation of a camper trying to get a fire going before nightfall. *At the first sign of my child's sniffle, I'd be donning rubber gloves and a surgical mask.*

When I returned to her side, my hands safely tucked into my pockets, I saw that my mother's face had morphed into a new expression of pain. It struck me that she may have misinterpreted her daughters' fervent cleansing; that while we were trying to rid ourselves of potential bacteria, this

wounded woman might have thought we were trying to wash our hands of something more. Like *her*.

"It's super contagious," I muttered in an attempt to put her at ease. "You don't want us getting that, do you?"

"Yeah," Heather agreed. "I wouldn't want to give it to my boys."

Mom nodded and gave a half smile, half wince. She sucked air through her teeth and grimaced. "It hurts," she moaned.

"Yeah, I bet it does," I said.

I stayed for an hour as Mom relayed her story, the fear and the pain of the accident, the stress and the hassle of the aftermath. When I'd made my way back down the hall-

way and finally out of the building, I inhaled deeply, cherishing the sick-free air as I might cherish a 30-year-old bottle of wine I had been saving for a special occasion. When I got home, I washed my hands again and again,

until they were red. In the real world, distracted drivers and germs could kill you. As I dried my hands for the sixth or seventh time, it occurred to me that while David and I were away, I had not feared either. ■

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**T**

hese are motivational speakers, and more than 100 live in San Diego. Though they are based locally, most have peripatetic lives: they fly in and out constantly to address corporate audiences in America and around the world. They maintain websites, publish books (some, business best sellers), and offer programs; the last are notorious for their quasi-scientific design and ecstatic promise: Rancho Santa Fe's Denis Waitley runs the Waitley Institute's "Seeds of Greatness System"; Carlsbad's Jim Cathcart oversees "The Grandma Factor — Lifetime Customer Loyalty." Del Mar's Tony Robbins, who has been the longest-running San Diego-based motivator, hosts TV spots that, according to his website, "have continuously aired

retreats and seminars, for one-on-one "executive" coaching sessions, are significantly higher.

What do they speak on? Usually the message is the same: through motivation and inspiration one can achieve success in one's personal and professional life. But the means of delivering that message are as different as the presenters. On his website, magician Khevin Barnes of Carlsbad promotes his keynote address as "empowering themes of imagination, creativity, and 'astonishmentality' [that] translate into success and productivity in the corporate world." He's joined onstage by Socrates, an animatronic bird who is Barnes's "alter ego and sassy side kick." Former news anchor, exerciser ("Keep Fit With Phoebe"), and "community affairs

# No Bad Jobs, Just Bad Attitudes

on average every 30 minutes, 24 hours a day somewhere in North America" since 1989.

These gurus of success are hired to fire up the legions of underperforming and unmotivated workers, weary frontline soldiers who toil in the service industry, in corporations, in manufacturing, and more. Motivators and their programs are central to the \$27 billion-a-year incentives industry. As "productivity consultants" they can be found carting pallet-loads of books and software to convention centers, where with rhetorical fervency they rouse the moribund. The up-and-coming speaker usually averages between \$3000 and \$5000 per keynote address and \$2000 per day for workshops. Elite presenters like Jim Cathcart get \$15,000 for a 90-minute presentation, \$20,000 for three hours, and "call for quote" for an all-day gig. Costs for

expert" from Channel 10 Phoebe Chongchua has written *If the Trash Stinks, Take It Out!: 14 Worryless Principles for Your Success*. Part of her keynote pitch, taken from her website, reads, "Attracting success starts with taking the trash out before it rots.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN DECKER

Byron Vardilos



Whether you're an executive, entrepreneur, employee or hardworking homemaker, veteran newscaster, Phoebe Chongchua takes you on an entertaining, informative and inspirational journey that will have you laughing, connecting with her and wanting to clean your own mental house."

Onstage, many motivators prowl the boards with evangelical fervor, lacking only the Good Book cradled in hand. They like to circle-thrust their fists into the air and shout "Yee-hah," but unlike Howard Dean the exclamation is never ruinous. They trademark their products and services, their logos and phrases. They saturate their infomercials with life-improvement testimonials. They are the go-to guys whose programs, complete with online surveys, video training manuals, and sales chops, companies



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN DECKER

Bob Nelson

in need of get-up-and-go energy get up and buy. They exude waves of lacquered affirmation (as do their minions) to anyone who'll listen, not because it's free advertising, but because it's their nature.

\* \* \*

Easily the biggest newcomer in the galaxy of

the mega-motivators is the 40-year-old Irish immigrant Brian Buffini. Buffini runs Buffini and Company, the largest business training and coaching company in America, whose 17,000 clients are predominantly real estate agents and brokers. Buffini's office sits above the

fabled flower fields in Carlsbad. The 80,000-square-foot building houses 270 workers on two floors. The place is quiet and orderly — with a full-service fitness room and yoga studio and health-oriented snack bar — but in some corners it's abuzz with activity. On a tour, one

can hear some of the 200 "Buffini-certified coaches" who phone their 85 clients with advice, sort of like business therapists. Buffini sells two products: himself as a motivation speaker and the services of his motivational coaches. The idea, Buffini says in a newsletter article, is to "instruct, direct, and encourage people to achieve at their highest level possible."

Buffini came to San Diego in 1986 and began selling real estate for ReMax, the nation's largest broker. Buffini hated the usual system of finding clients — cold-calling and knocking on doors — so he tried his own: he asked those with whom he'd already worked for referrals. Buffini began sending clients tokens of appreciation each month as well as personal notes. Or he made a home visit — a pop-by, as he calls it — bringing along a gift —

an item of value, as he calls it — like a dish towel or a bag of nuts or a screwdriver with a note, "Don't get screwed by another realtor. Oh, By the Way" (a phrase he's trademarked), "I'm never too busy for your referrals." One Buffini-coached agent, Angelina Feichko, hosts a "team pop-by" at Easter. According to Buffini's "Coaching Guide," published monthly in RISMedia's *RealEstate* magazine, she and her four female employees dress in white and "show up at a client's house in a minivan and jump out with our Easter bunny ears, delivering an Easter egg hunt directly to the client." Buffini hoped that such active reminders to his clients would mean they'd remember to refer their friends and family to him.

They did, by the truckload, and he became ReMax's biggest

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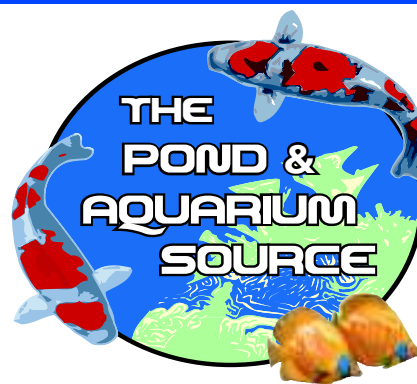
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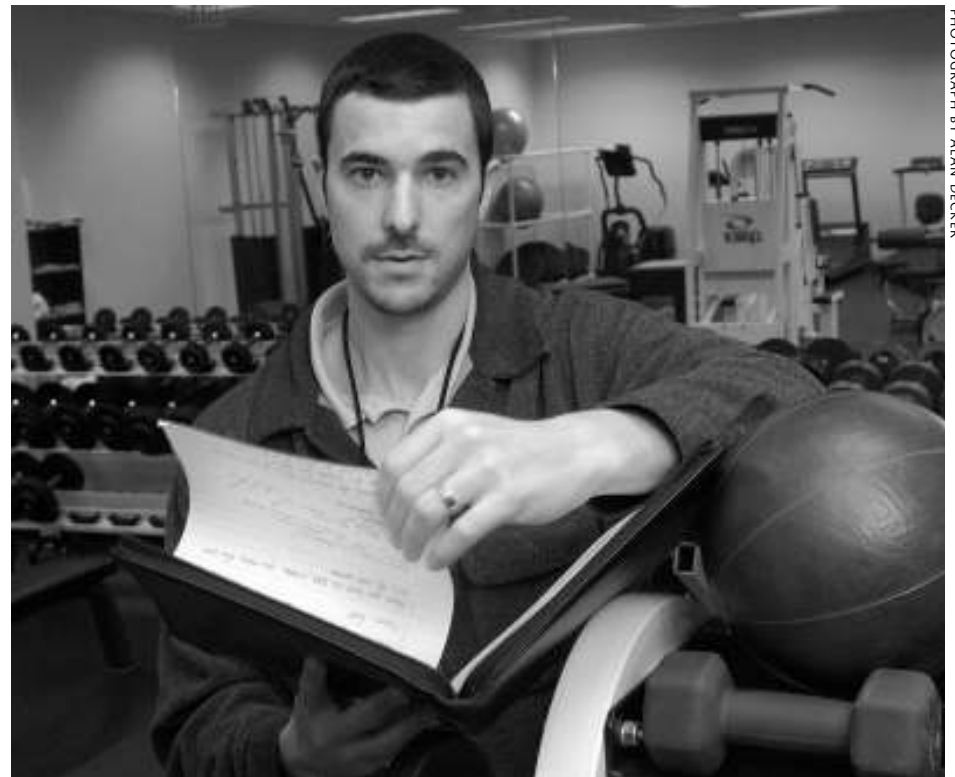
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salesman. Next, Buffini decided to systemize his referral method and sell it to real estate agents. At first he sold the referral system as a program. Each month an agent pays for a gift package that contains items of value and Hallmark cards. Each month the agent delivers the gifts and cards, on which a personal note is inscribed, to the client. While gifts and notes may keep the agent in the client's thoughts, Buffini soon discovered that this would not, of itself, boost an agent's sales. Buffini needed a better sense of how the real estate agents he was helping were wired, perhaps to rewire them to be as positive and as dedicated as he was. So he and one of his brothers (all four have relocated to San Diego from Dublin and work at the company) developed the "heritage profile." According to Buffini's



Rich Brennan

website, this "personality assessment" tool profiles an individual's "natural gifts and abilities"; it's used to "reveal how [agents] communicate, work, learn, and focus" and to target "the areas that can naturally trip you up."

With the heritage profile as a guide, Buffini hired people to coach agents to become better people. Coaches do one-on-one sessions with agents twice monthly by phone. The cost is \$5000 per year. Buffini eventually expanded the coaching system to focus on the five elements, as he calls them, of his clients' lives: business, financial,

spiritual, family, personal. Buffini's coaches advise clients to set goals (lose 25 pounds, save \$10,000, find more time for family activities or spiritual practices) and then hold them accountable to those goals via their phone sessions.

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Good Life.” It begins with rock music blaring and the Stars and Stripes waving, cuts to Buffini and family barbecuing at his Rancho Santa Fe home, after which he’s driving his Lexus, hitting the golf ball, boarding his private jet, and leading, with a soft-edged Irish brogue, power seminars like “Mastermind” and “Turning Point,” in which he stokes the fires of “personal growth.” Buffini is, as his company members say, “huge,” addressing packed halls twice monthly. In the video we hear the voice-over, “Brian Buffini may just be the happiest multi-millionaire in San Diego. In 15 years he’s made a fortune, lost a fortune, and then made another fortune teaching people how to make a fortune.” At a rally, his throng cheers when he intones, “I believe a *far-mel* education can make you a living. But a self-education can make you a *far-chin*.” (I asked a Buffini employee about attending a “Turning Point” seminar in San Diego and was told the event was sold out and



Julieann Billings-Riordan

reporters were not allowed in. I asked about interviewing a Buffini coach, but none responded.)

Buffini pushes his employees and his clients toward personal fortunes and company goals. In staff meetings, it’s not uncommon, said several employees, to hear him or one of his brothers rouse the cadre. “What are our core values?” To which 100 supplicant voices recite, “Excellence is our minimum standard. If it’s not excellent, don’t do it. Always take the high road. Exceed

your expectations, and win!” Followed by the big cheer. Another element is prayer. Buffini met his wife Beverly at Bible study, and Christianity is the de facto faith of the enterprise, as Rich Brennan told me. Brennan is the director of corporate wellness. I asked the superpositive, superfit Brennan whether Buffini or people in the company were drawn to any particular research in motivational or organizational psychology.

“Brian’s research is so vast and he’s such a

book reader,” Brennan said, “that he’ll pull from all different styles of motivation. But the number-one motivator for Brian would be Jesus Christ. When you talk about referral, Jesus Christ was the number-one referral king of all time. He had 12 disciples, and He said, ‘Hey, go get Me some referrals.’ He’s the most famous person in all history, and He built His entire business off of referrals, the largest referral network ever created off of 12 people.” The people who work at Buffini and

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Company are called “servant leaders, yes, a Christian-based term,” Brennan added. Byron Vardilos, the coaching business manager, who said he is also a Christian, told me that “the more people you can serve, the more you’re gauged as a leader. It’s like Jesus washing the disciples’ feet — doing the mundane task of showing them how to serve each other.” The company recognizes its servant leaders with monthly, quarterly, and yearly awards. Julieann Billings-Rordan, marketing communications manager, who agreed that the company has its Christian adherents, said that Buffini does not “discriminate against non-Christians.” Bowed heads and group prayer do begin some meetings; a large flock of employees, many of whom are married to

each other or are siblings, attend the same church.

In the lobby of the Carlsbad office, one of two statements painted in big letters high on the wall reads: “Our Mission: To Impact and Improve the Lives of People.” On the DVD, we see this purpose apparently being put into practice as audience members file out of Buffini’s presentations awakened and stunned. After his talks, Buffini says on the video that he will routinely hear someone say, “You’ve changed my life.” “When I’m speaking onstage,” he continues, “I’m able to relate to everybody. People will say, ‘You were talking just to me.’ And there were thousands of people in the room.” It’s probable that the people to whom he ministers motivation already believe that a

sales guru can change their lives. This aptitude for change is key. Brennan drew a profile of the real-estate-agent personality whom Buffini is looking for and who is open to personal transformation: “They are free-spirited, relational, and people-oriented; not as introspective as others. They like the freedom to make their own schedules. They enjoy competition; they’re good sports. They like to be part of a team,” which sells houses and collects referrals.

Selling real estate is competitive and cyclical. Market ups and downs are common: currently, Southern California faces sluggish sales that will remain constant, some experts predict, until 2008. Too many will compete for a limited share of home sales. But the variable seasons

of selling seem not to matter. Buffini gathers the survivalists: the competitive independence of the agent’s work favors those who like living on the edge, without a steady salary or com-

pany-paid benefits. Buffini and his coaches stir the real-estate-agent type to succeed. You would think that such enterprising sorts would need no motivation. But they do. According to

Brennan, as the market cools down, “This is the time when the true business professional rises to the top because he follows the same system whether the market is up or down. Buffini and

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Company will do better over the next few years with the market low than when it's high."

Has Buffini found a way to motivate agents to be more productive? According to a study by the National Association of Realtors, members of the association who had 26 years of experience selling homes averaged \$92,600 annual income. When Buffini's Mike Lopez, director of coaching and events, tallied the score of their Buffini-coached agents, he found that those with 4 years' experience selling homes averaged \$172,691. Has Buffini found a way to

motivate agents to be happier in their personal lives and wealthier in their profession? Perhaps. One thing is clear: an agent needs to be of the real-estate-selling ilk — one who balances taking advice and making sales, seeking spiritual ends and making money — before he or she rides Buffini's system to the end of the rainbow.

\* \* \*

In contrast to Buffini's self-empowerment through coaching is the more sober motivational message of Bob Nelson, best-selling author, workshop presenter, and

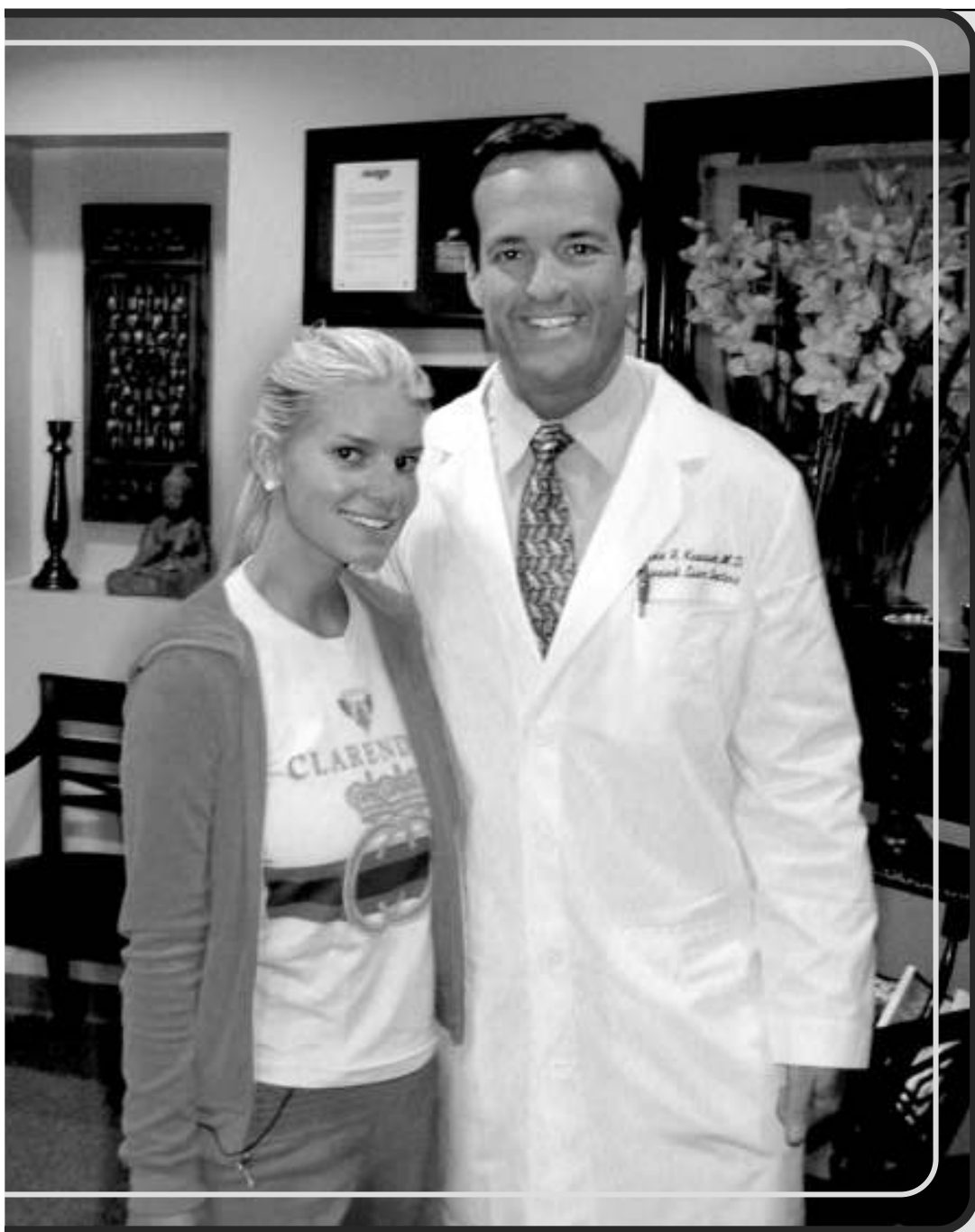
management consultant. Buffini and his team coach willing real estate agents; Nelson trains willing and unwilling managers. Any company, he says, can build a "culture of recognition." A culture of recognition is a proactive attitude that managers use to recognize good work. Instituting "recognition" programs often costs little or nothing and brings immediate changes in a company's productivity. Of Nelson's 20 books about motivation and recognition, his most popular is *1001 Ways to Reward Employees*, which has sold more than

1.5 million copies. Most of his books are "100 percent examples." They feature a "Dummies"-style layout with graphs and tip boxes and sidebars and drawings of perky associates with lightbulbs radiating above their heads. No doubt you've seen a Bob Nelson book, with "1001" in the title, lying on your supervisor's credenza.

In conversation, the 50-year-old exudes a kind of boastful benevolence; like Jimmy Carter, he's an automatic smiler, crinkle lines etching the corners of his eyes. He acknowledges but hates

it that the grumbling American worker "resonates around problems, mistakes, crises." Nelson lapses into motivation-speak much of the time, but it's never slickly sales-oriented like Tony Robbins. His austere Rancho Bernardo office, not far from his home, is more like a bare closet than a work space: there's a small storeroom for his books, a computer or two, and bare tables. He spends little time here; he's on the road almost 100 days a year. In his office, there's one on-site employee, while seven others sell and promote him via the

Web from other locations. Nelson, wire-haired and goateed, sports a knit shirt with his (trademarked) insignia of a beaming, halo-wearing office worker. After establishing himself as a job counselor, Nelson moved to San Diego in 1985 and was hired by Ken Blanchard, coauthor of *The One Minute Manager*. Nelson helped craft the motivational "you-can-do-it" voice of *The One Minute Manager* (which has sold over 10 million copies and still sells 10,000 copies a month) as well as Blanchard's syndicated newspaper



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column, seven trade books, and several business textbooks. "I had five jobs with Ken," he said, "and each one was created for me." Largely due to Nelson's self-motivation.

Nelson earned his doctorate, in 2000, from the Peter F. Drucker Graduate School of Management at Claremont Graduate University. With guidance from Drucker, the father of modern management, Nelson studied "reinforcement theory," a dreary locution that Nelson translates quickly as "the most commonsensical thing: you get what

you reward." As a graduate student, he spent three years creating and administering a study that would answer the question, "Why is it that so few managers recognize employees when they do good work?" He sorted managers who frequently recognized good work from those who didn't. He found that two-thirds of managers who infrequently recognized good work believed people needed no motivation on the job. These managers didn't subscribe to motivational logic. They believed money was enough to spur workers

to produce. In addition, managers said they had no time to recognize workers; they felt unsupported, even unrecognized, by their own man-

going to coddle them; no one ever did this for me; people should pay their dues; I'm not going to fawn over this college kid; this is already a good

education, in college or at the office.

The top reason why managers recognize good work, Nelson learned, is that enthusiasm for others' accomplishments is central to their personality: to think well of friends, family, and employees and to encourage them are behavioral traits. From his study Nelson discovered a fundamental principle these positive-prone bosses were already using: "If you manage people, you're in charge of the motivational environment in which they work." Good managers — the most

efficient, the most hands-on, the ones who are hired away by other companies — recognize good work at monthly and yearly intervals as well as every day. Good managers initiate rewards themselves with or without a budget or a program. And good managers are not dependent on being recognized by their superiors.

Armed with this knowledge, Nelson is called in to awaken the sleeping minions. The City of San Diego sought his aid in fixing a lackluster "Employee of the Month" program. "I was

## "If you've got a good boss, then you've got a good job."

agers; they didn't want to "single out" their most deserving staff, which might provoke jealousy and backstabbing. They said things like, "I'm not

place to work." Their beliefs can be intractable, suggestive of the brashness that shapes these managers' personalities and is often resistant to

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JL top-of-the-line W7 sub and Targa 1000-watt amp with built-in Xover.

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All-in-one & XM ready!

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### AM/FM, DVD, CD, MP3, NAV, Touchscreen

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See Who's Breaking In!

Works with any existing stereo!

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One two-way remote control with digital screen, built-in pager, remote start, starter kill, dual-stage shock, code hopping, flashing LED, Powersave mode, lifetime warranty.

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### JVC

AM/FM, DVD, CD, MP3, NAV, Touchscreen

1-Year Theft Guarantee & 3-Year Warranty

Was ~~\$1,299~~  
Now **\$1,299**

Limited stock. First come, first served.

Navigation All-in-One (rear-view camera optional)  
Factory Warranty. Authorized Eclipse dealer. Installation charges not included in sales price.

### CLIFFORD

Two remotes  
Starter Kill  
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Free Speakers!

Detachable built-in 3.5" wide screen, DVD/CD/MP3, 5.1 channel Dolby DTS, decoder built in, iPod and dual zone ready.

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Give high home prices the licking they deserve. Present this coupon for a FREE Olson "Patriotic Home Payments" ice cream cone when you visit the Olson Company sales centers below. Offer expires December 31, 2006. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.



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Order 2 entrées & 2 beverages Mon.-Fri. between 5-7pm & receive a 25% discount off your total bill. Not valid with any other offers or promotions. 15% gratuity added before discount. Dine-in only. Offer expires December 31, 2006. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month. Coupon not valid on holidays.



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brought in in the late 1990s before the financial mess. I can't remember the exact fee." (Typically Nelson earns \$12,500 to \$15,000 per presentation, though his consulting fees vary.) At a meeting with city officials, when he asked what was wrong with the employee-of-the-month program, which covered 13,000 employees, "They said they didn't know — that's why they needed my input." As part of his response, Nelson chided them: "If that's your plan, I'd recommend prayer as a more effective

approach.' I excused myself and sought feedback about the program from individuals in the same room. I introduced myself and asked if they used this program. The first person said, yes, he knew of it but would never use it since they had previously nominated several of their best people who were subsequently denied the honor by the central office. 'I'll never be humiliated like that again,' the person said. The second person said that she knew of the program but would never

use it. She indicated that early on someone received the award that

what happens," Nelson continued, "when you try to institutionalize

touch with the times. We don't need employees of the month as much as we need employees of the moment."

At Pizza Hut's annual convention, Nelson heard the franchise owners carp that they couldn't get good people anymore — it was a lousy job; the pay was minuscule; deliveries were growing more dangerous. Nelson stopped them, mid-grouse: "Wait a minute. How many people in this room once delivered pizzas in their own car?" Nearly every hand went

up. "How can you complain about something you once did willingly? I have to reframe their thinking. They have to see that this is a job that leads to management or owning a franchise."

The IRS spent 18 months collecting data and interviewing managers to survey how well their organization was recognizing good work. They hired Nelson to study their findings and make recommendations. Nelson heard from the IRS that "it didn't matter what they offered" to their managers, whether

## Good managers are not dependent on being recognized by their superiors.

most people felt did not deserve it and thus wanted nothing to do with the program. This is

employee motivation. The idea of trying to select one person a month to honor is out of

### RESEARCH STUDIES

## Do You Suffer from Excessive Shyness?

Have you experienced intense fear of being embarrassed or evaluated negatively by others in a variety of social and performance situations such as:

- Meeting new people?**
- Talking in front of a group?**
- Going to parties?**
- Interacting with those you are attracted to?**
- Dealing with authority figures?**
- Eating or writing in front of others?**

You may be eligible for a research study at UCSD Dept. of Psychiatry.

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

**1-877-UCSD-SHY (1-877-827-3749)**  
or e-mail: [veryshy@ucsd.edu](mailto:veryshy@ucsd.edu)

## Smoking too much pot?

### WE WANT TO HELP YOU STOP!

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

For more information and to see if you qualify, please call **858-784-7867**

or visit [www.pearsoncenter.org](http://www.pearsoncenter.org) for more detailed information.



## Suffering from Schizophrenia?

If you have been diagnosed with Schizophrenia and your current medication is not helping, you may qualify to participate in a research study being conducted at the Sharp Mesa Vista Clinical Research Center.

To participate, you must be willing to switch from your current therapy to an FDA-approved study drug.

Qualified participants may receive study-related evaluations, medical care, research medication and laboratory work — all at no cost.

All telephone calls and visits are confidential and 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.

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**SHARP** Mesa Vista  
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# We believe we can help.

Well-known pharmaceutical companies are conducting important research studies for a limited number of qualified participants.



## Depression

**steals more than your mood; it robs you of life's pleasures.**

Are you between the ages of 18 and 65 and finding life hard to tolerate? Has your energy and motivation to enjoy your life decreased? Do you find even simple pleasures empty?

California Clinical Trials has been assisting the pharmaceutical industry with finding medications for depression over the past 20 years. Every study conducted by California Clinical Trials is staffed by a team of skilled and experienced, caring physicians and medical professionals trained to place your comfort and well-being first.

**If you participate, there is no cost to you...instead:**

- You receive up to \$500 for your participation.
- You receive no-cost study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.



## Schizophrenia

**can tear families apart.**

Do you or a loved one have schizophrenia? Have they tried Haldol®, Prolixin®, Zyprexa®, or Risperdal®? Do they still feel hopeless, have side effects or continue to suffer from troubling thoughts or voices?

This loved one's problem can break your heart. We are caring, experienced professionals funded by a well-known pharmaceutical company to conduct an inpatient and outpatient research study for qualified people with schizophrenia.

**If your loved one participates, there is no cost...instead:**

- They receive up to \$2400 for participation.
- They receive no-cost research study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

## Anxiety

**doesn't just stress your mind.**



**We know it can...**

- Decrease your immune response
- Decrease your physical and mental functioning
- Increase fats in the bloodstream
- Be mistaken for medical conditions
- Interfere with sleep

If you are between the ages of 18 and 64, you may qualify to take part in a research study of an investigational medication for Generalized Anxiety Disorder.

Every study conducted by California Clinical Trials is staffed by a team of skilled and experienced physicians and medical professionals trained to place your comfort and well-being first.

**Qualified participants:**

- Will receive up to \$450 for time and travel.
- Receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.



## Insomnia

**can affect the quality of your life and your partner's.**

Restless sleeper? Wake up tired? Chronic problems falling and/or staying asleep? If your sleep is not normal you may qualify for a research study in our state-of-the-art sleep clinic and receive an investigational medication for poor sleep.

Every study conducted by California Clinical Trials is staffed by a team of skilled and experienced physicians and medical professionals trained to place your comfort and well-being first.

**If you participate, there is no cost to you...instead:**

- You may receive up to \$1050 for your time and travel.
- You receive no-cost study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

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it was catered weekend training retreats or a seminar (with motivational speakers) that taught practical methods for enlivening their positive energy: "Some managers would do it, and some would not." After Nelson pored over the survey results, he told them, "You've come to the right person: where you're giving up is my starting point. I don't think some people will do it and some people will not. I know specifically why those people who don't, do not, and why those people who do, do. I can show you how to convert the non-doers into doers."

To activate the non-doers Nelson tells managers that (it's nothing

personal) they lack creative vision; he's been asked to modify their behavior with 1001 fresh ideas. He instructs the managerial slackers, "I know you're busy, so here's what other busy managers do. Take a few moments at the end of the day and reflect on whose behavior or performance stood out, and jot them a note. Try to thank five people a day. Have a memory aid to do that. The president of Atlantic Consulting Group has a trick. He says, 'I put five coins in one pocket, and every time I praised somebody I moved one coin to the other pocket. After I worked on that for a couple weeks, I didn't need the coins anymore.

I got the behavioral pattern down.' It's a technique. For some well-intentioned managers, if it clicks, they'll do it every day."

Another way to jumpstart non-engaged

incentives — both manager and worker were asked to respond to what the "employees wanted from their jobs." The managers consistently identified the top three factors as "good wages,"

work done," "feeling 'in' on things," and a boss who is "sympathetic to my problems" — each without a financial cost. Managers and employees, Nelson said, are not on the same page. To get managers involved, Nelson insists that they survey their employees so they become aware of the schism between their assumptions of what their workers want and what their workers really want. The result is that when managers see what their employees value, the managers are more liable to participate in retraining themselves.

Then there's the managerial group Nelson calls the lurkers — those who wait to see whether others change

before they will. The key to implementation is to have people who've started recognizing good work guide others. When "you create the story," others will follow. Nelson thinks that any company can reform its most diligently disengaged managers. He cited a hospital staff in Modesto who started a recognition program for which the bosses were trained. The first year the program was optional; the second year, it wasn't. "We asked you; now we're telling you. We're changing. You can be part of the change, or we can leave you behind." The mainstay of Nelson's ship is to hold the managers accountable. If, over time, managers fail to

## Workers stop caring "because they don't see anyone else care."

managers is to get them to think about employees differently. In three separate studies, by Bob Nelson, Ken Kovach, and Lawrence Lindahl, managers and employees ranked ten workplace

"job security," and "promotion and/or growth opportunities" — each with a financial cost. These were not even close to what the workers said were their top three: "full appreciation for

### RESEARCH STUDIES

## Are You Currently Diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder?

Do you currently have a combination of the following symptoms?

- Unusual periods of "highs and lows" · Racing thoughts · Poor attention span
- Excessive involvement in activities · Unusually elevated mood
- Changes in appetite · Irritability

You may qualify to try an investigational medication while participating in a research study and be reimbursed \$50 for each inpatient hospitalization day and \$100 for each outpatient visit. Total reimbursement will not exceed \$3050.

**Call (858) 566-8222 for more information.**

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## Considering Dental Implants?

We are looking for qualified patients to assist us with ongoing teaching/evaluation of a new and improved implant system using NO INCISIONS (90% of cases).

No-incision cases showing no post-op pain.

Dental Director, 25 years' experienced Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry. Participants allowing others to observe some treatment will be offered greatly reduced fees. Top facility.

**For a free consult call: 619-819-9217**

Second opinions welcome.



## Depressed? Sleeping Too Much? Not Enjoying Life?

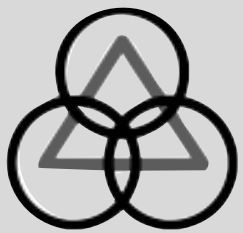
**If you are between the ages of 18 and 65 and have not responded to treatment for depression, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication.**

Qualified participants may receive study-related evaluations, medical care, research medication and laboratory work — at no cost.

All telephone calls and visits are confidential and 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**.

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## Do you have trouble sleeping?

Are you:

- 18 years of age or older?
- History of insomnia for at least 4 weeks?
- Having difficulty staying asleep?
- In good general health?
- Sleeping less than 6.5 hours at least 4 nights per week?

Synergy Clinical Research is looking for volunteers for a medical research study of an investigational medication for insomnia.

Qualified participants may receive investigational medication, study-related physical exams and compensation for time and travel.

If interested, please call: **1-888-619-7272**

## 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 information or appointment, call the study coordinator, James Goldberg, Ph.D., at:

**619-327-0155**

## Depression Research Study

If you have been previously diagnosed and treated for depression and in recent months you are experiencing a recurrence of similar or increased symptoms, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study.

Those symptoms may include feeling sad or empty, feeling worthless or guilty, decreased interest in activities you once enjoyed, difficulty concentrating, weight loss, difficulty sleeping or lack of energy.

Call: **1-888-619-7272**

## Alzheimer's Clinical Research Trial

- Do you have a family member diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease?
  - Have they become more confused?
  - Do they require closer supervision?
- Does their condition seem to be getting worse?

If so, then your loved one may qualify for a clinical research trial. All study-related visits, investigational medication and study-related care will be provided at no cost to qualified study participants or caregivers. If you are a caregiver of someone at least 50 years of age who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, then you may want to find out about this study.

For more information, call: **1-888-619-7272**

## We're trying to get a leg-up on Osteoarthritis

*You may be able to help...*

If you or someone you know has pain from Osteoarthritis of the Knee, we are currently seeking men and women to participate in an important clinical research study.



Call Synergy Research: **1-888-619-7272**  
www.arthritisoftheknee.com



## BIPOLAR DISORDER

### Mania

- Racing thoughts
- Increased activity
- Decreased sleep
- Increased spending

### Depression

- Sadness
- Lack energy
- Difficulty concentrating
- Feel restless or irritable

If you are experiencing some of these, you may be eligible for a research study.

Some qualifications are:

- Aged 18-65 years
- Non substance/alcohol dependent
- Using reliable contraceptive
- Not pregnant or lactating
- Non diabetic

For more information, please call: **1-888-619-7272**

Listen to "Tomorrow's Health Today Show" on CASH 1700 AM Radio every Saturday morning from 11 am to 12 noon, sponsored by Synergy Clinical Research Center.



adapt, as a last resort, they're fired. The jaded, the cynical, those who long ago lost their motivation, are phased out or retired.

For 30 years, Gallup, best known for its public-opinion polls, has been tracking worker engagement in hundreds of American organizations and companies. Their yardstick is the employee engagement survey, or Q12. Administered by Gallup and bought by human resources departments, the Q12 asks employees 12 questions about work: "At work, do your opinions seem to count?" or "Is there someone at work who encourages your development?" Employees rank their responses on a weak-to-strong scale. The most recent finding of the Q12 — based on 4.5 million workers at 332 worksites — reveals that

71 percent of those measured are either actively disengaged (16 percent) or not engaged (55 percent) at work.

Nelson has studied the Q12, and he agrees that there are lots of jobs, in customer service and retail, in warehouses and on assembly lines, that are uninspiring, repetitious, pay next to nothing, and go nowhere: no wonder seven in ten are not engaged. In fact, most low-skilled and low-paid workers find little intrinsic value in their labor. With such unrewarding jobs, how can we expect employees to perform better? How does a person in tech support, who talks with frustrated customers and is supposed to finish the call in four minutes, transition to the next caller with grace? How does a janitor who's paid minimum wage to clean

toilets and has no opportunity to advance make an effort to go beyond what he's required to do? How does a bank teller who must tabulate dozens of checks or transactions per hour, a process in which clerical

"all motivation is self-motivation"; but he also believes that a company has to "set up the conditions for them, their employees, to motivate themselves." If the company doesn't help its laborers feel good about

only when they feel that their managers are their "coaches, colleagues, counselors, and even cheerleaders."

Time and again, Nelson has seen workers stop caring "because they don't see anyone else care." Managers should meet them "at their energy level — the place where they started the job. Employees have that initially: they want to be part of something larger than themselves. If you meet them at their first energy, you maintain it or build on it. If the organization doesn't meet them, over time that energy will drop off. They'll be disappointed and lose motivation. But it doesn't happen overnight."

In addition to recognition, Nelson believes that management, particularly executives, must respond with structural changes. Older workers

or those who've been with a company a long time say they want managers to give them more flexibility, more challenge, more team orientation, and more personal responsibility, all factors that are more critical to staying with an employer than pay raises. One company that has responded is TRW, the credit-reporting business. At the Carmel Mountain office, TRW adopted the 9/80 plan: eight 9-hour days and one 8-hour day (totaling 80) so that the worker gets every other Friday off. Nelson said that in a national survey, twice monthly three-day weekends ranked higher with employees than better health-care coverage. "When the headhunters call the employees at TRW, they laugh and hang up: 'I'm not going anywhere.'"

In the end, work,

## The things we do to ourselves are the most important source of our stress.

errors often occur, have the incentive to check her work?

Managers who recognize good work are especially critical when the work is not interesting or challenging. Somewhat contradictorily, Nelson believes that

themselves, most will be non-engaged or actively disengaged, which can mean sleepwalking through the job or sabotaging it. Workers whose wages and the nature of their work are not going to change may self-motivate, Nelson said, but

### RESEARCH STUDIES

## Clinical Trial: Nasal Spray for Diabetes

If you are diabetic, would you be interested in a clinical trial of an investigational nasal spray for diabetes?

The Profil Institute for Clinical Research is currently conducting the study.

You may qualify for this trial if you:

- Have Type 2 Diabetes
- Are at least 18 years old
- Are currently treating your diabetes with oral medication (pills) but **not** using insulin

Qualified participants will receive the investigational nasal spray for diabetes, as well as study-related medical care and lab work at no cost. No overnight stays are required for this study.

You may be compensated up to \$1,200 for your time.

For more information, please call:

**(866) 308-PICR** (866) 308-7427

**Profil**

Profil Institute for Clinical Research  
855 3rd Ave., Suite 4400  
Chula Vista, CA 91911

## BIPOLAR DISORDER DEPRESSION SCHIZOPHRENIA



Researchers at Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital are currently enrolling subjects into inpatient and outpatient studies. Eligible participants will receive all study-related care at no cost, and will be reimbursed for time and travel.

For more information, please call the **Clinical Research Center at (858) 694-8350.**

Clinical  
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love, and the boss are joined at the hip. "If you've got a good boss," Nelson iterated, "then you've got a good job." A good boss who approves of a worker's efforts and values his or her contributions may make coming to work more than tolerable. Once an employee is recognized daily, not just every other Friday, a sluggish store-room or a glum counter may start to sing, a transformation Nelson has documented at least 1001 times.

\* \* \*

In a conference room at the La Jolla Marriott, 200 employees, "business line leaders" of a local bank (which requested anonymity), have gathered to eat, network, inform themselves about the bank's latest products and services, compete for raffle prizes, and celebrate each other. It's the second annual "Development Network" event, an early-December quasi-

Christmas party and testimonial, from 5:30 to 8:00. Women and men relax in their business attire; a daring few wear Santa hats, others suck on candy canes. A call to order, take your seats: it's the formal part of the program. When the sharing gets rolling, the repetition in every impromptu speech doesn't seem to matter: "market-share leaders" are introduced with an apocryphal golf story or a quick bio ("Lucy's been with us just two years"). They hustle onto the



<p><b>CODEINE</b> <b>VICODIN</b> <b>HEROIN</b> <b>MS CONTIN</b> <b>HYDROCODONE</b> <b>OXYCONTIN</b> <b>LORCET</b> <b>MORPHINE</b> <b>PERCOCET</b> <b>METHADONE</b></p>	<h1>Opiates</h1> <p>Desperate to find the help you need? Have you failed at opiate treatment before? We feel your frustration!</p> <p><b>OPIATE DEPENDENCY IS A CONDITION THAT IS TREATABLE.</b></p> <p>We will help you develop a plan to achieve the life you envision, always with respect and dignity.</p> <p><b>Call us today for your free analysis.</b></p>
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Affiliated Research Institute is conducting a 26-week clinical trial on an investigational medication that may help participants quit smoking and maintain smoking cessation. To qualify for this research study, you must be at least 18 years old and smoke, on average, 10 cigarettes per day for at least the last 2 months. If you qualify for this study, all research medication and study-related care will be provided at no cost to you. You will receive brief smoking cessation counseling to help you succeed in your efforts to stop smoking. In addition, compensation will be provided for travel reimbursement.

For more information about this smoking cessation research study, please call:

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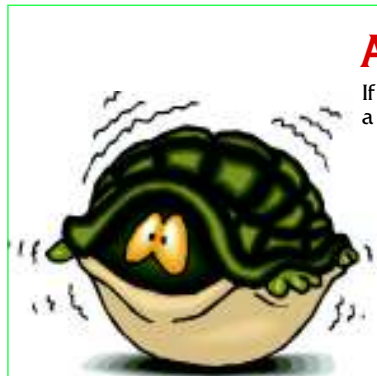
## Bipolar Disorder/Manic Depression Research Study

We are currently seeking volunteers for a clinical research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of bipolar illness (Manic Depression). To qualify for this study you must be at least 18 years old and currently experiencing a "manic" or "mixed" (depression and manic symptoms at the same time) episode of your illness. All study medication and study-related medical care are offered at no cost to those who qualify.

To learn more about this research study or to schedule an appointment with our staff, call us today:

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## Anxiety Study

### Signs and symptoms:

- Experiencing persistent worry? • Feeling restless, irritable, or tense?
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- If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these symptoms, you may be suffering from Anxiety.

Affiliated Research Institute is conducting a research study for people with Anxiety. If you qualify, you may be eligible to participate in a study testing the effectiveness of an investigational drug for the treatment of Anxiety at no cost to you.

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stage, take the mike, and recite phrases like “cost-effective benefits that accrue with employee-development networking.” These leaders then recognize coworkers in the audience who’ve “made a difference”; a few mention the Chargers and recycle the football metaphor about “Jim’s offense being every bit as good as his defense.” The room is grandly trimmed: icicle-like chandeliers, walls with floor-to-ceiling mirrors, plush carpeting, well-dressed tables. Attendants with clasped hands guard the roast beef under a heat lamp; people keep getting up for desserts. Between boasts and toasts, the mistress of ceremonies reads the raffle numbers. Of the 35 prizes, she says, “You guys, these are really good gifts.” This is the modern American employee recognition

gala, whose centerpiece is a string of public confessions, honoring work buddies, staff, secretaries, even bosses, “not for their sales” — which are rewarded with cash and promotions at another event — but because “these folk were there when we needed them.”

One man names his coworker, and the audience giddily cheers; then, mid-praise, he says, “I sincerely, sincerely mean that.” Another says she’s identifying those “impact players” on “my team” who’ve “made big contributions to our profile in the community.” Still another is near tears when he intones, “I wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for —” He calls her name; she stands and acknowledges the applause with bemused timidity; he extends a hand to her as if he’s about to launch into Tony Bennett’s “I Left

My Heart in San Francisco,” karaoke. What I can get out of his general thanks is that the woman helped him finish his quarterly reports on time, and she did so with such regularity that he was able “to climb the corporate ladder” and is now much higher in the institution than he ever thought he would be, which has surprised him and which he now realizes he owes to her.

In the middle of all this “giving back,” when it seems everyone is pretty equal — at least, for the evening — when it seems the group can’t gel-as-one anymore, the program transitions to “Now it’s time for our speaker.” She’s introduced as an “award-winning speaker whose audiences have fun learning to stay positive.” She’s spoken in 47 states, Canada, England, Mexico, Asia, and Iceland.

### RESEARCH STUDIES

## Step on the scale lately? Interested in participating in a weight loss study?

Consider a clinical trial at Profil. Profil Institute for Clinical Research is one of the world’s leading centers for clinical research in metabolic disorders and is currently conducting a study for obesity.

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- Are age 18-65 and overweight or obese, but do not have other significant health problems
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## Restless nights?

### It could be restless legs.

Do you suffer from the urge to move your legs along with creeping, crawling, tingling sensations that tend to get worse towards evening? Do these symptoms tend to occur at least 3 times a week? Are you 18 years or older?

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Clients include Hewlett-Packard, Nokia, Kaiser Permanente, and WD-40. "Tonight, she's going to address 'How to Get More Done with Less Stress.'" Sarita Maybin.

Maybin steps onto the dais to a rousing welcome. She's a vivacious African-American woman whose "Good evening," followed by a pause for their response, works perfectly. They're primed for more positive energy, and she doesn't disappoint. She asks the crowd to complete the phrase: "If you can't say something nice" (a line she says she heard all the time from her mother), and the audience bellows in return, "then don't say anything at all." One shared so-true moment and she's got them. She asks for a show of hands, "How many of you watched the *Charlie Brown Christmas* special the other night?" A third of the hands go up. "So you know the voice of the teacher in that, the *whomp-whomp*." Giggles all around. "How you gonna deal with her, the one who's always saying no, who's making your life stressful? *Whomp-whomp*."

Before she can talk about how to deal with those nabobs of negativity, she needs to identify "our clients, our coworkers — or people at home — who cause us stress, who cause us angst, who push our buttons." She riffs on the idea: "We take a vacation to get away from these people and go halfway around the world, and there they are again." A tour guide leader, a flight attendant, the critical parent, the voice that says no, the attitude that says you can't. These people exist, and we have to deal with them. But the main thing that causes us stress, she says in a curious twist, is our own personality traits. The things we do to ourselves are the most important source of our

stress. Really? Yes, really. And we are the people only we can do something about.

How does our character contribute to our stress? There are five types of stress-inducing

personality: the perfectionist; the one who tries to fix or control others; the one who lacks priorities; the overanalyzer; and the people-pleaser. She asks the audience to turn to a neighbor, "to

confess which one of these you are." This activity gets the room pulsing. Maybin comes off the dais and prowls the audience, eavesdropping and joking; backstage, she says that she

heard one or two reveal they're all five types. "That's okay to check more than one. I have to include myself in several." Before she defines the stress-manifesting qualities of each trait, she

asks people to stand up and identify themselves. "Will the perfectionists please rise?" This is "so you can make a 'note to self': 'I always thought Troy was a perfectionist.' It's important to know

## RESEARCH STUDIES

# There is hope...

**Pacific Sleep Medicine Research Centers offer hope, and help, for patients who suffer from a wide range of medical conditions. Transportation may be provided to qualified participants, and qualified participants may receive compensation for their time and travel.**



## Do you have trouble falling asleep?

A research study is being conducted to evaluate two approved medications in an investigational use in the treatment of insomnia.

If you have been diagnosed with chronic insomnia and experience difficulty falling asleep and staying asleep, you may qualify for participation in this study.

Qualified participants will receive study drug and study-related physician visits at no cost and could be compensated up to \$2,750 for time and travel.

If you would like more information or think you may be eligible for this study, please contact the physician's office below.

## Are You Still Experiencing Pain Even Though Your Shingles Have Healed?

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services is conducting a research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of pain following shingles (post herpetic neuralgia).

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- Reimbursement for time and travel



## Do you experience constipation caused by your pain medication?

Constipation is one of the most common effects of pain medication, and it can be very uncomfortable—even debilitating.

We are currently involved in a clinical research trial of an investigational drug to relieve constipation caused by pain medicine.

You may be eligible if you:

- Are 18 years or older
- Have had non-cancer pain for at least 2 months
- Experience constipation caused by prescription opioid pain medication

All study-related care is provided at no charge, including study -related physical exams, lab services, and study medication or placebo.

Participants may be reimbursed up to \$650 for time and travel.

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A combination medication may help lower blood sugar levels.

If you're making healthier choices but your blood sugar numbers aren't coming down, maybe it's time to consider combination therapy. A clinical research study is evaluating an investigational medication containing two previously approved medications combined into one tablet compared to an FDA-approved drug used to treat type 2 diabetes.

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**Pacific Sleep Medicine Services**

**For more information on these and other clinical studies, call (toll-free):**

# 877-927-5337

# Pacific Sleep Medicine Services

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about your colleagues and how their little but-tons cause you stress.” So the stress issues both from us and from others.

Maybin, dressed in a navy blue pants suit, glides assuredly across the stage, sometimes adding a swoop, a pause, and a fetching smile to snap home a point. The 48-year-old jokes, laughs at herself, points at people she calls by name (she arrives early, she tells me later, to “work the group for juicy nuggets,” anecdotal material about employees she can use); she goes into the crowd, gets the audience kibitzing, gets them making notes and writing down the “one idea from today’s presentation that *you* will use,”

tells personal stories about her 14-year-old daughter, whose view of life can be summed up in one word (“whatever”), and clips the air with memorable lines like “home is where we go when we’re tired of being nice.”

Why is the perfectionist on the list? “It’s because,” and her voice drops down an octave, “no one will help us.” Big laugh. “The perfectionist supports the myth that ‘I don’t need any help. I’ve got it all together. You know these people, am I right?’ Every time the self-selecting members of each personality club are asked to stand, they do so, and the group buzzes like hurried hens. The largest categories are



Sarita Maybin

the perfectionist, the overanalyzer, and the people-pleaser: more than 50 people are on their feet. Only a dozen people get up to say they try to fix or control others, and only three (men) stand to acknowledge they lack priorities. For that bunch, which should be joined by

dozens more (who are in denial), Maybin singles out their favorite line, “Someday, let’s do lunch.” Which never happens. “As my girlfriend likes to say, the road called Someday” — she stops and cocks her head — “ends up in a town called Nowhere.” She directs us to tell our

partner what our most coveted “someday” is. My neighbor says, “Someday, I’m going to be rich.” To Maybin, one person says aloud, “Someday, I’m going to write a novel.” “Yes!” Maybin exclaims. Another, “Someday, I’m going to clean the garage.” “How uninspiring is that,” she calls back.

After taking degrees in psychology and counseling, Maybin served at several back East colleges as a director of freshman activities. She loved giving tours and talking to hundreds of new, bewildered students. That career path brought her to UCSD and a job as acting dean of students at Fifth College in the early 1990s. An epiphany

in 1993 — “it was during the Rodney King uprising, and they wanted us to do riot control on the lawns, when I knew this job was not working for me anymore” — led her to begin a career as a public speaker. One half of her loves academics (she writes books: the newest, *If You Can’t Say Anything Nice, What Do You Say?*), the other half, performing (she recently debuted with her salsa dancing class). During her academic years, she volunteered to speak whenever she could. Unlike the “normal” person, who’s terrified of such exposure, Maybin says, “I felt the itch to do it more and more.” Yes, most dislike speaking, “but I thrived on it.” She

## RESEARCH STUDIES

### Schizophrenia ?

eStudySite is currently conducting a research study for an investigational medication for the treatment of schizophrenia.

You may qualify if you are:

- Between the ages of 18-65**
- Currently being treated with Risperidone (Risperdal)**
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recalls that “people would come up to me after a talk and say, ‘You missed your calling. This is what you should be doing.’” She took their advice. Maybin, whose home office is in Ocean-side and who flies to engagements two or three times per month, has worked for 13 years as a keynote workshop and event speaker, making \$5500 for a keynote address. Her niche is the workplace, and her tagline is, “Helping People Work Together Better!” Onstage, she describes “a palpable energy between me and the audience — people are engaged, and I’m thinking, ‘Wow!’”

Corporations typically call Maybin when change in the company — layoffs and restructuring — is dragging people down. “For me the real challenge is going in when there’s drama, negativity, change — and have them walk out, after my speech, feeling like they have a few tools to empower themselves to move past the negativity.” Part of her motivational strategy is to inquire of those who invite her (75 percent of her business is word-of-mouth) for specific direction. An example: one boss, who kept telling his workers not to use ALL CAPS when

writing e-mails, said to Maybin, “I’ve been telling them and telling them, but they don’t listen to me. Can you work that into your presentation?” She did, in her discussion of the pitfalls of nonoral communication. The practice ended, she later learned.

As a speaker, Maybin’s main hurdle is, “How can I segue from what they’re doing to where I need to be in my presentation? How can I connect with them where they’re at?” Normally, people show up, having been “dragged to a mandatory training, with this look” — pinched, sour — “saying to themselves, ‘What’s

she got to say?’ and I’ve got to win them over right away. I think it’s harder to go from giddy,” as with a bank’s recognition program, “to real than it is from negative,” as with layoffs, “to real. If they’re expecting just another speaker and I can be funny or engaging, then they start leaning forward.”

Toward the end of her 30-minute talk to the bank crowd, Maybin reminds them that “You know, one little pep talk, one little workshop, one little motivational speech doesn’t mean that you can change anyone.” Even yourself. That’s a much bigger project. The slump in the room is not

exactly audible, but it’s there. Maybin tells me later that she said this because, although she can inspire people, she doesn’t want to mislead them. “I would really like to know what happens tomorrow, when they have to go back to that same boss or boring job.” She thinks that despite the recognition programs, where most network and make promises, workers revert to the same old, same old the next day. Since change is unlikely, she says she tries to give them practical advice to deal with entrenched ways of thinking and speaking.

The most efficient way to change the work-

place, she believes, is to change its everyday language, to say things nicely but firmly, with direction and emphasis — and the fewest times possible. For example, how to say no, nicely: “Thank you for thinking of me, but I choose not to.” “I’m sure you’ll do a terrific job on that project, but I don’t have the time to help you.” Be clear, be real, don’t equivocate, don’t promise what you can’t do. She does lots of role-playing in her all-day workshops to model new behaviors. When she includes her “top-ten communication phrases,” she’ll hear from her clients, say a month

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- 5 Appointments & costs



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- 2 How it works
- 3 Initial steps
- 4 Future weight gain
- 5 Best candidates



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## Extension 7000 Rhinoplasty

- 1 Procedures
- 2 Nose "design" options
- 3 Risks & side effects
- 4 After surgery
- 5 Resumption of activities



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- 2 Benefits of tanning
- 3 UV-free instant tan
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- 2 How much can I lose?
- 3 Body Mass Index (BMI)
- 4 Is the Atkins Diet safe?
- 5 Exercise: How much?



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- 3 Is it painful?
- 4 How is skin affected?
- 5 How long does it last?

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after the event, that those phrases are posted on a person's door or above her computer. If employees can practice what she offers in the workplace immediately, through her lens, then she believes her message will stick. "Instead of us trying to push our ideas down their throats, the power is in the processing," that is, by the employees who participate with it during and after the motivational session.

After Maybin's performance and after the prizes are gone, she's

standing with well-wishers who, because she's been forthcoming about her life, confide in her about theirs. Later, I note that there's something about her celebrity, her openness, that draws people to her. She agrees. "One of the best-kept secrets about being a good speaker is you have to be a good listener. I try not to just talk at them, but I relate to what they're saying, pulling in their comments as I go. That way I make it more real." She says she gives the impression that she cares "because I do care.

It may seem that I'm feeding off the energy of the group, and it may seem that it's all about me and that I love all the attention. But it's not about me; it's really about the audience."

Maybe all a motivator can do is be "fully present in the moment" — the positive energy, the disarming humor, and the schmaltzy phrases at company-sponsored lovefests are like any pleasure, purely temporary. "That's right," Maybin says. "We plant the seeds for them to con-

template or reexamine what they're doing. But they'll take that information and use it in their own good time. People change, all the time. It's only when individuals get good and ready to change that they do. I also think people change but only because they feel a need to, not because of something that's done to them." As for the millions in dead-end jobs, Maybin, whose most grueling set of workshops was with the United States Postal Service, says, "They have to remember it's just a job;

it's not their life. I always speak as a recovering workaholic — at one point, all I had was my job. So I try to impart to people who are stuck, 'You can't change your boss, you can't change your duties, you can't change the company, but you sure can make choices about what you do around that and outside of that.'"

For those who stay and share enthusiasm with Maybin afterwards, they seem to be saying that it's events like this that make working for this bank worthwhile.

Office work is difficult, sometimes rewarding, sometimes not, preset in ways that may change but only in geologic time. Thus, the camaraderie created by "Development Network" makes more difference when they return to work than any outsider can know. "Yeah, their chumminess felt genuine," Maybin says. The best evaluation she's got is when "people leave my workshops and say they left feeling like they could do anything they set their minds to." ■

— Thomas Larson

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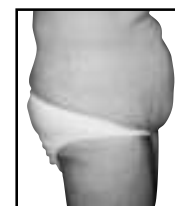
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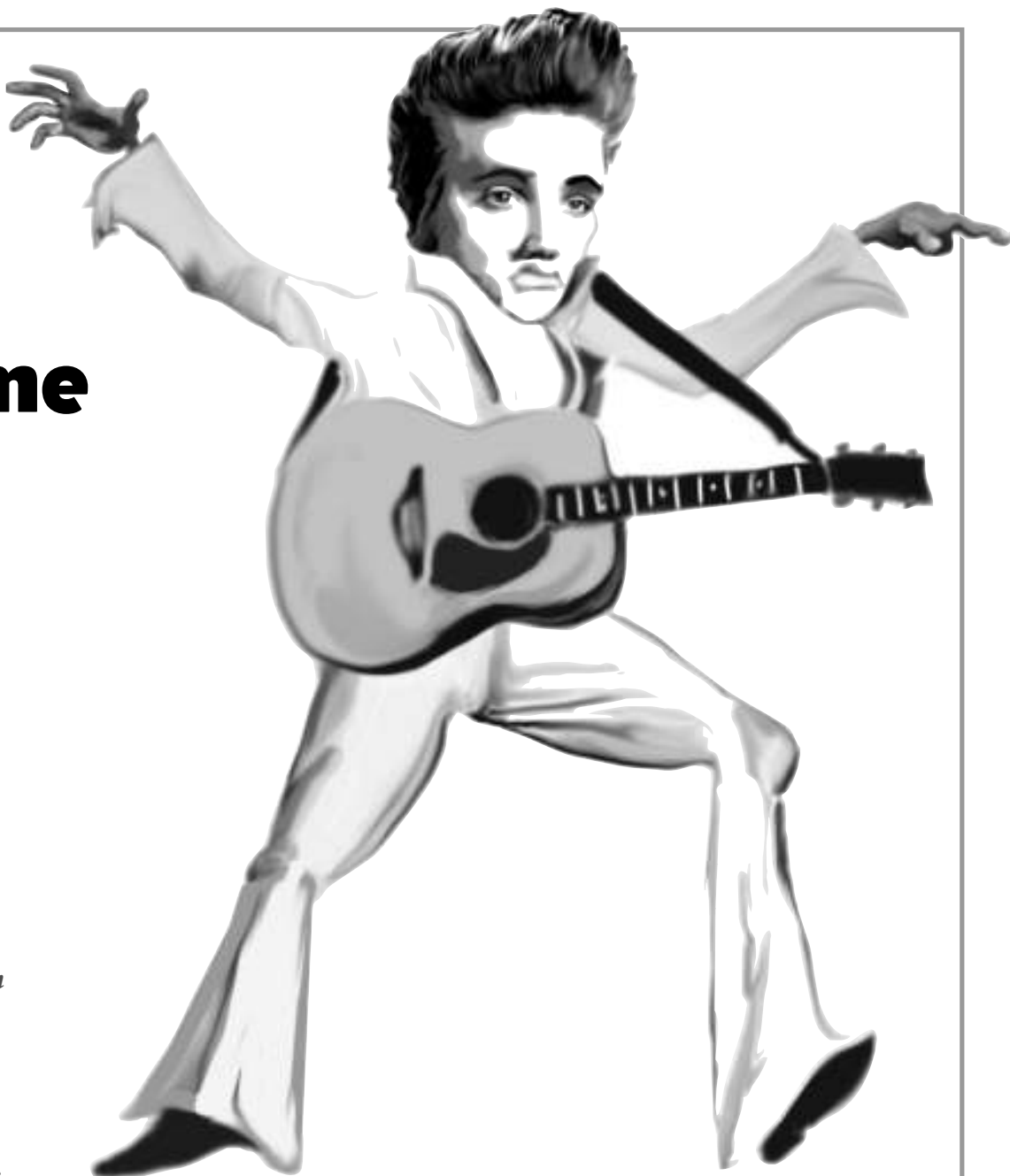


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# When Elvis Came to San Diego



*Hey Jess, me and you  
We'll swallow the light on the stairs  
I'll fix up my hair, we'll sleep unaware  
Hey Jesse, it's lonely, come home.*

— Janis Ian

**Tuesday, August 16, 1977, Escondido, California**

*"The King is dead."*

Danny and I are in a men's store in Escondido, a store I used to browse when I first loved Elvis and Danny's father. *Don't step on my blue suede shoes.* We have found a pair of thongs big enough for him.

*"Elvis Aaron Presley, the Tennessee truck driver whose hip-grinder performance style helped launch the sexual revolution as he became America's greatest king of rock 'n' roll, died Tuesday afternoon of a heart ailment. He was 42."*

Everyone is stopped in their flip-flops.

*"His mother, Gladys, died exactly 19 years ago today. She was also 42."*

"That's suicide, that's a broken heart," I mumble.

*"That's All Right, Mama," his first recorded song.*

*"I think of her nearly every single day," he said.*

*"His twin brother, Jesse Garon, dead in the birth he survived..."*

I'm so lonely I could die.

\* \* \*

"Your son's going to be the great white hope," Ray laid on me again, after picking up Danny at his paternal grandparents' in Pacific Beach, where he's been surfing. My brother-in-law doesn't give a hoot about my disgust. Danny's his nephew-in-law, and these are the facts if I want to help him in this crucial phase of life. Told me again that if he doesn't grow any more, 6'5" is tall enough to make it into pro basketball. "Every team, for the fans' sake, has to have at least one white guy."

"Palomar — where his father played — would be his best bet. Two years of strong play at a good JC..." Palomar, where my brother-in-law teaches. My alma mater too. "Andy Gilmore at Palomar has concern for his players, he's not into the meat market."

Danny and I drive up the mountain to Ramona in hot summer rain. *"His hips twisted, his body shook, he had a way of looking at you sideways with his chin pulled in."* August; it never rains in Southern California!

"Oh, Mom, it's awesome out there!" Danny tells me surfer stories. "Whatcha doin', Danny?" I asked him on the phone. *Catchin' a little wave. Shootin' a little hoop. Watchin' a little tube.* How much healthier surfing seems than football, even basketball.

*"Just hours before Elvis was reported dead there was a rare hurricane in San Diego. Hurricane Doreen."*

Slick-haired, sneering-lipped, slinky-hipped hurricane, *I'm all shook up.* I'm 14, waiting for Ramon. A man with the weirdest name sings on the radio, "Heartbreak Hotel," where the bellhop's tears flow and the desk clerk's dressed in black. I see a fat,

balding old man, but hear in the haunting protest of his voice that Heartbreak Hotel is where I will room, too, and all of us in this late and terrible time, only the lonely beauty to assuage us. I say aloud, like a prayer, "I love you, Elvis."

"Why didn't they name it *Hurricane Elvis?*" Danny muses as we slosh around the hill, windshield wipers keeping time. He's so tan, so handsome, his blond Afro bleached neon white from the ocean. Wait until the recruiters see him now. Last spring they were saying he's the all-around biggest and strongest 16-year-old they've ever met.

"They name hurricanes for women," I snort. Danny knows that rap on sexism.

*"Police Chief A.E. Hansen threatened Presley with jail if he ever returned to San Diego and 'gyrated' as he did in his 1956 performance."*

---

Slick-haired, sneering-lipped, slinky-hipped hurricane, *I'm all shook up.* I'm 14, waiting for Ramon.

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\* \* \*

Daddy and Sam the Bank Robber, both from Tennessee, like Elvis, took us, a carload of girls, plus Clarke, my little brother. The others didn't know who he was. I hardly knew myself, except that I loved him on the radio, and I knew rock 'n' roll was important. I'd been arguing about this with Jesse Barns and others who said, just like the adults, it's trash, not music.

Now I'd gotten this trip together. Descending into Poway from Ramona in

Sam's new Chevy station wagon, a sliver of moon setting over the hills, "Blue Moon" came on the car radio. We broke out, "I saw you standing alone..." Funny. "Moonglow" was number one on the charts that week. But "Heartbreak Hotel" was creeping up.

I'd never been to a concert before. I hardly knew what to expect.

"So many girls," my father gasped at the Arena. They dropped us off. "We'll be waiting right here when you come out."

We walked into the biggest crowd: 2500 seats, but 5000 are jammed in. Ours are a million miles from the stage, up in the rafters, the Arena like an enormous gospel tent. These boring groups keep coming on first, the Flaim Sextet, the square comics. A low hissing, keening, booing, something is growing, then this other thing, the drumming stomping of 10,000 feet to the chant: WE-WANT-ELVIS! WE WANT ELVIS!

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I hear someone screaming. I'm a shy person, but I realize it's me! "Look at what he's doing with his legs!" I can't believe my eyes, what he's doing with his hips. Neither can anyone else. I'm trying to tell Sylvia, "Look at what he's doing with his hips!" so afraid she can't see it, so shocking, so forbidden it is. I scream, "LOOK AT HIS HIPS! LOOK AT HIS THIGHS!" pounding into her left side, which is pounding into my right side in the rhythm of the stomping, but my words are drowned out by thousands of others screaming about his hips his legs his face his hair his clothes his song. I am desperate to tell her, but she can't hear me, she's screaming so loud her face is exploding, trying to tell me some-

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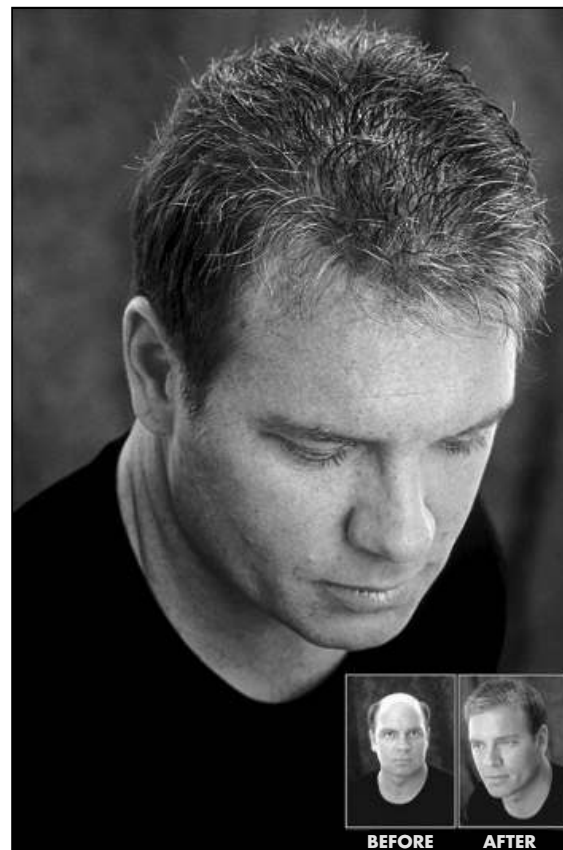
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thing, the most important thing we've been dying for, for all of eternity.

Solid noise is building, and this enormous wave moves toward the stage, a sea of tortured girl-faces, blinding tears, trying to get to him, girls tumbling into the aisles, crawling over people, the jumping stomping feet. He's doing splits, knee-drops, crawls to the edge of the stage, leaps back from the clutching hands. Then, he... *burps!* At that, Barbara Evans, who later will be crowned Miss Ramona by Raquel Welch, in the same beauty contest where I will come in last, takes off, dropping down the packed bleacher rows. "I have to," she mouths up to us, her blue waterpool eyes drowning all protest. "Don't forget me, you guys, but... I have to..."

She disappears into the 10,000. "I have to touch him, I have to touch..." the lonely boy on the distant stage strumming his blond guitar, writhing his pelvis just for us... GIRLS! We scream ourselves right out of time,

Love, what we were born for, here at last.

Though out there in the night the sirens are already coming for him. Then it's all over, we are delivered back to Hell, and Elvis is gone. The stage is deserted. It's just us, torn and kissed and watered with our own tears.

Outside the Arena, Daddy and Sam grab us as we emerge with the mob. My 12-year-old brother Clarke standing there with his mouth open. A battalion of police with billy clubs, red whirring lights, sirens screaming. Thousands of sobbing girls.

"This Elvis Presley came out," my father is sputtering. "I saw him! They were throwing their underpants at him. The police threw him in the back of a paddy wagon." To this day, my father still testifies his shock at what he saw in girls that night.

We wait a long time for Barbara, convinced she's been crushed to death. Sobbing, howling, girls continue to fall out the Arena gates, clothes and hair rent, to the

stunned and mostly silent parents waiting on the curbs. A bunch are clawing at the Arena walls, and a few have broken through the police ring and are crawling on top of two white Cadillacs parked in front, leaving lipstick kisses, telephone numbers.

At last Barbara emerges from a huddle of cops, holding her right hand before her blood-glazed eyes, gasping, "I touched him, I touched Elvis Presley..." (Or maybe she touched someone who had touched him.) She had been lifted up, laid out over the heads of others, to reach the stage, to touch him.

All the way back to Ramona, the future Miss Ramona remains touched. Always, I will think she touched the secret of stage greatness that night, enabling her to win the contest.

\* \* \*

That summer the war on juvenile delinquency and rock 'n' roll escalated. The churches, the courts, the cops went nuts: *Nigger music! Fire and brimstone!* The media jumped in, selling

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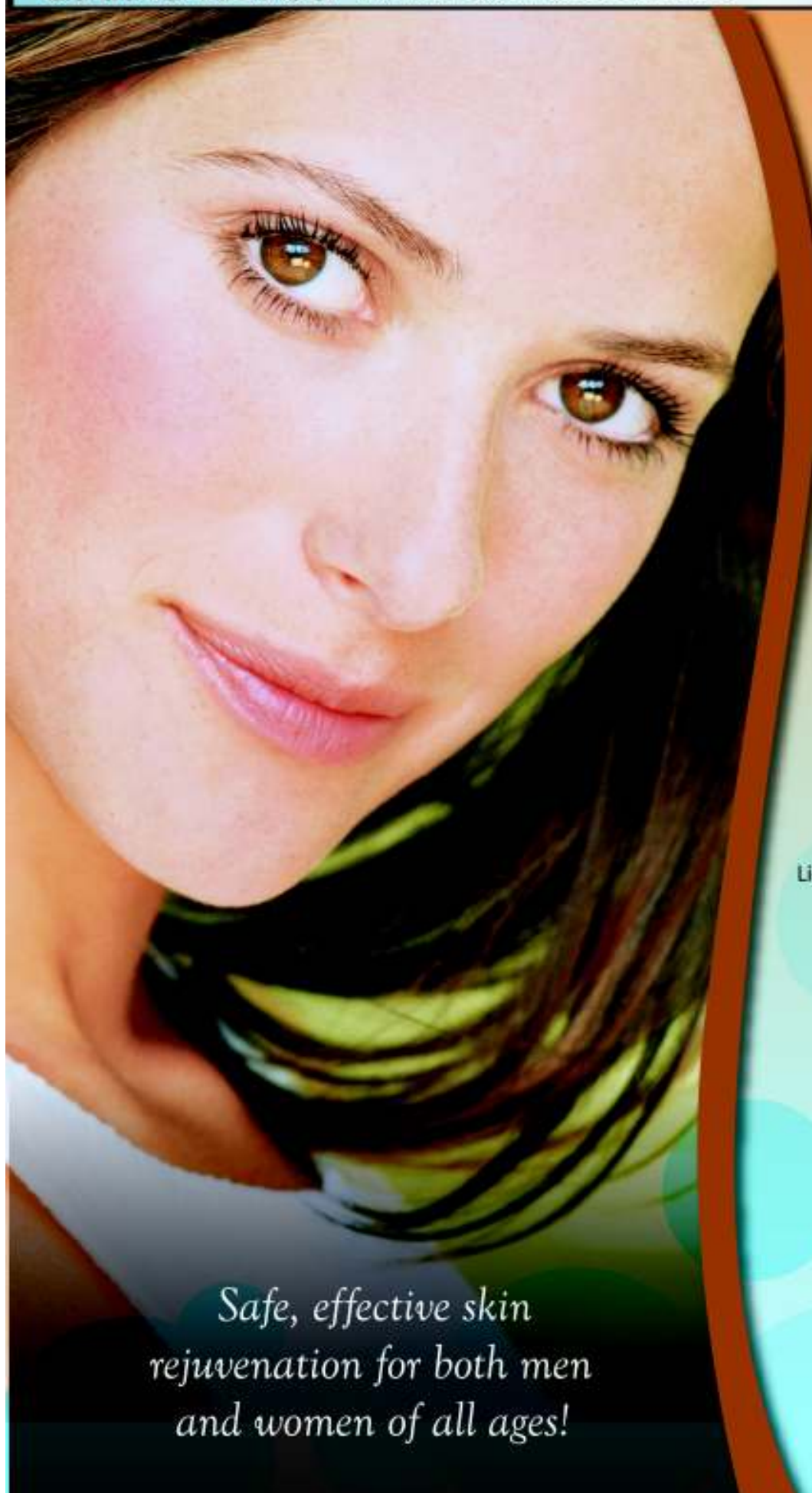


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papers. The scapegoat: Elvis Presley.

In early September he's on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. I'm pressed close to our set, waiting. I love the United States of America. I believe we have Democracy. Eighteen months ago, Elvis Presley was driving a truck in Memphis for \$35 a week. Now he's earned more than \$50,000. Daddy sits behind me on the couch, sullen. The camera is kept above his waist. I'm praying to Jesus: "Show his hips. Show his legs." I'm praying to the founding fathers of my country for our Bill of Rights. In this great land, censorship is wrong. But the camera is

kept above his waist. I die for his humiliation, their attempted manipulation of all girls. I'm screaming again, but below my breath; I'm so angry I could die. Only women are allowed to perform for the opposite sex, to bump and grind, the way the camera focused on Marilyn Monroe's rear end this summer in *River of No Return*. The naked women on my father's poker cards. On the calendars, the magazines in the garages of the fathers. Only men are allowed to sexually dream on the bodies of women. Women are to be dreamed upon.

For me, maybe for most girls, it was the other way

around. I wasn't dreaming on his body, but his free masculine energy, that we were privileged to see it and to partake of, if we chose.

Three months after *The Ed Sullivan Show*, the police chief banned him from ever returning to San Diego. "If he puts on the same kind of show here that he did last June, I'll arrest him for disorderly conduct."

\* \* \*

Now, on the day Elvis Presley leaves this realm, I am hauling up a stormy Clevenger Canyon with my son and dog Moonlight, the road I learned to drive on — miraculously did not die on,

or kill anyone else on in the effort to get home by my father's curfew.

"Hard to imagine," Danny sighs. "That Elvis Presley could cause...havoc." The gold hairs on his brown wrists glisten. When they say "biggest" they are talking about his bones, which he gets from my side. His height is from his father, whose bones are long and slender. You'd think width and length would come from the same gene.

"Yeah," I say. How to explain the rapidity of Elvis's destruction? Senior year, I was interviewed for the high school paper, *Who is your favorite singer?* Two years before I was scandalous for liking him; now I was laughed at.

"It started with his first movie, *Love Me Tender*. They killed him with shame. He had no notion of being obscene; he was doing what came naturally, what his

Mama applauded. He thought he was doing the right thing, like the blacks in his neighborhood, the folks in his Holy Roller Church,

*What happens to the boy and girl in America?* I sneer over the wheel into the rain. "Teenagers are just crazy. It's hormones or something."

**"They'll say Elvis and his mother were lovers as they probably say it of us, because in this sick world, sex is the only valid relationship between a man and a woman, and because they are jealous and confused, betrayed, so sickly sexualized."**

and making all that money. Then the Colonel got him, the Army drafted him, his mother died, and it was curtains.

"For years I've tried to write a poem about the Twins, Elvis and Marilyn.

A bolt of lightning dives down the other side.

"Bullshit!" I crack too. "You can't put off facing contradictions, you have to grow up, become *really* crazy, evil, right in the face of their so-called love, their Bible

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training! Propaganda about how good America is!"

How clear this is when you're a kid, the adults' sick hypocrisy, their footsteps you're supposed to follow in. You resist, rebel for as long as you can.

"It was no different then than now, Danny. The teenage crime rate pretty much stays the same, but it's always hyped as growing worse by each new generation of parents, who have to deny what they once knew. Adulthood in America is the mass psychosis."

We're still trying to climb Clevenger Canyon, named for the Indian killer in the novel *Ramona*. The wind is

unbelievable.

"I raised Elvis to be good and kind," the radio is quoting his mother. "He came back from boot camp with the whole plumb United States in his pocket."

"You watch," I say, "before we get home, they'll say he was a Mama's Boy."

Finally, we hit the top, start coming down into the Santa Maria Valley. The sky is streaked in clouds and colors and lines so fantastic it looks like a painted movie set. "They make a big deal about his music being black, but more than that it's from his mother. The whole thing about Elvis Presley was his unthwarted, unashamed,

profoundly emotional relationship with his mother. No one ever gets this. Or if they do, it's seen as a perversion, not as the source of his genius.

"His father was 17 when he was born, his mother 21. He was born a twin, and his brother Jesse, though still-born, was never forgotten. When he was three, the father and his uncle, his mother's brother, were sent to prison for forging a \$4 check of his landlord's to buy a hog. The landlord set them up. Elvis was left alone with his mother. When Vernon came home, he was a scarred man, literally—carried the flog marks on his back. Elvis would say

to mystified reporters, 'Lay off him, you don't know what he's been through.'

"They were primitive in their isolation in Tupelo, Mississippi. This was before TV, but there was the radio and music and the church. His mama's brothers were preachers. Holy Rollers—he hated that term—they were members of the Assembly of God church. They moved a lot, lived on the edge of vital black neighborhoods. The family of three were close in their one-room shacks. Then when he was in high school, they moved to downtown Memphis.

"Elvis was so young

when he hit, still so connected to his mother. In high school he was weird—he wore mascara—didn't split from her the way boys are supposed to—white boys, at least. He'd been around all those black mamas, and sons like him. The connection enabled him to turn great in her eyes, in the spotlight of the adoring woman, who said, 'Look at my incredible boy!' He was pleasing her, just doin' what he'd always done.

"Then she died, Gladys Love—his mother's middle name was Love!—she probably died of the same thing as Elvis, AMA-prescribed drugs. And the

shame." She was to blame for this freaky, scandalous boy! And the loss: the Army took him. She got sick. He moved her and his father into a house outside the base. I could believe the Colonel slowly poisoned her—so his boy would become a man. Maybe she just up and died, finally getting it. After all, Jesus denied his mother. The Church, the Army, the Capitalists, the RCA rock 'n' roll contract, and prescribed drugs made sure he died—that is, *became a man.*"

My son still seems to be listening.

"They killed Gladys and Elvis as they do all mothers and sons. Jesus, Jesse, Elvis—

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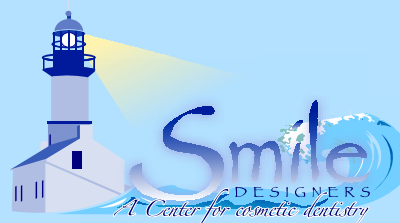
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there are reasons we're hooked on Elvis. He's the Son, the male with heart, murdered by his father on the Cross."

Finally, eyes rolling, Danny gives me his exasperated look.

"That's the reason you were not raised a Christian. Jesus studied the ancient Goddess religions, tried to deliver the message of Love. But Christianity's love is *not* Love, it's patriarchal power. More people have been murdered in his name — the

Church is evil in its teachings of superiority. It destroyed the mother/son core of the Goddess religions by laying over it the one of the Son dead on the cross — dead to his body, his heart, his mother, his boyhood, his people, the earth, all of nature — to become the Father in heaven. The cruel, fucked-up father who demands his child's death.

"They made this barbaric death the core of Western religion, to destroy the sacredness of mother-son

love, to make death the heart of the male, to force mothers to bow down to their boys. The greatest killers in history are teenage boys who've left their mothers for the military. They're trying to prove to the Colonels they aren't Mama's Boys. The crucifixion is symbolic of what every son must undergo to attain adulthood in the patriarchy, the martyred death every mother has to release her son to.

"And, because, Danny, we are forbidden to figure out

this stuff, because what I am saying to you could get me killed, that's why that preposterous image, a naked bleeding dead young man nailed to a cross, maintains its ominous power in the world. It's at the heart of our tragedy, the martyred son, why we have slaughtered so organically and why we are doomed for destruction."

A rolling *boom!* thunders across the valley in prophetic agreement. I jump slightly and Danny whistles through his teeth.

I make the turn through the deluge. Ramon's house, onto Olive. Talk about the murdered boy. Even then, I preferred fatherless men, so much more in touch with their hearts. Up the hill, past the shed for his cow where we loved, my boy is still listening.

"By the time of the funeral, someone will dare to say Elvis and his mother were lovers. But it's fathers who molest the daughters."

I apologize for the generalization, but having said

it, am struck by the revelation.

"God raped Mary! Talk about nonconsensual sex! The father visits himself upon her, she hasn't the foggiest, the boy born of his dominance must die of his dominance. That's the patriarchy: *He* created him, not the woman. By rape, by his almighty power. God, our raping unknowable almighty Father who art in Heaven, that's the male role model — not that poor foolish boy Jesus!"

I don't really know how much my son knows of the story.

*Myrrh's father rapes her while her mother is at the annual Goddess rituals. Pregnant, she flees, he catches her, prepares to kill her, but she turns into the Myrrh tree, and as she ossifies, she births her son from her side. Jesus dies on the Myrtle tree with the three Marys at his feet. Wrapped in a hundred pounds of myrrh, he rises first to Mary Magdalene.*

"They molest their daughters to cut themselves from their mothers. They rape their daughters for the same reason they want to destroy their sons, to claim them over the mother's bond that they've lost. The daughter is sexually furthest from the now-hated, taboo mother. They're jealous, crazed, because they have a confusing memory, which is really heartbreak for the loss of their mother, which is the loss of themselves. So they dream of being back inside her.

"Lots of male poets have

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told me of this sexual memory, of heartbreak mixed with the hormonal rush of puberty; their poems lead back to it. In this culture, there's only one way to interpret this: they want to fuck their mothers. So they learn not only to deny their longing, they accuse the mother and son of their own perverted desire, and they turn it into straight-out conquest sex, the only allowable relationship with the female, and rape the daughters and sisters to prove they are men. A psychological reversal, a cultural-spiritual dyslexia. Their whole life revolves around this tragedy everyone in this supposedly enlightened culture is blind to."

"Don't be cruel to a heart that's true."

We both laugh. Guess this is our facts-of-life conversation.

"They'll say Elvis and his mother were lovers as they probably say it of us, because in this sick world, sex is the only valid relationship between a man and a woman, and because they are jealous and confused,



betrayed, so sickly sexualized. They will tell you — you have to get away from your mother."

"The only thing wrong with you, Doubiago," my son quotes the words of a coach at basketball camp, "you were raised by a hippie mother." He said I got to get my mean together."

"Talk about castration!" I blow back. The tires are going to blow too from the sharp crunching seed pods. "Talk about Catch-22! Your one true ally is the big taboo, right? This is what happened to your father, Danny. The shame, the humiliation of

not wanting to cut from his mother."

He's staring stiffly ahead. Lightning flashes across his face, which looks like mine now. Sometimes he looks like his father. What is he supposed to do with these facts of life?

"She capitulates because she wants her son, your father, to be happy. To be a man. To be successful. To be loved in the world. She teaches him to eat, to poop, to walk, to talk, to read. She helps him out into the cruel world. But also, and here's the schizophrenia of it, she's been taught that a strong mother

and a weak father is dangerous for her son, will make him a homosexual, a weirdo. No one sees that this combination was the source of Elvis Presley's greatness — not to mention the historical Jesus, with Joseph as his father — and why the world responded so greatly. So she remains subservient to the weak man. She's trying to be feminine, to be Christian."

I'm trying hard not to rant, not to turn him off.

"The mother-son relationship is the great taboo. The son must learn to hate his mother. This is Judeo-Christianity, capitalism, patri-

archy. Nothing would work as it does if the mother and the son weren't killed."

"My mama done told me," he sings, finally letting me know he's had enough. "My papa too."

"Okay."

But barreling down Olive like a river to my parents, to the house I grew up in, was most unhappy in, though they wanted to be good parents, Elvis singing, "I don't care if the sun don't shine" — Oh, that he died on the day she died, that is suicide — I'm seeing the alchemy of mother and son. Jesus coming across the sand from the East, where he's studied with the Goddess religion. In the original societies, the mother/son relationship is the core, not the masculine imbalance of the father/son core of the patriarchy.

"The Cherokee — did you know Elvis was part Cherokee, like us? They did not allow fathers to discipline their sons. A Cherokee child was never hit. One would lose one's self-dignity. Soon the whole tribe

would. Guidance came from the mother and her brothers.

"It was understood that male rule becomes dominance. The male ego not in balance with the female becomes hatred — of children and the female, of others, of nature — hatred is the only way to maintain dominance. So the true masculine role model must come through the other side, just as the son came through her body. Your mother's brothers — that'd be Clarke for you. Just as you would be the role model for your sister Shawn's sons."

Oh! Goddess. This challenge of male essence, held holy down through the mother's family. The structure of family gets turned around when the mother's power is not despised and destroyed. Why don't we study these things? How were children raised in those war-free, sensuous-loving, ancient matricentric societies? What were the roles of male and female? How would Goddess worship — as opposed to God worship, with its decree of female subservience — and revered mother/son, brother/sister relationships affect the lover relationship? The father relationship? The sister and daughter relationship? The individual psy-

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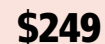
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che? The structure of society?

We're headed right into the turkey farm at the foot of Giant's Grave.

"There are lots of fucked-up mothers, Danny"

The turkeys are bunched up under the long sheds. I barely make the turn, hearing in Hurricane Doreen's pounding one of my mother's oldest aphorisms: "When a woman goes bad, she's more evil than a man."

"Women are products, just like the men, victims of patriarchy. What I'm talking about is not so much physiological, you-got-penis-I-got-vagina, but psychological. Everyone gets twisted."

As I make the next 90-degree turn, he's singing, "That's all right, Mama, any way with me..."

The radio carries it on.

"When he graduated from high school, he went to a record store to make a disc to give to his mother, 'My Happiness.'"

"God, I never thought to wonder what happened to him that night in custody of the San Diego Police."

"As far as anyone knows,

the last time he ever sang was this morning at 7:00 a.m., just before he went to bed. Elvis was a night person. He played the piano, and the last song he did was 'Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain.' He used to say that when he died it would rain all over the country, and he was right, it is raining, folks, even in the desert, even in Las Vegas!"

Or what happened to him in boot camp, custody of the U.S. Army. Jesus at the hands of the Romans.

\* \* \*

Daddy greets us as we pull up the hill, the rain threatening to undermine his new asphalt drive. This hill I waited for Ramon to climb. That pepper tree. To come through my window.

"More letters." Daddy hands them to Danny as we climb out of Roses. "For Dan the Man... Dan the Recruit."

Jim Stanley again, head football coach at Oklahoma State University; Rich Brooks, head football coach at the University of Oregon; Terry Shea, from Utah State University; letters from football

coaches at UCLA, UNLV, ASU. One basketball coach, Stan Morrison, at University of the Pacific. Daddy reads to Danny in front of a 30-foot saguaro cactus. The same thick wrists and fingers, but my son towers over my father's six feet.

"It was a distinct pleasure to have an opportunity to meet you at the Squaw Valley Basketball Camp. I am most impressed with you both as an athlete and as a young man... Over the upcoming year, you may rest assured that you will hear a great deal more from us... I hope you realize you really are a basketball player, not a football player... Please forward my regards to Coach Mastin. I sincerely trust that one day you will find a way to thank him for his enthusiasm and help..."

Why do these guys make me see the Colonel chewing his cigar? *I want you, I need you, I love you.*

Inside, in front of the TV, the 13-year-olds, my

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daughter Shawn and Clarke's daughter Chelli, are miming, "You ain't nothin' but a hound dog!" They crack up laughing, falling on the floor. "Ugh, Elvis Presley! So fat, so boring, so... '60s."

"Hoping to avoid controversy, Steve Allen dressed Elvis in a tuxedo and had him sing to a dog."

I start to tell them, then give up. Sit down and watch the television behind their wonderfully wiggly bodies.

"Although he complied, Elvis was furious. Less than 24 hours later, he walked into RCA's New York studios to record 'Hound Dog,' pouring his true feelings into the music, a shocking burst of noise, defying every uptight arbiter of good taste. Incredible ringing music! There are places on 'Baby, Let's Play House' and 'Mystery Train' where Elvis, unable to restrain himself in the presence of Scotty Moore's soaring, thundering guitar, shouts right out loud and laughs with the sheer exhilaration of it."

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Nine years on the run from 33, he's dead on the cross. Father's orders.

"He was accused of fornicating with a dog onstage in Hollywood... The next night every movie star in the business was in the front row."

The muchachas are in paroxysms. Me too. I could cry. I'm in kindergarten. Music's not allowed in our house. Daddy complains when Mama hums at the kitchen sink. She explains that his mama was a Southern Baptist. Singing is a sin except in church. Even though Grandpa, the Devil of Ducktown, never missed the Grand Ole Opry on the radio. Daddy's not used to a woman singing, but someday I will have a piano, she's working on it. Then Karen Pohlman gets an electric pedal slide steel guitar for her sixth birthday. After she has her lessons, she sets up on the sidewalk out front of

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Model

her house and gives me mine. In her cowboy boots, in my red ones, beneath her hat, beneath mine, she holds the heavy metal bar in my hand, plucks and presses the fingers on the other one to the strings, slides my hand down. Oh!...the...sound...exactly...that sound...dear Jesus I was born to. Clitoral.

*The radio, the sound, the guitar, the summer. The beat of Ramon's body against mine.* All the lonesome years later, I danced as I vacuumed down this, my mother's long living room, the echoey old lobby of my father's heart-break hotel.

Oh, Elvis, I've been mourning your death since high school.

Nightmares all night. Trying to clean my ears with Q-tips. "Are you lonesome tonight?" Dreams of running from the landlord, hiding in a boarding house on a bad street. Stabbing my love in the groin, rushing him to the hospital. What happens to the boy in America?

Awake. Afraid. Coyotes screeching across the

scorched hills. Until he comes through the window from the pepper tree and lies beside me, the throbbing ache of my belly for his hands, his smell, the sound of rock 'n' roll. The deep guttural pelvic beat. A million zillion feet. The music that's been beaten out. These crazy explosions. What you hear. The scrape of the tree against the house, Santa Ana. The howl of the universe's blood rocking through the body. *I'm seven.* He comes to me. *Eight.* When I'm most afraid. *Nine.* Nightly. *Ten.* My Personal Savior. *Eleven.* The Living Flesh. *Twelve.* Always he stands there beside my bed. Takes me in his arms, the smell of living flesh, the sound of light. He moves me over and across the world, into the hearts of the enemy, Hitler, the Russians, the Koreans. The feel of his flesh upon me, love thy enemy. *Thirteen.* Turn on the light.

**Wednesday, August 17, 1977, Ramona, California** Flags at half-mast in Memphis; 80,000 view his body in front of Graceland. "Even

Elvis, it seems, would have been surprised by the public outpouring."

The storm is over. "There will be peace in the valley." Danny and Daddy gone deep-sea fishing. Shawn and Chelli gone school-shopping with Mama. Open *The San Diego Union*.

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"The face buried deep in the white satin lining of the coffin, its configuration, and particularly the dark shadowing around the eyes, makes Elvis in death resemble his mother Gladys."

Your mother begged you to love Pat Boone instead of Elvis Presley.

Now you're 36. When Marilyn was 36, she killed herself. Or was murdered. America's great white hopes. Your son will be. Pull from the shelf *Look Homeward Angel*. "The earth was spermy for him like a big woman." Mama's father's favorite book, your redheaded Cherokee-Irish grandpa. Dead at 36. Thomas Wolfe was 6'7". "My advice, Dan? Grow two more inches." What happens to the boy? Gladys Love birthed two, Jesse Garon and Elvis Aron. He was always so lonely, he's my brother, he's not heavy, carried Jesse with him into this Vale of Sorrow, oh Mama.

"He dissolved into a

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presentation of his myth, and so did his music, his voice prostituted to a huge orchestra. Where once it reverberated in his throat, gradually it sank down into his chest... smoother, still commanding, but slick." — Greil Marcus, *Mystery Train*

"The only myth still living in America has died."

### Early evening, Main Street, Ramona

In the Pioneer Market, the oldest continuous business in Ramona, now a head shop, my brother's best friend, proprietor Richard Levis, rants to me about "the foul corruption of sports in America." Elvis Presley is crooning down my second-oldest Main, "*Love me tender, love me true...*"

"Did you know Elvis went out for football, ROTC, failed music?"

"We're looking for an

inspired, moral coach," I say. *For this I will be true...* "Surely that's not impossible?"

"That's a coach," Richard says, his Pamo grandmother flashing lightning bolts through his acorn eyes, "who would take him right off the streets."

I see for the first time how tall Richard is.

\* \* \*

Ride around, Sally. So dark. Sang "Long Tall Sally" the night I saw him. The Santa Maria Valley. Down to Pamo. The Presidio sent a warning. Chief Aron met it with contempt. So the Church came up — the first recorded white men here — burned the Pamos's great village, flogged the survivors, sentenced them to starvation by confiscating their hunting tools. Sentenced Chief Aron to death for having plotted to kill

Christians. Claimed for the General's grandson the Spanish land grant that is now Ramona.

Back up, out of Pamo, out of ground fog, across the Santa Maria, down Seventh, past the one-room shack on B Street where Danny was conceived, 182 years after Chief Aron, like the shotgun shack where she brought forth her boys, end of Lonely Street, the lights splaying out, oh to think of the act of *that* conception! Talk about lines, Tupelo honey, at least we were married. I remember every movement of Danny's night, Christmas Eve, last week of the '50s.

"President Carter said Elvis symbolized America's vitality, rebelliousness, and sense of humor."

"You can do anything you want just don't..."

Its sadomasochism, too. "Treat me like a fool, treat me mean and cruel, but love me..."

Climb the mountains to Julian.

I'm 16, it's Christmas.

Daddy driving the family in the new sea-green Ford Fairlane up the black asphalt two-lane into the silent white falling moonlight snow, Elvis's throbbing sobs, "*I'll have a blue, blue Christmas without you.*"

Daddy and Sam watched us, before busting in, "Did he come, Sharon? Did he come inside you?" Forbidden to ever see my Love again.

### Midnight, Sunrise Highway, Spiritual Point

Big Mama Thornton is singing the "Elvis Presley National Anthem," the original "Hound Dog," thumping and screeching into the deep star night future. Moonlight is pissing on every shrub, rock, and oak. Wow! It's August! Meteors streak across the sky.

"You ain't nothin' but a hound dog, barking 'round my door..."

Wow! I never understood this song before.

*It's a woman singing to a man!* In her voice, it makes so much more sense. It's

men who bark around your door. Elvis was singing a woman's song.

They reverse everything! Infinite possibilities, these shooting star rivers of her milk that form the curds that create the worlds and all creatures. 'Course Elvis did have women barking around his door, what most men would give anything for. His mama taught him how to stare up at the moon, to allow your body to relax completely, so you can float up there between it and the stars.

"I don't know how I'm gonna make it," he cried when she died, grief like no one had ever seen.

And he didn't.

What happens to the boy? Each year that passes from his birth is a year further from her. "*They said you were high class, but that was just a lie.*" That jet overhead. Vandenburg, Edwards. China Lake.

Throw a rock, the ball through the hoop, for the baby boys hunted through time and the land, the bro-

ken Libra moon sinking all the way back to Las Vegas, the whole plumb United States a meat market in his pocket.

"*I saw you standing alone. Without a dream in your heart.*"

Just a fat balding flop-house old man.

Guess I'll sleep here, my prayer — ooh, remember that great song? — as we pass through Perseus, trying to kill the many-headed goddess. Be here when the sun comes up on the desert floor, the boulders and arroyos of Cuyamaca leading the revolt against the mission. Here where they have their Easter sunrise service, here where they raise the cross before the sun.

*But look now, son the body's not in the tomb He's coming out to meet you.*

Oh, Jesse, between the moon and the stars, for God's sake, let your brother through that door. ■

— Sharon Doubiago

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Kirk and Rebecca emphasize that in order to achieve success, the client has to really want to overcome the cigarette habit. They clarify, "Hypnosis can't make a person do something that they don't want to do; buy, it's fantastic at making them do what they DO want to do." "If a client *truly* wants to give up the nicotine habit then they *will* be successful with this program."

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# Around Town New Year's Day

*Ice Skates, Go-Karts, Boat Rides, Fresh Air*

**O**n the first day of the year, the roads are empty and most televisions are tuned to the Rose Parade — some for the flowers, others in anticipation of the Rose Bowl (USC against Michigan this year). For those who go to bed early on New Year's Eve, January 1 is the perfect day to enjoy San Diego sans the usual crowds. I asked concierges at six hotels what to do on New Year's Day while most of the town is relaxing at home.

Gibran Huerta, concierge for the W Hotel, suggests taking the ferry to Coronado for ice cream at Moo Time Creamery and oceanfront ice-skating at the Hotel Del Coronado. "It's a really cool rink, like the one downtown, but there you're right by the water, and you can catch the sunset," says Huerta. January 1 is the last day the rink will be open this season. Prices range from \$10 to \$25. A round-trip ferry ticket is \$6.

Huerta also recommends the Miramar Speed Circuit, an indoor track for kart racing. The track will operate under its usual Monday hours, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Those with children should be aware that they must be at least four feet tall to ride the junior karts. Nonmembers pay \$23 to drive. "Another cool thing would be a day trip to Puerto Nuevo, which is only 45 minutes from the border," adds Huerta. "You could grab some lobster, and the lines won't be that long crossing the border."

"Last year I went to lunch with a friend at [Trattoria] La Strada and walked to Seaport Village and looked at the view," says

Coco Gaiter, concierge for the Manchester Grand Hyatt. For those who prefer a guided experience, Gaiter recommends the Old Town Trolley Tour. "I learned a lot about Old Town and how San Diego originated," she says. "When Stingaree [a new restaurant and club downtown] first came out I was, like, 'That's a really cool name,' but now I know there's actually a story behind it. Before San Diego was a major city, there was a red-light district, an area for gambling and prostitution they called the Stingaree." The trolley tour, which lasts two hours and travels from Old Town State Park to Coronado and back with a total of eight stops, lists tickets at \$27 for adults and \$13.50 for children aged 4 to 12.

Michael Anderson, concierge for Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa, says January 1 is a good day to golf. "Torrey Pines is open 365 [days a year], and you usually have to book at least a week or two in advance," he says. If all of the tee times are taken, Anderson suggests heading to downtown La Jolla for some window shopping and a meal at the Asian restaurant Roppongi. "Dining in downtown La Jolla is always busy," says Anderson. "But on New Year's Day it should be unusually quiet, and there should be available parking, which never happens."

January 1 is the last day to view the "Holiday of Lights" at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. The drive-through light show (a 1.5-mile route into the Fairgrounds and around the racetrack) includes 400 lighted and animated holiday-themed displays. The viewing takes approximately 15 minutes. Cars carrying up to five people are charged \$13 and those with six or



*Ice skaters at Hotel Del Coronado*

more, \$18. Buses pay \$48.

Concierge for the Four Seasons Resort Aviara Sarah Gagliardi encourages people to go out and get some fresh air. "I would put on a sweater and bring a little picnic to the beach. People can bring their bikes to ride along the Carlsbad boardwalk or set out a blanket on the sand," says Gagliardi. "It's a great day to set goals with your family. Get everyone a new calendar and set five goals for this year. Have lunch, enjoy the outdoors, walk on the beach, take the beauty in, and appreciate a new year and a fresh start."

"Go out on a sailboat or a bigger harbor excursion boat," says Alfonso Villa, concierge for the Marriott Hotel & Marina. "You'd have most of the boat to yourself. It's also a great time to charter a boat and have a little private party on the bay." If Villa had the day off, he would go to the La Jolla Cove and watch the seals. "Anytime from December to February is pupping season. This is the only place on earth that

humans can get that close to [seals] in a natural environment," says Villa. "Last year there were 28 surviving pups. A couple of friends and I go every weekend, and everybody I recommend that to comes back to say it was an awesome experience. And it doesn't cost any money."

— Barbarella

**New Year's Day Activities  
Additional Information**  
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**Del Mar Holiday of Lights: 858-755-  
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7171 or www.torreypinesgolfcourse.com**  
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Events that are underlined occur after January 4.

**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](http://SanDiegoReader.com) by clicking on the events section.

### BAJA

**"The Last 6K of 2006,"** 6K family run, Sunday, December 31, 9 a.m., starts and finishes at Unidad CREA, Zona Río. 011-52-664-215-9000. (TIJUANA)

**"Rival,"** tribute to Agustín Lara by Hernán del Riego, Sara Castro, and Felipe Nájera, with music by Estrellas del Ritmo Orchestra, Sunday, December 31, 10 p.m., at Tijuana Country Club (on Boulevard Agua Caliente). 011-52-664-105-1215. (TIJUANA)

**Moviemaking and Lobster in Rosarito,** excursion sponsored by San Diego Natural History Museum on Saturday, January 13, 8 a.m.–7 p.m., includes Foxploration, the theme park at Fox Studios where *Titanic*, *Master and Commander* were filmed; lobster lunch, shopping, more. \$92. Reservations: 619-255-0203. (ROSARITO BEACH)

### OUTDOORS

**Gray Whale Migration** off San Diego County's coast peaks in January. The best view spots from land are high points close to the surf. Aside from the whale-watching overlook at Cabrillo National Monument, try Sunset Cliffs, the vest-pocket parks and dead-end streets from Pacific Beach to Scripps Park in La Jolla, various ocean overlooks on the trail system at Torrey Pines State Reserve, the cliffs opposite Carmel Valley Road south of Del Mar, overlooks opposite Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach, and various cliff-top viewpoints and beach-access stairways in Encinitas and Leucadia. Scan the ocean a few hundred yards to a couple of miles out using high-powered binoculars. Best times for viewing are about 9 a.m.–noon.

**Basic Birding** program by Tom Troy, Saturday, December 30, 8:30 a.m., at Buena Vista lagoon landing. Emphasis on using binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, local resources. Free. Directions: 760-439-2473. (OCEANSIDE)

## OUT & ABOUT

**TIDEPOOLING FOR ALL** Sunday, December 31, and Tuesday, January 2, Birch Aquarium at Scripps

(SEE OUTDOORS)



**New Year's Nature Walks** at Mission Trails Regional Park on Saturday and Sunday, December 30-31, and Wednesday, January 3. Guided outings begin at 9:15 a.m. at Visitor and Interpretive Center (One Father Junipero Serra Trail). Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

**Tidepooling for All!** Naturalist from Birch Aquarium at Scripps leads exploration at Swami's in Encinitas on Sunday, December 31, and at La Jolla Shores on Tuesday, January 2. Both expeditions begin at 12:30 p.m. Fee: \$12 for adults, \$8 for children older

than two. Required reservations: 858-534-7336. (ENCINITAS, LA JOLLA)

**A Series of Very Low Tides** occurs over a string of days in the new year: Monday, January 1, features a -1.4-foot tide at 2:11 p.m. The tide bottoms out even lower (-1.5 feet) on Tuesday at 2:52 p.m. and on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. Both Tuesday and Wednesday feature extreme high tides of +6.4 feet at around 8 a.m. Any strong ocean swells or a storm surge coinciding with these occasions of extreme high tide could cause flooding of low-lying coastal areas.

**Up and at 'em,** 15th annual New Year's Day walk around Poway starts at 8:45 a.m., Monday, January 1. Pace for the two-hour walk is moderate-moderate plus. Meet in front of Rancho Bernardo Winery (13330 Paseo del Verano Norte). Free. 858-487-2833. (POWAY)

**January's Full Moon,** named the "cold moon," "quiet moon," "snow moon," and "wolf moon" according to the traditions of certain past cultures, rises impressively from the darkened east horizon at around 5:10 p.m., about 20 minutes after the time of sunset, on Wednesday, January 3. The moon's night-long journey of about 14 hours will take it nearly to the zenith of the sky by mid-

night and then down to a setting position over the ocean by dawn on Monday morning.

**The Quadrantid Meteor Shower,** delivering a brief and sometimes intense display of "shooting stars," is best seen shortly before dawn on Wednesday, January 3. This year, however, a full moon will largely spoil the show by producing much night-time glare.

### DANCE

**New Year's Eve Contradance,** Bonfire makes music and James Hutson calls, Sunday, December 31, 8 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thorn Street). Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. \$20. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-594-6828. (NORTH PARK)

**Folk Dance New Year's Eve Party,** line dances, couple's dances, door prizes, finger food, Sunday, December 31, 8 p.m.–12:30 a.m., at Folk Dance Center (4569 30th Street). Bring snack, finger foods to share. \$5 general. 619-422-1584. (NORTH PARK)

**Aloha Spirit Found** during hula dance lesson at Encinitas Senior Center (1140 Oakcrest Park Drive) Tuesday, January 2, 1 p.m. \$25. 760-943-2250. (ENCINITAS)

### FILM

**Reuben H. Fleet Science Center,** currently screening in the IMAX theater: *Santa vs. the Snowman*, *Roving Mars*, and *Deep Sea*. Ticket

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prices and showtimes: 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

**"Lord of the Flies"** (1990), starring Balthazar Getty, screens for First Tuesday Film series exploring "controversial issues," January 2, 6:30 p.m., at Escondido Library (239 South Kalmia Street). Discussion follows. Free. 760-839-4601. (ESCONDIDO)

**See the "Woozily Romantic Debut"** of Jason Matzner's *Dreamland* when it's screened on Wednesday, January 3, 6:30 p.m., for Film Forum at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). The film is set around 18-year-old poet Audrey, who lives in "a sun-drenched cluster of mobile homes in New Mexico." Stars John Corbett, Kelli Garner, and Gina Gershon. Free. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

## LECTURES

**"Sin, Satan, or Sickness?"** Navigating Mental Illness and Faith," community lunch forum at Pomerado Christian Church (12708 Stone Canyon Road), Thursday, December 28, 11:30 a.m. in conjunction with Todd-a-Thon 2006. Guest speaker is Alex Galloway with panel discussion to follow. Free. Registration: 858-395-3265. (POWAY)

**Doggie Café** hosted by San Diego Humane Society, Friday, December 29, 6 p.m., at San Diego Humane Society and SPCA (5500 Gaines Street). Bring friendly, on-leash dogs to socialize with other canines. Trainers offer training tips on keeping dogs calm, civilized around distractions. Donation: \$10. Reservations: 619-299-7012 x2230. (LINDA VISTA)

**U.S.S. Midway** Overview delivered by president and CEO of the U.S.S. *Midway* Aircraft Carrier Museum, Admiral "Mac" McLaughlin, when Daughters of the American Revolution meet on Thursday, January 4, 10:30 a.m., at Admiral Baker Golf Club (2400 Admiral Baker Road). \$15 includes lunch. Reservations: 858-279-2677. (GRANTVILLE)

**"El Guercino,"** 17th-Century Italian artist Giovanni Francisco Barbieri to be discussed by guest curator Shilpa Prasad for Art in the Afternoon lecture series at Timken Museum of Art on Thursday, January 4. Talk in conjunction with "Guercino: Stylistic Evolution in Focus" exhibition begins at 12:30 p.m. Free. 619-239-5548 x15. (BALBOA PARK)

**Collectors' Panel**, Dr. Sally Yard, USD art history coordinator, will moderate a panel of prominent collectors, artists, and/or gallery owners in conjunction with SDMA's *Personal Views* exhibit on Thursday, January 4, 6 p.m. Included in San Diego Museum of Art regular admission. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

**"How We Know the Climate Is Changing"** explained by Mark Thiemens of UCSD, Tuesday, January 9, 6:30 p.m., San Diego Natural History Museum. Attention paid to possible impacts on Southern California. Free. 619-255-0245. (BALBOA PARK)

## IN PERSON

**O.B. Comedy — Christmas Edition**, comic lineup includes

Jesse Egan, Bob Hansen, and host Andrew Deans, Friday, December 29, 6 p.m., at Winstons (1921 Bacon Street). Bring your crappiest gift for the First Annual OBC Crappy Holiday Gift Exchange. Otherwise free. 619-222-6822. (OCEAN BEACH)

**"Celebrities on Stage,"** Celebrity impersonators (and identical twins) Anthony and Eddie Edwards take on Barbra Streisand, Elton John, Cher, Neil Diamond, and many

more during show in Stephen and Mary Birch North Park Theatre (2895 University Avenue) Saturday, December 30, 8 p.m. Tickets: \$35-\$45. 619-239-8836. (NORTH PARK)

**The Clean Comedian**, the *Reader's* own Sean Kelly featured at the Comedy Palace (8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard) on Saturday, December 30, 8 p.m. Kelly has opened for Dennis Miller and Weird Al Yankovic. \$25. Re-

quired reservations: 858-573-9067. (KEARNY MESA)

**Kwanzaa** brunch and celebration, live entertainment, door prizes, silent auction, and book giveaway, Sunday, December 31, 1 p.m., at Tubman Chávez Community Center (415 Euclid Avenue). Bring donation of nonperishable food item. 619-697-4517. (SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO)

**The Full Deck** plays for music night hosted by San Diego North County Bluegrass and Folk Club on Tuesday, January 2, 7 p.m., at Round Table Pizza (1161 East Washington Street). Free. 760-489-0191. (ESCONDIDO)

**Lizfest 2007**, jazz concert includes performances by Loam, Gregory Page, Sven Erik Seaholm, Dave Millard, Tom and Joe Azarello, Patrik Dennis, and more, Tuesday, January 2, 7:30 p.m. at

Dizzy's (344 7th Avenue). Proceeds will benefit Elizabeth Weedmark Foundation; her artwork and poetry will also be shared. \$10. 858-270-3415. (DOWNTOWN)

**Poetry Unlimited** showcases poet Mary M. Mulvihill, along with harpist Mariea Antoinette, Wednesday, January 3, 5 p.m., at Florence Riford Library (7555 Draper Avenue). Open readings follow. Free. 858-552-1657. (LA JOLLA)

# Indulge in the Art of Dining

## January 7-12, 2007

Experience cuisines that delight the palate and define the art of dining during San Diego Restaurant Week. Choose from more than 100 of the city's best restaurants and enjoy a three-course dinner for either \$30 or \$40\* per person, depending on restaurant. For more information and on-line reservations, visit [SanDiegoRestaurantWeek.com](http://SanDiegoRestaurantWeek.com).



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Brigantine Seafood Restaurant—San Diego  
Café Bahia  
The Fishery  
The French Gourmet  
Gringo's Cantina  
Harbor House Restaurant  
Humphrey's by the Bay  
\*JRDN Restaurant  
Shades Oceanfront Bistro  
Thee Bungalow  
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### CORONADO

\*1500 Ocean at the Hotel Del Coronado  
Azzura Point at Loews Coronado Bay Resort  
Brigantine Seafood Restaurant—Coronado  
Coronado Boathouse 1887  
L'Escale at Coronado Island Marriott  
\*Peohe's

### DEL MAR

\*Addison  
\*Americana  
\*Arterra Restaurant  
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Brigantine Seafood Restaurant—Del Mar  
\*Epazote Oceanview Steakhouse  
Jake's Del Mar  
\*Market Restaurant & Bar  
\*Pacifica Del Mar  
Paradise Grille  
Sbicca Bistro  
Scalini

### DOWNTOWN

Anthony's Fish Grotto  
Asti Ristorante  
\*Bertrand at Mr. A's  
\*Blue Point Coastal Cuisine  
\*Bondi Bar & Kitchen  
Café Chloe  
Chive  
Croce's Restaurant & Jazz Bar  
Dakota Grill & Spirits  
Dussini Mediterranean Bistro  
Fat City Steakhouse  
The Field  
Fish Market—Top of the Market  
\*Galileo 101  
The Gaslamp Strip Club  
Hornblower Cruises  
Indigo Grill  
\*Island Prime  
JSix Restaurant  
\*Le Fontainebleau at the Westgate Hotel  
\*LG's Prime Steakhouse  
Mister Tiki Mai Tai Lounge  
\*Molly's Restaurant & Bar  
Oceanaire Seafood Room  
\*Palm Restaurant  
\*Rainwater's on Kettner  
\*Rama  
\*Sally's Restaurant  
\*Soleil at K

\*Stingaree  
\*The Yard House

### EAST COUNTY

Brigantine Seafood Restaurant—La Mesa  
Casa de Pico  
\*The Grove Steakhouse at Viejas Casino  
Sage at Barona Valley Ranch Resort & Casino

### LA JOLLA

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Azul La Jolla  
Beaumont's Neighborhood Eatery  
Brockton Villa Restaurant  
\*Cafe Japengo  
Cendio  
\*Crab Catcher Restaurant  
\*FRESH Seafood Restaurant  
\*El Adobe at Estancia La Jolla  
The Grill  
Jack's La Jolla Grille  
\*Jack's La Jolla Ocean Room  
\*La Valencia Mediterranean Room  
\*The Marine Room  
\*NINE-TEN Restaurant  
Roppongi  
\*Roy's  
Shores Restaurant Sea Lodge Hotel  
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### MIDTOWN

Celadon  
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Casa Guadalajara  
\*El Agave Tequileria  
Zocalo Grill

\*\$40 is price per person. Beverage, tax and gratuity not included.

San Diego Restaurant Week brought to you by





**Jazz in the Park**, the Joe LaBarbera Quintet and the Tom Warrington Trio perform for series, Wednesday, January 3, 5:30 p.m., at San Diego Museum of Art. \$20. Reservations: 619-696-1966. (BALBOA PARK)

**Button-Down-Style Comedy**, television hall of famer Bob Newhart performs Saturday, January 13, 2 and 8 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Musical guest is Susan Egan. Tickets: \$40-\$55. 760-839-4100. (ESCONDIDO)

**"Long Time Traveling."** Anonymous 4 has reunited for project with lyric folk songs, religious ballads, gospel hymns, joined by renowned musicians Darol Anger (fiddle) and Mike Marshall (mandolin). Concert begins at 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 14, at St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church (743 Prospect Street). \$25 general. 858-459-3421 x109. (LA JOLLA)

## SPORTS

**Bumble Bee Seafoods Holiday Bowl 5K Run** steps off at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 28, at corner of North Harbor Drive and Ash Street, proceeding along waterfront. Race-day registration: 8 a.m. 858-268-1250. (DOWNTOWN)

**The 2006 Pacific Life Holiday Bowl** between California Golden Bears and Texas A&M Aggies is Thursday, December 28, 5 p.m., in Qualcomm Stadium. Tickets: \$55-\$75, available through Ticketmaster. 619-283-5808. (MISSION VALLEY)

**Highland Valley Super Express**, Sierra Club bicyclists take on steep grade at a brisk pace for ride on Saturday, December 30. The 59-miler (or 75-miler if Highway

52 is closed to cyclists) begins at 8 a.m. from McDonald's parking lot (10595 Tierrasanta Boulevard). Bring money for snacks. 858-722-1992. (TIERRASANTA)

**Whale Watching by Kayak** at La Jolla Ecological Preserve hosted by Hike Bike Kayak San Diego (2246 Avenida de la Playa) on Saturday, December 30, 9 a.m. and 12 noon; \$60 for singles, \$50 for doubles. Fee

includes guided tour, equipment, and snacks. Required reservations: 858-551-9510. (LA JOLLA)

**Cabrillo Monument Bike Tour** begins at Allen's Kayaks (819 Fernando Place) and covers Cabrillo, downtown, and beach areas, Saturday, December 30, 9:30 a.m. Ages 10 and up. \$15 (includes bike rental) plus \$6 for park entrance fee. 858-488-5599. (MISSION BAY)

**Vow to Exercise** when retired judge administers "oath to practice good health and exercise in 2007" at New Year's Resolution 3-Mile Run or Walk at noon, Sunday, December 31, at Sunridge Park (952 Beechglen). Free. 619-271-6600. (CHULA VISTA)

**Last Ride of 2006** with Knickerbikers, Sunday, December 31. The 40-mile ride com-

mences at 9 a.m. from parking lot at Lake Shore Drive and Maine Avenue. Bring money for lunch at Café 67. 619-255-2890. (LAKESIDE)

**San Diego Chargers** host Arizona Cardinals on Sunday, December 31, 1:15 p.m., in Qualcomm Stadium. Game broadcast on Fox; listen on radio station KIOZ, Rock 105.3. Tickets start at \$54, available

through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (MISSION VALLEY)

**New Year's Day Century Ride**, San Diego Bicycle Touring Society will peddle through Camp Pendleton to San Clemente and back on Monday, January 1. The 100-miler starts at 8 a.m. at Doyle Park (8175 Regents Road). Free. 619-243-8617. (LA JOLLA)

## SPECIAL

**Witness the Gray Whale Migration** during outings hosted by Birch Aquarium and San Diego Harbor Excursions daily through April 1. Scripps naturalists and assistants are on hand during cruises to search for whales, on their way to lagoons in Baja California to calve. Fee: \$27 weekdays, \$30 weekends for adults, \$15 for those 4-12. Registration: 619-234-4111.

**Big Bay Balloon Parade** with floats, marching bands, drill teams, and enormous balloons is Thursday, December 28. Parade begins at 10 a.m. on North Harbor Drive (along Embarcadero), proceeds to Seaport Village. Free for spectators.

Big Bay Balloon Parade family festival takes place after the parade, 11:30 a.m., on Broadway Pier. Marching bands from two participating universities take part in "Battle of the University Bands"; rides for the kids, carnival games. Free admission. 619-283-5808. (DOWNTOWN)

**"Are Science and Atheism Religions?"** Present your opinion, Thursday, December 28, 7 p.m., at Other Side Coffee House, 4096 30th Street. Free. 619-421-1879. (NORTH PARK)

**A "Paper Theatre Festival"** by staff of Arts Libraries at UCSD is underway. In the Victorian era, families purchased theater posters, cut and paste together scale-model replicas; scripts were included, so families could mount their own productions. An exhibit of paper theaters, materials outlining history of the art form, paper optical toys continues through January in exhibit cases of UCSD's Geisel Library (lower level, west wing). Free. 858-534-8074. (LA JOLLA)

## ROAM-O-RAMA

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

With a little hyperbole added, you might think of the upper San Diego River area as being San Diego County's "Little Yosemite." A number of waterfalls 100 or so feet high exist either on the main San Diego River, or along its tributaries. None are much to look at most of the year, but all revive in a dramatic way after periods of heavy rainfall. Cedar Creek Falls and Mildred Falls come to mind immediately — but a lesser-known cascade called Devils Jumpoff is also worth a look this season, assuming we get a good dose of precipitation.



Inside Butler Canyon

The rim of the Devils Jumpoff cliff lies on private land with no access. The bottom of the cliff can be reached over national forest territory, but a difficult canyon-bottom hike would be required to reach it. Despite those impediments, a distant view of the Jumpoff is possible if you're willing to drive out to San Diego County Estates and walk for just two miles along Cleveland National Forest's West Side Road.

Use either Wildcat Canyon Road out of the Lakeside or San Vicente Road south of Ramona to drive into the rural housing development of San Diego Country Estates. Continue east on San Vicente Road and Ramona Oaks Road to reach the farthest eastern point within the development, right on the boundary of Cleveland National Forest.

Park on the street and walk up the "driveway" that curls north and uphill alongside the easternmost houses. After 0.1 mile you pass a gate that keeps vehicles out. After another 0.3 mile, pavement ends. Continue walking uphill on the unpaved West Side Road. The mountainsides here and for as far as the eye can see were scorched during the early phases of the Cedar Fire. Now, more than three years later, the chaparral vegetation is growing back, and a fraction of the scattered oak trees — Engelmann oaks and coast live oaks — are showing signs of survival.

After 2.0 miles of gradual ascent, totaling 800 feet of elevation gain, you reach a makeshift barrier. This is where the national forest land ends and unposted private property lies ahead. By this time, you may have already heard the distant roar of cascading water.

From the road's end, hike east or northeast about 200 yards, dodging low-growing shrubbery, to a crest where Dye Canyon yawns ahead, and the Jumpoff

lies in clear sight about half a mile away. There, a bubbly mixture of water bounces down more than 100 feet of the nearly sheer face of the cliff. Binoculars will surely enhance the view.

This article contains information about a publicly owned recreation or wilder-

ness 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.

### WEST SIDE ROAD

Hike the West Side Road near Ramona to view the Devils Jumpoff.

**Distance from downtown San Diego:** 50 miles

**Length:** 4 miles round trip

**Difficulty:** Moderate



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Clergy	5112
Consultants	5118
Dance Lessons	5117
Decorations	5113
Disc Jockeys	5110
Florists	5101
Formal Wear	5103
Gift Registries	5116
Health & Beauty	5119
Honeymoon	5115
Invitations	5114
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### Bridal Bazaar Sunday, January 28

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# OUT & ABOUT

## THE CLEAN COMEDIAN

Sean Kelly, at The Comedy Palace, Saturday, December 30

(SEE IN PERSON)



**Holiday of Lights** at Del Mar Fairgrounds is display of seasonal festive lights, with holiday-themed displays and more than 400 displays on view through Monday, January 1. Visitors view lighted creations from their vehicles, driving along 1.5-mile route through fairgrounds, around racetrack.

Hours: 5:30-10 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays, 5:30 to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Admission: \$13 per vehicle (up to five people), \$18 per vehicle with six or more people. 858-793-5555. (DEL MAR)

**Skating by the Sea**, outdoor ice-skating rink overlooking Pacific Ocean remains open for skating through December at Hotel del Coronado (1500 Orange Avenue). Three-hour skating sessions begin

at 11 a.m., 2, and 6 p.m. daily (\$20 general, \$15 for kids). Skate rental: \$5. 619-435-6611. (CORONADO)

**Ring in 2007!** Year-end bell-ringing Buddhist ritual purges 108 frailties and passions experienced during year, allowing for fresh new year. Program includes history of Friendship Bell, sutra chanting, incense offering; participants take turns swinging rope guiding big wooden log against huge *bonsho* bell during ceremony on Sunday, December 31, at 11:30 p.m. Shelter Island Friendship Bell is located at 1402 Shelter Island Drive; 619-239-0896. Dress warmly. Free. (SHELTER ISLAND)

**First Night Escondido**, alcohol- and drug-free New Year's Eve cel-

ebration with live music, dancing, activities for kids, midnight fireworks, and more at California Center for the Arts (340 North Escondido Boulevard) and along Grand Avenue in downtown Escondido. Celebration begins at 6 p.m., Sunday, December 31. \$15, kids 6 and under free. 760-639-0220. (ESCONDIDO)

**A Spiritual New Year's Eve**, Soul of Yoga celebrates new year with concert (by Korin), film (*Ashes and Snow*), Sufi dancing, chanting and meditation, intention-setting ritual, and potluck dinner, Sunday, December 31, 6:30 p.m. at Soul of Yoga (681 Encinitas Boulevard, suite 305). \$25 per person or \$40 per couple. 760-943-7685. (ENCINITAS)

**Burning Bowl Ceremony**, "release the old and set intentions for the new" during New Year's Eve ritual Sunday, December 31, 7 p.m., at Seaside Center for Spiritual Living (1613 Lake Drive). Free. 760-944-9226. (ENCINITAS)

**Penguin Plunge**, a frosty dip in the ocean marks the beginning of the new year for many who participate in this annual event sponsored by Del Mar lifeguards, Del Mar Community Services Department, and Poseidon Restaurant. Take the plunge Monday, January 1, 11 a.m. in front of Poseidon (1670 Coast Boulevard). Free. (DEL MAR)

**San Diego Boat Show**, over 500 boats and yachts, boating and sailing lessons, fishing seminars, kids' area, and live music, January 4-7 at San Diego Convention Center and Marriott Marina (111 West Harbor Drive). Hours: Thursday and



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# Calendar

## LOCAL EVENTS

Friday, noon to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$10 adults, \$5 kids 12-16, free for kids under 12. 858-274-9924. (DOWNTOWN)

**Mission Hills Celebrates 99th Anniversary** with events on Saturday, January 20, at Francis Parker Elementary School (4201 Randolph Street). "Preserving Bungalows — Green Homes for the 21st Century" presented by "bungalow expert," preservationist, designer, author Jane Powell at 12:30 p.m. She'll provide insights into appreciating, preserving older homes. \$20.

"Good Housekeeping" is

theme for 90-minute walking tour starting at 2:15 p.m. During tour, learn about historic paint colors, "sensitive additions and remodels," more. \$15. Attend both events for \$30. Reservations: 619-497-1193. (MISSION HILLS)

### FOR KIDS

**Tots and Tales**, interactive story time for preschoolers at San Diego Humane Society and SCPA involves crafts and animals, Thursday, December 28, 10:30 a.m. \$2. Humane Society, 5500 Gaines Street. Reservations: 619-243-3432. (LINDA VISTA)

**"Jonah,"** San Diego Branch Production's original musical production of the classic Bible story will be performed at Sunshine Brooks

## OUT & ABOUT

**PENGUIN PLUNGE** in Del Mar, Monday, January 1

(SEE SPECIAL)



Theatre (217 North Coast Highway), Saturday, December 30, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 31, at 2 p.m. \$15 adults; \$10 children. 858-775-4137. (OCEANSIDE)

### MUSEUMS

**Chinese Historical Society and Museum**, collection of colorful

paintings by farmers from Shandong Province depicting their daily life of farming, fishing, festivities continues through December.

See artifacts from San Diego's Chinese and Chinese-American history, culture, and art. Current museum artifacts include a 1920s warlord's bed, exhibits on Chinese footbinding and Chinese-American veterans. The museum is in a building originally built in 1927 for the Chinese Mission. Adjacent to

the building is an Asian garden with koi pond and waterfall. Find the museum at 404 Third Avenue (at J Street). 619-338-9888. (EAST VILLAGE)

**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. Find the museum at 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue. 760-941-1791. (VISTA)

**Bonita Museum and Cultural Center**, 14th annual "Teller Magi Festival," boasting over 750 sets of Wise Men from more than 50 countries, closes Saturday, January 6.

The museum highlights the history of the Sweetwater Valley from the mid-1800s, with historical photographs; artifacts, tools, and farming implements; the district's 1953 fire engine; and bound

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# OUT & ABOUT

**SALUTE TO VIENNA**  
at Copley Symphony Hall, Saturday, December 30

(SEE CLASSICAL)



copies back to the 1930s of the *Chula Vista Star News*. Find the museum at 4355 Bonita Road; 619-267-5141. (BONITA)

**Campo Railroad Museum**, showcasing more than 130 years of American railroad history and technology through static and operating exhibits, the museum includes cabooses, steam and diesel locomotives, track motorcars, 1880s "Jim Crow" segregated passenger cars.

Interpretive 1.5-hour train rides offered each weekend (11 a.m., 2:30 p.m.) over portion of the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway. Find the depot on Highway 94 at Forrest Gate Road. 619-465-7776. (CAMPO)

**Chula Vista Heritage Museum** the museum features glimpses of Chula Vista's past; exhibits feature lemon packing crate labels, photographs of downtown Chula Vista, doors and adobe blocks

from the original *Star* newspaper building, and relics from the Otay Watch Company. Find the museum at 360 Third Avenue. 619-420-6916. (CHULA VISTA)

**Creation Museum**, a museum contrasting the evolution and creation world views is found at 10946 Woodside Avenue North. For more information, call 619-448-0900 x231. (SANTEE)

**Gemological Institute of America Museum**, permanent exhibits include displays depicting science and art of gemstones and history, lore and cultural significance of jewelry. Find the GIA at 5345 Armada Drive. Required reservations: 800-421-7250 x4116. (CARLSBAD)

**George White and Anna Gunn Marston House**, historic home sits on five acres of landscaped grounds with a formal English Romantic garden. Built for civic leader and department store founder George Marston and his family by San Diego architects William Hebbard and Irving Gill, the Marston house design is in keeping with the early 20th-Century American Arts and Crafts period, emphasizing simplicity, function, and natural materials. The museum is located at 3525 Seventh Avenue; 619-298-3142. (HILLCREST)

**Heritage Museum**, an interpretive wall, replicas of the early post

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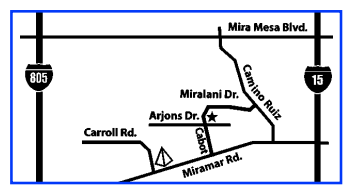
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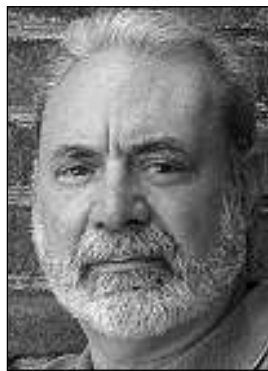
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# Reading

## AK-47: The Weapon That Changed the Face of War



Larry Kahaner

By Larry Kahaner  
John Wiley & Sons, 2006, 258 pages,  
\$25.95

### FROM THE DUST JACKET:

You see it every day, in the media, in the hands of soldiers and terrorists, even children. No single weapon, except the atomic bomb, has had so profound an effect. It is the easiest, simplest, and cheapest means of turning ordinary people into an armed force. It is a weapon that kills a quarter of a million people a year.

### WHAT THE CRITICS SAY:

"Perversely entertaining look at the dark side of innovation." — *Business Week*

"A detailed study of the AK-47, the single most deadly weapon

ever produced, and its designer.... A fascinating examination." — *Library Journal*

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Larry Kahaner is an award-winning journalist and author of eight books, including *Competitive Intelligence*. His writings have appeared in *Business Week*, *The Washington Post*, *International Herald Tribune*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*.

### A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR:

AK-47. It stands for Automatic and Kalashnikov (its inventor), then '47 for the year it was born.

"You've actually fired the AK-47."

"Oh, sure. Many times,"

says Larry Kahaner.

"How did you like it?"

"It's a funny weapon, because you feel as if it's going to fall apart. But it doesn't. It's not as accurate as you think, or as you'd like, but it just never breaks down, and it's very easy to use."

"You don't really need to study a manual to operate it or receive a lot of training."

"No," he says, "you don't. Someone could show you how to use it in ten minutes. A child could operate it, and they do. In a good number of Middle-Eastern countries, kids at 12 receive an AK as their rite-of-passage present. The first American casualty in Afghanistan, Sgt. Nathan Chapman, was killed by a 14-year-old boy with an AK. There

are whole armies of kids in Africa armed with the AK."

"And it's indestructible. You mention Colonel David Hackworth, the most decorated American soldier to come out of Korea. He and his men unearthed a buried AK-47 in Vietnam. He took it right out of the mud, kicked back the rusted bolt, and fired it off."

"Yes, rebels and drug gangs in South America or Central America would bury them after a conflict, with the expectation that they could just dig them up and use them again when needed."

"I was fascinated that the piece of genius in the AK-47 seems to be something that's almost counterintuitive. Namely, that Mikhail Kalashnikov delib-

erately made the parts looser, with much greater tolerances. So the components aren't seated that precisely and tightly. And that this is what made the weapon so sturdy and tolerant of abuse and dirt."

"Yeah, when you think about it, it kind of makes sense. If you have water or dirt in an AK and put a round in, it will just push the mud and mess out. It doesn't get stuck or jam easily, because the parts don't mesh so tightly and don't need to be so exactly aligned to work. In most weapons, it's just the opposite. Brilliantly enough, it's the same characteristic that allows the AK-47 to also fire the bullets of many opponents' weapons. So the Vietcong, for instance, could use cap-

"In a good number of Middle-Eastern countries, kids at 12 receive an AK as their rite-of-passage present."

office and general store, and a school room are part of this museum. A mural painted by Michael Strong depicts six periods of Poway's past. Find the museum in Old Poway Park, at 14134 Midland Road; 858-679-8587. (POWAY)

**House of Pacific Relations**, International Cottages are open every Sunday, noon-4 p.m., presenting history and traditions of 30 ethnic groups. On fourth Tuesday of each month, *Children Around the World* videos screened in Hall of Nations, select cottages open. 619-538-4069. (BALBOA PARK)

**J.A. Cooley Museum**, an eclectic collection of items — including displays on phonographs, clocks, electric trains, and 20 other types of collections — is featured at the museum. The current featured attraction is an "Industrial Product Collection," with examples of the historical progression

of auto technology from 1886-1915, "some classics and a concept car." Find the museum at 4233 Park Boulevard; 619-296-3112. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

**Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park**, old adobe buildings were once vacation retreat and working

ranch of actor Leo Carrillo. Tours on Saturdays (11 a.m., 1 p.m.) and Sundays (noon, 2 p.m.). Find Rancho de los Quiotes at 6200 Flying LC Lane. 760-476-1042. (CARLSBAD)

**Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum**, housed in a historic building, the museum features five

permanent galleries with artifacts, uniforms, vehicles, weapons, and photographs depicting Marine Corps history. The museum is located in Building 26 at MCRD, just inside Gate 4, off Pacific Highway. 619-524-6038. (DOWNTOWN)

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**Lyle Lovett** Feb. 28  
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**Justin Timberlake** January 8  
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tured ammunition in their weapons, where we couldn't."

"It's that forgiving?"

"Yeah. You could even use junky ammunition that's been sitting around in the jungle for a year or two. It doesn't have to be perfect; the AK will still fire it. You don't find that in other rifles."

"How many Kalashnikov models are there?"

"A lot. One hundred million rifles have been manufactured in 20 countries. In the Soviet Union, you had the AK-47s, AK-74, the 100 series, and the AKM, which is the one you see most often on TV and in magazines. It's got a wooden stock and fires a large caliber 7.62mm bullet. Aside from the Rumanian model you can purchase on the Internet for \$350 and have sent to your home, the

price can get as low as \$10 in some places in the world, elsewhere three or four cattle will buy one, or a kilo of cocaine sulfate. Or you might get an AK as part of a dowry. In Afghanistan you have people buying and selling the weapons, repairing them, making custom copies, transporting them. It's like another economic system that revolves around the AK because it is so ubiquitous. People think nothing of carrying it in the street; it's part of the culture."

"Is it legal in Iraq to own a gun?"

"In Iraq it is legal for a family to have a least one weapon in their home, and they always choose an AK."

"Were Russian children required to know how to tear down and reassemble an AK?"

"It's true, yes. They time

the kids; they still do it. And General Kalashnikov, at 85, is very much the national hero there. Everyone knows his name. The irony, of course, is that, while he's a great celebrity in his homeland, he received no money for his creation. He's a poor man. In the U.S. it was just the opposite. Eugene Stoner, inventor of the M-16, is a person no one's ever heard of, who has no celebrity status, but he became wealthy from it."

"I didn't realize they had actually met."

"Oh, yes. In Washington. The Smithsonian ran a program taping great inventors, and their curator Ed Ezell brought them both in. Kalashnikov and Stoner met there for the first time."

"Stoner arrived in his own plane."

"Yes, he'd gotten very rich

from the M-16. He received royalties of about a dollar per rifle. There were 16 million military versions of it produced and even more civilian AR-15s."

"Meanwhile, you reveal, Kalashnikov's apartment furniture was bought over half a century ago with money awarded him as part of the Stalin Prize; his American hosts had to buy him clothes and shoes to make him presentable. Putin was embarrassed into raising the General's pension to a munificent \$100 a month and provided him with some amenities and a modest dacha, a country cottage."

"Where Kalashnikov makes his money now," says Kahaner, "is through his worldwide celebrity status. The Russian weapons cartel flies him to big arms shows to sign autographs and promote sales. He has also lent his name

**"In Iraq it is legal for a family to have at least one weapon in their home, and they always choose an AK."**

to a vodka. It comes in a bottle shaped like his rifle."

"You've fired the M-16 as well. What did that feel like?"

"If you've fired a .22 rifle at squirrels or targets, it's not that much different. It's a very smooth, very sleek weapon. It feels good in the hand. And it doesn't have much of a recoil."

"Which would you opt for?"  
"I'm a very bad shot — not

a professional soldier. I'm not going to be one to clean it, and I don't know much about weapons, so I'd want something that's not going to break down. I would opt for the AK. Also, the thinking back in the '50s that led to the M-16 was that if you fire a smaller bullet at a higher velocity, you do more damage. As opposed to using a larger

(continued on page 76)

**Reuben H. Fleet Science Center,** "Origins in Space: Spin-Offs in Science and Technology" chronicles scientific accomplishments and technological spin-offs resulting from NASA missions. How have these discoveries entered our everyday lives?

Ongoing exhibitions include "More Than Meets the Eye" (through May), "Aging for All Ages," "San Diego Science Showcase," "Kid City" (for preschoolers), "The Best of Symmetry and Signals," and "TryScience!"

"Comet Impact" is theme for motion simulator ride. Films are shown daily in the IMAX theater. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

**San Diego Archaeological Center,** "A Letter from the Ocean Hotel: Victorian Lady Traveler's Adventures in San Diego, 1888" includes glassware, dishes, bottles, personal items dating from late 1880s that were excavated from a block in East Village area downtown in 2002.

The museum is dedicated to

"curation of archaeological projects and sharing them with the public." Find center at 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road; 760-291-0370. (ESCONDIDO)

**San Diego Automotive Museum,** more than 80 automobiles and motorcycles from horseless carriages to future prototypes are included in the museum's permanent collection. Find the museum near the Starlight Bowl. 619-231-2886. (BALBOA PARK)

**San Diego Hall of Champions,** ongoing exhibits include "Bird Watching — Tony Hawk in Flight," "Surfing in San Diego," exhibits of baseball card art, fencing, local rugby history. The museum — dedicated to promoting, recognizing, and preserving athletic achievement — is located at 2131 Pan American Plaza. 619-234-2544. (BALBOA PARK)

**Museum of San Diego History,** career of local artist is highlighted in "Belle Baranceau: The Artist at

Work." Baranceau was "one of the foremost expressionist painters of the 1920s and 1930s" who moved to San Diego in 1933 and received assignments from the WPA. Two of her murals are still in their original locations at Balboa Park Club and La Jolla post office. Exhibit provides broad overview of her career, look

at her creative process. Through Tuesday, May 29.

"Nikkei Youth Culture: Past, Present, Future" includes photographs, documents, school yearbooks, military medals, clothing to illustrate children's and teenagers' activities from early 1900s to present day. Exhibit includes look at experiences of Japanese-American



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# Reading

(continued from page 75)



bullet, which will travel more slowly. Our soldiers in Iraq, for instance, carrying rifle models based on the M-16, fire a small

bullet that's really not much more than a .22 caliber. But it travels at a very high velocity and does incredible damage to internal organs. However, you have to hit the target right to do that kind of damage. It's called hydrostatic shock. The laws of physics say that all the energy that's in that high-speed bullet has to go somewhere when it strikes and stops dead. So the small caliber round is very effective, but, if you shoot somebody in the leg or the arm, it's not going to do much."

"It will just pass through?"  
"It may or may not. The guy may be out of commission, but he won't be dead. When you use a large-caliber bullet like the AK-47's 7.62 mm, no matter where you hit the person, it's going to do a lot. Even break bone. Which is why a lot of GIs

in Iraq complain that their rifles just aren't powerful enough. They have two main complaints. That they have to keep their weapons so clean in an extremely dirty environment."

"That's a very old complaint now."

"Exactly. And the second complaint is that sometimes they'll want to shoot through some obstruction — a fence, a stucco wall the enemy may be hiding behind — and they can't do that with an M-16-type weapon, whereas you can with an AK. So Americans sometimes feel themselves at a disadvantage."

"With a 7.62 you can probably fire through an engine block."

"Well, I don't know about that," says Kahaner, "but you can fire through a wall or door."

"The Marines to this day

remain bitter about the M-16. In 1967, inspectors found 75 percent of the Third Division's rifles in Vietnam could easily misfire and did. The M-16 was quite a scandal. A lot of Marines on the battlefield were found dead over their desperately stripped, inoperable rifles. Part of the problem was addressed, but the complaint remains about the rifle's sensitivity to dirt and dust."

"Understandably."

"Are you familiar with Geneva Convention or other international restrictions on the type of rounds armies can legally use?"

"There are certain types of bullets that can't be used, because of how they expand — hollow points, or dum-dums. But I don't know. I get mixed messages about what's allowed and what's not allowed."

"The M-16 was quite a scandal."

"Do you think it was really the intent of armaments designers to circumvent international prohibitions against extremely injurious bullets by introducing high-velocity weapons? And to find ways around restrictions on the bullets used, such as putting those air pockets inside rounds to compromise the structures deliberately and make the bullets come apart on impact and inflict greater damage? If you introduced a flaw in the nose of a lead-tipped bullet, by notching it to make it a dum-

dum, it would be illegal. But putting it inside the bullet apparently makes the round legal. I mean, everything was so deliberate and calculated about new weapons, was this factored in too by their inventors?"

"I don't know. The reason for the restrictions on the bullets is that — an odd thing about making war — you're not supposed to make your opponent suffer. You can kill, you can maim, but you're not to make the enemy suffer."

— Juris Jurjevics

youths living in World War II internment camps. Through Monday, March 5.

The museum is located in the Casa de Balboa building; 619-232-6203. (BALBOA PARK)

**San Diego Maritime Museum,** "Taming the Pacific Swell: The Evolution of Surfing" continues through January, tracing history of modern surfing from its Hawaiian beginnings to billion-dollar industry it is today. Changes in surfboard design used to illustrate evolution of the sport.

The museum features permanent exhibits documenting the history of San Diego's waterfront and the building of the West Coast by sea, the old San Diego-Coronado ferryboats, the tuna fishing industry, and the military. The museum fleet consists of the 1863 bark *Star*

of India, the 1898 San Francisco ferryboat *Berkeley*, and the 1904 Scottish steam yacht *Medea*. The H.M.S. *Surprise*, used in film *Master and Commander*, is permanently on exhibit; see artifacts, costumes, props used in making of the flick. Also open for touring: a B-39 Soviet attack submarine, among the largest conventionally powered submarines ever built. This Project 641/Foxtrot class diesel-electric submarine was designed to track U.S. and NATO warships throughout the Earth's oceans. There are also nautical exhibits, ship carpenters, model building, ships in bottles, woodcarvers, and a complete research library.

The museum is located at 1306 North Harbor Drive, along the Embarcadero at corner of North

Harbor Drive and Ash Street; 619-234-9153. (DOWNTOWN)

**San Diego Museum of Man,** "Guatemala! Celebrations of Weaving" features hand-woven clothing items, plus musical instruments such as oboes, a drum, and a marimba with gourd resonators. Items included in exhibit, on display through March, were selected "principally for their timeless beauty."

"Body Ornamentation: Artistic Representations of Self," continuing through Tuesday, March 27, examines this enduring art form. Exhibit focuses on many different types of body art in variety of cultures around the world, as well as underlying reasons behind the ornamentation. See examples of body painting, tattooing, scarification, piercing; documen-

tary videos, photo murals.

"Reflections" showcases rare and significant objects representing 90 years of the museum's collection history; some of the objects have never been displayed for public. Items include a Seri woodcarving of a whale; bronze sculpture by Alan Houser; more. Through Saturday, March 24.

"Passage to Panama: Past to Present" continues through Thursday, January 25. Exhibit documents culture of Embera, Wounaan, and Ngöbe with ethnographic materials, cultural items, photographs.

Permanent anthropology exhibit "Footsteps through Time: Four Million Years of Human Evolution" features "more than a hundred touchable replicas of early humans, primates, and futuristic

cyborgs (part human, part machine)." 619-239-2001. (BALBOA PARK)

**San Diego Tug Boat Museum,** a 100-foot retired Korean War-era tug boat built in 1951 is open for tours at museum. Boat is docked along Harbor Drive, between Grape Street and Broadway. 619-200-7417. (DOWNTOWN)

**San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park** commemorates the clash (on December 6, 1846) during the Mexican War between the U.S. Dragoons, bolstered by sailors and volunteers from San Diego, and California militia. Narrated slide-show screens throughout the day, telling the story of the war in Mexico and California. Self-guided tour recounts the events of the battle and profiles the leaders of the forces and also describes the lives of the Indians indigenous to the valley. The museum is found at 15808 San Pasqual Valley Road. 760-737-2201. (ESCONDIDO)

**Valley Center History Museum,** the museum features an educational exhibition centered around a California grizzly bear, described as "the only one on view in San Diego." Also on exhibit: model of an 1862 settler's cabin, collection of Indian baskets, and aerospace display. Find the museum at 29200 Cole Grade Road. 760-749-2993. (VALLEY CENTER)

**William Heath Davis House Museum,** said to be the oldest surviving structure in the new town area of downtown San Diego, the house is a well-preserved example of a pre-framed lumber "salt box" family home shipped from the East Coast to California by boat around Cape Horn in 1850. Find the museum at 410 Island Avenue (at Fourth Avenue); 619-233-4692. (GASLAMP QUARTER)

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Events that are underlined occur after January 4.

**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

**Salute to Vienna Concert** is Saturday, December 30. Cast of over 75 professional musicians, singers, dancers led by Maestro András Deák. Hungarian soprano Olga Szilágyi and tenor Zrinko Soco will perform arias and duets from Strauss operas and Viennese operettas. Members of Vienna City Ballet perform waltzes and polkas.

Events begin at 8 p.m. in Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). Tickets: \$37-\$75, available at 619-235-0804 and through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (DOWNTOWN)

**Spreckels Organ Birthday Concert!** Celebrate the 92nd birthday of the famed Spreckels organ with civic organist Carol Williams, Sunday, December 31, 2 p.m., at Spreckels Organ Pavilion. Free. 619-702-8138. (BALBOA PARK)

**Scott Pratt** presents a "New Year's Piano Celebration" for First Thursday Concert in Escondido Library's Turrentine Room (239 South Kalmia Street) on January 4, 7 p.m. Free. 760-839-4329. (ESCONDIDO)

**The Grammy Award-Winning Chamber Ensemble** Kronos Quartet plans ArtPower concert on Friday, January 19, 8 p.m., in UCSD's Mandeville Auditorium.

Program includes pieces by Thirlwell, Mansell, Charke, Branca, Narayan, and Santiago. Tickets: \$32, \$36, available at 858-534-TIXS. (LA JOLLA)

**Who's the Reigning King of the Violin?** Classical violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman in concert, Thursday, January 25, 8 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). \$60-\$75. 760-839-4100. (ESCONDIDO)

## ART LISTINGS

Events that are underlined occur after January 4.

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## GALLERIES

**"Creative Crossroads"** continues through Sunday, December 31, at La Jolla Art Association Village Gallery (7932 Ivanhoe Avenue). Meet artists during reception on Saturday, December 30, 4 p.m. 858-459-1196. (LA JOLLA)

## ART MUSEUMS

**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.

**California Center for the Arts Museum,** "The Migrant Project: Contemporary California Farm Workers," with photographs and text by Rick Nahmias, offers "in-depth journey detailing the lives and struggles of today's California migrant farm workers." Work focuses on all aspects of migrant stories, including personal lives, family members, women's issues, creation of community.

Basic human emotions explored in paintings and mixed-media creations by Anna Zappoli Jenkins in "Where Do You Store These Dreams." Hugo Heredia's "Broken Chandeliers" boasts large-scale sculptures combining glass and metal in "impossibly intimate and beautiful configurations."

"Memoria del Hombre: A Muerto de Todos Retrospective" is a site-specific installation of "objects left behind over the 12-year span of the installation."

Exhibitions close on Sunday, January 28. The museum is located at 340 North Escondido Boulevard; 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

**Mingei International Museum,** "Eva Zeisel — Extraordinary Designer Craftsman at 100," draws on two large private California collections to chronicle the artist's 75-year career. By Zeisel's accounting, she's designed more than 100,000 objects for home and table. She was the first designer in this country to produce an all-white dinner service and first to teach ceramics as industrial design for mass production rather than as handcraft. Closes Sunday, June 10, 2007.

"Grass and Gold — Nomads of Kazakhstan" focuses on important archaeological discoveries, including those in 1998-1999 at frozen burial site of Berel. Exhibit includes gold, silver, and bronze artifacts fashioned into small animal forms along with their stories of recovery, overview of the history and culture of Kazakhstan, and mythology of the Steppes. The art objects are being shown in the

U.S. for the first time. Through Sunday, April 15.

The first university furniture design class in California was offered in 1948 by SDSU professor John Dirks, whose "elegant architectural sculptures combine various woods and acrylic." The retrospective "John Dirks, Sculptor" continues through Sunday, February 11.

The Mingei is located on square with San Diego Museum of Art. 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

**Mingei International Museum—North County,** "Folk Art of Mexico — Selections from the Collection of Mingei International" presents contemporary objects of daily use from throughout Mexico fashioned from tin, clay, wood, paper, and fiber. Exhibit "demonstrates the importance of family, community, religion, and fun."

"Pre-Columbian Art of Mexico — Selections from the Collection of Mingei International" highlights clay and stone objects. These objects "abound with material from myth and legend." Both exhibits close on Monday, January 15. Find the museum at 155 West Grand Avenue. 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

**Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown,** "Cerca Series: Amy Adler" and "Cerca Series: Glenn Kaino" continue through Sunday, February 4.

Adler creates art fusing processes and outcomes of photography and drawing; she's exhibiting 12 large-format pastel drawings on canvas "based on a series of photographs Adler took of a young filmmaker directing Adler as the protagonist in her film." Kaino will create installations dealing with issues of individual versus group identity and aesthetic style as a form of social commentary.

See key sculptural works from permanent collection gathered in "Material Actions." All of the selected pieces "give the sentient body in action a central position in their artistic discourse." Closes Sunday, January 28.

Find the museum at 1001 Kettner Boulevard (at Broadway), directly across from the Santa Fe Railroad Depot. 619-234-1001. (DOWNTOWN)

**Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla,** "TRANSactions: Contemporary Latin American and Latino Art" — closing on Sunday, May 13 — features approximately 50 works by 48 artists from museum's permanent collection. Showcased pieces demonstrate "diversity and hybridity of contemporary Latin American art," with artists working across media and between disciplines.

Concurrently, see site-specific installation by Milwaukee-based Argentinean artist Santiago Cu-cullu. His art juxtaposes images of progressive, historical figures and events with his personal experiences. This piece engages the architecture and oceanfront site of museum.

"Brian Ulrich: Copia" features 14 large-scale photographs documenting shopping habits of Americans. Photographs were taken in "big-box" retail stores such as Target, Wal-Mart using medium-format film camera with waist-level viewfinder; covert vantage point allowed artist to capture "massive scale and halogen clarity of the hyper-real spaces." Closes Sunday, May 13.

Find the museum at 700 Prospect Street. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

**Museum of Photographic Arts,** "The Roads Most Traveled: Photographs of Migration by Don Bartletti" examines lives of migratory workers in search of economic survival. Exhibit including 90 photographs by Pulitzer Prize-winner Bartletti continues through Sunday, January 14.

"Mexico: The Revolution and Beyond — Photographs by Agustin Victor Casasola, 1900-1940" features more than 80 "of the best and most significant images from Casasola's archive at the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia in Mexico City." Images document Mexican Revolution and industrial revolution in "streets, homes, cafés, and countrysides of Mexico." Closes Sunday, January 7.

Find the museum in the Casa de Balboa building, at 1649 El Prado; 619-238-7559. (BALBOA PARK)

**Oceanside Museum of Art,** "Quilt Visions 2006" offers 43

works of art from 725 entries submitted by 318 artists from 20 countries. Jurors Jane Dunnewold, Patricia Malarcher, Lloyd Herman selected pieces offering "surprises in design and nontraditional materials." Closes Sunday, January 21. Find the museum at 704 Pier View Way. 760-721-2787. (OCEANSIDE)

**San Diego Museum of Art,** "Personal Views: Regarding Private Collections in San Diego" features 25 "of the finest private collections to be found in the San Diego area." The collections highlight historical artworks from the 19th and 20th Centuries, including works in variety of media by Rembrandt, Cassatt, Monet, O'Keeffe, de Kooning, Kahlo, Goldin. Closes Sunday, January 7.

"Paper Traces: Latin American Prints and Drawings from the Collection at SDMA" continues through December, highlighting approximately 60 Latin American and U.S.-Latino works on paper. The prints, drawings, posters, portfolios in exhibit "confirm the vitality of paper as a medium with a particular historic outline of its own."

"Backs," on exhibit through Sunday, February 18, focuses on backs of five paintings where important information such as age and ownership is revealed. Works are drawn from museum's European collection. Labels, inscriptions, and markings divulge details of painting's history of attribution, exhibition, ownership, sale.

For further information, call 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

**Timken Museum of Art,** "Guercino: Stylistic Evolution in Focus" explores dramatic shift in artistic style of Il Guercino, considered one of the most prolific and successful artists of 17th Century. At heart of exhibit is Timken's *Return of the Prodigal Son*, a theme Guercino painted a number of times over his life, shown with versions on loan from Borghese Gallery in Rome, and Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna. This is the first time these three works have been shown together. Closes Sunday, January 7.

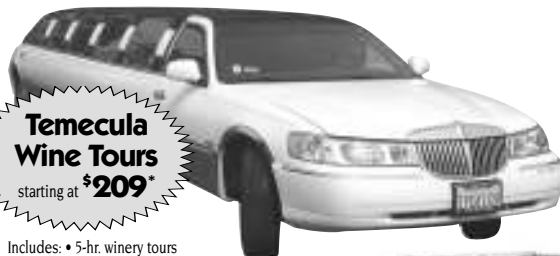
Permanent collection includes European masters, 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. 619-239-5548. (BALBOA PARK)



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**Elephant 4 Sale?** A music-industry insider alleges that Street Scene founder Rob Hagey has been in discussions with AEG Live,

handful of fans in front of the stage were injured. Gary Bongiovanni, publisher of concert-industry magazine *Pollstar*, says that any insurance claims from the Tool incident could increase Street Scene's expenses.

"It is actuarially based," says Bongiovanni. "[Insurance policies] are

executive vice president Tom Miserendino responded to a request for comment.

Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, held in Indio since 1999, expands from two to three days next year (April 27, 28, and 29). Paul Tollett established what has become Southern California's major music festival. He would not discuss the rumored acquisition of Street Scene.

One promoter suggested that Hagey "would have moved Street Scene to the Del Mar Fairgrounds in a second, but [the Fairgrounds] control all their alcohol sales. They won't let anyone from the outside come in and make any money [from alcohol sales]."

— Ken Leighton

**Mean Streets**

Singer/songwriter/guitarist Jason Mayer, 23, plays his music regularly at North County venues such as Monterrey Bay Cannery, the Coyote, and Squid Joe's. The events of this past August 19 are still impacting his life.

"I had gone to see Alice in Chains at the Four O'Clock Friday show at the Del Mar Racetrack. After that, I went to a bonfire at the [Batiqitos] lagoon and then I hit the bars in Carlsbad. [Afterward], I was walking to my condo. I walked past these Mexican dudes at three in the morning. They were drunk, generic *vatos*. One of these guys goaded me into a fight. He accused me of being a racist. I didn't really have a choice. I got the one guy on the ground, then the others jumped in. I got stabbed in



PHOTOGRAPH BY DEREK PLANK.COM

MAYER ON THE SLOW MEND the side."

Because the attack was close to a major Carlsbad street (Tamarack), police and an ambulance were on the scene quickly. The perpetrators were never caught. Mayer, who was uninsured, spent eight days in the hospital.

"They said I may have had internal bleeding, so they cut my stomach all the way open." An eight-inch scar extends from Mayer's groin to his sternum. That surgery led to "...100 stitches and 60 staples. It turned out to be unnecessary; they didn't find anything wrong."

Medical bills now add up to \$65,000. Yet, four months after the attack, Mayer still has a patch of gauze taped at the bottom of his scar.

"I have to clean and bandage myself every day. I still have a hole the size of a nickel. My stomach keeps coming undone." He says the hole has reopened four times since the surgery; once it was caused by riding a bike. "The other times it was when I had sex."

Mayer and acoustic partner Matt Sundstedt appear every Thursday at the Flying Bridge in Oceanside, every Sunday at Tom Giblin's

in Carlsbad, and every Tuesday at Mas Fina Cantina in Carlsbad.

— Ken Leighton

**Tijuana-on-the-Schuylkill** Confusion is nothing new concerning the hometown of Robert Lopez, a.k.a. El Vez. Before starting his Mexican-American "Elvis translator" persona in the late '80s, Lopez co-fronted West Coast punk pioneers the Zeros in the mid-'70s while all were San Diego County high schoolers. Yet, most reference sources list the South Bay teens — dubbed "the Mexican Ramones" — as an "early L.A. punk band."

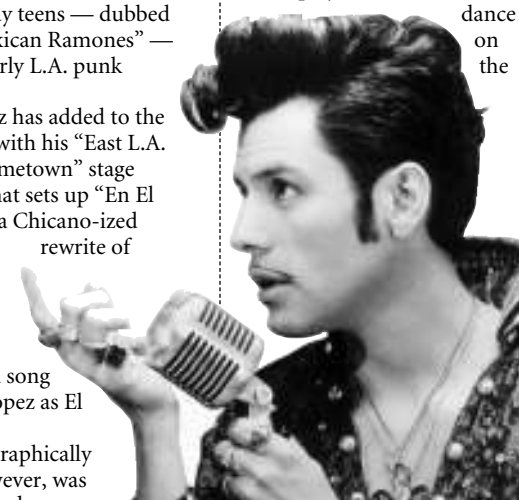
Lopez has added to the muddle with his "East L.A. is my hometown" stage banter that sets up "En El Barrio," a Chicano-ized rewrite of

Presley's "In the Ghetto." One doctored song where Lopez as El Vez gets autobiographically real, however, was highlighted throughout his "Merry Mex-Mas" national tour that concluded at the Casbah on Saturday: "I'm dreaming of a 'Brown Christmas' / Just like my ones in San Diego / Where cousins and *familia* are tight / And thank God our Christmases ain't white..."

That tune and others were rapturously received earlier this month in Philadelphia — which has its own "Home of El Vez" claim. Lopez and his Memphis Mariachis worked the World Café Live room while patrons munched on

free guacamole and chips provided by a Mexican eatery named El Vez (after the performer), which opened in 2003. "[Restaurateur] Stephen Starr's vision of Tijuana-on-the-Schuylkill may just be his best concept yet," reviewed the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in 2004, referencing the river that borders the Pennsylvania city west of the Delaware. "The big room is electric with color, energy, and kitsch."

Starr, a former concert promoter, has had El Vez come play his restaurant and



EL VEZ FINDS HOME WELL NORTH OF BORDER

bar-top while people sipped pomegranate margaritas and scarfed mahimahi tacos amid the gilded lowrider accoutrements. "We wanted to have some fun with El Vez," says Starr of the restaurant. "We've tried to achieve a gritty East L.A. meets a Tijuana Taxi vibe."

"I love Philadelphia because you make me feel at home, and because of the El Vez restaurant, it's my home too," cooed Lopez from the

the inside track  
**blurt**

the L.A.-based concert-promotion company that owns the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival.

In 1984, Hagey held the first Street Scene, a two-stage production in the Gaslamp Quarter. The event was moved to Petco Park in 2004. For the past two years, the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot has been the site of Street

Scene. Attendance has declined from 105,000 in 2004 to 70,000 in 2006. Hagey was recently denied the use of Balboa Park for next year's Street Scene.

Insiders say Hagey's biggest challenge may be insurance-related costs. This past August, when concertgoers pushed forward to get closer to see Tool, a

written based on each event. This is not to say a company



PHOTOGRAPH BY DEREK PLANK.COM

P.O.D. AT STREET SCENE, 2001

would say Street Scene is not insurable. But they may ask for a whole lot more money."

In regard to AEG/Coachella taking over Street Scene, Bongiovanni says, "After [Hurricane] Katrina, [AEG] came in during their hour of need and resurrected New Orleans' Jazz and Heritage Festival."

Neither Hagey nor AEG



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BILLY BOY  
ARNOLD  
RICK ESTRIN • PAUL OSCHTER  
RUSTY ZINN  
MARK HUMMEL & MORE!  
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**GREG LASWELL**  
  
ANYA MARINA  
RYAN CALHOUN  
Thu 1/11 • 9:00 PM

**LONG BEACH SHORTBUS**  
  
DUMBLUCK  
GOOD INTENTIONS  
Fri 1/12 • 9:00 PM

**DEAD MAN'S PARTY**  
  
2002  
Sat 1/13 • 9:00 PM

**RHETT MILLER**  
  
MATT CURRERI  
Sun 1/14 • 8:00 PM

**THE UPSTARTS**  
FEATURING  
LATANYA LOCKETT &  
KEVIN BROWN  
  
CD RELEASE PARTY  
DJ AESTHETIC  
Wed 1/17 • 8:00 PM

**bill**  
  
JACK THE ORIGINAL  
EMERY BYRD  
Thur 1/18 • 9:00 PM

**DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND**  
  
THE K23  
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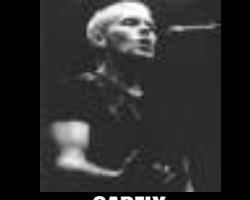
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MUSICIANS OF  
THE BLACK EYED PEAS BAND  
  
Tue 2/6 • 9:00 PM

**SPARKLEHORSE**  
  
JESSE SYKES &  
THE SWEET HEREAFTER  
Wed 2/7 • 9:00 PM

**JUST ADDED!**

2/8 <b>Poncho Sanchez</b>	2/14 <b>Valentine's Day B &amp; B Benefit Bash!</b> feat. Bachelors & Bachelorettes for bid!	2/15 <b>Todd Snider</b>	2/23 <b>The Aggrolites</b>	4/5 <b>Dark Star Orchestra</b>
2/9 <b>Common Sense</b>		2/16 <b>Bob Schneider Band</b>	3/3 <b>New Monsoon</b>	4/26 <b>Railroad Earth</b>
		2/17 <b>The Hacienda Brothers</b>	3/8 <b>Leo Kottke &amp; David Lindley</b>	6/17 <b>Johnny Winter</b>
		2/22 <b>Dave Mason &amp; John Mayall</b>	3/9 & 10 <b>Ozomatli - Two Nights!</b>	6/21 <b>Iris DeMent</b>

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Philly stage. Later, by e-mail, El Vez the entertainer elaborated on the relationship: "We have a business deal. I was paid nicely. We do things together sometimes, like Cinco de Mayo block parties for the restaurant. I was shown layouts and design before they were starting.... [Starr] liked the name and was a fan."

— David Stampone

**Downed Tower** I was at the La Jolla location of Tower



BUFFY DOLL, A TOWER LEFTOVER

Records on Tuesday, December 19, the day before the chain was set to shut down for good. About one quarter of the store was filled with merchandise while the remainder of the store was

cluttered with display racks and fixtures (which were for sale at \$35 each).

Some people examined the remaining CDs and DVDs that could be had at 80 percent off their retail price (for example, many copies of ex-Mötley Crüe drummer Tommy Lee's recent album, *Tommyland: The Ride*). Also left over were *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* action figures and posters and magazines.

After scouring the racks, I walked away with a copy of the Big Star tribute CD *Small World* (\$3.40), a disc by a Guided By Voices-related project called the Takeovers (\$3.60), an in-store-listening copy of the latest Golden Smog album (\$3.40), and a copy of *Bastardsong* (\$3.40) by Superconductor, a disbanded Canadian act that included musicians who would eventually form the New Pornographers. With tax, the four albums cost \$14.87.

While checking out, I asked the clerk what would happen with the remaining discs; he said a buyer in Arizona would purchase them for 95 cents apiece. I told the clerk "good luck" because he would be losing his job five days before Christmas.

— Dryw Keltz

**What's Good for the Chickens...** Bunky singer/guitarist Rafter Roberts releases his solo album *Music for Total Chickens* next month, and he'd like you to make a video for it.

"There are mp3 links to four songs on YouTube, and pretty much anything goes as far as visual content," says Roberts. Video entries are uploaded to YouTube, where one of two \$500 prizewinners will be chosen by site users during the last week of January.

OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: EL CAJON BLVD.

JAY ALLEN SANFORD



ROBERTS: INTO CHICKEN, BUNNIES, AND SLANDER

"Clips are being added as they're uploaded," says Roberts, "and every submission is valid, I think. A few of the videos have completely missed the points of the songs, but that's to be expected." He declines to elaborate for this column.

"I know I'm not alone amongst local musicians and readers that aren't really into the 'Blurt' formula of 'bad, trouble, disagreement,' etc.... Did you know I'm in a band that has a song called 'Ride of the Ink-Stained Weasel' about ['Blurt' contributor] Ken Leighton?"

— Jay Allen Sanford

**Where's the Party?**

"If it loses money, I'm prepared to do it again," said Chris Wepsic in 2005 when he launched the first Festival Del Mar. Wepsic produced and bore primary financial responsibility for the two-day event at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. First-year headliners included Etta James, Taj Mahal, and Macy Gray. This year, Dr. John, Don Carlos, and George Thorogood were the big names.

After a two-year run, the festival has been put on hold. "We are hoping to bring it back in spring 2008," says Wepsic, a Solana Beach dentist.

One promoter estimates Festival Del Mar lost between \$100,000 and \$125,000 this year. "The first year they did 8000 to 9000 [in paid attendance]," says the promoter. "[In 2006] it was more like 6000 to 7000."

Wepsic admits attendance was off last year, "but we did better in sponsorships." He wants to pull the event back to a weekend in the spring. This year it was held in September. "We had it the same weekend as the [free admission] Adams Avenue Street Fair, and that hurt

us.... The only date in the spring [2007] we could get from the Fairgrounds was Mother's Day weekend." He says a 2008 date has yet to be nailed down.

After 30 years of existence, following reaction from businesses and citizens over huge crowds and rowdy behavior, the annual Pacific Beach Block Party did not return this year. Benjamin Nicholls, executive director of Discover PB (an alliance of businesses), said he hoped that there would be "something low key" to replace the Block Party in May, but at present he is unaware of any plans.

Following Hank Williams III's obscenity-laced appearance at the 27th annual Fiesta del Sol in June, Solana Beach City Council members said that the two-day event may not return. The City subsequently decided the Fiesta could continue if the bands were approved by the City and the sheriff's department. The Solana Beach Chamber of



PB BLOCK PARTY GALS

Commerce, which sponsors the event, says band contracts would include a stipulation to withhold pay from bands that used obscenities. The Fiesta del Sol returns June 2 and 3.

— Ken Leighton

(Ken Leighton is the talent coordinator for Fiesta del Sol.)

**CONTRIBUTORS**

William Crain, Dave Good, Larry Harmon, Michael Hemmingson, Ken Leighton, Ryan Loyko, Derek Plank, Eric Rife, Jay Allen Sanford

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 13



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SATURDAY, JANUARY 20



SATURDAY, JANUARY 27



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# Stuck on the Stick

*"I used to draw small crowds in Guitar Center just by playing a few notes to test amps for it."*

I saw Tony Levin playing a Stick at the 1997 NAMM trade show in Anaheim, and I bought one that year," says Tom Griesgraber. The 12-stringed Stick (popularized by Levin during stints with King Crimson and Peter Gabriel) is played by tapping the strings like piano keys, with bass strings tuned in ascending fifths and melody strings in descending fourths, providing a wide tonal range of sounds.

"It sounds something like electric guitar, electric bass, piano, and synths — all thrown into a blender," says Griesgraber. "When I started, there was nobody teaching it, really, so I bought the only two books in existence for it. The Stick itself gets amazing reactions. I used to draw small crowds in Guitar Center just by playing a few notes to test amps for it, and I've sold CDs just by pulling it out of the case and not playing a note."

#### DESERT ISLAND DVDs?

1. Peter Gabriel, *Secret World Live* ("Probably his best stage setup ever and certainly one of his best bands.")
2. King Crimson, *Deja Vroom* ("I have a VHS release from the same period which seems to have a better audio mix.")
3. *This Is Spinal Tap* ("I was surprised to learn recently that some musician friends in Italy had

never heard of it.")

4. *The Adventures of Indiana Jones* (box set) ("I loaned this to a friend months ago — if you read this, Peter, I want it back.")

5. *Bruce Almighty* ("I know I should probably pick something meatier for a desert island sojourn, but truth is I've watched this more than a lot of other movies.")

## LISTS

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

#### WHAT'S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

1. Genesis, *Three Sides Live* ("Interesting period for them, plus it has great guitar work from Daryl Stuermer.")
2. Peter Gabriel, *Up* ("Amazing production, but then he did spend ten years on it. I heard they tried so many things, they had over a hundred songs that got boiled down to this one album.")
3. The California Guitar Trio, *Ten Christmas Songs* ("I've given copies to so many friends that I'm afraid to give it out anymore 'cause I'm sure I'll get regifted.")
4. Phil Collins, *Face Value* ("This is how you know I'm being honest with this list. Despite the overt poppiness, Phil really is a great musician.")

#### FAVORITE TV SHOWS?

1. *24* ("Jack is too cool — though serials are a pain in the hindquarters to keep up with when you're on tour for a month at a time.")
2. *Star Trek* ("I actually have the DVDs. I'm a

geek; it's a horrible fate.")

3. *That '70s Show* ("Only ever watched in syndication, but I'll usually stop on it if I'm channel surfing.")

4. *Lost* ("I got sucked in.")

5. *The Simpsons* ("I'm actually a bit burned out on it, but I'll include it because it's just been so good for so long.")

#### WORST COVER SONGS?

1. "In Your Eyes," Jeffrey Gaines ("Takes a classic Peter Gabriel tune and turns it into something that sounds like a bar band at a coffee shop. There should be laws.")
2. "Landslide," the Dixie Chicks ("Stevie Nicks and Lindsey Buckingham just have too strong personalities to replace.")
3. "White Christmas," Elton John ("He got a little too carried away with the vocal inflections on this one.")

#### BEST KING CRIMSON LINEUP?

"I love this question. I'm gonna say the double trio: Robert Fripp, Adrian Belew, Tony Levin, Bill Bruford, Pat Mastelotto, and Trey Gunn. Just so many great musical personalities, and they're all such good players that they make the over-the-top instrumentation actually work. It was actually the first lineup I saw,



Tom Griesgraber

PHOTOGRAPH BY JERRY MAROTTA

on video, and it's the one that pulled me into the band in general. Plus, they have two Stick players."

#### IF YOU WERE A CHARACTER IN THE WIZARD OF OZ, YOU'D BE...

"...the wizard. I like hiding behind curtains and pushing lots of buttons."

#### SOMETHING ABOUT YOU FEW WOULD KNOW OR GUESS?

"I can't drive stick shift. Quite the issue while touring Europe." ■

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# Calendar CONCERTS

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## THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

### SATURDAY

**Soul Asylum:** House of Blues, Saturday, December 30, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**Blackalicious:** Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, December 30, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

### SUNDAY

**Donavon Frankenreiter:** House of Blues, Sunday, December 31, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**Steve Poltz & the Rugburns:** Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, December 31, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

### TUESDAY

**My Morning Jacket:** House of Blues, Tuesday, January 2, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

## UPCOMING CONCERTS

### JANUARY

**Blues Traveler:** House of Blues, Thursday, January 4, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**Barrington Levy:** Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, January 4, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**NOFX:** Soma, Friday, January 5, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

**Barrington Levy:** Belly Up Tavern, Friday, January 5, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**Akon:** 4th & B, Saturday, January 6, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

**Dennis Quaid & the Sharks:** Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, January 6, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**Stephen Malkmus & the Jicks:** The Casbah, Sunday, January 7, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

**Beres Hammond and Marcia Griffiths:** 4th & B, Sunday, January 7, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

**Justin Timberlake and Pink:** ipayOne Center, Monday, January 8, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

**Al Kooper:** AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, January 12, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

**Manhattan Transfer:** California Center for the Arts, Friday, January 12, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253.

**Incubus:** Soma, Friday, January 12, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

**The Cheetha Girls:** ipayOne Center, Saturday, January 13, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

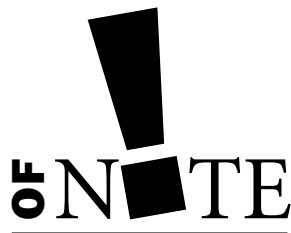
**Keller Williams:** House of Blues, Saturday, January 13, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**Jeffrey Osborne:** Spreckels Theatre, Sunday, January 14, 121 Broadway, downtown. 619-235-9500.

**Eliza Gilkyson:** AcousticMusicSanDiego, Thursday, January 18, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

**Reverend Horton Heat:** Canes, Thursday, January 18, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

**Tom Rush:** AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, January 20, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.



BY WILLIAM CRAIN

I once found myself playing in a band with a couple of neo-hippies. We practiced at the drummer's house in the suburbs for a month or two before we succumbed to a fatal case of musical differences: They wanted to play comfortable music for good times, while I...I don't know, I guess I wanted to be Nick Cave.

We stayed friends for a while afterward, though, and the other guitarist, Daniel, once invited me for a weekend stay at his home, way out in the country. When I saw the house, surrounded by trees and mountains, overlooking a picturesque stream, I understood: If you live in a place of pastoral beauty, of

course you're going to write songs that, like Daniel's, suggested that everything is right in the world.

This is my roundabout way of saying I think I understand where **Donavon Frankenreiter** is coming from. Like his mentor, Jack Johnson, Frankenreiter is a former professional surfer, which means he has spent a lot of time waiting for a wave, appreciating the power and wonder of nature. (Not to mention the fact that he has had the incredible luck to make a living doing what other people do to take their minds off what they do for a living.) To a guy like Frankenreiter, it is entirely honest to write a song that goes, "I know we're going to make it through another beautiful day." It's natural to play easygoing acoustic rock (as he does on his first album) or upbeat Stevie Wonder-style, '70s-flavored R&B (as he does on



**DONAVON FRANKENREITER**

much of his second album). He's a comfortable guy, and he plays comfortable music for good times. Nothing wrong with that.

**DONAVON FRANKENREITER: House of Blues, Sunday, December 31, 8:30 pm. 619-299-2583. \$38.**

**Dionne Warwick:** Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre, Thursday, January 25, 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-659-3380.

**Muriel Anderson:** AcousticMusicSanDiego, Thursday, January 25, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

**The Chieftains:** California Center for the Arts, Friday, January 26, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253.

**Slayer:** Soma, Friday, January 26, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

**Pennywise:** House of Blues, Saturday, January 27, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**Pennywise:** House of Blues, Sunday, January 28, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**Everclear:** House of Blues, Monday, January 29, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**G Love & Special Sauce:** House of Blues, Tuesday, January 30, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**G Love & Special Sauce:** House of Blues, Wednesday, January 31, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

### FEBRUARY

**Air Supply:** Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre, Thursday, February 1, 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-659-3380.

**The English Beat:** Belly Up Tavern, Friday, February 2, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**Maná:** ipayOne Center, Friday, February 9, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

**Bob Weir:** House of Blues, Friday, February 9, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**Venice:** AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, February 9, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

**Maná:** ipayOne Center, Saturday, February 10, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

**Venice:** AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, February 10, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

**The Roots:** House of Blues, Monday, February 12, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**Todd Snider:** Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, February 15, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**Sound Tribe Sector Nine:** House of Blues, Friday, February 16, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**Bob Schneider:** Belly Up Tavern, Friday, February 16, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**Steel Pulse:** 4th & B, Friday, February 16, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

**Cradle of Filth:** House of Blues, Sunday, February 18, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**Pete Yorn:** House of Blues, Monday, February 19, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**Gomez and Ben Kweller:** House of Blues, Tuesday, February 20, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**"Taste of Chaos" with the Used, 30 Seconds to Mars, Senses Fail, and more:** ipayOne Center, Wednesday, February 21, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

**"Tribute to the Reggae Legends":** ipayOne Center,

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Thursday, December 28  
Mike Ruggirello presents

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Friday, Saturday & New Year's Eve, December 29, 30 & 31 • 9 pm  
Classic Rock



## STONE WOLF

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Thursday, December 28

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Friday, Saturday & New Year's Eve, December 29, 30 & 31 • 9 pm  
Classic Rock



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\$25 cover allows entrance to both clubs.

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New Year's Day • Monday, January 1

### Rose Bowl Game

Tuesday, January 2  
Mike Ruggirello presents

### Huge Rooster & guests

Wednesday, January 3

### Happy Hour 6-8 pm

8515 Navajo Road • 619-465-1730  
(Albertsons shopping plaza at Navajo & Lake Murray)

New Year's Day • Monday, January 1

### Rose Bowl Game

Tuesday, January 2

### Call club for details

Wednesday, January 3

### Call club for details

8528 Magnolia Avenue • 619-596-8350  
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# Calendar CONCERTS

Wednesday, February 21, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

**Cheap Trick:** 4th & B, Thursday, February 22, 345 B Street, San Diego, 619-231-4343.

**Michael Franti & Spearhead:** 4th & B, Friday, February 23, 345 B Street, San Diego, 619-231-4343.

**"Texas Songwriters Show"** with **Lyle Lovett, Joe Ely, John Hiatt, and Guy Clark:** Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Wednesday, February 28, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400.

## MARCH

**The Who:** ipayOne Center, Thursday, March 1, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

**Christina Aguilera:** ipayOne Center, Friday, March 2, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

**Snow Patrol:** Open Air Theatre, Saturday, March 3, SDSU campus, College Area, 619-594-6947.

**Samite:** AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, March 3, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.

**Ozomatli:** Belly Up Tavern, Friday, March 9, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.

**Ozomatli:** Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, March 10, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.

**Willy Porter:** AcousticMusicSanDiego, Sunday, March 11, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.

**My Chemical Romance:** ipayOne Center, Tuesday, March 13, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

**Eric Clapton and J.J. Cale:** ipayOne Center, Thursday, March 15, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

**Dave Stamey:** AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday,

March 17, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.

**Byron Berline:** AcousticMusicSanDiego, Sunday, March 18, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.

**Badly Drawn Boy:** House of Blues, Wednesday, March 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-299-2583.

**Rod Stewart:** Cox Arena, Saturday, March 24, SDSU campus, College Area, 619-594-0429.

**Boney James:** Spreckels Theatre, Wednesday, March 28, 121 Broadway, downtown, 619-235-9500.

**Jeremy Camp:** House of Blues, Wednesday, March 28, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-299-2583.

**Switchfoot:** Soma, Saturday, March 31, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego, 619-226-7662.

## APRIL

**Josh Groban:** ipayOne Center, Friday, April 6, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

**Relient K:** House of Blues, Wednesday, April 11, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-299-2583.

**Gwen Stefani:** Coors Amphitheatre, Sunday, April 22, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista, 619-671-3600.

**David Wilcox:** AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, April 27, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.

## MAY

**Fairport Convention:** AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, May 11, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.

**The Be Good Tanyas:** Belly Up Tavern, Friday, May 18, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.

# of NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

I was reminded of **Steve Poltz** while visiting a favorite nightspot near Ensenada. One of the bar's regular entertainers was playing from a bottomless pit of '70s white pop hits on his acoustic guitar. A loud surfer-type asked if his buddy could take over. The musician obliged. Surfer's Buddy launched into some bad Jack Johnson-ish covers. His friends egged him on. "I wasn't really planning on playing tonight," he half lied, his voice booming over the speakers. "I've had, like, five margaritas."

This is exactly what Poltz does. He wanders onstage and disarms an audience with

his sophomoric wisecracks and rummy bearing. But whether that's the real Steve Poltz or just an act is unknown to me. In his clever way, Poltz is morose and blithe in the same set, and perhaps that steady undercurrent is what maintains interest. Eventually, his party-boy image gets tiresome, and his lyrics have been called ridiculous (murderous hitchhikers, boogers covered in sugar, an auto mechanic who feeds strychnine to deer).

What makes it work is that he is a consummate singer-songwriter. Sober evidence of that lies in heartbreak material like "Silver Lining" or "The Single Life." It can go both directions with Poltz. Whatever the genre, with Poltz at the helm of the **Rugburns** (their ever-changing membership notwithstanding), the band is about as tight, loud, and original as it gets.



**STEVE POLTZ & THE RUGBURNS**

(To hear a sample of the **Rugburns**, call 619-233-9797, wait for the prompt, then punch in ext. 4263.)

**STEVE POLTZ & THE RUGBURNS: Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, December 31, 9 p.m. 858-481-8140. \$40.**

# Calendar CLUBS

## DANCE

If you would like to include your DJ event, e-mail [sellis@nethere.com](mailto:sellis@nethere.com) or submit a listing online at [SanDiegoReader.com](http://SanDiegoReader.com) by clicking on the music section. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. The listings are free.

**Air Conditioned:** Thursdays, *College Night*, old-skool hip-hop, '80s, and funk with DJ 1979. Fridays, old-skool disco, funk, and '80s with DJ Junior. Saturdays, *Juicy*, classic booty-

shakin' music with Mike Czech. Sundays, guest DJ night. Wednesdays, *RockBoxx*, '70s and '80s rock. 4673 30th Street, North Park. 619-501-9831.

**Brass Rail:** Fridays, New York and Chicago house-music journeys. 3796 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-298-2233.

**Brick by Brick:** Fridays, *Therapy*, industrial, gothic, and fetish with DJs Bryan Pollard and guest. 8:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.; 21 and up. 1130 Buenos Avenue, Bay Park. 619-275-5483.

**Buster Daly's:** Thursdays, *4mat* with rotating DJs Veep Reekins, Xavier, Clean Cut, and Myson King. 3112 University Avenue, North Park. 619-284-2747.

**'Canes:** Thursdays, Top 40, hip-hop, and old skool with DJs Power Girth, and Rick Nasty. 9 p.m. 3105 Ocean

Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

**Characters Bar & Grill (La Jolla Marriott):** Fridays and Saturdays, salsa, mambo, and merengue. 9:30 p.m.; 21 and up. 4240 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla. 858-597-6397.

**The C Lounge:** Sundays, *Liquid*, liquid funk and drum 'n' bass. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., 21 and up. No cover. 756 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-2838.

**Crudo:** Thursdays, deep, soulful, and sexy house grooves with guest DJs. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 1953 India Street (at Grape), Little Italy. 619-398-2974.

**Dino's:** Fridays, *Gimmie Gimmie Gimmie*, punk, goth, and rock with DJs Bryan Pollard, Morgan Young, and guest. 3929 30th Street, North Park. 619-291-3466.

**The Flame:** Second and fifth Saturday of the month, *Sabbat*, gothic, industrial, and dark '80s with DJs Robin Roth, Adam Atom, and Diskdroid. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 3780 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest. 619-295-4163.

**Gaslamp Tavern:** Thursdays, DJs Billie Knight, Tek, and guests spin true hip-hop. Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Billie Knight spins Tavern music. Sundays, DJ Tek spins '80s. 868 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-239-3339.

**Habana Restaurant:** Saturdays, *Adventuras East*, salsa, merengue, and cha-cha with David Garcia and David Suave. 10 p.m. 7777 University Avenue, La Mesa. 619-713-2011.

**Honey Bee Hive:** Wednesdays, *Mixtape Sessions*, underground hip-hop, downtempo, and breakbeat with DJ Ricky Wrecks and Mada; 8 p.m. to

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1 a.m. Thursdays, *Deep, drum 'n' bass* with DJs Walkkrawler, Probable Cause, and Skyler Mic; 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. 1409 C Street (corner of 14th Street, across from City College), downtown. 619-702-6010.

**Inferno Young Adult**

**Nightclub:** Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Kool T spins hip-hop, house, and reggaeton. 9 p.m. to 1:15 a.m., high school sophomore and up. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-1271.

**Jack's Lounge:** Fridays, sexy dance music with DJ Misha and weekly guests. Saturdays, vocal house with DJ Sean Wilson. 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-8111.

**Kadan:** Wednesdays, *Darkwave Garden*, punk, gothic, and ethereal with DJs Bryan Pollard, Stern, and Grimderella. First Saturday of the month, *BrokenBeat Night*, live electronic, machine funk, and breaks. Second and third Saturday of the month, *Underground Playground*, breaks, house, and progressive with Jack Tripper and guest DJs. Tuesdays, *Distortion*, mashups, bastard pop, and cybertrash. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

**The Kava Lounge:** Second Friday of the month, *Ascension*, Robin Roth and Tom King spin the best in dark underground dance music. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 2812 Kettner Boulevard, Middletown. 619-543-0933.

**The Kensington Club:**

Wednesdays, *Sub-Par*, hip-hop, rock 'n' soul, and funk with DJs Buddha and SC. 9:30 p.m. 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington. 619-284-2848.

**Michael's Lounge (Hyatt Regency):**

Thursdays, DJs Neko, Sky, and Chris Mullins spin hip-hop, dance, and '70s/'80s. 9 p.m. 3777 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla. 858-552-1234.

**Mission Valley Resort:**

Thursdays and Fridays, *Mambo Lounge*, salsa, bachata, and cha-cha with DJ D2. 8 p.m. to midnight. 875 Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley. 619-298-8281.

**Moondoggies Pacific Beach:**

Saturdays, hip-hop and R&B with DJs Enigma and Cisco. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6550.

**Moose's Gaslamp:** Sundays, *Nocturnal*, house and trance with DJ Neko. 9 p.m. 535 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-702-5595.

**Riley's Sports Bar:** First Friday of the month, *Sin Factory*, fetish, gothic, and industrial with DJs Darkman and guests. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-255-8635.

**San Diego Sports Club:**

Wednesdays, *Club Pussy Galore*, Robin Roth and other female DJs spin indie rock, electro pop, and '80s. Second and fourth Saturday of the month, *Club Fashion Whore*, electroclash, Brit pop, and indie dance punk with DJs Nate Soixante, Saul Q, Barry Weaver, and more. Third Saturday of the month, *Club de Sade*, gothic, industrial, and fetish with DJs Darkman and Creep. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-299-7372.

**710 Beach Club:** Sundays, hip-hop, funk, and old skool with the Husky Boy Allstars. 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-7844.

**Shooterz:** Thursdays, *Club '80s*, new wave, new romantic, and punk synthpop with DJs Bryan Pollard, Sickboy, and Stern. Saturdays, *Underworld*, industrial, gothic, and dark electro with DJs Bryan Pollard, Cybian, and Harlot. 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-574-0744.

**Static Lounge:** Saturdays, house music to dark dance beats. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 18 and up. 634 Broadway (between Sixth and Seventh Avenue), downtown. 619-544-1609.

**Whiskey Girl:** Fridays, DJ Marc Thrasher mixes music videos. Saturdays, DJs Famous Dave and DJ Marc Thrasher mix music videos. Sundays, DJ Danimal. Mondays, *Manic Mondays*, DJ Marc Thrasher mixes '80s and '90s music videos. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 600 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-236-1616.

**The Whistle Stop:** Second Thursday of the month, *Programme:Zero*, indie, Brit pop, and soul. First and third Saturday of the month, *Transport*, Brit rock, indie, and electroclash with DJ Gabe Vega and guests. Second and fifth Saturday of the month, *One Nation*, new wave, hip-hop, and bootleg remixes with DJs Blackstone and Atari. Tuesdays, *Friends Chill*, downtempo, electronic, and ambient with DJs Wank Chops, Lstr, and guests. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. 2236 Fern Street (corner of 30th and Juniper), South Park. 619-284-6784.

## CLUBS BY AREA

*If you wish to submit a listing, call 619-235-3000, ext. 405, night or day by 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 760-788-1309 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the music section.*

## Beaches

**Bahia Resort Hotel,** 998 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Beach. 858-488-0551. Tangier Lounge: Thursday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.; also, Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., and Wednesday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., *John Cain*, jazz/Latin/international/pop standards.

**Bar Leucadian,** 1542 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia. 760-753-2094. Friday, *the Honkies*, rockabilly/blues.

**Beaumont's,** 5662 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla. 858-459-0474.

Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Mark Fisher*, classic rock. Saturday, *the Aftermath*, Rolling Stones cover band. Sunday, 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., *Mike Marel*, pop rock.

**The Calypso Cafe,** 576 North Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-632-8252. Thursday, *Uplift*, reggae. Friday and Saturday, *Triple Shot*, blues. Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Adrienne Nims and Spirit Wind*, global jazz.

**'Canes,** 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780. Thursday, *Red Gun Radar*. Friday, *the Stepping Feet*, pop. Saturday, live

music. Sunday, *the Pharcyde* and *Those Dang Robinsons*, hip-hop/soul/funk.

**Ché Café,** UCSD Campus, 9500 Gilman Drive, Student Center B-0323C, La Jolla. 858-534-2311. Thursday, *the Flood Covers the Earth*, *Comadre*, *the Secret Fun Club*, and *the 400 Blows*, rock.

**Clay's,** atop the Hotel La Jolla, 7955 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla. 858-459-0541. Friday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Latin jazz. Saturday and Wednesday, live jazz/funk.

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served with Micros and Teardrop Tomatoes

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Soup or Salad

Fresh Mixed Greens

With an Asian Balsamic Vinaigrette

Caprice Salad

With Tomatoes, Mozzarella and Balsamic Vinaigrette

Miso Soup

Entrees

10oz. Filet

Served on Potato Cake with a Chanterelle  
Mushroom Shiraz Reduction

"Surf & Turf" Petite Filet

With a Chanterelle Mushroom Shiraz Reduction  
and Lobster Tail served with Drawn Herbed Butter

Chicken Katsu Bleu

Served with a Sautéed Medley of Vegetables and  
Sun-Dried Tomato Cream on Sticky Rice Risotto

Pan Sautéed Herb Crusted Salmon

With a Lemon Grass and Caper "Buerre Blanc" on a  
Bed of Poached Bok Choy

Dessert

Chocolate Lava Cake

With Green Tea Ice Cream

Creme Brulee Martini

With Amaretto Bananas

Ricotta Cheesecake

With Chocolate and Caramel Sauces

4 Course Dinner • \$100 per person (Tix are pre-sale)  
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# NME 2007

DECEMBER 31ST, 2006

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Thursday • December 28  
**MYRON &  
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Fridays  
**KARAOKE**

Saturday, December 30  
**VISION**

Sundays  
**KARAOKE**

Thursday, January 4  
**TBA**

Saturday, January 6  
**SIDE JOBZ**

Saturday, January 13  
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# Calendar

## CLUBS

### BEACHES

(continued)  
**Cody's La Jolla**, 8030 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-459-0040. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Roy Resnikoff, light classical piano/show tunes. Friday and Wednesday, 7 p.m., Dick Koenig, jazz guitar. Saturday, 7 p.m., Stefani Stevens, jazz piano. Sunday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Joe Cardillo, acoustic jazz-rock.

**Dreamstreet**, 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-8131. Thursday, live hip-hop. Friday, DBD, Flo, Stone, Young Black, Fos, Opoetic, Guillat, and Audrey Surface, hip-hop. Saturday, the American Hitmen and Decompression, alternative rock.

**E Street Cafe**, 128 E Street, Encinitas. 760-230-2038. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Matt Duane Griffin. Friday, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Rick Kaupp, 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Frank Leong.

**Hennessey's Tavern (PB)**, 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach. 858-483-8847. Friday, live music. Saturday, I-Sao-7, reggae/hip-hop/old skool.

**The Kraken**, 2531 Old Highway 101, Cardiff. 760-436-6483. Friday, West of 5, classic rock. Saturday, Custard Pie, classic rock. Sunday, blues jam with the Blues Brokers.

**La Valencia Hotel**, 1132 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-454-0771. Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., Barry Levich, jazz. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday, Rick Ross, jazz.

**The Lodge at Torrey Pines**, 11480 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla. 619-453-4420. Lobby: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Dan Papaila, solo jazz guitar.

Grill: Friday and Saturday,

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Mike Nelson, solo jazz guitar.

**Manhattan Restaurant**, 7766 Fay Avenue, La Jolla. 858-459-0700. Friday and Saturday, the Joe Marillo Jazz Trio.

**Pasquale on Prospect**, 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-456-0722. Thursday, Gil Barron, Mark Fulton, James East, and PTRak Armenta, acoustic pop/rock/Latin/soul. Friday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Jazz 101 Band featuring Nick Fiore, John Guilino, Dave Scott, and the Cynthia Hammond. Saturday, 8:30 p.m. Mario Oliveras and Latin Spice, Latin jazz.

**Portugalia**, 4839 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach. 619-222-7678. Tuesday, 9 p.m., Trece de la Suerte, salsa/Latin.

**Riley's**, 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-255-8635. Sunday, 5 p.m., Big Slim, blues jam.

**710 Beach Club**, 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-7844. Thursday, Those Dang Robinsons and Justin James and the Sons of Beaches. Friday, Mikey Dread, the Stone Senses, and Rising Son, roots/reggae. Saturday, First-Class Fiction and JD Romance, indie/pop/punk.

**Shooters Bar and Grill**, Radisson Hotel, 3299 Holiday Court, La Jolla. 858-453-5500. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., John Cain, jazz/pop/Latin/standards.

**Tapenade Restaurant**, 7612 Fay Avenue, La Jolla. 858-551-7500. Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., the Forecast Jazz Duo.

**Tiki House**, 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734. Friday, the Boogiemen, R&B. Saturday and Sunday, live bands.

**Tower Two Beach Cafe**, 5083 Santa Monica Avenue, Ocean Beach. 619-223-4059. Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., live acoustic/folk music.

**Winstons**, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-6822. Thursday, 9 p.m., Shoestring Strap and Married by Elvis, bluegrass/rockabilly. Friday, the Electric Waste Band, classic

rock. Saturday, 8 p.m., the Big Provider, High Tide, Burnt, and the Wagon, reggae/ska/soul/punk/hip-hop. Sunday, Alfred Howard and the K23 Orchestra, jazz fusion/hip-hop/rock/Latin.

### Downtown

**Blarney Stone Pub**, 502 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-8519. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday, Steve Brewer, acoustic.

**Busalacchi's Ristorante**, 3683 Fifth Avenue, San Diego. 619-298-0119. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., the New Standard Jazz Trio, straight-ahead jazz. Sunday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Cynthia Hammond, jazz.

**The Casbah**, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619-232-HELL. Music is rock/alternative unless otherwise noted. Thursday, the Golden Hill Ramblers and the Palominos. Friday, the Sweet and Tender Hooligans. Saturday, Dynamite Walls, Yovee, and Swandive. Sunday, Cash'd Out, Johnny Cash tribute; Bartender's Bible, rock; and the Dukes of Haggard, country.

**Croce's Jazz Bar**, 802 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-4355. All music is jazz unless otherwise noted. Thursday, David Patrone. Friday, Yavez. Saturday, Primo. Sunday, Shep Meyers and Yavez. Tuesday, the Shep Meyers Quartet. Wednesday, the Jorge Camberos Quintet.

**Dakota Grill and Spirits**, 901 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-234-5554. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., also, Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., Jimmy Lavello, pop piano.

**Dick's Last Resort**, 345 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-231-9100. Music is rock and roll. Thursday and Friday, Private Domain. Saturday, Blue Rokit. Sunday, Straight Six, rock. Tuesday, Flock of 80's. Wednesday, the Ghost of Sada.

**Dizzy's**, 344 Seventh Avenue, downtown. 858-270-7467. Friday, 8 p.m., Gary LeFebvre, Tripp Sprague, Dick McGuane, Brian Levy, and Tom Catanzaro, saxophone. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., the Clayton Hamilton

Orchestra. Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Dave Millard, Jamie, Clark Stacer, and Frank Drennen, acoustic/folk.

**Dublin Square**, 554 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-239-5818. Saturday and Sunday, the Whooligans, Irish music.

**4th & B**, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343.



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Sat., January 20 • \$10  
 The Rock for Africa Benefit Concert

**This Holiday Life  
 Thieves and Liars  
 Worldwide Spies  
 Regarding Jack  
 Kim Garrison**

Sun., January 21 • \$11/\$13  
**Daphne Loves Derby  
 Mia & Dia  
 Ronnie Day  
 House Of Fools  
 Long Live Logos**

Thurs., January 25 • \$12/\$14  
 HOB presents  
**Moving Units**

Sat., February 24 • \$10/\$12  
 HOB presents  
**Matt Wertz  
 Stephen Kellogg**

Fri., March 2 • \$12  
 The Casbah presents  
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A vertical advertisement for Pacific Beach Bar & Grill's New Year's Party. The top half features a champagne bottle with a popping cork and a shower of colorful confetti and streamers. The text 'New Year's Party' is written in a large, glowing, multi-colored font. Below this, the date 'Sunday, December 31st' is listed, along with details about the happy hour, champagne, party favors, special guest DJs, dance floors, and a champagne toast with five balloon drops at midnight. Ticket information is provided on the left side. The Pacific Beach Bar & Grill logo is in the center. The bottom half of the ad has a blue and purple background with the text '1/2 Price Thursdays' in large white letters, followed by '1/2 Price Drinks & Appetizers after 8pm' and 'No Cover with valid College ID'. A yellow circle with a crossed-out '91X' is also present. A message wishes customers a safe and happy new year. The address and contact information are at the bottom.

**New Year's Party**

**Sunday, December 31st**

Tickets available now...  
\$25 pre-sale  
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Happy Hour 4pm-8pm  
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Special Guest Dj's / 2 Dance Floors  
Champagne Toast &  
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1/2 Price Drinks & Appetizers after 8pm  
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Wishing all of our customers a safe & Happy New Year!

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# Calendar CLUBS

## DOWNTOWN

(continued)

**Gaslamp Tavern**, 868 Fifth Avenue, San Diego. 619-239-3339. Tuesday, *Fishbait*, country. Wednesday, *Mark Fisher*, classic rock.

**Henry's Pub**, 618 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-238-2389. Thursday, *the Brat Pack*. Friday, *Good Times*. Saturday, call club for information. Tuesday, *the Stiletto*, rockabilly. Wednesday, *Lady Dottie and the Diamonds*, blues.

**Jimmy Love's**, 672 Fifth Avenue (corner of Fifth and G), downtown. 619-595-0123. Thursday and Sunday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Masterpiece*, jazz/R&B. Friday, 9:45 p.m., *Pop Rocks*, 80s dance. Saturday, *Diva Soul*, disco/Top 40.

**The Laurel Restaurant and Bar**, 505 Laurel Street (corner of Fifth and Laurel), downtown. 619-239-2222. Sunday, 8:30 p.m., *the Speak Easy Quartet*, '40s traditional jazz.

**Martini Ranch**, 528 F Street, downtown. 619-235-6100.

**Patrick's II**, 428 F Street, downtown. 619-233-3077. Music is blues/soul unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *the Texas Twisters*. Friday, *Len Rainey and the Midnight Players*, blues. Saturday, *the Bill Magee Blues Band*. Sunday and Monday, *Danny Sanchez and the Kings of Pleasure*. Tuesday, *Blue Largo*, jazz/blues. Wednesday, *Shelle Blue*.

**Princess Pub and Grille**, 1665 India Street, Little Italy/downtown. 619-702-3021. Saturday, *J.D. Boucharde*, piano.

**Rock Bottom**, 401 G Street, Gaslamp. 619-231-7000. Live pop/rock/disco/dance.

**Sally's Seafood on the Water**, at Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego, One Market Place, downtown. 619-232-1234. Sunday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., *the Tokeli Jazz Quintet*.

**Samba Grill**, 514 Horton Plaza, Gaslamp. 619-236-1000. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Edo Brazil*, Brazilian jazz.

**Seaport Village**, 849 West Harbor Drive, downtown. Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., *Jackstraw's Electric Dickens*, holiday hits.

**Sevilla**, 555 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-5979. Club Salsa: Thursday, *Primo*, Latin jazz/salsa.

**The Shout House**, 655 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-231-6700. Rock and roll sing-along dueling pianos.

**The Westgate Hotel**, 1055 Second Avenue, downtown. 619-238-1818. The Plaza Bar: All music is piano. Thursday and Friday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., *Peter Prince of Piano*, pop/jazz/standards, 7 p.m. to midnight, *Fran Loskota*, pop/jazz/standards. Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Karen Giorgio*, pop/standards/Broadway. Monday through Wednesday, *Peter Prince of Piano*.

**Whiskey Girl**, 600 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-236-1616. Thursday, *DaGroove*, rock hits, and *DJ Marc Thrasher*. Friday, *DJ Marc Thrasher*. Saturday, *DJ Marc Thrasher* and *DJ Famous Dave*. Sunday, *DJ Danimal*. Tuesday, *DJ Famous Dave*. Wednesday, *the Stepping Feet*, a Dave Matthews Band tribute, pop/rock, and *DJ Famous Dave*.

## San Diego

**The Aero Club**, 3365 India Street, San Diego. 619-297-7211.

**Albie's Beef Inn**, 1201 Hotel Circle South, San Diego. 619-291-1103. Piano bar, call club for information.

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Saturday, December 30  
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Thursday, January 4  
**"COUNTRY BRUTAL TECHNOFOLK"**  
with **ZEDENEK & SEMTEX**  
Czech/Slovak Mega Party

Friday, January 5  
**OVALS OF CASSINI WAHBAH**

Saturday, January 6  
**INSTINCT OF AGGRESSION AUDKIK • ONE THEORY**

Wednesday, January 10  
**STATIC FOR ZEN**

Thursday, January 11  
**"BENEFIT FOR ALBERT PONCE"**

Friday, January 12  
**MOMMY'S LITTLE MONSTER**  
(Social Distortion tribute)  
**DUKES OF HAGGARD THE WHISKEY DICKS**

Sunday, January 14  
**"REZUREX FIENFORCE TOUR"**  
Featuring members of Tiger Army & Nekromantix  
**BLITZKID** (Virginia)  
**THE OTHER** (Germany)  
**LOS KRANEOS** (Mexicali, Mexico)

Wednesday, January 17  
**THE DIRTY DIAMOND**

Thursday, January 18  
**UNSET INVITRO**  
Featuring Mikey Doling of Snot/Soufly  
**REIGNITION**  
Featuring ex-members of Skinlab  
**UNDER THE STONE INDORPHINE**

Friday, January 19  
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Brick By Brick Cheatahs • C Lounge • Heat • Kickers • Rookies • Brass Rail • Margarita Rocks Society Billiards Pure Platinum • Sandbar • Jose's • Tens • RT's Longboard Bar • Dream Street • Typhoon Saloon  
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Sunday-Friday

**Blarney Stone Pub**, 5617 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont. 858-279-2033. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, *Chris and Harold*, Irish folk. Monday, *Pat and Joe* and *Allison Gill*, folk. Tuesday, Irish jam session.

**Brick by Brick**, 1130 Buena Vista Avenue, Bay Park. 619-275-LIVE. Thursday, *the Band of Good Men* and *Muzzle*, rock. Friday, *the Adopted Prophets* and *Dumb Co.*, jam band/hip-hop. Saturday, *the Blue Shift*, *the Dirty Angels*, *the Big Dame Hunters*, and *Just Like Jenna*.

**Etta's Place**, 6179 University Avenue (at College and University). 619-582-6730. Live rock/swing.

**The Gordon Biersch Brewery**, 5010 Mission Center Road, San Diego. 619-688-1120. Friday, live reggae/blues/rock.

**Hot Monkey Love Cafe**, 6875 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego. 619-469-4113. Thursday, jazz. Friday and Saturday, live bands. Sunday, salsa. Wednesday, jazz.

**Humphrey's**, Half Moon Inn, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-224-3577. Backstage Lounge: Thursday, 9:30 p.m., *the Eve Selis Band*, roadhouse rock. Friday, 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., *the Steely Damned*, jazz rock. Saturday, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., *Criminal Funk*, '80s dance. Sunday, call club for information. Tuesday, *4-Way Street*, acoustic jazz. Wednesday, *Fattburger*, smooth jazz.

**In Cahoots**, 5373 Mission Center Road, Mission Valley. 619-291-8635.

**The Kensington Club**, 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington. 619-284-2848. Sunday, *the Creepy Creeps* and *Monsters from Mars*, garage rock/punk.

**Lestat's Coffee House**, 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-282-0437. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Brett Bixby*, *Danny Sandock*, and *Megan Connelly*. Friday, *Carlos Olmeda*, *Martin Storrow*, and *Supermice*. Saturday, *A.J. Croce* and *Gayle Skidmore and the Eskimos*.

**Lucky Star Nightclub and Ballroom**, 3893 54th Street, San Diego. 619-229-8228. Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Victoria Rose Trio*, vintage jazz/swing/rock.

**Martini's Bar and Grill**, 3940 Fourth Avenue, San Diego. 619-293-0232. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Vintage Vegas*, jazz.

**O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub**, 1310 Morena Boulevard, Bay Park. 619-276-5637. Friday and Saturday, live rock. Sunday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *the Cory Wilkins Band*, *the Jimmy Ruelas Band*, *Aura*, and *the Titans of Rock 'n' Roll*.

**The Ould Sod**, 3373 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-6594. Friday, *Gene Warren*, Irish folk. Tuesday, traditional Irish jam session.

**Pal Joey's**, 5147 Waring Road, Allied Gardens. 619-286-7873. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock.

**Red Fox Steakhouse**, 2228 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-297-1313. Thursday through

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**Party Only**

**\$45** pp (advance) | **\$55** pp (day of)

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Midnight celebration complete with hats, noisemakers, a complimentary champagne toast, MC Valerie and our New Year countdown including our big-screen TV ball drop. After a great night of celebrating, we complete our evening with a late-night Cuban buffet. No one goes home hungry!

**Tickets available through:**

Valerie & David: 619-516-4466 | [salsasd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salsasd@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.SalsaCA.com](http://www.SalsaCA.com) | Habana Restaurant: 619-713-2011

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# Calendar CLUBS

## SAN DIEGO

(continued)

Sunday, and Wednesday, *Eddie Rossi* and *Joe Soprano*, piano.

**Rosie O'Grady's**, 3402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-7666. Friday and Saturday, live rock.

**San Diego Sports Club**, 1271 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-299-7372. Saturday, 9 p.m., *a Beautiful Noise* and *Lonely Mattress Salesman*, alternative rock.

**Scolari's Office**, 3936 30th Street, San Diego. 619-296-3546. Live rock/alternative.

**Second Wind**, 8515 Navajo Road, San Carlos. 619-465-1730. Friday and Saturday, *Stone Wolf*, classic rock.

**Sham Rocks Shack**, 7059 El Cajon Boulevard (half block east of 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-2263. Friday and Saturday, live bands.

**Sogno Di Vino**, 1607 India Street, San Diego. 619-531-8887. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Tom Boyer*, solo jazz/Latin guitar.

**Soma**, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-SOMA. Sunday, 5:45 p.m., *Haste the Day*, *He Is Legend*, *Suicide Silence*, *As Blood Runs Black*, *Lower Definition*, *Carol Ann*, *Destroy the Runner*, *Dog + Pony Show*, *End of Eden*, *Sever Your Ties*, and *Pallida Mors*.

**Tio Leo's**, 10787 Camino Ruiz, Mira Mesa. 858-695-1461.

**Tio Leo's Lounge**, 5302 Napa Street (at Morena Boulevard), Bay Park. 619-542-1462. Friday and Saturday, live bands. Tuesday, zydeco blues. Wednesday, 7 p.m., *the High Society Jazz Band*.

**The Tower Bar**, 4757 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-284-0158. Saturday, *Mr. Tube* and *the Flying Objects*, rock.

**Tutto Mare**, 4365 Executive Drive, La Jolla (Golden Triangle area). 858-597-1188. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Jaime Valle*, and guests.

**Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company**, 4590 Park Boulevard, University Heights. 619-296-0616. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 8 p.m., *Quebb*, *Tim Pahlen*, *the Farewell Airlines*, and *Erik James Polyn*. Friday, *Megan Connelly*, *Michael Robert Cook*, *Rob Grad*, *Chris Torres*, and *Renata Youngblood*. Saturday, *Manisha Shahane*, *Kyle Phelan*, *Steve Ybarra*, and *Ernie Halter*. Sunday, 4 p.m., *the Celtic Ensemble*. Wednesday, open mike.

**Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant**, 3025 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-282-7040. Thursday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., *the Paul Ingram Trio*, jazz. Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Peggy Lloyd*, jazz.

## North County

**The Alley**, 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-434-1173. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, *the Love Rangers*, Top 40/pop.

**Belly Up Tavern**, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022. Thursday, 9 p.m., *Particle* and *the Chicago Afrobeat Project*. Friday, 9 p.m., *the B-Side Players* and *Delta Nove*, Latin jazz. Saturday, 9 p.m., *Blackalicious* and *Pigeon John*, hip-hop. Sunday, *Steve Poltz* and *the Rugburns*, indie rock.

**Boar Cross'n**, 390 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-2989. Thursday, hip-hop. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock.

**The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe**, Flower Hill Mall, I-5 at Via de la Valle, Del Mar. 858-755-3735. Friday, *Blue Largo*, jazz/blues.

**Carvers**, 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-566-2400. Friday and Saturday, *Night Shift*, classic rock. Sunday, *the Ideas*, classic rock.

**Cheers**, 2475 Main Street, Ramona. 760-789-0270. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock/country. Tuesday,



## >hometown CDs

BY OLLIE

**Album:** *My Name Is Legion for We Are Many* (2006)

**Artist:** Nik Angello

**Label:** Widows Peek Entertainment

**Where available/price:** Tower Records for \$14.99. Online at iTunes (\$9.99), Napster (\$11.95), Yahoo Music (\$10.57), MSN Music, Rhapsody Online, Sony Connect (\$9.99), and PassAlong.com (\$9.99)

**Songs:** 1) Intro 2) Dizzy Wonderland 3) Bring It Down 4) Lost in the Shuffle 5) The Sun Never Sets 6) The Army of Hot 7) Make Way 8) Tennessee Wiggle 9) Rinickulous, 10) Crazy Lyka Fox 11) The Garden of Innocence 12) New Wave World 13) Bonus Track: Make Way Slo Mo

**Band:** Nik Angello (MC, keyboard), Main Flow (MC), Sarah Teraz (vocals), Jim Kahler (vocals), Emily Tessmer (vocals)

**Website:** [www.widowspeek.com](http://www.widowspeek.com)

This is the worst album (hip-hop or otherwise) to which I've had the displeasure of listening. Angello's keyboard work

on the backup music isn't bad, but "not bad" is as good as this album gets.

Nik hits all of the clichés. In a nearly decades-old trend,

Nik calls out area codes and neighborhoods: 858, La Jolla, Gaslamp. Super. (Thanks for letting us know where you "roll," Nik.) Oh, "The Nizzy Dizzy" would also like to let you know what his "army of girls" is doing. (Really, Nik? How does one acquire an army of girls at the dewy age of 19?)

When Nik isn't boasting of his night-prowling skills, he's stringing together childishly simple raps, rhyming "her" with "sure" and "cure" in a "cat sat on a mat" style.

The laughable lyrics are not the worst part. The worst part is Nik's voice. In a transparent attempt to mimic Eminem, Nik keeps his voice high-pitched but attempts Eminem's gravelly effect. His voice on some tracks comes



Nik Angello

in around Weird Al at its best. At its worst, Nik's voice is reminiscent of Alvin, Simon, and Theodore.

## 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

5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Mike Gardner*, acoustic rock/folk.

**Coyote Bar and Grill**, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *the Backwater Blues Band*. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Jeff Moore* and *the Witchdoctors*, blues. Sunday, 6:30 p.m., *Hot Rod Lincoln*, rockabilly. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., *Billy Watson*, blues, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., *the Restless Natives*, rock/reggae. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Johnny "B" Blues*.

**Del Dios Bar and Grill**, 20154 Lake Drive, Escondido. 760-489-4800. Friday, *the Sons of Bordertown*, rock/blues/folk. Saturday, *Peter Sprague*, jazz.

**Game Time Tavern**, 12735 Poway Road, Poway. 858-748-0015. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, *gone9*, classic rock.

**Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad)**, 2777 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad. 760-729-6951. Friday and Saturday, live rock.

**The Hot Java Cafe**, 11738 Carmel Mountain Road, Suite 182, Carmel Mountain. 858-673-7111. Sunday, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., *Maybe Tonight*, rock, *Hotrod Harris*, rockabilly, *Brenda Panneton*, folk, and *Rod Grad*, alternative/rock.

**The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe**, 5951 Linea del Cielo, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-756-1131. Thursday, Tuesday, and

Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *Jerry Melnick*, jazz/variety piano.

**The Jumping Turtle**, 1660 Capalina Road, San Marcos. 760-471-7778. Music is rock/metal/alternative unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 7:30 p.m., *Fractured Halo*, *Triumph*, *Pieces of Teeth*, and *the Wages of War*. Friday, 7:30 p.m., *a Global Threat*, *the Career Soldiers*, and *Mouth Sewn Shut*. Saturday, 7 p.m., *Pushed*, *Nihilist*, *Stone Vengeance*, and *Damcyan*. Sunday, call club for information. Wednesday, *a Switchblade Affair*, *Rip-Off Johnny*, and *the Hand of Eris*.

**Mas Fina Cantina**, 2780 State Street, Carlsbad. 760-434-3497. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Mike Gardner*, acoustic rock/folk.

**Molly Malone's**, 1270 Main Street, Ramona. 760-789-9050. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m., live rock/blues.

**North Bar Sports and Spirits**, 200 West El Norte Parkway, Escondido. 760-480-8228. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Mike Gardner*, acoustic rock/folk.

**Ocean House**, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4131. Friday, 9 p.m., *Undecided*, rock. Saturday, rock music. Sunday, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. New Year's Eve party.

**Rancho Bernardo Inn**, 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-675-8500. El Bizcocho Restaurant: Friday, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and Saturday, 6 p.m. to

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Saturday, Dec. 30  
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7 pm • Jazz Trumpet  
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Tickets for "Upcoming Shows" available at Ticketmaster and Humphrey's. Reserved seating for "Upcoming Shows" available with dinner. All shows are 21 years and up.

11 p.m., *Jerry Melnick and Tom Bishop*, jazz/variety.

**Surf N' Saddle**, 123 West Plaza Street (Lomas Santa Fe and Highway 101), Solana Beach. 858-755-9474. Friday, *Melisa and the Monkey Bites*, alternative. Saturday, live rock. Wednesday, open mike.

**Tom Giblin's Irish Pub and Restaurant**, 640 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-7234. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Adrienne Nims and Raggle Taggle*, Irish dance cabaret.

**South Bay/Coronado**

**Buon Giorno Restaurant**, 4110 Bonita Road, Bonita. 619-475-2660. Saturday, *Stage 4*, jazz.

**The Butcher Shop**, 556 Broadway, Chula Vista. 619-420-9440. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, 8 p.m., *Ray Correa*, standards/pop/Latin.

**Cafe LaMaze**, 1441 Highland Avenue, National City. 619-474-3222. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Sandy Chappel and Sammy Canonizado*, jazz/blues. Sunday, 8:30 p.m., *Burnett Anderson, Robert Sebastian, and Scott Wallingford*, jazz.

**Hotel del Coronado**, 1550 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-6611. Babcock and Story: Thursday through 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Tony Lasley*, Latin jazz. Friday, 8:30 p.m., *Barbara Jamerson and Joe Tarantino*, jazz. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., *Stellita and Dave Lindgren*. Tuesday and Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Jim Gibson*.

Palm Court: Thursday through Sunday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Ray Briz*. Also, Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., *Joey West*.

Crown Room: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., *John Cain*.

**Island Sports and Spirits**, 104 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-3456. Friday, *Ron's Garage*, classic rock. Saturday, *RockKandy*, rock.

**McP's Irish Pub and Grill**, 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-5280. Thursday, *4-Way Street*, classic rock. Friday, *the Offbeats*, rock.

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SUNDAY 12/31  
**New Year's Eve Hip-Hop Party**  
DJs & Live Music  
Midnight Champagne Toast

<p>THURSDAY 12/28 <b>TONIGHT</b> Live Hip-Hop</p> <p>FRIDAY 12/29 DBD presents <b>DBD</b> <b>FOS with Opoetic</b> <b>Guilla T</b> <b>SP • Audrey Surface</b></p> <p>SATURDAY 12/30 <b>Military Appreciation Night</b> <b>Decompression</b> <b>Universal Medicine</b> <b>American Hitmen</b> <b>Hector's Revenge</b> \$2 Bud/Bud Lites 10 pm-midnight</p>	<p>TUESDAY 1/2 <b>Sunspot • The Third</b></p> <p>WEDNESDAY 1/3 Live Music <b>Hand Guns &amp; Heroin</b> <b>Thrill Killers</b> <b>Sintas</b></p> <p>THURSDAY 1/4 Live Hip-Hop <b>DJ Boogie Down</b> <b>Michael Collins</b></p> <p>FRIDAY 1/5 Bandminuslabel.com presents <b>Ten 13 Concept</b> <b>Calabria</b> <b>Elephant Army</b></p>
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FRI. JAN 19  
*the fall of Troy*  
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DAMIERA  
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SAT. JAN 20  
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REHAB - A CHANGE OF PACE  
CRAZY ANGLES

FRI. FEB 16  
**Terror**  
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ALL SHALL PERISH  
STICK TO YOUR GUNS  
WAR OF AGES

SAT. MAR 24  
**ANTI-FLAG**  
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SET YOUR GOALS

WED. MAR 28  
**gymclassheroes**  
**RX BANDITS**  
P.O.S ☆ K.O.S

SAT. MAR 31  
**switchfoot**  
COPELAND

**The Jumping Turtle**

"North County's True Music House"

<p><b>THURSDAY 12-28</b> All ages until 10 pm BGO Events Promotions presents <b>FRACTURED HALO</b> <b>TRIUMPH</b> <b>PIECES OF TEETH</b> <b>WAGES OF WAR</b></p>	<p><b>FRIDAY 12-29</b> All ages until 10 pm Chain Gang Promotions presents <b>A GLOBAL THREAT</b> <b>CAREER SOLDIERS</b> <b>MOUTH SEWN SHUT</b></p>	<p><b>SATURDAY 12-30</b> All ages until 10 pm K and Joe Troutman present PRE-NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH!!! <b>PUSHED</b> (featuring Jon Dette, formerly of Slayer) <b>NIHILIST STONE VENGEANCE DAMCYAN</b></p>	<p><b>SUNDAY 12-31</b> Graverot Productions presents <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH</b> Champagne toast at midnight, party favors, and live music featuring: <b>CHILDREN OF THE GRAVE</b> (Black Sabbath tribute)</p>
<b>WEDNESDAY 1-3</b> All ages until 10 pm • K Presents <b>RIP-OFF JOHNNY</b> <b>A SWITCHBLADE AFFAIR</b> <b>THE HAND OF ERIS</b>			

**UPCOMING SHOWS** (See our website for more info):

<p><b>THURSDAY 1-4</b> All ages until 10 pm MLP presents <b>KNIFEMILL</b> <b>DISINTEGRATOR</b></p>	<p><b>FRIDAY 1-5</b> All ages until 10 pm K Presents <b>UNSET</b> <b>SILENT CIVILIAN</b> (featuring ex-singer of Spineshank) <b>AUDKIK</b> <b>SHADOWCIDE</b></p>	<p><b>SATURDAY 1-6</b> All ages until 10 pm K and Joe Troutman present <b>TEN 13 CONCEPT</b></p>	<p><b>WEDNESDAY 1-10</b> All ages until 10 pm BGO Events Promotions presents <b>LION'S PAW</b> <b>KINGSLAND</b> <b>IRIE I</b> <b>FIGHTING CHANCE</b></p>
--	--	--	--

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# Calendar CLUBS

## SOUTH BAY/ CORONADO

(continued)

Saturday, *Northstar*, classic rock.  
Sunday, *the Stiletto's*, rockabilly.

## East County

**Dirk's Niteclub**, 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove. 619-469-6344. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, *Full Xposure*, classic rock.

**Don's Cocktail Lounge**, 13321 Business Highway 8, El Cajon. 619-443-2444. Friday and Saturday, *the Little Efert Band*, classic rock.

**Fannie's Nightclub**, 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley. 619-698-2204. Friday, *Hung Over Tomorrow*, *the Yucks*, *the Lugers*, *Dreaded Solution*, and *Tim Raldo*, punk rock. Saturday, *One Thread* and *the Crust*, rock. Sunday, *Submission* and *Young Ballaz*, hip-hop.

**Renegade Inn**, 14335 Old Highway 80 (half mile east from Lake Jennings turnoff), Flynn Springs. 619-561-8105. Friday and Saturday, *Southbound Johnny*, country.

**Second Wind**, 8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-596-8350. Friday and Saturday, *Serious Guise*, classic rock.

**Tommy's Italian Restaurant**, 1190 North Second Street, El Cajon. 619-440-2676. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Franco Z and Friends*, swing/standards.

**Wagon Wheel**, 8861 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-448-8550. Live country music.

# Calendar BANDS

## ALTERNATIVE

**The Adopted Prophets**: Brick By Brick

**The American Hitmen**: Dreamstreet

**As Blood Runs Black**: Soma

**Bartender's Bible**: The Casbah

**A Beautiful Noise**: San Diego Sports Club

**The Big Dame Hunters**: Brick By Brick

**The Career Soldiers**: The Jumping Turtle

**Carol Ann**: Soma

**Comadre**: Ché Café

**The Creepy Creeps**: The Kensington Club

**Damcyan**: The Jumping Turtle

**Decompression**: Dreamstreet

**Destroy the Runner**: Soma

**The Dirty Angels**: Brick By Brick

**The Dog + Pony Show**: Soma

**Dreaded Solution**: Fannie's Nightclub

**Dynamite Walls**: The Casbah

**End of Eden**: Soma

**First Class Fiction**: 710 Beach Club



*Soul Asylum, December 30, House of Blues*

**The Flood Covers the Earth**: Ché Café

**The 400 Blows**: Ché Café

**Fractured Halo**: The Jumping Turtle

**A Global Threat**: The Jumping Turtle

**Rob Grad**: The Hot Java Cafe, Twigg's Tea and Coffee Company

**The Hand of Eris**: The Jumping Turtle

**Haste the Day**: Soma



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**FRI SOUL SAUCE** - Ingredients by DJ Charlie Rock of Dojo Sessions/Rock Steady Crew, DJ Jaba One of Home Grown Blends and a special set by DJ Dope Shoes. Hip-hop, rare grooves, and neo soul vibes. [www.myspace.com/djcharlierockrsc](http://www.myspace.com/djcharlierockrsc)

**SAT ROBODISCO** presents DJs Jason Tokita and Victor Salgado of InJoy Presents spinning sexy, soulful house music all night long, still goin' strong. [www.myspace.com/Siestarecords](http://www.myspace.com/Siestarecords)

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**WED SUBWAY SERIES** featuring DJs Professor CC, Evan Marsh, Big Dave, Roc P. and special guest DJs, MCs, spoken word & freestyle sessions weekly spinning underground hip-hop, urban jazz, reggae and live P.A. [www.myspace.com/ProfessorCC](http://www.myspace.com/ProfessorCC) \$3 cover charge

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**Friday, December 29**  
**Len Rainey & The Midnight Players**  
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**Saturday, December 30**  
**Bill Magee Blues**  
"The Legend Continues..."

**Sunday, December 31**  
**New Year's Eve Bash**  
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MARK  
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Times Square ball drop, champagne toast, party favors, and 2 rooms of dancing.  
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## Calendar

### BANDS

#### ALTERNATIVE

(continued)

**He Is Legend:** Soma

**The Honkies:** Bar Leucadian

**Hung Over Tomorrow:** Fannie's Nightclub

**JD Romance:** 710 Beach Club

**Just Like Jenna:** Brick By Brick

**Lonely Mattress Salesman:** San Diego Sports Club

**Lower Definition:** Soma

**The Lugers:** Fannie's Nightclub

**Meliesa and the Monkey Bites:** Surf N' Saddle

**Monsters from Mars:** The Kensington Club

**Mouth Sewn Shut:** The Jumping Turtle

**Nihilist:** The Jumping Turtle

**Padilla Mors:** Soma

**The Palominos:** The Casbah

**Particle:** Belly Up Tavern

**Pieces of Teeth:** The Jumping Turtle

**Steve Poltz and the Rugburns:** Belly Up Tavern

**Pushed:** The Jumping Turtle

**Tim Raldo:** Fannie's Nightclub

**Red Gun Radar:** 'Canes

**The Secret Fun Club:** Ché Café

**Sever Your Ties:** Soma

**Stone Vengeance:** The Jumping Turtle

**Suicide Silence:** Soma

**Swandive:** The Casbah

**A Switchblade Affair:** The Jumping Turtle

**Triumph:** The Jumping Turtle

**The Wages of War:** The Jumping Turtle

**Yovee:** The Casbah

**The Yucks:** Fannie's Nightclub

#### ROCK

**The Aftermath:** Beaumont's

**Aura:** O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

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**Package #1: \$75** prepaid  
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## Online Club Coupons!

The following nightclubs have valuable coupons in the Music Section of the Reader's website. ☉ indicates North County.

The Aero Club **Free WiFi**

Brick By Brick **2 for 1 admission**

CA Express VIP Card **Free card**

Club Montage **2 for 1 cover**

Comedy Co-op **Free tickets**

In Cahoots **2 for 1 cover**

Lucky 7 Match **\$5 off speed dating**

Martini Ranch **Free appetizers**

Patricks II **2 for 1 cover**

Second Wind Navajo **No cover**

710 Beach Club **2 for 1 cover**

Tio Leo's Lounge **\$1 off club admission**

SanDiegoReader.com



**ROCK BOTTOM**



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Kitchen will be serving from late night menu until 11pm

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**\*MUST HAVE TICKETS IN ORDER TO GAIN ADMISSION\***

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**Day of (Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>):** \$35 per person before 9pm



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# Calendar BANDS

## ROCK

(continued)

**The Band of Good Men:** Brick By Brick

**The Blue Shift:** Brick By Brick

**The Brat Pack:** Henry's Pub

**Criminal Funk:** Humphrey's

**The Crust:** Fannie's Nightclub

**Custard Pie:** The Kraken

**The Electric Waste Band:** Winstons

**Mark Fisher:** Beaumont's, Gaslamp Tavern

**Flock of 80's:** Dick's Last Resort

**4-Way Street:** McP's Irish Pub and Grill, Humphrey's

**Full Xposure:** Dirk's Niteclub

**The Golden Hill Ramblers:** The Casbah

**Hotrod Harris:** The Hot Java Cafe

**The Ideas:** Carvers

**The Little Efert Band:** Don's Cocktail Lounge, Pal Joey's

**Maybe Tonite:** The Hot Java Cafe

**Mr. Tube and the Flying Objects:** Tower Bar

**Muzzle:** Brick By Brick

**Night Shift:** Carvers

**Northstar:** McP's Irish Pub and Grill

**The Offbeats:** McP's Irish Pub and Grill

**One Thread:** Fannie's Nightclub

**Pop Rocks:** Jimmy Love's

**Private Domain:** Dick's Last Resort

**The Restless Natives:** Coyote Bar and Grill

**Rip-Off Johnny:** The Jumping Turtle

**RockKandy:** Island Sports and Spirits

**Ron's Garage:** Island Sports and Spirits

**The Eve Selis Band:** Humphrey's

**Serious Guise:** Second Wind (Santee)

**Gone9:** Game Time Tavern

**The Sons of Bordertown:** Del Dios Bar and Grill

**The Steely Damned:** Humphrey's

**The Stiletos:** Henry's Pub, McP's Irish Pub and Grill

**Stone Wolf:** Second Wind (San Carlos)

**Straight Six:** Dick's Last Resort

**The Sweet and Tender Hooligans:** The Casbah

**The Titans of Rock 'n' Roll:** O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

**Undecided:** Ocean House

**West of 5:** The Kraken

**The Cory Wilkins Band:** O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

## POP / TOP 40

**Ptrak Armenta:** Pasquale on Prospect

**Gil Barron:** Pasquale on Prospect

**Diva Soul:** Jimmy Love's

**James East:** Pasquale on Prospect

**Mark Fulton:** Pasquale on Prospect

**The Good Times:** Henry's Pub

**Jimmy Lavello:** Dakota Grill and Spirits

**The Love Rangers:** The Alley

**The Stepping Feet:** 'Canes, Whiskey Girl

## JAZZ / BIG BAND

**Burnett Anderson:** Cafe LaMaze

# as i hear it

BY BRIAN CARVER

## SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Artist: **The West Indies**

Song: "Sob Story" (From the CD *Contrary to Popular Belief*)

Heard by: **Tommy Demarco**, Del Mar



Tommy

The first thing that I related that [group] to was a hip-hop artist named Kenn Starr. The tempo of the beat [is] not too fast; you can hear exactly what these people are trying to say. It sounded like there was some good improvisation going on, some spontaneity. I think that song particularly would go well with not so much doing an activity, but reflecting on things. I think that's what hip-hop is: it's reflecting on what you've been through.

Artist: **Briegade**

Song: "Running Fast (As I Can)" (From the CD *Charge of the Light*)

Heard by: **Joseph Knece**, Imperial Beach



Joseph

They've got a classic rock sound to them that sounds pretty cool. Maybe like Boston or Kansas or something...one of those old bands. It sounded really clean, like it was well-rehearsed. Usually local bands don't really sound very coordinated and clean. It's not a great song, but it wasn't bad. I'd have to say I'd listen to it driving around in my car.

Artist: **The Heartaches**

Song: "King Kong's Party" (From the CD *Too Cool for School*)

Heard by: **Steve Haslem**, Golden Hill



Steve

[They sound like] maybe the Ramones a little bit. I sensed a little bit of that influence. It was pretty lo-fi. It kind of had a retro vibe to it, as far as the production. It's pretty derivative. It sounds more like a song you'd hear in a beer commercial. It's a song about partying, so I'd suppose [it would go well with] imbibing massive quantities of something.

**TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD HEARD, PLEASE MAIL IT TO:**

Music Editor, As I Hear It, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

**The B-Side Players:** Belly Up Tavern

**Tom Bishop:** Rancho Bernardo Inn

**Blue Largo:** The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe, Patrick's II

**Ray Briz:** Hotel del Coronado

**The Jorge Camberos Quintet:** Croce's Jazz Bar

**Sammy Canonizado:** Cafe LaMaze

**Tom Catanzaro:** Dizzy's

**Sandy Chappel:** Cafe LaMaze

**Delta Nove:** Belly Up Tavern

**Edo Brazil:** Samba Grill

**Fattburger:** Humphrey's

**Nick Fiore:** Pasquale on Prospect

**The Forecast Jazz Duo:** Tapenade Restaurant

**Franco Z and Friends:** Tommy's Italian Restaurant

**Karen Giorgio:** The Westgate Hotel

**John Guilino:** Pasquale on Prospect

**The Clayton Hamilton Orchestra:** Dizzy's

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**THE PALOMINOS**

FRIDAY • DECEMBER 29

**SWEET & TENDER HOOLIGANS**

**THE CURED**

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 30

**DYNAMITE WALLS**

**YOVEE • SWANDIVE**

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

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**DUKES OF HAGGARD**

THURSDAY • JANUARY 4

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**LOAM**

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FRIDAY • JANUARY 5

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**THE ROMAN SPRING**

SATURDAY • JANUARY 6

**TRANSFER**

**SWIM PARTY**

**MODERN RIFLES**

SUNDAY • JANUARY 7

**STEPHEN MALKMUS & THE JICKS**

MONDAY • JANUARY 8

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# DECO'S

## NEW YEAR'S EVE WEEKEND CELEBRATION

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"HOLIDAY BOWL AFTER PARTY"

**FRIDAY : DECEMBER : 29TH**

### FRIDAYS @ DECOS

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**SATURDAY : DECEMBER : 30TH**



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**Billy Blast**



**DJ Slyed**

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Friday December 29

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Saturday December 30

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Saturdays

Pre-NYE event

## Marques Wyatt

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Jeff Carroll

5 Djs Spinning until 4am

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Inaugural Black & White NYE

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# Calendar BANDS

## JAZZ / BIG BAND

(continued)

**Cynthia Hammond:** Busalacchi's Ristorante, Pasquale on Prospect

**The High Society Jazz Band:** Tio Leo's Lounge

**Alfred Howard and the K23 Orchestra:** Winstons

**The Paul Ingram Trio:** Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant

**Barbara Jamerson:** Hotel del Coronado

**The Jazz 101 Band:** Pasquale on Prospect

**Dick Koenig:** Cody's La Jolla

**Tony Lasley:** Hotel del Coronado

**Gary LeFebvre:** Dizzy's

**Barry Levich:** La Valencia Hotel

**Brian Levy:** Dizzy's

**Stellita and Dave Lindgren:** Hotel del Coronado

**Peggy Lloyd:** Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant

**Fran Loskota:** The Westgate Hotel

**The Joe Marillo Jazz Trio:** Manhattan Restaurant

**Masterpiece:** Jimmy Love's

**Dick McGuane:** Dizzy's

**Jerry Melnick:** The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, Rancho Bernardo Inn

**The Shep Meyers Quartet:** Croce's Jazz Bar

**Mike Nelson:** Sogno Di Vino, The Lodge at Torrey Pines

**The New Standard Jazz Trio:** Busalacchi's Ristorante

**Adrienne Nims and Spirit Wind:** The Calypso Cafe

**Mario Oliveras and Latin Spice:** Pasquale on Prospect

**Dan Papaila:** The Lodge at Torrey Pines

**Dave Patrone:** Croce's Jazz Bar

**Peter Prince of Piano:** The Westgate Hotel

**Primo:** Sevilla, Croce's Jazz Bar

**The Victoria Rose Trio:** Lucky Star Nightclub and Ballroom

**Rick Ross:** La Valencia Hotel

**Dave Scott:** Pasquale on Prospect

**Robert Sebastini:** Cafe LaMaze

**The Speak Easy Quartet:** The Laurel Restaurant and Bar

**Peter Sprague:** Del Dios Bar and Grill

**Tripp Sprague:** Dizzy's

**Stage 4:** Buon Giorno Restaurant

**Stefani Stevens:** Cody's La Jolla

**The Tokeli Jazz Quintet:** Sally's Seafood on the Water

**Trece de la Suerte:** Portugalia

**Jaime Valle:** Tutto Mare

**Vintage Vegas:** Martini's Bar and Grill

**Scott Wallingford:** Cafe LaMaze

**Yavez:** Croce's Jazz Bar

## REGGAE / SKA

**The Big Provider:** Winstons, 'Canes

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**High Tide:** Winstons

**Justin James and the Sons of Beaches:** 710 Beach Club

**Mikey Dread:** 710 Beach Club

**Rising Son:** 710 Beach Club

**The Stone Senses:** 710 Beach Club

**Uplift:** The Calypso Cafe

## COUNTRY

**Cash'd Out:** The Casbah

**The Dukes of Haggard:** The Casbah

**Fishbait:** Gaslamp Tavern

**Hot Rod Lincoln:** Coyote Bar and Grill

**Married by Elvis:** Winstons

**Shoestring Strap:** Winstons

**Southbound Johnny:** Renegade Inn

## ACOUSTIC / FOLK

**Brett Bixby:** Lestat's Coffee House

**J.D. Boucharde:** Princess Pub and Grille

**Steve Brewer:** Blarney Stone Pub

**Joe Cardillo:** Cody's La Jolla

**The Celtic Ensemble:** Twigg's Tea and Coffee Company

**Chris and Harold:** Blarney Stone Pub

**Megan Connelly:** Lestat's Coffee House, Twigg's Tea and Coffee Company

**Michael Robert Cook:** Twigg's Tea and Coffee Company

**A.J. Croce:** Lestat's Coffee House

**Frank Drennen:** Dizzy's

**The Fairwell Airlines:** Twigg's Tea and Coffee Company

**Mike Gardner:** Cheers, North Bar Sports and Spirits, Mas Fina Cantina

**Allison Gill:** Blarney Stone Pub

**Matt Duane Griffin:** E Street Cafe

**Ernie Halter:** Twigg's Tea and Coffee Company

**Jamie:** Dizzy's

**Rick Kaupp:** E Street Cafe

**Frank Leong:** E Street Cafe

**Manisha Shahane:** Twigg's Tea and Coffee Company

**Dave Millard:** Dizzy's

**Adrienne Nims and Raggle Taggle:** Tom Giblin's Irish Pub and Restaurant

**Carlos Olmeda:** Lestat's Coffee House

**Tim Pahlen:** Twigg's Tea and Coffee Company

**Brenda Panneton:** The Hot Java Cafe

**Pat and Joe:** Blarney Stone Pub

**Kyle Phelan:** Twigg's Tea and Coffee Company

**Eric James Polyn:** Twigg's Tea and Coffee Company

**Quebb:** Twigg's Tea and Coffee Company

**Danny Sandock:** Lestat's Coffee House

**Gayle Skidmore and the Eskimos:** Lestat's Coffee House

**Clark Stacer:** Dizzy's

**Martin Storrow:** Lestat's Coffee House

**Supermice:** Lestat's Coffee House

**Chris Torres:** Twigg's Tea and Coffee Company

**Gene Warren:** The Ould Sod

**The Whooligans:** Dublin Square

**Steve Ybarra:** Twigg's Tea and Coffee Company

**Renata Youngblood:** Twigg's Tea and Coffee Company

**BLUES / SOUL**

**The Backwater Blues Band:** Coyote Bar and Grill

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- Danny Sanchez and the Kings of Pleasure:** Patrick's II
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- The Texas Twisters:** Patrick's II
- Triple Shot:** The Calypso Cafe
- Billy Watson:** Coyote Bar and Grill

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- Audrey Surface:** Dreamstreet
- Blackalicious:** Belly Up Tavern
- John Cain:** Shooters Bar and Grill, Bahia Resort Hotel, Hotel del Coronado
- The Chicago Afrobeat Project:** Belly Up Tavern
- Ray Correa:** The Butcher Shop
- DBD:** Dreamstreet
- Dumb Co.:** Brick By Brick
- Flo:** Dreamstreet
- Jim Gibson:** Hotel del Coronado
- Guillat:** Dreamstreet
- Jackstraw's Electric Dickens:** Seaport Village East Plaza
- Poetic:** Dreamstreet
- Pigeon John:** Belly Up Tavern
- Roy Resnikoff:** Cody's La Jolla
- Eddie Rossi:** Red Fox Steakhouse
- Joe Soprano:** Red Fox Steakhouse
- Stone:** Dreamstreet
- Submission:** Fannie's Nightclub
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# Fab Palace, No Clothes

*Purity is the focus of all things pure. This is our belief and expression which I apply to the style of our cuisine and ambience. With this, we give you our new venture in the world of gastronomic pleasures.*

— Chef William Bradley, on Addison's menu

We felt as if we were living the pre-credit scene of *The Shining*. My partner and I, in our shabby little car, drove higher and higher through wooded hills on a winding mountain road, seeking Addison restaurant before nightfall. But the approach road to Kubrick's "Overlook" didn't include several sets of speed bumps.

Situated at the Grand Del Mar, Addison is named for an early-20th-Century California architect, Addison Mizner. The restaurant, with its lobby and bar, stands alone a mile or so uphill from the hotel at Doug Manchester's new luxury resort. Its architecture is Mediterranean, while the interior decor harks back to Victorian splendor. Above the bar hangs a dark-red fringed swag. The floors are a mix of marble and polished "distressed" hardwood. There are ornate fireplaces everywhere, including one in an outdoor nook, where you can wait for your friends, your chariot, or your prince to come. The vast dining room has well-spaced tables to seat 90, with white linen cloths and captain's chairs. A large staff of uniformed employees, as highly choreographed as the Rockettes, exercises a rather rigid style of formal service.

For example, you must wait in the bar until your entire party has arrived — no trickle-ins allowed. (For another instance, golf club members have a separate entrance, so they don't have to mingle in the lobby with the hoi polloi.) A hostess escorted us to the bar, where posse regular Cheryl was already waiting with a glass of Syrah. Cheryl told us that the Grand Del Mar is under consideration as a venue for the 2008 U.S. Open — not for the golf course (Torrey Pines has already won that bid), but for its facilities. (She's on one of the subcommittees making similar decisions for the corporation where she works.) Meanwhile, we pored over a wine list the size of the Gutenberg Bible. A novella's worth of pages is devoted to half-bottles alone (including a split of three-year-old Mouton for \$2660 that should optimally stay cel-



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

lared for another five or six years; for comparison, a few years ago the Wine Bank downtown was asking \$100 for fully mature half-bottles of Mouton '82). If you want to bring your own, corkage is \$25, and they frown on your schlepping any bottle that duplicates one they might offer. Since the list is so comprehensive, you'd be safest with Mad Dog 20-20. I don't think they carry that.

Once Sam arrived, we were shown to our table. The menu offers six appetizers and six entrées, plus a prix-fixe tasting dinner. Although the publicity materials claim that dishes are seasonal, the current menu is similar to the September opening menu shown on the website, with small changes in garnishes. All menu titles consist of the main ingredient, three words maximum, with garnishes listed on the next line. As we looked things over, a server poured Evian water at no extra charge.

Once we'd ordered, the evening's "amuse"

arrived. Two or three tart purple gooseberries and a few dice of puckery quince bobbed in a lake of sour yogurt with olive oil floating around the edges. Some chefs have a sweet tooth. As we were to learn, Bradley must have a sour tooth.

Sam tasted the dish, grimaced, and shook his head like a wet dog. Cheryl tasted it, and her face froze in the shocked embarrassment of somebody witnessing a fatal faux pas. My partner said, "Yuck." Was the chef trying to electrify our senses — or electrocute them? We were not amused, but I kept spooning into the stuff in vain hope of discovering a point to it all, something to like.

A server brought butter and soft little rolls (one per person), each pierced by a thin cracker. We nibbled and chatted for quite a while as we awaited appetizers. Then seven servers simultaneously brought fresh silverware, removed the charger plates, and in the same heartbeat plunked down our appetizers, here termed "pre-

**Addison**  
**Main Menu** ★★ (Good)  
**Desserts** ★★★★★ (Excellent)

Grand Del Mar Resort, 5200 Grand Del Mar Way (turnoff from Carmel Country Road), Carmel Valley, 858-314-1900, [www.addisondelmar.com](http://www.addisondelmar.com).

**HOURS:** Wednesday–Sunday, 5:30–10:00 p.m.  
**PRICES:** "Pre-course" starters, \$17–\$20; main courses, \$34–\$50; desserts, \$10. Six-course chef tasting, \$90 (\$160 and up with wine), eight-course improvised tasting to order by consultation with chef.

**CUISINE AND BEVERAGES:** Brief menu of rather austere California-Mediterranean cuisine, featuring organically grown local produce, free-range meats and poultry, and wild-caught seafood. Vast international wine list, mainly steep, with a few New Zealand and South African whites for slightly under \$40. Corkage, \$25. Full bar.

**PICK HITS:** Lamb with goat cheese tart; cod with white bean purée; any dessert.

**NEED TO KNOW:** Reservations essential without guest status, membership, or investment; request detailed route directions. Valet parking. Formal, deluxe setting and service; jackets not required but typical (except for golf club members in designer casual-chic). Smallish portions. Vegetarian meals available on request; specify when reserving.

Ratings reflect the reviewer's reaction to food, ambience, and service, with price taken into consideration. Menu listings and prices are subject to change.

Go to [SanDiegoReader.com](http://SanDiegoReader.com) to find hundreds of past reviews.

**REVIEW**  
 NAOMI WISE

courses." Our favorite, if you can call it that, was titled "Prawns." Two moderately large, fresh shrimp were plated over a sauce of garlic confit the color and texture of peanut butter diluted in cream, with a tiny daub of lemon-lime jam at one edge of the plate and one large pitted date (described on the menu as "dates" — plural) on the opposite edge. Each flavor was intense, but what did these foodstuffs have to do with each other? Perhaps this was an attempt to tickle many taste receptors at once, the way Thai food does. It missed the mark: where Thai

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cooks brilliantly bring multiple tastes together in flashy harmonies, this was culinary chaos. The prawns and the garlic sauce ignored each other, even in the same mouthful, while the jam and the date snubbed them both.

When describing our assorted “pre-courses,” the waiter proclaimed that the Taylor Bay scallops came from Maryland (when in fact they’re farmed off Nantucket, Mass.) and were “free range.” “What’s the difference between free-range and regular scallops?” Sam asked once the waiter had gone. “All scallops are free range,” my partner offered. “They’re not stuck on a rock like mussels; they’re jet-propelled and move around to look for food.” These were mild-mannered bay scallops, some with sand in them, afloat in a pale pond the menu dubbed *Beurre d’Isigny*. That’s a premium French brand of butter, but the liquid in this concoction tasted more like thin cream sauce, bedecked with a few pleasantly bitter blanched celery-heart leaves to bestow flavor (if not color) to the unrelieved sea of white on white. (Could this be what the chef meant by “purity” in his menu preface quoted above?)

Steak tartare sounded as though it might resemble the classic version, since the menu said it came with a “cocotte of farm eggs” as well as an untraditional “Gouda fondue.” To our dismay, the insipid raw beef had none of the typical strong seasonings (parsley, capers, etc.). In fact, it tasted barely seasoned. Alongside was a single, delicious soft egg (the best part of the dish) and hard pieces of aged dry cheese. I’m usually pleased when a chef salts food sparingly, as is the case here. However, there’s no salt (or pepper) on the table, should you care to adjust things to your taste. “I season in layers,” the chef later told me, and he’s not enthusiastic about diners re-seasoning his dishes after he’s worked so hard to “emphasize pure flavors.” If you do request salt, the server will bring Fleur de Sel — the perfect condiment to lend more

life to some preparations.

Foie gras, plated on a miniature square of French toast, was competently sautéed but hardly worth noticing. It came with candied quince and a miniature mound of unidentifiable mushy greens that turned out to be Savoy cabbage.

At this point, we realized that we couldn’t discern what we were putting in our mouths without a scorecard — the flavors were often strange and etiolated, as well as unrelated. I asked a server if I could have a copy of the menu “to take home as a souvenir.” Of course I could, he said, and walked away. We plodded on, unenlightened and frustrated, so I asked again. He said it would be waiting at the hostess’s station when we left. I begged for it — *now!* — as we could more fully appreciate the artistry if we knew what we were eating. He looked displeased but duly delivered a miniature reproduction, two small pages neatly bound with a brown ribbon through the top left corner, ready to be handed out like a diploma to Addison’s guests at their graduation ceremonies.

When we’d finished our starters, a gaggle of bussers swooped to clear the table of everything — including the bread plates. After seeing my friends robbed of theirs, I insisted on keeping mine (with half a roll left), so I’d have something to sop up any entrée sauces. This required a power struggle with a busser. (The chef told me this was an error — a premature evacuation.)

Two entrées were quite good, or parts of them were. The dish called “lamb” included a side of crepinette (uncured, coarse-ground sausage) to go with the well-seasoned lamb shank, which exuded molten butter when cut into, in the manner of Chicken Kiev. I liked it very much, as did my partner. Sam and Cheryl preferred the herb-crusted hunk of roast lamb, ribs cut off their bones just before serving — you could call it “off the rack.” The roast sat atop “pickled plums” — a tart purée (probably *umeboshi*, Japanese sour plum sauce)

that seemed to come from a different universe than the meat. The star of the lamb array was a moist, melty round goat cheese tart, over a slick of acidic lemon-sorrel sauce that complemented the cheese.

“Cod” was a crisp, crumb-crusted rectangle of fish, like a classy (\$35) version of fish ‘n’ chips. The fish was excellent, as was the single roasted tomatillo (plural on the menu, of course), an earthy white bean purée, and a charreuse avocado purée. The cod lay atop an unidentified orange-colored sauce involving mild puréed chilies, but where was the real-life correlative to the menu’s promise of “orange,” unless it referred to the sauce’s color? Oh, wait, could “orange” be a wee spot of citrus jam near the plate-rim?

“Poularde” featured several moist and flavorful breast slices from the legendary blue-legged French species, *poulet de Bresse*, raised in Northern California on corn and milk (and spayed, which is what makes it a poularde, rather than a mere hen). It tasted the way chicken ought to taste. Alongside was puréed butter-nut squash and a heaplet of sweet onion “soubise” (here meaning caramelized onion shreds, rather than Julia Child’s creamy pudding of that name). No taste clashes, merely two flavors with small variations — fine poultry, and a double header of sweetness. And a dish of John Dory tasted nothing like that fishy fish. It had the typical meaty texture of the species, but its flavor was neutral. It came with cruciferous veggie bits in a loose, tart sauce studded with capers and one lonely clam. My partner got the clam. It was a good clam, he said.

The fishes came with feeble fish knives (the weaker sisters of butter spreaders). The lamb came with a steak knife, and the fowl with a regular table knife. Although the restaurant seems to own a sufficient quantity of silverware, and we had been brazenly sharing appetizers, the staff stuck to the formal tradition: One Dish, One Knife. It goes with One Man, One Clam, I guess, as though sharing food were, to

the hidebound servers, some outré custom of hide-clad barbarians.

If Addison hopes to attract diners beyond those buying the mansion-sized “cottages” on the property or joining the golf club, I’d expect the staff to display as much care for customers’ pleasure as for the corporate regimen of restaurant conduct. I humbly suggest that the management bring in a team from El Bizcocho to retrain the service crew or hire one of the courtly retired waiters from pre-renovation Grant Grill as a consultant. What we missed is the skill to serve formally but flexibly in the modern manner and to deal with people who are there to enjoy eating — rather than, say, customers who’ve always lived at the Overlook (or its ilk) and may be using the pricey restaurant primarily to display their economic standing. The current thrust of the dining room seems to be more about status than sensory satisfaction.

Entrées done, the ordeal by culinary preciousness was finally over. Now we could finally enjoy some full-flavored avant-garde sweets by Jack Fisher (formerly of Region and 910), one of my favorite dessert chefs, and the real reason I wanted to eat at Addison. His work didn’t disappoint us — we experienced, at last, the “gastronomic pleasures” the menu quote had promised.

A *panna cotta*, delicately flavored with fresh-grated nutmeg, was perfect — as light and trembly as a nymphet’s breast. An assemblage of bittersweet chocolate mousse, milk chocolate ice cream, and tart passionfruit syrup was vivid and coherent. Yet Fisher’s panache couldn’t sweeten the aftertaste of earlier courses.

Although every dish in the meal had been made with superior ingredients and was

flawlessly executed, none of our quartet was able to warm up to or comprehend chef Bradley’s palate. The final question about any restaurant is: Would I go back? I’d originally planned on a second dinner to check out the tasting menu. After our meal, the answer changed to “I wouldn’t go back if somebody paid me!” — and somebody does.

#### ABOUT THE CHEF

William Bradley is a local San Diegoan, a protégé of famed chef James Boyce (who simultaneously trained Michael Stebner of the late Region, among others). “I started cooking as a necessity for skateboards,” he says. “At 16, my skateboard habit became expensive, so I went to work as a dishwasher at a small Italian restaurant in the Bonita area called Buon Giorno. Once I started cooking there, I started to have a passion for being able to express yourself on a plate through food. I worked there for a couple of years, then went over to the Loewe’s Coronado Bay and started working with my longtime mentor, James Boyce. I spent three and a half years with him at Azzura Point. Then I went with Boyce to Scottsdale, Arizona, and stayed with him at Mary Ellen’s at the Phoenician as a sous-chef — altogether I worked about seven and a half years with him.

“Then we had to part ways. He went to the Montage [in Laguna Beach], and I stayed in Phoenix and opened up a restaurant at the Hyatt Regency [Scottsdale Resort and Spa] by the name Vu,” pronounced “view.” (Editor’s note: With Bradley at the helm, Vu was cited as one of *Esquire* magazine’s “Best New Restaurants” of 2005, and Bradley was a three-time candidate for the James Beard “Rising Star Chef” award. Then Bradley accepted the job of executive chef at Addison.)

“My philosophy of cooking is to keep the food very simple but to maximize the flavor of each paired ingredient. It’s kind of ‘less is more.’ I don’t like to put a lot of ingredients on the plate. I feel that if you take all your thought processes, your passion, your heart, and your mind, and you put it into a few small elements and concentrate on the technique of cooking that perfect ingredient, you can really come up with some special dishes — that people are still familiar with. I don’t believe in scaring the diner.... There’s nothing wrong with a simple dish — like risotto. If you have a unique technique to making it the creamiest risotto that anyone’s ever had, everyone’s very familiar with that and they see the complexity of the technique in each dish.

“I don’t highlight it, because I think as a chef you always ought to get the best ingredients, but I get 80 percent of my vegetables from Tierra Niguel, a 100 percent organic farm in North County, and I use only free-range organic poultry, hormone-free beef from Brandt, and wild-caught fish.... You start out with the most perfectly nurtured vegetable picked at its peak, and my job is to cull the essence of that vegetable and then enhance it.”

I asked him his idea behind the yogurt amuse. “I really feel that in an amuse,” he said, “there should be no complications. My philosophy is to keep it simple and have a lot of exciting little flavors that alert the palate — the coolness of the yogurt, the tartness of the gooseberries and the quince. It’s very light but full of flavor. I try to have the meal go in a progression. I want to keep it simple at the beginning and try to have the bigger hitters at the end, to keep that kind of concentration through the experience.” ■

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# Eat Your Broccoli

*For a moment, I'm almost man enough to accept a couple of challenges from the lunch menu.*

**W**ell, this is a first. Here I am, cutting my omelet with a knife. But you have to, 'cause this little sucker is loaded with chicken breast and broccoli. No fork's gonna bust through that.

Not that it's tough. In fact, what a gunk fest! The hollandaise coating floods this half-moon of an omelet. And deep inside I discover an *unterlaken* of cream cheese. Oh mama. That gives it the tang it needs, zaps it up from a six to a ten.

Actually, the cream cheese was why I agreed to eat broccoli in the first place. We never got on, broccoli and me, unless Mom was there, cracking the whip. And did I mention this omelet's big? Has to be half a dozen eggs. In fact, with a couple of English muffins, a rock-pile of home fries, plus a whole jug of cawfee, it's one heckuva breakfast.

And it was all pretty much an accident. I was heading past the mind-numbing car lots of Balboa Avenue, when — relief! A human-scale, half-timbered mauve-and-cream place, with a red shake roof and a welcoming sign. "Honey's Cafe."

Here's the funny thing. I'd seen an ad for this place in the, well, *Reader*. "Biggest Breakfast and Lunch in Town," it said.

So hey. Time to see if they can put my mouth where their money is.

The building has two doors. Right one leads to the Carriage House, which is, like, a bar. Left one leads into Honey's, a large, buttery cream-and-purple room with booths, tables, hanging pots of ivy, and ziggurats of glass blocks jaggging out from the walls as room dividers. In the middle, a horseshoe counter with tall chairs for lone wolves.



I croak out a request for coffee, and presto, up comes this guy with an urn. He fills my cup — and leaves the urn with me. Great. I see it costs \$2.25, but for that,

you get the urn and beyond. "All you can drink," the menu says.

Then this older guy with his hair in a ponytail comes by. "Want the morning paper?" he says. It's his. He gives it to me. Gee. Some places just have this feeling.

The menu is huge. Two big plastic pages of breakfasts alone. Joyce, a lady in the next booth, is ordering an egg scramble. Spinach, onion, and cheese. "But cut the cheese, and give me bacon and mushroom instead," she tells Cindy, the gal serving. Joyce says she's paying \$8.79. Hmm. Seems like the same price, even with the substitution.

But, Lordy, there's so much to choose from. Two simple eggs with country potatoes and an English muffin are \$4.99. Add bacon and it's \$6.99. With corned-beef hash it's \$7.99, and with a top sirloin steak, you're paying \$12.99. Biscuits and gravy

(two eggs, sausage patty, and potatoes) runs \$7.99.

I like the sound of Krabby Cake Benedict — two crab cakes on English muffins with two poached eggs, hollandaise sauce, fruit, and potatoes — but, whoa, \$9.99. I check the omelets. Cindy says they're all big. Straight, with cheese and spuds is \$7.39. With sausage it's \$8.19. "The Works" costs \$8.99. For that you get I-don't-know-how-many eggs wrapped around sausage, bacon, onions, celery, tomatoes, different cheeses, sour cream, and scallions. But the one I like the look of is "Honey's Favorite," bloated with chopped-up chicken breast, broccoli, onions, and the magic-sounding cream cheese, all under hollandaise sauce and green scallions. 'Course, it's up there too: \$9.19.

Oh, but there's also the scrambles, like the one Joyce is eating. Her "Oceanside" comes with bacon, ham, mushrooms, onions, potatoes, muffins — and fruit, too — for \$8.79. And dag-gone it, there's a whole listing of "Eggspecials," skillet that come sizzling to your table, country potatoes smothered in your choice of toppings, like bacon and onion, two cheeses, and two basted eggs. With fruit and muffin, they seem a bargain at \$7.59. Oh, and a whole bunch of stuffed crois-

sants ("Maria's Favorite" has scrambled eggs, diced sausage, and melted jack and cheddar cheeses for \$8.79).

For a moment, I'm almost man enough to accept a couple of challenges from the lunch menu: the \$9.69 "Stevenburger," a half-pounder topped with, uh, peanut butter, bacon, and two cheeses ("Don't be afraid!" says the menu), and the "Baja Eater's Special" (they'll double the patty-power on any burger, and yes, that's *two* half-pound patties) for \$10.99. "Only the brave will succeed," the menu says.

In the end, I can't get that cream cheese hiding inside an omelet out of my mind. Yes, I'll miss the sizzling skillet, but that just means I gotta come back. Carla'd love this place.

Cindy says this used to be Brian's, before they moved down to Hillcrest. The new owners took over early last year, and they haven't skimped. "You'd never get this quantity back in the Big Apple," says Joe, a guy who just flew in from New York. He's chomping into a big wad of Denver omelet (\$8.59).

Maybe these people do have a claim to the "Biggest Breakfast" in town.

And hey, Mom! Look, I've eaten all my broccoli. ■

**The Place:** Honey's Cafe, 7947 Balboa Avenue, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-4244

**Type of Food:** American

**Prices:** Two eggs with country potatoes, \$4.99; with bacon, \$6.99; with corned-beef hash, \$7.99; with top sirloin steak, \$12.99; Krabby Cake Benedict (two crab cakes on English muffins with two poached eggs, hollandaise, fruit, potatoes), \$9.99; cheese omelet with potatoes, \$7.39; with sausage, \$8.19; "the Works" omelet (including sausage, bacon, onions, celery, cheeses), \$8.99; "Honey's Favorite," with chicken breast, broccoli, onions, cream cheese, hollandaise sauce, \$9.19; "Eggspecial" skillet with bacon, onion, two cheeses, two basted eggs on potatoes, \$7.59; "Maria's Favorite" stuffed croissant (with scrambled eggs, diced sausage, cheeses), \$8.79; "Stevenburger," half-pounder with peanut butter, bacon, cheeses, \$9.69; "Baja Eater's Special" (any burger on menu with two half-pound patties), \$10.99

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# Gen X Grown Up

*“When it’s your goal to educate folks about wine, entry-level will take you only so far.”*

**W**hen I started writing this column back in 1999, one of my first subjects was the Wine Brats, an organization founded in 1994 for the promotion of wine to Gen-X. The slightly cutesy name aside, the Brats were a smart outfit. The founders — Jeff Bundschu, Jon Sebastiani, and Mike Sangiacomo — all hailed from wine-industry families with their names on the label; if not quite boutique, the wineries were small enough to carry a little cachet in the tradition department. The group came off as less of a marketing effort and more of a mission on behalf of a public that didn’t know what it was missing.

The kids wrote their own book: *The Wine Brats’ Guide to Living with Wine*. They partnered with *Wine X* magazine, which shared their goal of selling wine to college grads who were burned out on beer. The Brats organized Wine Raves, taking wine tasting as far from the “sit-down, sip, spit, and speculate” format as they possibly could. They sought to make wine fun, to rid it of its musty-fusty reputation.

In some important ways, they succeeded. Rich Ikemeier, current head of San Diego Uncorked — a group devoted to carrying on the Brats’ work — was a Wine Brats man for years: first in Atlanta, and then here in San Diego. “Five years ago,” he recalls, “we were kind of the only group around

town that was independently offering wine tastings,” without connection to any particular restaurant or winery. “Now, there are a lot more of those groups. A lot of wine bars and wine retailers are offering tastings on a weekly basis. Go

## Crush

MATTHEW LICKONA

to [localwineevents.com](http://localwineevents.com), and you’ll see a lot going on. It wasn’t really like that five years ago.” The Brats’ efforts probably account for some of that proliferation. Wine culture, says Ikemeier, “is a lot more casual than it was not that long ago. There are certainly not the barriers that there were.” (Progressive, flavor-based wine lists and wine shops did their part, of course, along with animal-based wine labels and a host of other factors, but the Brats’ 45,000 members in 33 chapters spread across 18 states surely helped out.)

Five years ago, Ikemeier was still relatively new in town, and he was watching the local chapter of the Brats shut down. “The president was having her second child. No one on the board decided to step up.” It was probably for the best. Social whirlwind Annie Dierickx took the helm of a new board, with Ikemeier as her number two. The group moved out of the suburbs and into the city, sold itself well, and grew, and thrived.

But it didn’t last. It might be that the Brats were, to some extent, a victim of their own success. Once the kids were sold on wine, what was to keep them from simply going their own way

as ordinary consumers? And it didn’t help that, according to a 2004 article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, even the management thought the events “had become monotonous.” Corporate sponsorship dropped off, and the wines — always donated — couldn’t always hold the interest of an increasingly sophisticated membership. The founders left the board in 2002, and in 2003, the group’s longtime executive director left, too.

There were lots of plans for restructuring, but Ikemeier says they didn’t really pan out. “They had a couple of events in a couple of major cities, but they couldn’t get back to what they had before. Before, we were structured to operate independently.” Under the new system, headquarters called the shots (and controlled the money). “They didn’t get local support. So subsequently, most everybody that ran the chapters in the other cities reformed independently under different names. About a half dozen took the ‘Uncorked’ name, but we’re not tied to one another.”

The goal is the same: “There is still a need for people — basically, younger people — who are interested in wine and trying to learn more about it.” But as that last phrase suggests, the format has shifted a bit toward the traditional; the Wine Rave may never return. “We did have some of those types of events, but these are more people who are interested in really learning about wine, as opposed to just replacing beer as a beverage.” (These days, San Diego Uncorked is hosting monthly gatherings: either walk-about tastings, wine dinners, or restaurant happy hours with certain wines discounted for Uncorked members.)

The industry upon which San Diego Uncorked relies has shifted as well. “There has been a lot of change, a lot of consolidation in the wine industry. Constellation is now a huge wine company. I couldn’t tell you how many wineries they’ve bought up in the past two years. It’s just kind of



amazing who is no longer independent. Ravenswood used to be independent; they’re part of Constellation now. We were aligned with Mondavi; they’re part of Constellation now.”

And when corporate management takes over, you get a new set of decision makers when it comes to donated wine. “It all depends on the brand” and where corporate thinks that brand ought to be marketed. “For example, the Little Penguin brand, the Alice White brand, they’re interested in sponsoring some of our events. They’re more than happy to donate several cases of five-dollar, six-dollar wine.” But, notes Ikemeier, “Those are very entry-level-type wines.” On the one hand, it makes some degree of sense to introduce new wine drinkers to the pleasures of the grape via “entry-level” wines. On the other, when it’s your goal to educate folks about wine, entry-level will take you only so far — and will command only so much attention. “I don’t know if we’re going to have a Little Penguin event every other month. I don’t think that would be serving anybody. We need to find those second-tier wineries.”

But sometimes, those second-tier wineries aren’t as interested in working with smaller-scale,

† “If you want to learn about a culture, spend a night in its Bars” †  
 Ernest Hemingway

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# Calendar RESTAURANTS

single-city organizations, which don't promise the sort of exposure the Brats could deliver. In other cases, they'd rather work with a wine bar or wine retailer, someone they already know through distributor channels.

"We need to go back and reconnect with the people we knew before," says Ikemeier. "The key is to identify those wineries that are interested in sponsoring our events. We just did our holiday dinner at Cuvee with Michel-Schlumberger. It's the second year they've sponsored our dinner. We just have to do more legwork than before. Before, we had a list of contacts at wineries. We just called them up and said, 'Hey, would you like to sponsor a tasting?' My business takes me up to Sacramento, and I've knocked on a few doors up in Lodi, made my rounds up there along the 99." ■

## 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 500 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at

SanDiegoReader.com.

Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a mid-range entrée. **Inexpensive:** below \$10; **moderate:** \$10 to \$19; **expensive:** \$20 to \$24; **very expensive:** more than \$25. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

### NORTH COASTAL

**Beach Grass Cafe** 159 South Coast Highway 101 (one block south of Lomas Santa Fe), Solana Beach, 858-509-0632. Formerly a branch of Parkhouse Eatery, Beach Grass has been bought by a mini-chain (with Swami's Cafe and Honey's), but still serves the original recipes. You could eat breakfast here daily and never get bored with the creative morning menu, which includes foamy, fresh orange juice and "Beach Benedict" with eggs and house-made hollandaise on a soft, lush crab cake. Oddly, though, the "maple" syrup and "butter" spread are both mass-market blends. Lunches and dinners feature multi-ethnic "coastal cuisine," with the best results in seafood dishes like "Moroccan crabcakes" and the fish-n-yam chips (with fine house-made tartar sauce). Vegetable accompaniments are tasty and creative. Reservations essential for weekend breakfasts. Free parking in back via driveway to right of restaurant. Breakfast through dinner daily. Moderate to slightly expensive. — N.W. (6/05)

**Besta Wan Pizza House** 148 Aberdeen Drive (off the 101), Cardiff-by-the-Sea, 760-753-6707. This ever-popular North County restaurant which opened back in 1965 is a family operation all the way. Their thin-crust East Coast-style pizzas are famous locally. Also check for the big-pile spaghetti or lasagna specials if you just want to fill up. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B. (1/01)

**Cafe Zinc** 132 South Cedros (at Lomas Santa Fe), Solana Beach, 858-793-5436. The Rancho Santa Fe set like to hang out here in the garden patio

with their Porsches at the curb and their shih tzus under the table (dogs are welcome). Even for non-doggie people, the California pepper trees and garden sculpture make this indoor-outdoor eatery a really pleasant kick-back place (which gets its name from the zinc-top bar inside). The menu, a mixture of Italian and vegetarian, offers dishes like frittata with cucumber salsa, and baked eggplant "pizzette" (personal-size pizza) with marinara, mozzarella, and Parmesan cheese. The vegetarian chili and the Zinc veggie burger (served on a La Brea bun) are tasty too. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B. (9/01)

**El Q'ero** 564 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-753-9050. You'll feel like a guest at an intimate party eating a leisurely dinner in this small, noisy, pretty dining room. Chef Monica Szepes offers personalized, home-style renditions of South American cuisines, including house-made beverages. Be sure to try the house's *chicha morada*, a tangy soft drink made from Peruvian purple corn. The fare includes numerous types of empanadas, tapas-like small plates, and full-size entrées — most from the family homeland, Peru. Desserts vary nightly and can include a cloud-like *tres leches* cake. Vegetarian and allergy-restricted diets accommodated. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Reservations necessary. Moderate. — N.W. (5/04)

**La Especial Norte** 604 North Coast Highway 101 (at Leucadia Boulevard), Leucadia, 760-942-1040. This big, brightly lit roadhouse sports highly whimsical decor (take a look at the blue ceramic "pond" in the dining room, complete with cayman) and boasts a five-page menu, including a page of a dozen regional soups and another full page for seafood. The soups are superb — the authentic Mexico City-style chicken soup is laden with avocados, chicken shreds, cilantro, and rice, and the savory eggplant soup includes airy little "croustons" of puffed *relleno* batter. The fresh, interesting seafood entrées outshine the relatively ordinary renditions of the standard stuffed-tortilla variations. No wheelchair access to restrooms. Open daily, breakfast

through dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W. (5/02)

**Pacific Del Mar** Del Mar Plaza, 1555 Camino Del Mar (at 15th Street), Del Mar, 858-792-1803. The chic crowd is drawn here by Pacific Rim/California-fusion cuisine centering on seafood and organic, locally grown produce. It's quality all the way, but some nights the restaurant is a victim of its own success. The riotous overflow crowds can challenge the kitchen's capacities, not to mention diners' tender ears. (Best strategy for pleasure: Reserve for early or late on a weeknight, and ask for patio seating or Room #2.) Fun list of low-priced mini-appetizers, plus great baked oysters, seared scallops, mustard catfish, and house-cured rib eye. The award-winning wine list is half price Thursday nights, and the full bar specializes in creative martinis. "Pacific Dine-In" offers call-in take-out for selected items. Lunch and dinner daily. Early-bird dinner discount. Pacific Breeze Café (a level down) offers savory dishes for breakfast through late lunch daily. Expensive to very expensive. — N.W. (6/05)

**Potato Shack Cafe** 120 West I Street (off South Coast Highway 101), Encinitas, 760-436-1282. Check out the cute potato-toon mural on the side of the building — a sign for spud-lovers to load up on portions sized for lumberjacks from The Lumberyard across the street. American fries (served "All you can eat!"), French fries, potato patties, and baked potatoes with various toppings are the heart of the menu, along with eggs, omelets, biscuits with sausage gravy, and beer-battered onion rings made from sweet reds. If size counts, consider the daunting inch-thick "manhole" pancake that's bigger than the plate. Lunch runs to "deli" sandwiches (with potatoes), or a hearty bowl of chili con carne. Arrive early weekends. Open daily, breakfast to late lunch. Inexpensive. — N.W. (10/01)

**Ruby's Diner** 1 Pierview Way, Oceanside, 760-433-7829. One thing about Ruby's: You can build an appetite just getting there. It's at the end of the 1/3 mile-long Oceanside pier. (There's a 50-cent electric wagon, too.) Ruby's is part of a themed "forties

diner" chain stretching from LAX to Scottsdale, Arizona. But it's still fun. Shiny Chevy Corvette-style red leatherette and chrome booths, white walls, portholes, old Coca-Cola signs, "Dewey-Warren" presidential buttons, and that view to Hawaii. And pretty darned good-sized servings too; try their omelets. Open daily. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/01)

**Savory** 267 N. El Camino Real, Encinitas, 760-634-5556. Chef-owner Pascal Vignau was executive chef of the Four Seasons Aviara when he decided he wanted his own little place. His casual strip-mall restaurant has been perpetually packed for dinner since opening day. Here he serves a monthly changing menu of Southern French and Mediterranean cooking spotlighting seasonal local produce. Highlights include an ultra-rich macaroni-and-ham casserole. The adventurous mainly-Cal wine list is remarkably affordable, with many choices available by half-bottles and glasses (and modest corkage if you BYO). Dinner reservations urged; no groups larger than ten accommodated. High tea Saturday afternoon. Lunch Tuesday through Saturday; dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — N.W. (12/03)

**Tom Giblin's Irish Pub** 640 Grand Avenue (at Roosevelt Street), Carlsbad Village, 760-729-7234. Occupying the whole of a handsome, sprawling, block-long Elizabethan-style building, this friendly "small-townish" saloon offers some above-average pub-grub, especially the perfect, moist corned beef with firm-tender cabbage, the huge, lively salads, and the house-baked brown bread. Boxy (Irish "peasant" potato pancakes, rarely found in California) are done up rather doughy rather than crisp to serve as "wraps" for corned beef and other dishes. Live music Thursday through Saturday, 9 p.m. to midnight. A large, attractive heated patio next to the parking lot offers some afternoon serenity. Open daily, lunch until late. Inexpensive. — N.W. (3/02)

**Tony's Jacal** 621 Valley Avenue (between Genevieve Street and Juanita Street), Eden Gardens, Solana Beach, 858-755-2274. Come here at night,

when the mysterious low mud-brick arches with the stained glass windows make you think Old Mexico, when the Del Mar racing bar makes you think 1930s Hollywood, and the dining patio, under the 100-year-old chinaberry tree, looks straight out of Guadalajara. Back in 1946, Tony Gonzalez's wife Catalina started preparing food for fellow Mexican workers. Since then, everybody from Liz Taylor to J. Edgar Hoover has passed through these portals. Try the "La Colonia" combination of just about anything with rice and beans. Turkey meat is big here, and the (real) crab quesadilla in a corn tortilla is delicious too. Cheapest: probably chicken strips with French fries. And "Jacal"? It means "shack." No lunch or dinner on Tuesday; no lunch Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (10/02)

**Trattoria Positano (Cardiff-by-the-Sea)** 2171 San Elijo Avenue (at Chesterfield), Cardiff-by-the-Sea, 760-632-0111. If you're tired of Italian restaurants, you'll be revitalized by this one. Original recipes, wonderful fresh fish, nightly specials, excellent lamb and pastas. Very warm atmosphere. A treasure. Reservations accepted for parties of four or more; expect a wait at prime dinner hours, especially on weekends. Lunch and dinner six days, Sundays dinner only. Upper moderate. — E.W. (6/98)

### NORTH INLAND

**Abbey's Real Texas BBQ** 6904 Miramar Road (at Commerce Street, behind Denny's), Miramar, 858-566-5235. Newer, smaller branch at 9353 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard (at Ruffin Road), Kearny Mesa, 858-279-7427. Texas barbecue consists of meat, chicken, turkey, and links that are repeatedly mopped with a marinade and cooked in a big cast-iron smoker (rather than grilled over a fire). Here they use mesquite to barbecue the poultry quickly and the brisket ve-r-r-y slowly. In addition to the usual BBQ sides (potato salad, coleslaw, beans, etc.), they offer a Caesar salad. At the Miramar branch the room is large and



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unadorned but very clean. Wheelchair accessible. Same menu lunch and dinner. Open daily; continuous service for lunch and early dinner weekdays; normal dinner hours weekends. Inexpensive to low moderate. — E.W.

**El Bizcocho** Rancho Bernardo Inn, 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive (at Rancho Bernardo Road), 858-675-8500. In this rural golf-and-tennis hideaway, Chef Gavin Kaysen features upscale, creative French-California cuisine, incorporating old-is-new techniques and imaginative combinations of seasonal ingredients. Desserts run fancy and very sweet. 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 restaurant-goers). 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. (11/05)

**Galeon (Escondido)** 503 West Mission (at Centre City), 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. (6/01)

**Pho Hoa Hiep** 9910 Mira Mesa Boulevard, #A, 858-578-1468 (also at 6947 Linda Vista Road, 858-268-8406). This *pho* (soup) place of the brothers Hoa and Hiep is a clean, busy eatery near hi-tech offices. It's popular at lunch and dinner, partly because of frequent two-for-one deals. Try the #1, *Dac Biet Xe Lua*, an "extra large bowl" of soup filled with rare steak slices and well-done brisket, flank, tendon, and tripe along with mint and bean sprouts. A popular breakfast *pho* is "French bread with beef juicy cube soup." They also have rice dishes. And try the traditional fruit drinks, maybe the *Xam Bo Luong*, a combination of loganberry, black dates, seaweed, and lotus seeds in syrup. Lunch, dinner daily. Inexpensive. — E.B. (5/03)

**Rancho Valencia** 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-759-6216. Nestled in the lush garden setting of the Rancho Valencia Resort is one of San Diego's dining gems. They advertise the cuisine as California-French. Whatever. Every bite from appetizer to dessert is prepared and presented to delight Californians, French people — actually, any person on the planet with taste buds. Their crab cake topped with sun-dried apricot-mango chutney was equal to the best you'd eat around Chesapeake Bay. Also, enjoy an entrée of prime mesquite-grilled steak, fresh fish, veal, lamb, or chicken. Portions are generous, as is the wine list. Casual-elegant dress. Open daily, lunch and dinner; brunch Sunday. Very expensive. — S.M. (6/04)

**Sand Crab Cafe** 2229 Micro Place (at Opper, off Barham), Escondido,

760-480-2722. Sandy Crabbe (honest, that's his name) owns this fun, funky dive in the wilds of industrial Escondido near the San Marcos border. A visit offers the primordial, preschoolish joy of whacking crabs to pieces with mallets and eating them with your hands. (Bibs are optional.) Everybody gets into the party spirit. There's a huge à la carte list of appetizers, soups, snacks, and main courses, often at bargain prices. Entrées include several crab-bucket combos, cooked to a well-seasoned boil with corn, potatoes, and spicy Louisiana sausage. Most of the shellfish were flash-frozen on shipboard, but they're still tasty. The melted non-butter "spread" accompanying them appeals to the area's many health-conscious residents. (Or you can BY-OButter and they'll melt it for you.) Fine tangy housemade key lime pie is a perfect finale. Beer and wine and good margaritas. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W. (5/01)

**Vincent's Sirino's** 113 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-745-3835. French-born chef-owner Vincent Grumel serves Gallic classics in an intimate, small-town bistro setting. This is a cuisine of rich dark sauces robbing fine ingredients, such as a huge, flavorful veal chop (no factory calf, that). Mushrooms and vegetables (from local farmers or Grumel's own garden) are the season's best and sensitively treated. Desserts are worth every calorie — save room for the spectacular Bavarian. Full bar, fine wine list. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive. — N.W. (6/01)

## LA JOLLA

**Brockton Villa** 1235 Coast Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-454-7393. Pretty and romantic, this sprawling cottage perches above La Jolla Cove and offers heated terraces as well as semi-enclosed tables indoors to admire the view. The culinary masterpiece is "Coast Toast," invented for breakfast but now served all day — it's the French toast of your happiest dreams, puffy and airy with a lovely orange flavor. (And the coffee is excellent.) Lunchtime features sandwiches on flavorful Bread & Cie breads while dinner runs to San Diego international-eclectic cookery that can be hit-or-miss. Affordable wines and corkage. Steep stairs to all dining areas. All nearby pay parking is uphill in a garage under Trattoria Acqua or up on Prospect. Unisex restroom. Open three meals Tuesday through Sunday; breakfast/lunch Monday. Moderate to expensive. — N.W. (3/04)

**Great Khan's Mongolian Festival** 4545 La Jolla Village Drive (UTC), 858-678-0950. This is a chain that stretches almost as far as the Mongolian Empire, but that's because the idea is good. One meal, plenty of it, and guaranteed fresh because it's either frozen (curled shavings of beef, chicken, turkey, pork) or raw (veggies including cabbage, celery, broccoli, cucumber, green peppers, carrots, mushrooms, pineapple, water chestnuts). Stuff as much as you can into your bowl and hand it to the chef to braise on the huge hotplate, and add noodles. Bonus: gallery view of skaters or an ice hockey match while you eat. Open breakfast through dinner weekdays, earlier closing weekends. Inexpensive. — E.B. (1/04)

**La Taverna** 927 Silverado Street (at Girard Avenue), La Jolla, 858-454-0100.

Reservations are a necessity at this tiny trattoria, especially if you'd prefer the relative quiet of the roofed sidewalk patio to the din of the cute but cramped dining room. Look for Italian cooking styles ranging from Tuscan, which showcases pastas with simple fresh sauces, to meatballs and red sauce. Highlights include chef-owner Mary Ann Vitale's house-made Sicilian-style fennel sausage, and if the feather-light potato gnocchi is on special, just say "yes." Save room for a slice of house-made layer cake. Moderate. — N.W. (11/00)

**The Pannikin Cafe** 7467 Girard Avenue (at Pearl), La Jolla, 858-454-5453. Oh sure, the inside of this converted bungalow is cool, with its woody-green tables of different heights and cool dangles with animal temp-tattoos on their arms serving you. But here at Pannikin's La Jolla outpost, the outside's the "in" spot, with its brick and earth tones and weathered timber and sixties rainbow tables. But you have to make it through the laptop-clacking, cell phone-blabbing crowd who use this as their garden office and Very Important Meeting spot. Musicians, grad students, and school kids also show up to munch twigs and nuts and think serious thoughts. Breakfasts are mostly steamed-egg variations, including the popular Greek eggs and a filling breakfast burrito. For lunch, a mild chicken curry is a nutty treat, and "pannwiches" such as ham or tuna are fresh, generous, and worthy, though the retros among us will be looking for a salt lick all the way home. Breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — E.B. (2/03)

**Piatti Ristorante** 2182 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla Shores, La Jolla, 858-454-1589. Whether you sit inside to enjoy the warm, rustic decor or outside under the giant ficus tree listening to the fountain, you're in for a treat at this secluded restaurant. Meals begin with crunchy corn-studded *ciabatta* and spicy balsamic dipping sauce, but don't fill up too soon: the appetizers and salads are varied and tasty. All pastas are house-made and served with lively, unusual sauces. Lemon-herbed rotisserie chicken, wood-fired pizzas, veal *piccata*, and *bistecca* (a grilled rib-eye steak) round out the entrées. Portions are generous, so pace yourself if you're planning to have one of their house-made desserts. Lunch and dinner weekdays; brunch and dinner Saturday and Sunday. Moderate. — S.M. (7/04)

**Sadaf** 613 Pearl Street (at Cuvier), 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,

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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-rose-water 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. (10/00)

**Tutto Mare** 4365 Executive Drive (at Executive Way), Golden Triangle, 858-597-1188. The modern Italian cuisine here emphasizes pasta and fresh seafood from the mesquite grill or oak-fired oven. Lunch hours roar with chic crowds from the surrounding office buildings, but the kitchen is most on its toes then, too. Pastas are mainly house-made, with fresh-tasting sauces, and substantial seafood salads are available. Entrées (whether seafood or meat) may be overcooked by the fierce wood fires, and most come with minor variations of the same lemon-butter sauce and a one-size-fits-all veggie medley. Full bar, interesting wine list, good happy hour nibbles. Complimentary valet parking. Call for careful directions (very hard to find). Extremely noisy. Lunch and dinner weekdays, dinner weekends. Pastas and salads moderate, entrées expensive. — N.W. (10/02)

## MISSION VALLEY & THE MESAS

**Aladdin's Cafe** 5420 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Clairemont, 858-573-0000; Uptown Shopping Center, 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, *shawerma*, 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. (11/00)

**Andres' Patio Restaurant** 1235 Morena Boulevard, Bay Park, 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. (8/01)

**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. (5/02)

**East Buffet** 8998 Miramar Road, Miramar, 858-566-1888. Curly-haired stone lions greet you outside one of the grander dining halls in the county. "The biggest buffet of San Diego" claims the menu, with "over 200 items daily." Start at the Mongolian grill. Pick

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your raw prawns, chicken, pork, beef, *satays*, and hand the plate-load to the Iron Chef. He'll stir-cook them on the hotplate for you. You'll need hiking boots to cover the endless rows of steaming chafing dishes. Must-eat: the fresh sashimi, like salmon and tuna — mouth-wateringly scrumptious. And try the chicken feet (they taste a bit like cow tongue, or brains). Open daily, brunch through dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (4/05)*

**Lightnin' Jacks BBQ** Clairemont Town Square, 4705-H Clairemont Drive (near movieplex), Clairemont, 858-270-8227. Clean, cute, and a little self-conscious, this barbecue has black-and-white Western pictures on the walls and some seating on barstools with metal "saddles" (more comfortable than they look). The barbecue mechanism is a Texas-style pit smoker burning sweet hickory. The meats that emerge from it aren't the smokiest, but they're tasty enough. Pork ribs are tender and moist, and beef brisket carries enough smoke flavor to pass muster in Texas; other meat choices are less successful. The tomatoey sauce is pleasant but ordinary. A fried catfish plate makes a flavorful alternative (but be-

ware the cat sandwich, awash in hot sauce). Hush puppies and sweet potato fries are the most savory sides. Check your take-out bag to make sure you're getting what you ordered, as youthful staff is easily flustered. Kiddie plates available. Draft beer and wine available. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W. (1/05)*

**94th Aero Squadron** 8885 Balboa Avenue, Kearny Mesa, 858-560-6771. One of San Diego's hidden jewels: there's classic American fare (stuffed pork tenderloin, farmhouse chicken) in the "Officers' mess." Happy hour is weekdays from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Fridays, the outside "Runway" grill features kebabs. The biggest attraction is the place itself. Built to mimic a WWI French farmhouse taken over by a bunch of Yankee flying aces, it has a garden full of antique planes and live ducks — and right outside, the real Montgomery airfield. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B. (11/00)*

**Shanghai City Restaurant** 3860 Convo Street #105 (off Balboa), 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 Chinatown. 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 10 a.m. to midnight; closed Tuesdays. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B. (5/05)*

**Spice House Cafe** 9035 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard (at Complex Drive, across from courthouse), 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 their 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. Open daily, breakfast and lunch, dinner nightly, with emphasis on Greek-American cuisine. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

**24-Hour Valley Kitchen Family Restaurant** 875 Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley, 619-819-1017 or 619-298-8282. Great when everything else is closed. The place feels like a Midwestern chain eatery: all carpets, dark-wood walls, etched glass. Prices are a

little up there, but hot French dip is great and burgers are generous. Best news may be that if you feel like breakfast at midnight, no problem. Ask for the pork chops, two eggs, hash browns, and biscuits and gravy. Chops are crumbed and buried in hash browns. Splish on lots of applesauce, and leave room for the biscuits — their bacon-fat gravy will have you licking the plate. Bonus: You can sit here with a book and a coffee all night long if you like. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B. (1/04)*

## THE BEACHES

**Brazil by the Bay Restaurant and Sports Bar** 3770 Hancock Street, Loma Portal, 619-692-1410. It's not by the bay, but the food is definitely by-the-book Brazilian. You know because the first things you see are *guaraná*, the Amazonian energy drink, and *acaí*, the Amazonian palm berry energy bowl. If you're not strapped for cash, go for the popular *feijoada* stew, black beans cooked slowly with "six types of pork and two kinds of beef," offered Saturday and Sunday. If you don't have the dough, have what most of Brazil eats every day: the "PF," *prato feito* ("ready plate"). It's beef, chicken, or fish with rice and Brazilian beans. End with the cheapest dessert, the wicked *brigadeiro*. Open seven days; closes at 8 p.m. Mon-

day and Tuesday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (9/04)*

**The French Gourmet** 960 Turquoise Street, Pacific Beach, 858-488-1725. In the mood for pâté, ratatouille, 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 and breakfast daily; no lunch or dinner Sunday or Monday. Moderate to expensive. — *S.M. (9/04)*

**Gringo's** 4474 Mission Boulevard (at Garnet Avenue), Pacific Beach, 858-490-2877. With better cooking than you'd guess from its name, this ambitious spin-off of the local Moondoggies chain serves the sort of Mexican cuisine you might find at a seaside resort in Cabo or Puerto Vallarta — skillfully prepared with good, fresh ingredients, just a bit dumbed-down in the flavors. The chile verde, say, is beautifully seasoned, if barely *picante*. Given the surefire location at the hub of PB party town, the

food is actually better than it needs to be. A vast list of tequilas, interesting margaritas, and a sensible wine list emphasizing affordable, food-friendly Chilean bottlings add to the draw for a lively young crowd that revs the decibels to a roar on weekends. Three meals daily, brunch available Sunday. Moderate. — *N.W. (6/02)*

**The Mission Cafe and Coffee House** 3795 Mission Boulevard (at San Jose Place), Mission Beach, 858-488-9060. Gourmet and Latino breakfasts served in funky 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.*

**People's Organic Foods Co-op Deli** 4765 Voltaire Street, Ocean Beach, 619-224-1387. This is the land of "organic," "cruelty-free," "environmentally safe," "shade-grown." Vegan Country. People look either disgustingly healthy, disturbingly pasty, or just plain smug. But the food tastes pretty good. And they sell it by the pound so you can mix and match. ¢Course, you have to learn new words, like tempeh (cultured soy which can be made to taste like anything). And dishes have a sensible moms East Coast feel — garlic eggplant with beet root and onions, tempeh loaf, sweet squash and rice, millet spinach bake, shepherd's pie,

# Restaurant Coupons and Menus

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Lahaina Beach House **Free breakfast**  
Limónz Rostizados **20% off chicken or ribs**  
Pacific Beach Bar & Grill **2 for 1 entrée**  
Pacific Rotisserie **Free entrée**  
Sam's by the Sea  
Saska's **Free sushi or 25% off bill**  
TJ Oyster Bar **2 for 1 tacos/tostadas**  
Tower Two Beach Cafe **1/2-price appetizers**

### La Jolla

Aurora Trattoria **2 for 1 dinner**  
Cafe Milano **Free Comedy Store tickets**  
Cendio  
Clay's La Jolla  
Ginza-Sushi **Sushi dinner for 2 \$15.95\***  
Harry's Coffee Shop **20% off**  
La Jolla Brew House **Free lunch or dinner entrée**  
Marrakesh **50% off lunch**  
Regents Pizzeria **Free large salad**  
The Shores **20% off dinner**  
Su Casa **20% off entire check\***  
Vida Gourmet

### North County

The Beach Club **50% off entrée**  
Big Jim's Old South Bar-B-Q **50% off entrée**  
The Blvd **Free Happy Hour appetizer**  
Del Mar Rendevous **20% off**  
Greek Village **Free saganaki**  
Jamroc 101 **Free island sampler**  
Ki's Restaurant **Free appetizer or dessert**  
Mikko Japanese **50% off sushi**  
Noodles & Company •  
Pho Lucky **10% off entire check**  
Wild Note Cafe

### South Bay & Coronado

Batter Up! **50% off Batter Up! basket**  
Chick-Fil-A **10% off catering**  
Lai Thai **50% off entrée**  
Mariscos La Costa Azul **Free combo plate**

### Uptown & North Park

A La Française  
Awash Ethiopian **1/2-price entrée**  
B Fried Rice  
Baby Back Jack's **\$2 off**  
Hob Nob Hill **\$2 off entrée**  
House of India **Free dinner**  
India Princess **Free dinner\***  
Lips **50% off dinner**  
Rannoosh **Free entrée**  
Rudford's **\$2 off entrée**  
San Filippo's **Pizza & salad \$15.45**

### Midway, Old Town & Mission Valley

The Amigo Spot **15% off bill**  
Bali Thai **Free entrée**  
Bennigan's **\$5 off lunch or dinner**  
Chiba Japanese **\$2 off lunch or dinner**  
Forever Fondue **2 for 1 entrée**  
Fuji Japanese Steakhouse **10% off**  
Lot 81 **Free appetizer**  
Old Town Mexican Cafe  
Paradise Yogurt **50 cents off a smoothie**  
Pizza Bella **Free wine dinner**  
Shanghai Chinese **\$1 off Mongolian BBQ**  
Tio Leo's **Dinner combos \$8.99 each\***  
Todai **10% off lunch or dinner**

### East County & State College

Alpine Inn **Sunday prime rib \$18.95**  
Aroma Thai **Free entrée**  
Cereal Port Cafe **Free energy drink**  
Fix Me A Plate Cafe **15% off any entrée**  
Greek Town Buffet **50% off dinner buffet**  
Habana Cuban **Free entrée**  
Lucky Star Buffet **50% off dinner**  
Shakey's Pizza **Lunch buffet \$4.95**

### Clairemont, University City, Miramar Rd., Poway, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch & Kearny Mesa

Ashoka the Great **50% off lunch or dinner**  
Bangkok West Thai Cafe **Free Thai iced tea**  
Filling Station **Free appetizer**  
Honey's Cafe  
Indian Asian Buffet **\$1 off lunch**  
Joe's Pizza **2 large pizzas \$20.99**  
La China  
Pampas **Free empanada**  
Philadelphia Sandwich Co. **Free sandwich**  
Thai Cafe **\$1 off buffet**

### Downtown & Point Loma

Alambres **Free soup**  
Blue Water Seafood **25% off**  
The Boathouse **2-for-1 entrée**  
Dae Jang Keum Korean BBQ **50% off Korean BBQ**  
Dublin Square **15% off or free lunch**  
Embers Grille **50% off entrée**  
The Field **Free lunch**  
Hard Rock Café •  
Hornblower Cruises  
House of Blues **20% off restaurant receipt**  
Humphrey's  
Jewel Box **2 for 1 entrée**  
La Cantina **Prime rib, crab, wine \$19.95**  
Lotus Thai Cuisine **Free entrée**  
McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant  
Mister Tiki Mai Thai Lounge  
Olé Madrid **2 for 1 lunch or brunch entrée**  
Puerto La Boca **Free Argentine dessert**  
RA Sushi  
Rei do Gado  
Rock Bottom  
Saigon on Fifth **20% off**  
Samba Grill **Free all-you-can-eat Brazilian feast**  
Sevilla  
The Shout House  
St. Tropez Bakery-Bistro **10% off\***  
Star of India **50% off entrée\***  
Thai Time II **Free fried spring rolls**  
Visions **25% off sushi**  
Whiskey Girl  
Xavier's **Free appetizer**

“mango madness,” tempeh sausage, steamed vegetables, vegan macaroni and cheese. Bottom line: it’s guilt-free. Open seven days, breakfast, lunch, dinner (but “serious” breakfasts Saturday and Sunday only). Inexpensive. — *E.B. (9/03)*

**The Surfside** 4527 Mission Boulevard (at Garnet Avenue), Pacific Beach, 858-273-2979. In the evenings, it’s a “scene” here — for good reason. You’ll find fresh sushi, sashimi, and “California coastal cuisine,” i.e., fun and flavorful fusion-y tapas, many of them going for half-price during weeknight happy hours. You can actually reserve for the sushi bar (it’ll put you at the head of the line), where the chefs are unusually friendly. They shine on simple, pure Japanese sushi, although they make the usual “party rolls” too. Most seafood is of fine quality (except the *toro*, which seems to have problems). For those preferring a tapas-style sit-down meal, there’s a breezy, informal dining room with large windows looking out on the street, plus a small private dining room for parties. At least five Japanese beers and a dozen sakes available. Reservations urged for large groups. Parking is tight; just one handicapped slot in front lot. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W. (10/02)*

**Sushi Ota** 4529 Mission Bay Drive (at Bunker Hill Street), Pacific Beach, 858-270-5670. What becomes a legend most? At its best, this renowned sushi bar offers fish of exceptional quality, perfect tart-sweet rice, tight wraps, and disciplined creativity. These joys don’t come easily. First, find the place: Driving south from Balboa, look left, and pull into the mini-mall with the large 7-11 sign (opposite Rubio’s). Sit at the sushi bar to snoop on your neighbors’ choices, watching for off-menu extravaganzas. Don’t miss the *ama ebi* with crisp shrimp heads, atypically flash-baked (not batter-fried). Cooked dishes are dull except for *chawan mushi* (custard broth with ginkgo nuts). Alas, when Ota-san’s away, his elves may play — amateurishly. Best bet: Reserve a bar seat when the master’s most likely to be present. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner daily. Disabled access chancy. Long, crowded waits unless you’ve reserved. Moderate. — *N.W. (11/00)*

## CENTRAL SAN DIEGO

**La Fachada** 20 25th Street (near Commercial Street), Logan Heights, 619-236-8566. The thing about La Fachada is: You can have anything any-

time. The 24-hour restaurant near the trolley’s 25th Street stop is Mexican but has Anglo food too — maybe because the cops’ Central Division HQ sits across the road. Great not-quite-morning place for breakfast at, say, 3 a.m. They do a pretty good Western omelet breakfast with cheese, bell peppers, onions, and ham, bacon, or sausage. They also have great *Caldo Siete Mares* and *Vuelva a la Vida*, tasty soups laden with seafood. But the best fun is in the evening up to 11 p.m., when an outdoor kitchen operates, mostly serving tacos to eat under a big white garden canopy. Open 24 hours. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (6/05)*

**Los Reyes** 2496 Broadway (at 25th), Encanto, 619-231-0716. Smaller branch at 47th and Market. If you’ve ever craved those fabulous Mexican fish soups that can be such energy restorers, these strip-mall Mexican restaurants have a great one. It’s *Caldo 7 Mares* (Seven Seas Soup) and it comes as a big bowl of savory red fish soup clunking with giant crab legs, clams, chunks of white fish, shrimp, the pink and purple suckers of octopus, and vegetables. It’s also called *Vuelva a la vida*: “Return to life.” On a hot day, their Cocktail Campechana (shrimp and octopus in a light, spicy tomato broth) will return you to life, too. Four brothers and one sister from Michoacan run the place. A very Michoacan dish is *carnitas* — pork shoulders. Or try their gringo lunch deal of a bacon cheeseburger with fries and a can of soda. The prices make this a tightwad’s paradise. Three meals daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (5/03)*

**Phoenicia** 3381 Adams Avenue (at 34th Street), Normal Heights, 619-282-4120. To find this tiny restaurant — the longest-running eatery on Adams Avenue — look for a window featuring a cedar tree (the symbol on the Lebanese flag), an American flag, and the word “Phoenicia” written in Arabic and English. The inside is cramped, but they have sidewalk tables, too. Try their baked eggplant stuffed with lamb, pine nuts, onions, and garlic, or the *kafta* kabob, with ground meat, parsley, onions, and pita bread. The real treat is the *kibbeh neyeh*, raw lamb with cracked wheat, onions, and seasonings, but you’ll need to call 24 hours ahead to get it. Homemade rose juice and Lebanese coffees are delicious, too. Bakery open mornings; restaurant lunch and early dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

**Saigon** 4455 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 619-284-4215 or 619-284-4288. You’re in a big glass palace here. It’s especially good on Sundays, when three- or four-generation

Vietnamese families gather for lunch. Gaggles of waiters hover a glance away, but take your time. The menu has over 250 items on it. Default choice: *pho*, the famous, filling soup-meal of Vietnam where beef cooks in the soup. Another safe bet is stir-fried crispy or soft egg noodle with seafood and assorted vegetables. “33” Vietnamese beer is on hand to make Saigon lovers sentimental. Open daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (10/01)*

**Trieu Chau Restaurant** 4653 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-280-4204. This is as near as you’ll come to eating breakfast in Phnom Penh or lunch in Vientiane. Cambodians come in the morning to talk politics and play Cambodian chess. At lunch, Laotians replace them. Maps of “Kampuchea” decorate the walls, as well as long-distance telephone ads. The menu includes Chinese, Khmer, and Lao dishes. In the morning, ask for “*djak kvai coffay dok ko*” — fried bread with Cambodian coffee, the standard French-Khmer breakfast. Later in the day, you might try pan-fried noodles with broccoli and beef or shrimp and gravy (“*koitiow bahat sai kho*”). If in doubt, ask for Kathy, who speaks Chinese, Khmer, Lao — and English. Open daily, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

**Turf Supper Club** 1116 25th Street, Golden Hill, 619-234-6363. At this cozy saloon (a landmark since 1950, “re-established” in 1998), if your meat’s done wrong, it’s your own fault. Every night’s an indoor cook-out, as patrons huddle by the communal fire-pit tending their steaks (a choice of three ritzy cuts), well-marinated in garlic and olive oil), burgers, chicken breasts, or portobello mushrooms; others choose the veggie kabobs or teriyaki skewers of beef, chicken, or fish. And that’s the menu. The only side dish is a simple salad — not even fries. But the meat’s a treat, especially the huge, juicy Delmonico rib eye. If you’re an utterly hopeless cook, a staffer will mind your meal for you, but you’d miss half the fun. Full bar, no reservations. Weekdays dinner only; open until 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Inexpensive to barely moderate. — *N.W. (4/01)*

## EAST COUNTY & COLLEGE AREA

**Barnes Bar-B-Que** 2625 Lemon Grove Avenue, Lemon Grove, 619-462-9206. Clayton Davis’s sign says it all: “Let Us Bring Tha South to

Ya Mouth.” You can tell this is the real deal from the two heavy iron doors in the brick wall behind the counter and the big wood fires burning oak inside. This is Memphis-style soul food, mild and mouth watering — and cheap. Expect dollar portions, from smothered chicken or pork, neck bones and cabbage, to country yams, corn on the cob, and corn bread. Other lip-smacking dishes include chopped beef brisket sandwich, pork ribs or shoulder, beef ribs, red snapper, and hot links or ham — all with two sides and bread. Oh yes, they also serve catfish sandwiches and sweet potato tarts. Or you could just stand outside and smell the smoke. Open Tuesday through Sunday, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (9/04)*

**Jimmy’s** 6935 Mission Gorge Road (at Town Center Drive), Santee, 619-448-8994. We’re at the end of the line here, the trolley’s Orange Line. Feels like a safari. You walk back through the grass to the streets of Santee. Thank goodness for this family-friendly restaurant with good, old-fashioned American food. Their six-page plastic menu tells all — forget your diet and dig into the breakfast “Eggs and Cakes” (two eggs, three pancakes), the “Touchdown” (two eggs, two hotcakes, four strips of bacon or three link sausages), or the “Monte Cristo” hot sandwich (ham and turkey grilled on batter-dipped Texas toast with Swiss cheese, hot syrup, and French fries). Later in the day, the New York strip or sirloin steak with all the trimmings, and desserts like homemade cinnamon bread pudding with raisins and whipped cream. Open three meals, seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

**Los Michoacanos** 8001 Mission Gorge Road, Santee, 619-449-9032. You get a lot for a little here. Order even one really cheap potato taco from Luis Gabriel, the owner, and you get the full treatment of tortilla chips and salsa beforehand. Then out comes this hot, crisp-shelled taco, bursting with shredded lettuce, two cheeses, and inside, the most scrumptious sautéed potatoes. It may be way cheap, but it’s no way mean. Other good Mexican dishes here include the chorizo torta or the grand garlic shrimp combo. Added bonus: The place is new, bright, red and yellow, and sports a terrace looking out across the valley. Open seven days, three meals. Inexpensive — *E.B. (4/05)*

**The Omelette Factory** 7941 Mission Gorge Road, Santee, 619-596-9686. The Factory sits in the kind of stand-alone building you expect to see in a country town: long, angled roof with a portico dressing up the

basic shed structure behind. It’s a great sprawling place that’s ideal to bring the kids for a big breakfast. You can’t beat their omelets, all nineteen of them, from the Just Say Cheese (with Swiss, Jack, Cheddar, or American), to the magnificent Factory Omelette (a build-your-own: up to four meats, veggies, or cheeses). A Greek family has turned this location, outside Santee, from an abandoned social hall into a regular pit stop for half the community, it seems. For lunch, try the Factory Burger. It has two hamburger patties plus gyro meat, two cheeses, and onions. Breakfast and lunch, seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (4/05)*

**Taste of African Cuisine** 5241 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-583-5788. This is one of the main gathering places for Somalis in San Diego, but they welcome others to sample their food, which is a combination of African, Italian, Arab, and Indian influences. Fish plays a big role in the diet of a country that boasts the longest coastline in Africa, but so does lamb and goat meat. Start with a *fadareshin*, a mixed plate of roasted goat meat, fried fish, basmati rice (the Indian influence), and a pile of spaghetti — common since the Italians came to colonize. No meal is complete without bananas, which are mixed in with pretty much everything, especially soups. Open three meals daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (10/05)*

## FAR EAST

**Dulzura Cafe** 16985 Highway 94 at Dulzura, 619-468-9591. Think *Grapes of Wrath*, Okies, the 1930s. Dulzura Café is the real thing, serving big, hot meals to weary westerners since 1910. The walls are cluttered with license plates, pots, brass cream-separators, corn-shuckers, horse collars, railroad lanterns, ancient egg-beaters, six-foot snake skins, deer antlers, and a seedy stuffed bobcat head. The food’s for filling. Big, juicy hamburgers with lanky home-cut fries, thick slices of meat loaf, or if you arrive early, steak and eggs or a hefty Denver omelet. This is frontier food before slim spelled “success.” Breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

**La Posta** 32337 Old Highway 80, Pine Valley, 619-478-5600. Is the Wild West dead? Not out here. Swagger in past the rocking chairs on the wooden porch, by the “NRA meets here, every 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.” sign, past bows and arrows, dream catchers, lariats, and brass spittoons, and swing into a chair.

Now think vintage American food. Hefty anytime-breakfasts include two eggs, hash browns, biscuits, and coffee or eggs with chicken-fried steak or a bulging veggie omelet. Their sourdough cheeseburger with fries or potato salad is big, or delve into a bowl of chili. Folks hereabouts talk about that chili in low, reverent voices. For dinner, the rib eye steak or pork chops is good enough to make city folks swoon. Three meals daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (8/03)*

## UPTOWN & OLD TOWN

**Adams Avenue Grill** 2201 Adams Avenue, University Heights, 619-298-8440. The frequently changing menu tries to embrace several disparate styles, and can’t quite get its arms around any of them. The dishes are often ambitious; a few soar, but many falter due to flaws in conception, execution, or both. Largely ho-hum wine list needs selections with enough sweetness to stand up to items featuring Asian spice — where are the Rieslings? Still, the place seems full of happiness and friendliness: yellow and orange walls, plenty of smiles amid the bustle. Soups receive lavish attention, and sometimes live up to their billings. As to treats, the generous, marvelous lavender-infused crème brûlée makes this a dessert destination — pause to sniff a spoonful before slipping it between your lips. Lunch and dinner daily, breakfast weekends. Inexpensive to moderate. — *A.M. (4/01)*

**Bread and Cie** 350 University Avenue (at Fourth), Hillcrest, 619-683-9322. At least twenty breads emerge daily from this bakery’s 10,000-pound French stone hearth oven. Most are dense, crusty, and delicious French or Italian peasant breads, including the outstanding anise-fig and black olive loaves that are served in many top local restaurants. Scones, brownies, muffins, banana bread, and cookies are the sweet side of the house. Focaccia pizza and sandwiches (many with thick-sliced bread and rather thin fillings) are available to take out or eat on the spot — inside the café or on the sidewalk patio. Open daily, breakfast through early dinner. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (6/02)*

**Cafe on Park** 3831 Park Boulevard (at University), Hillcrest, 619-293-7275. Okay, it’s trendy, from the rusty spoon-and-fork sign at the door to the PC industrial interior (con-

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# Calendar RESTAURANTS

crete walls, exposed plumbing). But don't expect PC food. The plates are huge and overflowing with fodder. Breakfast scrambles are popular with add-ons such as smoked salmon, artichoke hearts, or Brie cheese. Health nuts choose the Park Porridge stuffed with apples, raisins, and honey. But the prize may be the dish that Placerville, California, miners ordered when they came down from the mountains with pockets full of gold: the Hangtown Fry — luscious marinated sautéed oysters scrambled in eggs. Three meals Tuesday through Saturday; only breakfast and lunch Sunday and Monday (line at door on Sunday). — E.B. (10/01)

**Cafe Pacifica** 2414 San Diego Avenue (next to Old Town graveyard), Old Town, 619-291-6666. The fare here is mainly very fresh seafood, either fusioned up and somewhat chancy, or grilled simply and reliably excellent. Among the highlights are a clean-limbed clam chowder, some amusing yellowfin-stuffed wontons, crab-stuffed portobello mushrooms, and luscious mustard-crusting Oregon catfish. On the downside, Mexican pink abalone are tiny, over-breaded, and overpriced. Several good grilled meats are available for fish-scorers. Optional valet parking \$5. Wheelchair lot and ramp behind restaurant (ask valet to direct you). Often very noisy. Serious, rather steep California wine list; full bar. Daily, dinner only. Upper moderate to expensive. — N.W. (10/02)

**Ichiban** 1449 University Avenue (at Normal), Hillcrest, 619-299-7203. Is this Paris or Tokyo? At night, the café outside glows like a Van Gogh painting, except the customers are eating sushi and drinking green tea, not red wine. The best values are at lunch, with weekday specials like Bento combos (sushi rolls, crab, salmon, rice) and filling soups overflowing with veggies and thick *udon* noodles. Healthy? You betcha. The miso soup (with every

dish) made from soy and seaweed is a great daily iodine fix. Number One — that's what "*ichi-ban*" means. Open daily until 9:30 p.m., lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/00)

**Jack and Giulio's Italian Restaurant** 2391 San Diego Avenue (at Arista), Old Town, 619-294-2074. After more than four decades in business, this father (Giulio) and son (Jack) operation manages to stay fresh. The antipasto salad with its thin-cut prosciutto and salami will get your juices flowing, or try the mango salad, with fresh mango, raisins, and sweet onions. All the traditional Italian entrées like veal parmigiana and fettuccine Alfredo are there, but go for the house specialties like Spaghetti New Orleans with shrimp, crawfish, and crab meat, or the expensive scampi dishes. Broke? Get a simple Angel Hair Mediterraneo or rigatoni with meat sauce to enjoy out on the patio. Open for lunch and dinner, seven days. Moderate. — E.B. (5/04)

**Khyber Pass** 523 University Avenue (at Fifth Avenue), Hillcrest, 619-294-7579. The room's very modern, but Afghan cuisine is full of history, carrying echoes of both Persian and Indian foods, with even a hint of Greek (Alexander the Great conquered the region). Dinners feature kebabs, tandooris, curries, and some unique regional specialties. Flavors are exotic but oddly comfortable to the cosmopolitan palate. Among the don't-miss items are the outstanding *aushak* (spring onion ravioli) and *mantu* (ground-meat ravioli) — both with lively yogurt sauces — and *zamordd chalow*, a spicy lamb-and-spinach stew. Save room for the sexy desserts. Can be noisy inside; small sidewalk patio. Private dining room upstairs bookable for parties. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — N.W. (9/02)

**Ono Sushi and Pacific Shoppe** 1236 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-298-0616. If you are searching for huge portions, fresh tasty food and reasonable prices, don't overlook this colorful Japanese/Pacific Rim café. Excellent specialty rolls, entrées, appetizers. Very crowded weekends; lively young crowd. Dinners nightly; open for lunch

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.W. (11/98)

**Pomegranate Russian-Georgian Restaurant** 2302 El Cajon Boulevard (northeast corner of Louisiana), University Heights, 619-297-4007. Pomegranate's address is serendipitous, since the food of Deep-South Georgia is the Louisiana cuisine of the Slavic world — alive with fresh herbs, garlic, touches of hot pepper. This rustic-looking restaurant is animated with antic humor (check the multilingual graffiti on the walls) and offers unique, flavor-bomb dishes. Don't miss the world-beating beefy, herb-jungle borscht (beet soup, but it's way more than that), the Lobio bean dip, and Olivier salad. The chef slow-smokes his moist barbecued beef and pork and cold-smokes whole trout, a treat as a group appetizer or summer entrée. On weekends, there's slyly smoky *shashlik* (a.k.a. shish kebab). The printed menu is only a hint as to what's really cooking, and regular patrons get the best off-menu choices. So become a regular. Street parking is dire. Reservations advised for weekend dinners. Dinner nightly, service until 11 p.m. on weekends. Moderate. — N.W. (1/04)

**Sushi Itto** 441 Washington, Hillcrest, 619-291-6060. Don't come here looking for Japanese food. This is *Mexican* sushi, from a chain based in Mexico City that's dedicated to creating rolls for Mexican tastes. Nearly all the party rolls feature cream cheese and avocado and most include a shot of hot spice and some fake crab (*surimi*), too. In their own way, they're fun, so long as you're prepared to give up any puristic standards and go with the flow. But don't bother with the plain *nigiri* — the rice lacks classic sushi seasonings (and is often dry), and the seafood is too mediocre to be appealing in simple preparations. Rock-bottom prices, though. Another branch is in the Gaslamp at 409 F Street, 619-237-1037. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W. (8/05)

**Terra** 3900 Vermont Street, Uptown Shopping Center, Hillcrest, 619-293-7088. Co-owner Jeff Rossman, formerly in charge of the front of the house, has moved into the kitchen to serve as chef at this comfortable neighborhood spot, serving venturesome, if uneven, tropical-influenced American cooking. You can settle in a spacious

southwest-tinged dining room or people-watch from a sheltered outdoor patio (with smoking permitted). Generously sized tapas can serve as appetizers or as a sustaining bite before venturing into Trader Joe's across the street. The dinner menu changes seasonally, featuring barbecue items during the summer, comforting fare in colder weather, and special dinners on all major holidays. Good wine list with several flights available, full bar with tropical cocktails (Pisco Sours, Caipirinhas, etc.). Reservations advised, especially for weekends, holidays and special events (e.g., Sunday "blues and barbecue" during the summer). Saturday and Sunday three meals, weekdays lunch and dinner. Moderate. — N.W. (6/01)

## DOWNTOWN

**Athens Market** 109 West F Street (between First and Front), 619-234-1955. Alex Spanos and lots of local hotshots come here for honest Greek home cookin'. Yes, it's classy — white table cloths, linen napkins — but you can fill up on just a bowl of *fake*, owner Mary Pappas's "secret recipe" lentil soup, and an appetizer, like *spanakopita* (spinach and cheese pastry pockets). Entrées come with rice, roast potato, a vegetable, soup or salad, and French bread and butter — all at a darned good price. Oh, and don't despise the gyro. Meat flavor's great, and it takes a football player to empty this plate. Lunch and dinner Monday through Friday, dinner only Saturday, closed Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (2/03)

**Bud's Louisiana Food Shoppe** 2034 Kettner Boulevard (at Grape, next to the Waterfront Bar), Little Italy, 619-239-4210. Bud Deslattes, a New Orleans native, was the original chef-owner of the late Bayou Bar and Grille and the inventor of the legendary white chocolate bread pudding served there. Now he's cooking it in this cute, casual eatery. A brief but choice menu features authentic Cajun-Creole specialties, to eat in or "to go." (If taking out, ask for your rice on the side.) Among the treats are a fine seafood bisque, crawfish étouffée, and a "cupa-cupa-cupa" sampling of gumbo, jambalaya, and red beans and rice. For lunch, check out the roast beef po' boy. Some Louisiana grocery items

intermittently available at retail (frozen andouille, tasso, crawfish, etc.). Parking's usually a pain but worth it. Beer and generic wine. Closed Sunday and Monday. Inexpensive. — N.W. (2/05)

**Cabo Cafe & Grill** 808 West Cedar (near Pacific Coast Highway), Little Italy, 619-595-1618. This miracle restaurant is run by homeless kids from the Monarch School Project next door, with a little help (okay, a lot) from Rubio's and its founder Ralph. He helped raise a million dollars to get the school and the restaurant running. Think Starbucks meets Taco Bell (oops, sorry Ralph). The place is like its kid-staff: smart, cheery (they painted all the seals and porpoise murals), with a great fountain-gurgling patio outside. Try the grilled burrito (grilled chicken or steak with guacamole, roasted salsa, sour cream, black beans, Mexican rice, and melted Jack cheese in a warm tortilla) or, as a great filler, the Cabo Maestro Bowl, with marinated grilled chicken or steak in a bowl with black beans, Mexican rice, cheeses, guacamole, and shredded cabbage. And yes, they do make the Rubio fish taco. Daily specials. Open weekdays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B. (5/02)

**Candelas** 416 Third Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-702-4455. Don't look for tacos here — chef Eduardo Baeza specializes in *alta cocina*, a luxurious, inventive combination of traditional Mexican fare and French techniques. In a handsome Spanish-style dining room (romantic but rather noisy) with gracious service, the menu emphasizes seafood, including a signature dish of luscious stuffed Maine lobster. Plenty for meat lovers, too, with fine Black Angus cuts inventively garnished. But the menu and ingredients have been somewhat compromised over the years to accommodate the "Dude, where's my taco?" conventioners. The choices are more Dude-friendly — that is, less venturesome than they might be, and execution can be uneven. In the lounge at 10 p.m. on weekends, the music cranks up and the scene goes disco (with a cover charge for non-diners; IDs checked). Reservations advised, required on weekends; slightly dressy. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly until 11 p.m. Interesting but expensive wine list; food expensive or higher. — N.W. (1/04)

**Edgewater Grill** 861 W. Harbor Drive, Seaport Village, 619-232-7581. An easy walk from the Convention Center, the dining room is spacious and

handsome, and the view from the crowded dining terrace is optimal (the bay, the Coronado Bridge, a park, etc.). The menu, though, is convention-centered — like a Howard Johnson's for the 21st century. The fare features middle-of-the-road faux-fusion salads, seafood, grilled steaks, pastas (most with shellfish), and individual pizzas, plus daily fin-fish dishes listed on a card in a plastic holder on the table. The lighter dishes are the most successful — this is not a bad place to "graze" on appetizers and a mini-pizza when you're starved for a view. Difficult wheelchair access to terrace. Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Entrées high moderate to very expensive. — N.W. (8/01)

**Fat City Steakhouse** 2137 Pacific Highway (at Hawthorn), Little Italy, 619-232-9303. In the Deco "pink palace" at the edge of downtown, the USDA Choice steaks (and one velvety Prime cut) are cooked over mesquite charcoal, which lends them a deliciously smoky campfire flavor. Don't like beef? You can choose nicely grilled chicken, pork, or salmon; two vegan pastas; or scampi. The appetizer list is mainly trite pub grub, but the fry cook does a great job with calamari. And in fair weather, the lush garden dining patio is a little piece of Eden. Full bar, rather basic wine list. Casual ambience, above-average wheelchair access from large, free parking lot. Dinner daily 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W. (12/02)

**Gen Lai Sen Hakka Seafood Restaurant** 1065 12th Avenue (at C Street), downtown, 619-239-5478 or 619-239-5479. Across the street from City College, you'll encounter a split personality. The good twin provides superb Hakka dishes, a style developed by a nomadic people originally from northwest China, now residents of mainly the south China coast. The bad twin dishes out glycol cornstarch-ridden stir-fries for starving students. But it's easy to tell which twin is which: The "chef recommend sizzle plates," the hot pots that taste like home cooking (best ordered by four or more), the greaseless fried rice, the noodles (especially "house special rice noodles"), and the whole steamed fish-of-the-day are palpable hits. And if you really want to know what the fuss about Hakka is all about, try the sizzle plate stuffed tofu — these deep-fried crisp rectangles with a pork meatball inserted in each tender center resemble meat-flavored roasted marsh-

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mallows, and may just change your mind about bean curd. Open brunch through dinner daily, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Pleasant service, very casual, mainly inexpensive. — *N.W. (10/01)*

**Las Cuatro Milpas** 1857 Logan Avenue, Barrio Logan, 619-234-4460. This isn't a restaurant, it's a legend. The same Estudillo family has been serving old-fashioned Mexican food here for three generations — seventy years. Rice, beans, pork tacos (they don't serve beef), pork tamales, chorizo with eggs — that's about it. So how come they have lines outside every day? Blame a potent mixture of sentiment and the lard they refuse to abandon. Folks say that lard flavor is the real Mexico. Also famous: their Saturday *menudo*. Warning: go easy with their deep wine-colored hot sauce. It's room-rocker strength. The name? From a famous mariachi song, "The Four Cornfields." Open morning to mid-afternoon, Monday to Saturday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (8/03)*

**Osteria Panevino** 722 Fifth Avenue (at G Street), Gaslamp, 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. Moderate to expensive, wines rather high. — *E.W. (4/00)*

**Pete's Quality Meats** 1742-1/2 India Street, Little Italy, 619-234-1684. Pete's Meats was just a butcher's shop until Pete's daughter and sister-in-law got the idea to set up a grill there. Now aficionados line up for Sicilian specialties like Italian-sausage sandwiches, steak sandwiches, and especially *spitiini* — veal rolled around two cheeses, onions, tomatoes, pine nuts, currants, parsley, prosciutto, and bread crumbs. Pete stuffs all of that into a hot bun with marinara sauce, sautéed peppers, and onions as packing. Nuff said? Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

**Rama** 327 Fourth Avenue (near K Street), Gaslamp, 619-501-8424. This large, handsome restaurant is the younger brother of Celadon in Hillcrest. It's named for the king of Thailand and offers Thai cuisine fit for royalty, made with top ingredients (including Chino Farms produce). The menu includes all the popular favorites but adds authentic dishes rarely found locally, such as chicken and squid with flat noodles and caramelized palm sugar, and a wicked Thai version of Chinese twice-cooked pork — a fat-fest made with unsmoked bacon. Soups and curries are based on freshly made coconut cream of swoony richness. The extensive wine list, unusual in this genre, offers affordable, food-friendly choices plus an interesting reserve list. Full bar. Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner nightly. Moderate. — *N.W. (10/04)*

**Rei Do Gado Churrascaria** 939 Fourth Avenue (between E and Broadway), Gaslamp, 619-702-8464. The meats just keep on coming at a Brazilian *rodizio*: skewer after skewer of *churrasco* (Brazilian barbecue), a near-endless procession of rotisserie-grilled meats and poultry. At each table there's a wooden cone with one end red and the other end green. Turn the green side up

to start the servers parading to your table, offering you tastes cut from long spits of salty, simply seasoned pork, poultry, ribs, sausages, and numerous cuts of beef. Turn the cone red side up to take a break from the protein parade. The gargantuan spread includes a buffet in the front of the restaurant with a changeable array of alluring side dishes, salads, fruit, and such intriguing hot entrées as Brazilian oxtail stew or seafood in coconut milk, with exotic but oddly comfortable flavors. There's always a potful of *feijoada*, the national dish — slow-cooked, meaty black beans (in a somewhat bland version, which you can liven up with a splash of hot sauce). No matter how often you eat here, you'll never have the same meal twice. Reservations advisable for weekends. Full bar (have a *Caipirinha*). No doggie-bags. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate (considering the food amount); prices higher on weekends. — *N.W. (10/02)*

**Sadaf** 828 Fifth Avenue (at E Street), Gaslamp, 619-338-0008. Vegetarian-friendly. Quiet and relaxed weeknights, the room becomes an ear-splitting mob scene weekends (even before the restaurant goes disco at 9:30). The hearty but sophisticated Persian fare centers on well-marinated kebabs and herb-rich stews, served with various savory rice dishes. There's excellent spinach *borani*, sieved yogurt relish with cucumbers, lamb chop kebabs, and a vibrant, sweet-sour *fesenjan* (pomegranate-walnut sauce with chicken). But the Gaslamp branch's kitchen is wildly inconsistent,

e.g., your *fesenjan* dumped on dry kebabs instead of mingling with simmered poultry. Desserts are always dreamy — try rosewater ice cream and/or pudding, or *bamieh*, a delicate ladyfinger soaked in (what else?) rosewater syrup. Moderate. — *N.W. (12/00)*

**Sevilla** 555 Fourth Avenue (at Market Street), Gaslamp, 619-233-5979. (Also in Carlsbad.) This site has three faces: a crowded but civilized tapas bar for spontaneous snacking, a romantic dining room with serious Spanish entrées, and a basement nightclub dishing out assembly-line paella. The best food is upstairs. You can get tapas in the restaurant and entrées at the bar, and in either case the choices are varied, interesting, and highly cosmopolitan, executed with wonderful consistency. Be sure to look for something that includes potatoes; the humble spud gets Cinderella treatment here. No reservations (or wheelchairs) at tapas bar; reservations strongly recommended for dining room. Dinner daily. Moderate. — *N.W. (2/01)*

**The Westgate Gourmet Delicatessen** Third Avenue, between Broadway and C Street, downtown, 619-557-3698. This is where you take your respectable Aunt Martha for lunch. The place reeks of gentility. Green carpets, white linen cloths, fresh flowers, chandeliers, giant potted palms. It's part of the Westgate hotel, and looks like a grocery for the rich who just can't live without specialty olive oils and



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9 pm Flamenco show and midnight celebration. 5-course dinner, show, party favors, champagne toast and access to Club Sevilla \$129\* pp

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# Calendar RESTAURANTS

expensive wines. But prices for sandwiches, light breakfasts, and lunches are down there with the best Market Street liquor-deli. Among the menu items offered, the best deal is the soup and half-sandwich combo, especially the Friday cioppino: a tomato-based soup filled with fish such as sea bass, shrimp, shark, lobster, and scallops. Open Monday through Friday for breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — E.B. (9/01)

## SOUTH BAY & CORONADO

**Cilantro Live!** 315-1/2 3rd Avenue, Chula Vista, 619-827-7401. (Also at 7822 Broadway Avenue, Lemon Grove, 619-433-0678; and 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-585-0136.) Look in Cristina Guzmán's kitchen: no ovens, no burners. Only warmers. Her theory? Never heat food above 112 degrees or the enzymes will die. Enzymes? They're life. They give you energy and do your digestion for you. What's amazing is how much real-looking and -tasting food she can create with raw nuts and twigs. And fruit. And especially seeds. She creates tuna wraps using sunflower-pumpkin seed pâté and burgers using flax seeds — both pretty credible and edible. Drinks? The margaritas (green apple with ginger, lime, and cinnamon) have to be good: Ms. Guzmán comes from Mexico City. Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (1/04)

**Coronado Boathouse 1887** 1701 Strand Way, Coronado, 619-435-0155. For a relaxing good time with lovely views and tasty food to match, put on your aloha shirt and head over the bridge. The old Coronado Boathouse boasts a handsome, historic structure with architecture mirroring the nearby Hotel Del, plus enthusiastic servers, terrific water views, and satisfying mainstream American cooking. The herbed artichoke appetizer is wonderful, as is the very fresh macadamia-crusted halibut sauced with coconut milk. The juicy roast beef here is USDA Prime (trans-

lates to "melt in your mouth") and even the desserts offer some old favorites cooked with classy ingredients and imaginative twists. A perfect place to entertain your in-laws or hold your birthday dinner. Full bar. Dinner seven days (weekends until 1 a.m.), moderate to expensive. — N.W. (10/04)

**Da Kine's Plate Lunches** 1635 Sweetwater Road (at Prospect), National City, 619-477-8494. Also at 4120 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-274-8494. You go here for your Pacific Island fix — hundreds of Hawaiians do, every day. You'll find Hawaiian license plates and surfboards on the walls, "Aloha Maid" Guava Nectar, and island food. Although the kalua pig here isn't cooked in an *imu* — a hole in the ground — it sure tastes like the real thing and comes with cabbage, rice, macaroni salad, and kimchi. But beware of the *haupia* cake — it may cause serious addiction. Lunch and early dinner Tuesday through Sunday; closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (10/00)

**Filipino Desserts Plus** 2220-Q East Plaza Boulevard, National City, 619-479-6748; also at 8955-F Mira Mesa Boulevard (inside Seafood City), Mira Mesa, 858-271-5754. Filipinos often mix sweet and savory, so it's no surprise that this desserts place has regular dishes too, including *adobo* pork, *pancit*, and *lumpia*. *Diniguan*, a Filipino specialty, is pork made with "chocolate milk," slang for pig's blood. But the pride of the place is the desserts, from the *ube halea* (purple yam custard) and *maja blanca* (coconut-corn combo) to the *sapin sapin* (multicolored layer cake) and fried sweet *saba* banana on a skewer. Open daily, breakfast through early dinner. — E.B. (9/04)

**Island Wok** 922 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-6835. This tiny indoor-outdoor-takeaway café is a standby with locals, especially the high school crowd. It serves good Vietnamese-Chinese food, and plenty of it. The owner, Xuan, makes scrumptious fresh (not fried) Vietnamese spring rolls wrapped in rice paper with shrimp, pork, or chicken and vegetables in the middle. But most customers go for the steam-table combination plates. You always get chow mein, fried or steamed rice, and a fried spring roll to start off, and then you can add entrées like orange chicken, *kung pao* chicken, or sweet-and-sour pork. Closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (12/01)

**Lai Thai Restaurant** 1430 E. Plaza Boulevard #E10, National City, 619-474-5546. Lai Thai started up as the lone Thai in a sea of Filipino restaurants in South Bay, but has gained a respected place under glamorous Summawadee Bubpha. Prices are so reasonable, you feel the food shouldn't come on such beautiful platters. The soups, *tom kah* (spicy coconut), and *tom yum* (hot and sour), are especially good, as is the house Lai Thai Fish (usually tilapia) in delicious *panang* coconut-curry sauce. But you've got to push for spiciness if you want it. Lunch deals are really cheap. Also check out the Thai art on the walls, some for sale. Open lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (3/06)

**Parisi's Italian Restaurant** 323 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-420-4490. This is an area where a lot of folks live in trailer parks on fixed incomes, and Parisi's has become their affordable, often daily treat. The good news is they don't just open cans. Nick and Rosemary Parisi, who opened here back in 1979, brought New Jersey traditions with them. Nick had been a butcher. His son Nick still makes his own delicious fennel-flavored sausage just as his dad taught him. Sons and daughters now run the place and still make their own spaghetti sauce, too. Other dishes include the eggplant or veal Parmesan sandwich and meatballs and sauce with garlic bread. This isn't the smart, spare Gaslamp Italian, it's the old-fashioned *Moonstruck* Italian. Lunch and dinner six days, late lunch and dinner Sundays. — E.B. (4/05)

**Peohe's** The Landing, 1201 First Street, Coronado, 619-437-4474. This gorgeous, view-endowed restaurant offers upscale, Hawaiian-inspired fish and gargantuan steaks in a plush tropical-style setting with indoor waterfalls and three separate patios. Given the visual splendor, much of the food is better than it needs to be, featuring top-quality seafood prepared with care, e.g., halibut in a lush, sassy Frangelico-touched macadamia *beurre blanc*. A chocolate shell filled with macadamia nut ice cream may be worth the calories, too. Full bar. Reservations advised. Lunch (with limited breakfast) Monday through Saturday; brunch Sunday. Dinner nightly. Expensive. — N.W. (3/01)

**Swaddee Thai** 1001 C Avenue (at 10th Street), Coronado, 619-435-8110. Tourists never stray to Swaddee's quiet residential location a block from the bright lights of Orange Avenue. Their loss is the locals' gain. The dining room is a quiet, lovely haven from the hustle; the service is caring and gracious. Even if the long list of Siamese specialties is

merely standard, the kitchen, too, is devoted to the art of gently giving pleasure. The peanut sauce accompanying the *saté*, for instance, is classically balanced; the complex but soothing coconut-chicken soup can wash away all cares; and the calamari in the many seafood arrays is cleverly knife-scored to achieve sheer tenderness along with good looks. Even the jasmine rice is an exceptionally fragrant brand. Unless you specify otherwise, spicy dishes have a nice nip tuned to brave but tender *farang* taste buds. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W. (9/00)

## BAJA

From the United States use the prefix 011-52-664 when calling Tijuana; when calling in Tijuana use only the restaurant's seven-digit number.

**Cien Años** Calle José María Velasco #1407, Zona Río, Tijuana, 634-3039 or 634-7262. This lovely, comfortable, dressy-casual "destination restaurant" serves extraordinary Mexican haute cuisine, graced with a brilliant variety of sauces based on elaborations of Mexican ingredients, including tropical fruits, nuts, and above all a vast variety of chile peppers, each with its own distinctive flavor (not all of them spicy). You could eat here a dozen times and not begin to exhaust the possibilities. Just a few of the treats are mushrooms steeped in beef marrow, crocodile meat mini-tacos, *pozole* with crab meat, and an irresistible beef and shrimp stew. (Food critic Ruth Reichl consumed a meal of exotic Aztec delicacies, including ant roe and mezcals worms, and you can try them too when they're in season.) The wine list is devoted wholly to ambitious Baja wineries; you're also welcome to BYO. Bar choices include damiana and hibiscus liqueurs. Menu and staff are bilingual. Reservations strongly advised; ask for directions. Moderate. — N.W. (1/04)

**La Costa** Calle Galeana #8131 (Seventh Street between Revolución and Constitución), Tijuana, 685-8494 or 685-3124. Even after four decades, fisherman-singer Adrián Pedrín Aramburo's seafood place looks fresh, with its blue-and-white floor tiles, polished brass portholes, and varnish. Some seafood combos can be costly, but most fish and oyster dishes are reasonable. Everybody seems to go for fileted sea bass — the baked "Catalina" with mushroom cream sauce, or "Olivia," stuffed with octopus and shrimp, are really good. So are "Madrado" oysters,

with chipotle and bacon. But you can't go wrong with the less expensive whole fish plates, like the charcoal-broiled "Sarandeado" (just watch out for the bones). Each entrée comes with soup, hors d'oeuvre, salad, rice, and coffee, plus a Kahlua-based drink-dessert. Bonus: the owner's charming menu inserts. Open daily, late breakfast through dinner. Moderate to expensive. — E.B. (3/05)

**La Fondá** Baja Highway 1, Km. 59 (Alisios exit from toll-road, about halfway between Rosarito and Ensenada), 661-628-7352. It's hard to imagine a better start to the day, in any sweeter ambiance, than at La Fondá ("The Inn"), which offers Mexican and American breakfast dishes and a lavish Sunday brunch buffet with both. Arrive early for patio seating under a straw umbrella with a full-out ocean view. The bilingual menu is written on chalkboards and dinner choices change nightly, featuring American and Mexican seafood entrées and deluxe meats aged in-house. Most staffers speak some English. Full bar, including Baja-grown wines. Open daily, three meals, starting about 9 a.m. Inexpensive to moderate; cash only. — N.W. (4/03)

**La Leña** Agua Caliente Boulevard #11191, Tijuana, 686-2920. The nicest thing about La Leña ("The Fire Log") is its view. You come off noisy, fumeey, traffic-wracked Agua Caliente into this quiet, dark-wood, creamy-yellow walled room and a full view of...countryside! Actually, a green golf course studded with trees. In the middle of Tijuana? Golfers thwack balls, giant mowers look like *Star Wars* creatures. So no surprise that you get country-club type eating: open-grill *charro* food for well-to-do *charros*. Old-style BBQ steaks, surf-and-turf combos, and big slabs of Mexican-cut *filete cabrería*, which are flabby but tender. Most arrive at your table sizzling on black iron hotplates. Servings are generous (meals come with soup or salad and you get a free appetizer such as shredded beef and tortillas) if not remarkable. Or even especially Mexican — their hamburger is darned tasty. But the atmosphere is a great break from the raucous TJ we all know and (sometimes) love. Lunch and dinner daily from 11 a.m. until late. Moderate. — E.B. (10/04)

**Malecón de Puerto Nuevo** Northwest edge of Puerto Nuevo; take Calle Entrada (entry road) to the oceanfront bluff, edge right, and walk about 30 feet down a steep dirt road running seaward from the street-market on the oceanside edge of town. Look for a yellow building with blue trim and a terrace with umbrellas. Worth looking for.

This great, honest little restaurant harks back to the original, uncommercialized "lobster village" before it got its capital letters and written menus. Open since August, 2002, it's owned by an active fisherman, who serves (as much as weather permits) fresh-caught local lobsters and genuine "daily catch" with standard sides — superb frijoles, red rice, real melted butter — and that's all. The first-course ceviche, when available, is astonishingly flavorful with fish caught that very morning; in harsher weather, a hearty, warming fish chowder substitutes. Breaking from Puerto Nuevo tradition, when the lobster is fresh caught it's simply split and grilled, not lard-fried first, and all the better for it. Some staffers are bilingual. Open brunch through dinner. No reservations, cash only. Low moderate. — N.W. (11/02)

**Manzanilla** Riveroll 122 (off Lopez Mateo), Ensenada, Baja Mexico, 646-175-7073. At this art-filled, very "Euro" bistro, a pair of gifted, classically trained chef-owners are pioneering "new Mexican cuisine," creating sophisticated combinations of superb local products and traditional Mexican flavors. Fresh-caught seafood, local-grown vegetables and mesquite smoke from the wood-burning grill are featured players on the seasonal menus; a spectacular rib-eye steak, tender and intensely beefy, is also a constant. Little wonder this has become the destination restaurant south of Tijuana. The menu is in Spanish, but owners Benito Molina and Solange Muris Evans speak fluent English, as do some wait staff. (The only communication problem will be the exotic music blasting on the sound system.) Reserve for weekends, especially during tourist seasons. Full bar featuring tequilas, Baja vintners. Wednesday through Saturday, late lunch through dinner, until midnight. Moderate. — N.W. (9/04)

**Original Ortega's** In Puerto Nuevo, next to Casa de la Langosta, on the first street to your left (Calle Principal) after entering town through the entry gate. Open since 1952, this is the original "Lobster Village" restaurant, and not much has changed. Eventually Ortega's grew into an octopus with multiple arms in Puerto Nuevo and Rosarito Beach, all pretty similar. The menu is longer than most, with numerous starters (including a tasty ceviche and an excellent tortilla soup), varied seafood entrées and *antojitos*, desserts, and even fancy coffees (including "Viagra," which features reputedly aphrodisiac Damiana herbal liqueur). The spiny lobsters (once local but now from who-knows-where) are first fried in lard,

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then finished off on the grill, and served with a greasy-tasting melted "Kitchen Maid" margarine blend, frijoles, rice, tortillas, and salsa. Full bar, English menu, staff marginally bilingual. Moderate to high, but with low-moderate specials. No reservations, cash only. — N.W. (11/02)

## MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

**Bully's East** 2401 Camino del Rio South, Mission Valley, 619-291-2665. Also at 5755 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla (858-459-2768), and 1404 Camino del Mar, Del Mar (858-755-1660). Despite the plasma TV sports screen, this place is very sixties. For example, dark, woody, plush red booths. And always crowded. Word is, they serve more prime rib with au jus and horseradish than any eatery in San Diego. The "Petite Cut" 8 ounce, their smallest, fills you plenty, with its baked potato and salad. But just once, come here with your main squeeze and order up the "full cut for two." It hangs ten over the edges. Or go bonkers and order the 32-ounce cut — just to watch your neighbors' eyes bug out. Not flush? Try the "Bully Burger," French Dip sandwich, or calamari sandwich. Lonely? Go to the horseshoe-shaped Low Bar. Lunch and dinner daily. The price ranges. — E.B. (2/03)

**El Pollo Loco** 2795 Main, Logan Heights, 619-595-0847. Additional locations in Midway, Carmel Mountain, Chula Vista, El Cajon, Lemon Grove, National City, Poway, and more. This Mexican-style chicken chain offers healthier, tastier fast food. The flame-broiled poultry has crisp, richly seasoned, very salty skin; the flesh can vary from barely done to overdone, but usually is just right. The bird (or any assortment of its parts) comes with sage gravy, tortillas, and a choice of side dishes that includes rich, sweet black beans, crisp and clean coleslaw, great gooey-cheesy macaroni, and passable mashed potatoes. Help yourself to salsas (there are four varieties), chopped onions, lemons, cilantro, hot peppers. But stick with the chicks — the taqueria-style choices are barely better than Taco Bell. Check for daily specials, wherein a small amount of cash will buy a huge amount of highly palatable poultry. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W. (2/03)

**Popeye's Chicken & Biscuits** 2333 Highland Avenue (at 24th Street), National City, 619-477-5605; 2210 E. Plaza Boulevard (at Euclid Avenue), National City, 619-470-3002; 3489 Santo Road (at Aero Drive), 858-573-0035; Metropolitan Center, 1737 Euclid Avenue (north of Federal Boulevard), Cholla Creek, 619-527-6565; and 6095 El Cajon Boulevard (at College Avenue), 619-286-3322. This is the one major national chain to cling firmly to a regional American identity: Wherever you go, if you find a Popeye's, you'll be eating Louisiana flavors. But some flavors travel better than others in fast-food translations: The spicy, crisp fried chicken and air-light drop biscuits are fine as can be. The étouffé (whether of chicken or crawfish, when available) is surprisingly decent. The gumbo, offered at some locations, is weird — flavors aren't bad, but it's more like a Creole risotto, with wet rice instead of liquid (where's the soup?). Dirty rice and jambalaya are nasty and dry. Food quality varies subtly from branch to branch, as does the attitude of the counter-persons. Open daily, three meals. Inexpensive. — N.W. (2/02)

**Uno Chicago Bar and Grill** The 1943-born Uno chain made its mark by transforming the flat Italian pizza into something a little more upstanding. Deep-dish pizzas have become one of Chicago's better-known exports. Now Uno does serious steak too, with variously sized Angus top sirloins. They come pretty much as is, but the meat itself is plenty flavorful and tender. Its expanded menu includes fajitas, ribs, shrimp scampi, and steak'n cheese burgers. Still, most lunchtime customers we saw seemed to stick to the staple: deep-dish pizzas and salads. Open daily, continuous service, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. 4465 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-483-4143; Fashion Valley Center, 619-298-1866; 5th and H, Chula Vista, 619-420-8660. — E.B. (8/01)

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Glass of Champagne to begin

## Appetizers (Choose One)

### Chili Scallops

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or

### Smoked Duck

Layered with mango salsa, served atop grilled Ciabatta bread and garnished with watercress & balsamic reduction.

## Salad/Soup (Choose One)

### Field Green Salad

Tossed with teardrop tomatoes, Maytag bleu cheese, caramelized pecans and a homemade pear vinaigrette.

or

### Tomato Avocado Salad

Tossed with red onion, arugula, cilantro, and a homemade cumin vinaigrette.

or

### Traditional Lobster Bisque

A classic French soup, served with a dash of cognac.

## Dinner Entrées (Choose One)

### Rack of Lamb

Marinated in fresh herbs, served with pancetta wrapped radicchio, bleu cheese polenta, candied shallots, and a balsamic reduction.

or

### Surf-n-Turf

A 6 oz. filet paired up with 3 jumbo crabs stuffed shrimp, served with a rosemary potato cake, port wine demi and chef's vegetables.

or

### Miso Seared Sea Bass

Marinated in miso atop of a ginger coconut rice topped with sautéed veggies.

## Desserts

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**Calendar**

**THEATER**

**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.

**An American Christmas**

Lamb's Players presents an "interactive feast and celebration," set 100 years ago, at the Hotel del Coronado's Grand Ballroom. HOTEL DEL CORONADO, 1500 ORANGE AVENUE, THROUGH DECEMBER 30; NIGHTLY AT 6:30 P.M. 619-437-0600.

**How the Grinch Stole Christmas**

Well, almost stole. The Green Meanie comes close but gets foiled in the end. The Old Globe's *Grinch*, adapted from the Dr. Seuss book by Timothy Mason and directed by Jack O'Brien, is as crisp and playful as ever. Scenic designer John Lee Beatty's mobile snowdrifts, Robert Morgan's costumes (waddling Who's shaped like bowling pins and pears in candy cane colors), Jay Goede's Grinch, a green Sasquatch who really needs to take his meds (and who wants to have a "heart to heartless" talk with irrepressible Cindy Lou) — all combine in a swirling theatricality. Now in its ninth year, *Grinch* has become a local holiday institution. The night I saw it, at least half the audience was under 12, and many seeing live theater, quite possibly, for the first time. And what has become another praiseworthy *Grinch* tradition: at least 75 percent of the cast comes from San Diego.

**Worth a try.**

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THROUGH DECEMBER 29; THURSDAY AND FRIDAY AT 7:30 P.M. 619-234-5623.



Lamb's Players Festival of Christmas

**Joey and Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding**

Joey and Maria tie the knot in "not-so-ordinary interactive dinner theater."

HOLIDAY INN ON THE BAY, 1355 NORTH HARBOR DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, OPEN-ENDED RUN. FOR DAYS AND TIMES CALL 800-944-5639.

**Jonah**

San Diego Branch Productions presents a musical version of the biblical story "of a man given a second chance."

SUNSHINE BROOKS THEATRE, 217 NORTH COAST HIGHWAY, OCEANSIDE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, AT 2:00 P.M. 760-529-9140.

**Lamb's Players Festival of Christmas**

Kerry Meads set this year's script, *All I Want for Christmas*, in San Diego's Little Italy in 1949. The radio era's nearing an end, and corporations like Woolworth are just beginning to "squash the little guy." The story's a mite lengthy, and don't for one minute think that anyone by evening's end will have a dream left unfulfilled. A hallmark of Lamb's annual festival is its music. The period allows ar-

rangers Cris O'Byron and Vanda Eggington to give standards (like "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer") inventive twists and rediscover forgotten songs. Throughout the Bops, a group trying to make it big, sing soft, four-part harmonies, stretching notes like pulled taffy (best of show: don't ask how four men sipping coffee at Gold's Fountain suddenly perform a choreographed routine that includes spinning on red stools; just enjoy their version of David Holt and Sammy Cahn's "Christmas Blues"). Scratch the surface of any Christmas-related story and you'll find a metamorphosis worthy of Ovid: Scrooge, the Grinch. *All I Want* has two. Doren Elias plays a nerd who repairs radios and a dashing mystery figure; David Cochran Heath is Joe, a middle-aged man who still lives with his mother. Love blooms, and Joe grows. Heath's singing of "You're All I Want for Christmas" marks his awakening and stops the show.

**Worth a try.**

LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVENUE, CORONADO, THROUGH DECEMBER 30; THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 4:00 P.M. 619-437-0600.

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**National Comedy Theatre**  
Improvational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it'd be more exciting if done competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling ("where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests, while mums and dads yelled insults and grannies waved their handbags"). National Comedy Theatre, an offshoot of Johnstone's TheatreSports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like "rugby and American football"), resembles an athletic event more than an improv. Teams wear uniforms and compete on ActroTurf. The night I caught the show, three San Diego comedians played a challenge match against players from the San Jose franchise. Using suggestions from the audience, they played "Emotional Sympathy," "Shakespeare," "Blind Line," and "Freeze Tag," with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klunkers and groaners got booed; quick wit rewarded (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledge failure, abundantly, then forget it). It made for a lively, often quite funny, evening. And Gary Kramer is one talented comedian.

**Worth a try.**

MARQUIS THEATER, 3717 INDIA STREET, MISSION HILLS, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. AND 9:45 P.M. 619-295-4999.

**Readings of August  
Wilson's Plays: Joe Turner's Come and Gone**

The San Diego Black Ensemble and Cygnet Theatre could do for the late August Wilson what "Grassroots Greeks" did for ancient Greek drama in San Diego. The companies present a series of staged readings of one of the 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), 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 also be staged at the Performance Annex in City Heights and other locations. The series will culminate in a week-long staged reading festival of all the plays at Cygnet in June 2007. Next offering: Floyd Gaffney directs *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*.

**Worth a try.**

CYGNET THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, COLLEGE AREA, THROUGH MAY 8; *JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE*, MONDAY AND TUESDAY, MARCH 5 AND 6, AT 7:30 P.M. FOR A

COMPLETE LIST OF READINGS AND LOCATIONS, CALL 619-337-1525, X3.

**San Diego Theatresports:  
The FunHouse**

A cross between improvisational comedy and *Family Feud*. Improv, making up a funny scene as you go along, is tough enough. Add competitive scene making, with the audience awarding points to the winning team. Purists might balk at the odiousness of comparisons used in this format, but the "game show" — on Fridays — is a hoot. The 90-minute evening offers different bits. The show I caught had "Team Sports" — two pairs of players competed, taking suggestions from the audience; and "Gorilla Theatre" — five directors invented scenes, using the other four as actors. The winner got a banana, the loser a "forfeit" (other formats include "Micetro" and "Improv Survivors"). Some attempts went nowhere (I repeat: improv is tough; I did it in my, as hindsight reveals, callow youth). Others made amazing twists and turns. The group makes the hits much more frequent than the misses. Their guru, Keith Johnstone, wrote one of the very best books I've ever read about making theater. And they put his pearls to good use. Their motto: "Remember, when it's not funny, it's art."

**Worth a try.**

THE FUNHOUSE, 6822 EL CAJON BOULEVARD (BETWEEN 68TH AND 69TH), COLLEGE AREA, FRIDAY AT 7:45 P.M. SATURDAY AT 7:45 P.M. AND 9:45 P.M. 619-465-7469.

**The Sopranos' Last Supper**

Dillstar Productions presents an evening with the notorious Baritone family: "gambling, dinner, dancing, and good old mobster fun."

HOLIDAY INN ON THE BAY, 1355 NORTH HARBOR DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, OPEN-ENDED RUN; SELECTED SATURDAYS AT 7:30 P.M. 800-944-5639.

**The Tin Soldier**

North Coast Repertory Theatre presents the "tale of a toy come to life." Joe Powers directed. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987 LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SUITE D, SOLANA BEACH, THROUGH DECEMBER 31; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 858-481-1055.

**Triple Espresso: A Highly Caffeinated Comedy**

Hugh Butternutt'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, 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. A formulaic story line? Yep. 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 is 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. (Note: the original cast members have been replaced.)



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# Calendar

## THEATER

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**The Wonder Bread Years**

Pat Hazell's solo "field trip back in time" sounds like yet another superficial romp through the '50s and



How the Grinch Stole Christmas

'60s, glancing here and careening there off familiar icons with the nutritional content implied by its title. What sets the piece apart, along with Hazell's ability to interact with an audience (and with what it's thinking, rather than with

what he wants it to think) is his knack for talking about the familiar in fresh ways ("Childhood was the time when you could fall asleep anywhere and wake up in your own bed"). He talks about traditional subjects — breakfast, going to

school, Thanksgiving ("the day eggnog becomes street legal") — and creates a commonality with his listeners. He doesn't always achieve his aim — "to explore our sense of wonder: where we lost it and how to get it back" — but often coaxes memories of events and things long since forgotten, like "gyp" houses at Halloween, or Kool-Aid ice cubes, or the table for 12-year-olds at Thanksgiving, which had the same seating arrangement even when the 12-year-olds were 22. Hazell, who wrote for Jerry Seinfeld, dresses a bit like Howdy Doody's Buffalo Bob, minus the cowboy hat, and performs with a folksy ease. Occasionally he demonstrates more than just a gift for gab, as when he balances various items on his nose or a wooden chair on his chin. But he's at his best as a conjurer of the telling detail.

**Worth a try.**

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## Done

By rights, Stallone ought to have taken over the Burgess Meredith role.

**F**inal shovelful: *Curse of the Golden Flower*, more than just the best movie to reach our town for the holidays, is in some sense the *only* movie to do so. Zhang Yimou, in the first place, is a true moviemaker, and his dynamic visual style demonstrates exceptional weight, balance, timing, and agility. In short, exceptional command of the screen. Watching his shots fall into place is a little like watching the piece-by-piece construction of a palace. Or temple. Nothing humbler would quite do justice to a tale of courtly and amatory intrigue (Tang Dynasty, 10th Century) that aspires to Shakespearean, even Sophoclean, tragedy. Then, too, the director's reunion with his one-time muse and leading lady, Gong Li, over ten years after their personal falling-out, post-*Shanghai Triad*, makes the movie into a real "event," and the actress brings to it an inner fire to outglow even the molten-lava color scheme. I would not bother to dispute that the movie is somewhat talky and slow, but if I prefer it nevertheless to Zhang's *Hero* and *House of Flying Daggers*, my reasons in large part would be precisely the long postponement of

the gravity-defying martial arts. Defying, that is, of not only Newton's sort of gravity but that of Shakespeare and Sophocles as well. Once the battles break out, they severely damage the sense of seriousness, although never the sense of style.

### REVIEW DUNCAN SHEPHERD

*The Good Shepherd* could be called, as one blurbist already has done, *The Godfather* of CIA movies, but only if you are satisfied to retain all the pretentiousness of *The Godfather*, right down to the oppressive underillumination, and do without any of the enlivening pyrotechnics. (Despite those subtractions, the movie still comes to within ten minutes or so of *The Godfather's* nearly three-hour duration.) Tremendously unentertaining, it slogs back and forth in time, beginning with, and regularly returning to, the Bay of Pigs fiasco and fallout, but retreating back as far as the protagonist's college days as a Yalie and an inductee into the Skull and Bones secret society in 1939 (and even, in a psychoanalytical flashback-within-a-flashback, as far as his boyhood and his father's suicide in 1925), and then working its way forward toward 1961 in incremental jumps. Second-time director Robert De Niro, who also has



Rocky Balboa

a small sedentary role as the protagonist's espionage mentor, may have convinced himself that the back-and-forth time shuttle (not to mention the Cuban connection) would transform this also into *The Godfather II* of CIA movies. But this, unlike that, is a single-generation narrative, and the continual interruptions in the storytelling serve little other purpose than

to thwart any suspense. And since the block-of-wood Matt Damon hardly ages a day in twenty-plus years (nor does Angelina Jolie in the unaccustomed role of a neglected wife), our best hope to avoid confusion as to where we are on the timeline is to differentiate between his many eyeglass frames.

*Rocky Balboa*, the sixth installment

in the *Rocky* series despite the absence of a Roman numeral to remind us, comes thirty years after the first one and sixteen after the fifth. It will stand as a serviceable definition of "retarded." Written and directed by its now sixty-year-old star, Sylvester Stallone, it wants nothing but to turn back the hands of time. Oh, Stallone may, in observance of auld lang syne, put

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Calendar  
MOVIES

his sanctified screen wife into the cold hard ground ("woman cancer"), and thus restrict Talia Shire, still listed in the credits, to youthful flashbacks. But what man, after all, with washboard abs and with veins bulging in his shoulders and biceps, could abide to be saddled with an old bag his own age? He can always get an eyelift, dip into the hair dye, put on the same hat, run up the same steps to the same music, replace the old Ugly Duckling with a younger Ugly Duckling (Geraldine Hughes, no spring chicken, but nonetheless a quarter-century his junior), and if the script says so, if wishful thinking wishes it, he can still give as good as he gets in a risible "exhibition match" against the current undefeated, but unrespected, heavyweight champ (former light-heavyweight champ, Antonio Tarver). Skill vs. Will, it's billed as, and no chance to mistake which is which. By rights, of course, Stallone ought to have taken over the Burgess Meredith

role and left the fighting to, say, Hilary Swank. The glaring irony of it is that, while the on-screen Stallone is supposed to be the personification of heart and desire, the off-screen Stallone can only have been motivated by the thing that motivates his on-screen opponent and supposed opposite: lust for a big payday.

*Night at the Museum*, a hard-pressing kiddie fantasy that finds room to accommodate references to *Brokeback Mountain* and *The Squid and the Whale*, is a *Jumanji*-esque jumble of special effects, in which all the exhibits at the Natural History Museum in New York City come to life after dark. This allows for a lot of, frankly an excess of, variety: Lilliputian cowboys and Roman soldiers who tie down the new night watchman like Gulliver; a mischievous monkey who pees on him, pickpockets his keys, and engages in a Three Stooges-style slapfest with him; a T-rex skeleton who wants to play fetch; a talking, bubblegum-chewing Easter Island head; Attila and some Huns; some lions, an elephant, a zebra, a rhino, and so on. It also allows for logical mix-ups whereby, for example, the wax figure of Teddy Roosevelt

knows full well he's a wax figure of our twenty-sixth President, while the wax figure of Sakajawea is regarded as the actual, taxidermized Indian maid, a boon to the tour guide who is writing a dissertation on her. Director Shawn Levy oversees one decent cinematic moment, the contrasting views of the Lilliputians letting the air out of the tires of a van at the loading dock, an action which at close range looks as if they're trying to plug a hole in the fuselage of a jetliner at 30,000 feet, while from a distance it looks as if all is calm. Mickey Rooney has a nice little role as a truculent security guard forced into retirement (addressing his replacement variously as "Hotshot," "Hopscotch," "Butterscotch," etc.), and Ricky Gervais, of the British *The Office*, shows off his narrow range to good effect as another embarrassing boss, the high-handed museum director ("Control your young, please"). Ben Stiller, on the other hand, shows off his own narrow range at great length in the lead role, and Robin Williams (the wax Teddy) and Owen Wilson (toy cowboy) are instantaneously tiresome.

*Sweet Land* features the wholesome beauty and noble forehead of Eliza-

beth Reaser in the role of a mail-order bride advertised as Norwegian but in fact German, persona non grata in rural Minnesota in the days after the Great War. This actress caught my eye in a supporting part in *Stay* and didn't do much to hold it in a supporting part in *The Family Stone*. Here she proves she can carry an entire movie, even much of the way in unsubtitled German, provided the movie is not too weighty. (No weightier, anyway, than the gramophone and two suitcases she lugs single-handedly into the hinterlands.) Ali Selim, the writer and director, treats it as a Simple Folk tale, quaint, square, ingenuous, uncomplicated, unshadowed, only a scudding cloud or two of small-town small-mindedness. One might wonder how it would have been rewritten by that native Minnesotan of the day, Sinclair Lewis. One suspects that Reaser could have carried her share of that, too.

And that will have to suffice for 2006. *Black Christmas* and *Charlotte's Web* have escaped my scoop, but I trust that the moviegoers who are meant to find them will manage without me. ■

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.

**Apocalypse** — Evidently Mel Gibson is in it only for the barbarity. Scouring the globe, roaming the pages of history, he has alighted here on the illuminating example of the Mayan people, past their civilized peak, where a happy, peaceable, practical-joking tribe of jungle dwellers (sample joke: the prescription of a red-hot herb as a topical fertility drug, so that the duped hubby must, in full view of the guffawing villagers, hop around buck naked and plunk down his burning loins in a water trough — wait, it gets even better — and his wife must pour a pitcher of water down her gullet) is cruelly set upon and rounded up by a storm troop of fearsome, bloodthirsty, bone-in-the-nose killjoys in search of sacrificial offerings to their god Kukulkan. A paradise, in other words, no less than turn-of-the-13th-century Scotland in *Braveheart* or 1st-century Palestine in *The Passion of the Christ*, where Gibson may indulge his appetite for mayhem, persecution, torture, martyrdom. (The nine-tenths-naked natives enable him, further, to indulge his lesser appetite for homoerotic.) The English subtitles and the no-name cast might almost lead you to believe, were it not for the telltale slickness and the Gibsonian slo-mo for dramatic stress, that you're watching a product of, say, the Guatemalan New Wave or the Undiscovered Belizean Cinema. At the very least, the film should do nothing to fan the flames of Gibson's suspected and substantiated anti-Semitism. And at the next least, the last-minute arrival on the scene of Christianity is not openly — and politically incorrectly — applauded. That might be the film's one and only instance of restraint. Rudy Youngblood, Dalia Hernandez, Jonathan Brewer, Morris Bird. 2006.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**Babel** — Communication problems the world over. An American tourist is struck by rifle fire in Morocco, arousing erroneous worries of terrorism. An illegal-alien nanny drags along the two towheads in her care to a Mexican wedding, and runs afoul of the Border Patrol on their return. And a horny pantyless deaf-mute Japanese girl can't get a man, any man, to take an interest in her. These three storylines are fashionably "interlocked" (anyone who can recognize the voice of Brad Pitt over the telephone will immediately know the connection between two of them), and the film strategically ends in the same place, from a different point of view, as it begins, coming full circle. The illusion of complexity, for all that, could scarcely be more transparent. Mexican director Alejandro González Iñárritu, much in the manner of his *Amores Perros*, achieves depth only in the way that a hero sandwich achieves it; and it achieves length — almost two and a half hours of it — in the same way as a footlong at any Subway shop. Tenuous in construction, slack and sluggish in pace, sketchy and far-fetched in plot, the film does nothing to justify its epic length or its cosmic ambitions. (The Mexican storyline, particularly weak, goes nowhere until it goes bananas: a series of decisions so bad as to forfeit all sympathy for the characters, let alone for the storyteller who compelled the characters to make the decisions.) With a somewhat calmer camera than his norm, however, the director does some nice scene-setting, some impressionistic documentation of the locales, to help realize his goal in sheer duration. With Cate

"HAUNTING AND HYPNOTIC, IT'S PURE MOVIE-GOING BLISS."  
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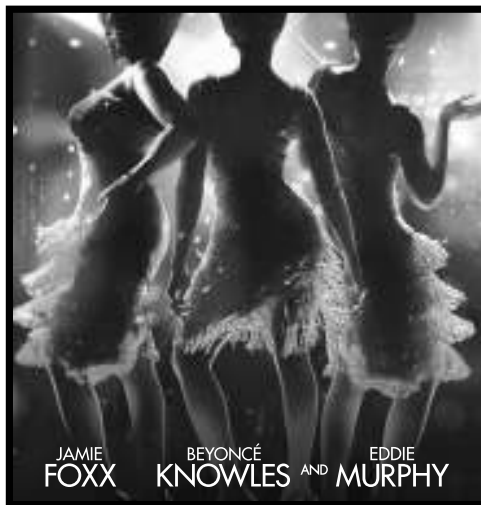
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Blanchett, Adriana Barraza, Gael García Bernal, Koji Yakusho, and Rinko Kikuchi. 2006.

★ (GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; PALM PROMENADE 24)

**Black Christmas** — Remake of the 1974 thriller, with Katie Cassidy, Michelle Trachtenberg, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, and Lacey Chabert, directed by Glen Morgan. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; 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)

**Blood Diamond** — Serviceable action-adventure despite frequent interruptions for sermonettes on human rights and capitalist wrongs. The ripped-from-the-headlines story (yesterday's headlines: civil war in Sierra Leone, 1999) features the stock figures of a self-interested soldier of fortune, in league with slaughterous rebels and unscrupulous jewellers, an engage foreign correspondent, and a hapless native peasant enslaved in the diamond mines and separated from his family, all united on a treasure hunt for a priceless buried gem, "a pink," big as a walnut. Without the politics, the strong-arm manipulation of emotions would be inexcusable. Or rather, more clearly inexcusable. It's still inexcusable even now. (The on-screen standing ovation at the final curtain is an unsubtle elbow-in-the-ribs to the moviegoer.) Behind the oped posturing, the film roughly resembles a middle-period, middle-drawer Robert Mitchum vehicle, except that Leonardo DiCaprio, affecting an acceptable Afrikaner accent, is no Robert Mitchum. For all his recently acquired bulk, including the heftiness of his credits in Martin Scorsese's oeuvre, he remains too boyish to be a persuasive action hero: Robby Bensonitis, let's call it. Jennifer Connelly, meantime, is both capable and decorative as the journalist. And the only thing keeping Djimon Hounsou from total sympathy is the sanctimony in which his director, Edward Zwick, enwraps him. All three, along with their Dark Continent environs, are nicely, cleanly, warmly photographed by Eduardo Serra. 2006.

★ (ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; SAN MARCOS 18)

**Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan** — For anyone who heretofore hadn't encountered the character on HBO, Borat Sagdiyev will need an introduction. He is one of the personas of British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen on *Da Ali G Show*, a Kazakh TV reporter dapperly dressed in a dove-gray suit, bristlingly mustachioed, blissfully sexist, superstitiously anti-Semitic, and not yet toilet-trained (he splashes water on his face from the commode in his New York hotel room, takes a doggy-style dump in the bushes of a public park, jerks off in front of a Victoria's Secret display window, and so on), ostensibly dispatched to America to shoot a documentary for home consumption — a built-in excuse for bad camerawork. Scripted scenes, or at any rate pre-planned scenes, primarily involving Borat's obese and camera-shy producer, Azamat Bagatov (Ken Davitian), secondarily involving a slightly less obese African-American call girl (Luenell), and presumably also involving the proprietors of a Jewish B&B (how can we be sure?), alternate with unscripted performance-art pieces, so to call them, in which assorted innocents, dupes, patsies, and joke-butts are lured into the gag unaware. These unrehearsed bits, no doubt more compelling, more riveting, more nerve-racking than the planned-out parts, naturally give rise to thoughts of their comedic antecedents and analogues: *Candid Camera*, the practical jokes on a Dick Clark *Bloopers* special, MTV's copycat *Punk'd*, the crank calls of any wisenheim radio deejay, Andy Kaufman's chauvinistic pig wrestling career, the Yes Men (and their eponymous film of a couple of years previous), etc. At the same time, they give rise to moral concerns — to say nothing of legal ones — that far overshadow artistic ones.



Curse of the Golden Flower

Can, as an example, an Alabama minister's wife — bluntly insulted for her dearth of pulchritude — be safely assumed to be less of a human being than our fearless guerrilla

artiste, or has the latter's sexism perhaps crossed over, there, from fiction into reality? Any diversion afforded by such thoughts is all to the good, because the gen-

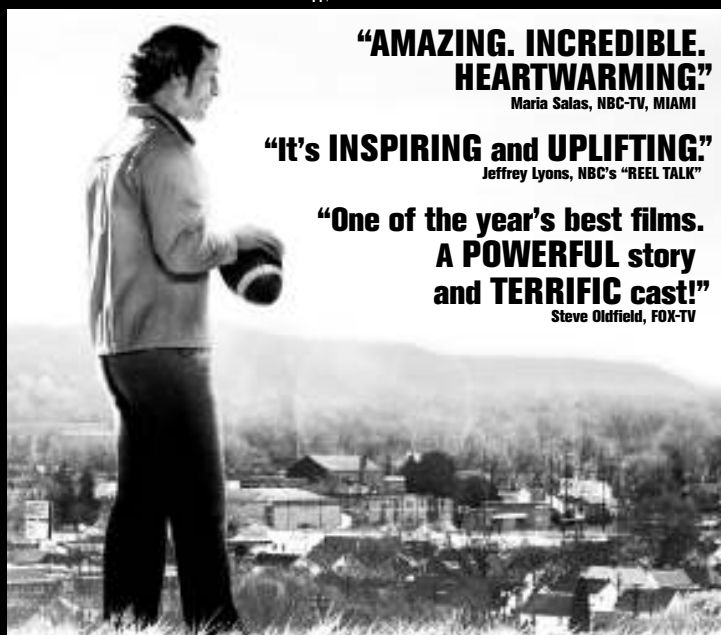
eral impression of the film, right down to the spottiness of its laughs, and regardless of whether staged or not, is amazingly similar to that of your average Will Ferrell com-

edy. In a word, over-the-top and high of the target. Directed by Larry Charles. 2006. ★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

**Casino Royale** — Taking the title from Ian Fleming's first James Bond novel, the 007 franchise approaches the opportunity of a new James Bond as the opportunity of a new beginning. The new Bond, Daniel Craig, is not just another pretty face, in fact is a pretty craggy face (Craiggy face, perhaps that should be), and it can pretty well express itself in the bargain. Granted, noises were made about a similar rollback toward reality when Timothy Dalton came on board; and even in the midst of the reign of Pierce Brosnan, noises were made about toughening up his act. These proved to be only noises. The new noises are more. The obligatory pre-credits sequence, in black-and-white and sprinkled with flashbacks, shuns spectacle in favor of blunt brutality; and the action to follow seems to be under no compulsion to "top" all previous action. While Judi Dench reprises the role of "M," Bond himself has only just been promoted to double-0 status (a new beginning for sure) and has yet to earn his boss's trust. There is no equivalent of "Q" and his cute presentation of the gadgets *du jour*. There is no casual bedding of "Bond girls," and the one romantic relationship (with the enigmatic, darkly eyelined Eva Green) attains an emotional weight beyond even the all-

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# Calendar MOVIES

the-way-to-the-altar affair of *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*. The hero's lame quips and puns, meantime, have thoroughly been expunged from the script. And "I don't give a damn" is his response to the bartender's inquiry as to whether he'd like his vodka martini shaken or stirred. All these changes are definite improvements. And yet, and yet, and yet.... The action, even if somewhat scaled back under the one-time Bond director Martin Campbell (*Goldeneye*, the beginning of the Brosnan Bonds, but scarcely a *new* beginning), is still more than sufficiently cartoonish. The plotting is skimpy. The whole thing runs on far too long. And then there's the fundamental question: if you want to do an alternative to James Bond, why call him James Bond? Why not put him out to pasture where at his age he belongs? Mads Mikkelsen, Jeffrey Wright, Giancarlo Giannini. 2006.

★★ (DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; 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)

**Charlotte's Web** — Gary Winick's rendition of the children's book by E.B. White, starring Dakota Fanning, with Julia Roberts as the voice of the spider.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 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; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**Curse of the Golden Flower** — Reviewed this issue. With Gong Li, Chow Yun-Fat, Jay Chou, Liu Ye, and Junjie Qin; directed by Zhang Yimou.

★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

**Deck the Halls** — The Christmas spirit turns competitive — keeping ahead of the Joneses, straight across the street — and the competition is laughlessly lopsided. With Danny DeVito, Matthew Broderick, Kristin Davis, and Kristin Chenoweth; directed by John Whitesell. 2006.

● (PALM PROMENADE 24)

**Déjà Vu** — Requires you to park your reason, along with your car, outside the theater. A ferry boat blows up in post-Katrina New Orleans, killing 543, mainly returning Navy men and their welcoming families; and the uncounted body of a young woman



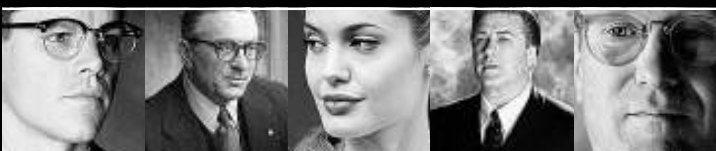
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bearing residue from the explosion has been fished out of the water a few minutes before the blast. What's the connection? The chief investigative tool proves to be a fanciful science-fictional device that allows the feds, through satellite imagery and computer projections, to view events from four days and six hours earlier, even inside the apartment (and the bathroom shower) of the deceased young woman: an audiovisual time machine. In addition, a portable-headset version of the device facilitates a truly unique car chase, in the lengthy annals of car chases on screen, whereby one vehicle is four days ahead of the other, which has to steer through a totally different pattern of traffic to keep pace. The bag-of-tricks filmmaking technique of Tony Scott, really more of a weathercock than a director, throws a few smaller obstacles in your path. Still, if you consent to ride out the bumps, the film works up plenty of forward momentum and climactic tension

(en route to a have-it-both-ways ending); and the preposterousness in no way limits the level of engagement, or engagingness, of Denzel Washington. With Paula Patton, Val Kilmer, James Caviezel. 2006.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20)

**The Departed** — Martin Scorsese's career-changing turn to the overblown epic, a turn marked by *Casino*, would seem to be a course difficult to reverse. *Kundun* ... *Gangs of New York* ... *The Aviator*.... And now even a trashy light diversion, adapted from an average-length Hong Kong action film, will get dragged out to two and a half hours — this despite the delivery of dialogue at the machine-gun tempo of a hopped-up auctioneer (or of Scorsese's own casual conversation), and despite, too, the mere semblance of speed imparted by the free-associative cutting and the incongruous rockabilly beat of the background

music, whenever the filmmaker isn't trotting out his collection of rock-and-roll oldies. The convoluted plot verges on farce: an upwardly mobile underworld spy in the Massachusetts State Police (Matt Damon, raising his eyebrows in an ostentatious show of innocence) and a downwardly mobile police spy inside the mob (Leonardo DiCaprio, giving himself away with his meat-cleaver worry line) both become involved, first as clients and then as suitors, with a *Harper's Bazaar* idea of a psychotherapist (Vera Farmiga, she of the prowl-like cheekbones, life-raft lips, blue-lagoon eyes). Not even the take-no-prisoners crescendo of gore toward the end, jolting though some of it is, can pull the movie back from the farcical brink. And Jack Nicholson, as showy an actor as Scorsese is a director (when he's only in it for the money, anyway), plays the mob boss at a pitch barely below his *Batman* Joker. With Mark Wahlberg, Martin Sheen, Alec Baldwin, Ray Winstone. 2006.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14)

**Dreamgirls** — Broadway backstage musical — not, that is to say, backstage on Broadway but backstage in Motown — charting the breakthrough of R&B into the pop mainstream in the Sixties, more specifically the rise of a girl group called the Dreams (rhymes with Supremes), and attendant heartbreaks, breakups, downfalls, and assorted other banalities. True, a musical can get away with a banal storyline if the music is good, but these Broadway-ized soul tunes are as insipid as they are incessant. It seems it's not easy to write another "Where Did Our Love Go?," another "Come See About Me," another "My World Is Empty without You," another "You Can't Hurry Love." And the one familiar number, the one unforgotten number, the big abandonment solo of former *American Idol* contestant Jennifer Hudson (big voice, big figure), screams out for earplugs if not a muffle. Neither is it easy, evidently, to be another Aretha Franklin. Beyoncé Knowles looks glamorous enough as the Diana Ross diva who metamorphoses into disco queen Donna Summer (under the Svengalian guidance of the Berry Gordy stand-in, Jamie Foxx); and the period clothes and hairdos — something near a beehive on Eddie Murphy when we first meet him, higher and higher than Jackie Wilson —

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are enjoyable as expected. Writer and director Bill Condon, who adapted the screenplay for *Chicago* but whose own directing credits run to *Gods and Monsters* and *Kinsey*, shows it's not easy to be Stanley Donen. 2006.

● (FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**Eragon** — A teenage boy, a telepathically talking dragon, a captive princess, an evil king, a sorcerer, an oppressed populace, a rebel band, and a first-time director schooled in CGI (Stefen Fangmeier, who surely ought to have cut his teeth on a vampire film). Altogether, a snigger when not a snore. With Ed Speleers, Jeremy Irons, Sienna Guillory, John Malkovich, Robert Carlyle, Djimon Hounsou, and the voice of Rachel Weisz. 2006.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKET-PLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**For Your Consideration** — Filmmaker Christopher Guest goes back to the target area of his very first film, *The Big Picture* — namely the movie biz, more narrowly the Oscar buzz — and back before he chained himself to the mockumentary format, *Waiting for Guffman*, *Best in Show*, *A Mighty Wind*. Any sense of liberation therefrom has not spilled over into comic invention. The behind-the-scenes satire is sufficiently old-hat that there must be a lot of truth in it, even if not a lot of laughs in it. And the parodies of on-screen Hollywood, both big budget and small, are so far outside the realm of possibility as to spare everyone's feelings, moviegoer's included. Guest is more on the mark with the assorted inanities of the P.R. game — the studio publicist, the "infotainment" industry, the talk-show circuit. And Catherine O'Hara, among his stable of repertory players (Harry Shearer, Eugene Levy, Michael McKean, Parker Posey, Fred Willard, Jane Lynch, et al.), stands out as an over-the-hill actress who, try though she mightily might, cannot hide her vanity and her ego. Her surgical overhaul for awards season is truly gruesome, and indeed the outward aspect of the cast in general shows a loving, or rather a loathing, attention to detail. For your consideration: Best Makeup. 2006. ★ (GASLAMP 15)

**The Fountain** — Loopy science fiction in orbit around the dream of life and love everlasting. It unfolds in three different time zones, that of the Spanish Inquisition, the present day, and some indeterminate future inside a floating bubble in outer space. These three spheres are tied together by the presence in each of them of Rachel Weisz and Hugh Jackman, as, by turns, Queen Isabella and a conquistador called Tomás, commissioned by Her Majesty to find the Tree of Life in the land of the Mayas, and then their apparent reincarnations (or carbon copies or clones or something) in the form of a dying novelist named Izzi, at work on a book titled *The Fountain* about Queen Isabella's quest for the Tree of Life, and her faithful husband Tommy, a research scientist in quest of a cure, and then, lastly, a ghost of her former selves and an ageless hairless Tom, keeping himself alive artificially (on the bark of a Tree of Life, it would seem) while carrying on into eternity seeking a cure for his wife's death, "a disease like any other." The film has uncommon intensity, even if much of that intensity consists of closeups so close that the faces won't fit on the screen, and much of the rest of it consists of our peering into the semidarkness (a darkness that engulfs science labs, hospital corridors, operating rooms, reading lamps) simply to make out what's in front of our eyes. Writer-director Darren Aronofsky, the *Pi* man, has worked things out elaborately in terms of visual and verbal motifs (the tree, the ring, the refrain of "Finish it," and so on), but the spectator

might be more compelled to sort it out if he were more compelled to look at it. This is a type of science fiction generally restricted to the printed page and banished from the screen, and it does not here establish much of a beachhead. With Ellen Burstyn. 2006. ★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

**The Good German** — A nostalgist's film noir, one more black-and-white postwar thriller, over a half-century tardy in its arrival, for the buff who has run through *Crossfire*, *Cornered*, *Notorious*, *The Stranger*, *Berlin Express*, and *Captain Carey, U.S.A.*, among numerous others, and who still has a hunger. Reassuring archaisms, such as the 4:3 aspect ratio for the opening credits (afterwards widened only to 1.66:1, it looks like) or the blatant rear-screen projection behind a stationary moving car, coexist uneasily with latter-day liberties in matters of sex and profanity. Steven Soderbergh, who had dabbled in black-and-white before (most of *Kafka*, most of his sequence in *Eros*, but never till now whole hog), knows where to place the low angles and inky shadows, though he doesn't know so well how to maintain pace and flow. George Clooney, who also had had black-and-white experience in his self-directed *Good Night, and Good Luck*, fits right in, thanks to his "classical" movie-star good looks, scuffed up a bit in repeated beatings; and Cate Blanchett, as a Berlin prostitute with a presumed-dead but intensively sought husband, seems to be able to adapt herself to anything, including the German language with English subtitles. Tobey Maguire, Beau Bridges, Jack Thompson. 2006. ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

**The Good Shepherd** — Reviewed this issue. With Matt Damon, Angelina Jolie, Alec Baldwin, William Hurt, John Turturro, and Robert De Niro; directed by De Niro. ● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; 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)

**Happy Feet** — Computer-animated message movie about the pressure of conformity and (separate message) the plunder of nature, more specifically about a species of pop-song-singing penguins, into whose midst is born a "different," an aberrant, tap-dancing penguin (try, if you can, to put the pudgy trudging birds of *March of the Penguins* out of your mind), and about a runtier breed of Latino penguins, some menacing seabirds, a scary seal, a couple of humongous orcas, and a race of "aliens" who are not computer-animated at all. The interface with these aliens near the end is moderately mind-blowing, if only from a mixed-media standpoint, but the alleged alienness of the human race would carry more rhetorical clout if the penguins hadn't

## SEEN ON DVD

### LEEVA CHUNG

Associate professor of ethnic studies and communication studies, USD

What is not to love about *Children of Heaven*? It's an ageless, timeless, beautiful movie centered on two amazing children and one lost pair of beat-up sneakers.

*Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* has a simple plot: call me. But with Pedro Almodóvar, there is nothing about life that is simple. A hilarious movie featuring a young and sexy Antonio Banderas and a cast all on top of their game.

Before *Infernal Affairs* and *The Departed* there was *Hard-Boiled* with Chow Yun Fat as a cop and Tony Leung as a criminal that turns out to be an undercover officer. Two amazing Hong Kong actors with incredible power and fire together in this John Woo flick. Love the story, their chemistry, and, of course, the action. My cult fave.

*CHILDREN OF HEAVEN* (Iran) 1997, Miramax  
List price: \$19.99

*WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN* (Spain) 1988, MGM  
List price: \$27.99

*HARD-BOILED* (Hong Kong) 1992, Criterion Collection  
List price: \$39.95

### KRISTIN C. MORAN, PHD

Assistant professor of communication studies, USD

Okay, I'm getting ready for a Spain and Latin America class, so here's what I'm into right now: From Spain, *Todo Sobre Mi Madre* (*All About My Mother*) and *Habla Con Ella* (*Talk to Her*) are great, but then pretty much anything by Pedro Almodóvar is. His films are always thought-provoking and usually provide something unexpected.

From Mexico I recommend *El Crimen del Padre Amaro* (*The Crime of Padre Amaro*). There are a lot of great movies from south of the border, but this one stands out because it was nearly banned within Mexico but Fox stood behind "freedom of expression."

And while we're talking about freedom of expression, I'd like to suggest *Fresa y Chocolate* (*Strawberry and Chocolate*) from Cuba where the filmmaker worked within the country's censorship constraints and still delivered a great film.

*PEDRO ALMODÓVAR FOUR PACK: BAD EDUCATION, FLOWER OF MY SECRET, ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER, TALK TO HER* (Spain), Columbia Tristar  
List price: \$129.95 (four discs)

*EL CRIMEN DEL PADRE AMARO* (Mexico) 2002, Columbia/Tristar  
List price: \$24.95

*FRESA Y CHOCOLATE* (Cuba) 1994, Disney  
List price: \$19.99

### SUSANNAH STERN, PHD

Assistant professor of communication studies, USD

My husband and I never watched *Six Feet Under* while it was on the air, but fell in love with it watching it straight through on DVD (which allowed us to grow attached to the characters in ways I suspect we wouldn't have if we'd watched it on a weekly basis). The development of characters, the smart commentary on life, and examination of death were top-rate.

*Capturing the Friedmans* examines a sexual abuse scandal on Long Island. It cleverly integrates "real" footage (home movies) into an after-the-fact documentary. It's also interesting because it doesn't answer many questions for you.

*To Be and To Have* is simply a lovely French film about a schoolteacher in a one-room schoolhouse in rural France. The teacher — patient, caring, and firm — is what many of us think of when we imagine the kind of teacher we want influencing our children. It's a touching film, quiet but powerful.

*SIX FEET UNDER* (USA) 2001, HBO Home Video  
List price: \$59.99 (five discs)

*CAPTURING THE FRIEDMANS* (USA) 2003, Warner Home Video  
List price: \$29.98

*TO BE AND TO HAVE* (France) 2002, New Yorker  
List price: \$26.99

all along been borrowing so freely from its popular culture. (The natural state holds no accommodation for vintage rock-and-roll.) And you cannot feel entirely happy about a

happy ending in which it's suggested that humans might show more respect for their fellow creatures on the planet if only the fellows would learn some nifty dance steps.

Although the direction by live-action man George Miller has some nice touches and clever angles, the action, approximately 60mph faster than the action in his Mad

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-Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

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# Calendar

## MOVIES

Max movies, is approximately 65mph *too* fast. With the voices of Elijah Wood, Brit-tany Murphy, Robin Williams, Nicole Kid-man, Hugh Jackman, Anthony LaPaglia. 2006.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ENCINITAS 8; ESCON-DIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**The History Boys** — Alan Bennett's much-decorated theater piece comes to the screen with its original stage director and cast intact: Nicholas Hytner, that would be, and Richard Griffiths, Stephen Campbell Moore, Frances de la Tour, et al. A permanent record, as it were, further decorated, for the occasion, with extraneous bits of rockin' musical accompaniment and jumpy cutting. The blue-y, icy, ashy palette, mean-time, rather curiously resembles Martin Scorsese's imitation in *The Aviator* of the antique two-color process. It seems safe to assume that the color in the stage version was more lifelike. As to the content: the foreignness of the British school system — an octet of Oxbridge candidates prepped by a trio of tutors — will be easy enough for American viewers to grasp, though the Yorkshire accents will present them with persistent difficulties. The two male teachers — the portly old quotation-dropping, education-made-fun one and the lean young results-oriented one — each have more than a teacherly interest in the lads, but that is thankfully not the main focus. It's just another element in the composition. To say what might actually be the main focus presents its own difficulties. (Both teaching methods have their pros and cons. The only viable antagonist is the stiff-necked and overacted Headmaster. And the lads, while physically well differentiated, are democratically indistinct as personalities.) It might be easier just to say the focus is diffuse. 2006.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

**The Holiday** — Writer and director Nancy Meyers arranges an Internet home exchange, for two weeks at Christmastime, between two wounded women desperate to get away: a London newspaper columnist (Kate Winslet) with a cozy cottage in Sur-



*The Good Shepherd*

rey, and a Hollywood trailer-cutter (Cameron Diaz) with a modernist mansion in Beverly Hills. The agreed-upon date of "tomorrow" initiates a pattern of time-compression that effectively removes the action from the realm of the real world. But then, Meyers does not seek to inhabit the real world. Underneath her superficial smooth talk, she's really just a seductive dope peddler, chumming up to her susceptible sisters on the subject of romantic disillusionment, and then hooking them on the same old delusions — the grooved path, greased wheels, and phantom obstacles en route to Mr. Right. The film, at best, is a testament to the dearth of the dream. The sample of the trailer-cutter's work — an imaginary action thriller starring Lindsay Lohan and James Franco — is dead funny: the two stars running straight at the camera and away from a mushrooming fireball, the male star diving sideways in slo-mo with two guns blazing. But the fantasies wherein she sees her own life in terms of a movie trailer never really take flight. Meyers's affection for Golden Age Hollywood — chiefly funnelled through the character of Eli Wallach as a widowed Oscar-winning

screenwriter grumpily resisting a lifetime-achievement award from the WGA — is doubtless genuine, but our agreement with her must stop short of her persistent hints that she herself should be painted golden. With Jude Law, Jack Black, Rufus Sewell, Edward Burns. 2006.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCON-DIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN-CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**Little Children** — Todd Field's sopho-more directing effort, following up his quietly sensationalized *In the Bedroom*, is less quietly sensationalized, in other words more blaringly sensationalized, and truly more sophomoric. The adaptation of a Tom Perrotta novel, complete with a snooty third-person-omniscient (i.e., know-it-all) narrator, undoubtedly tells us less about the malaise of our young middle-class suburban parents today than about

the jaded palates of our moviegoers and/or moviemakers. An adulterous playground liaison — between a killingly handsome Mr. Mom (Patrick Wilson, with his New-man-esque blue eyes and jutting upper lip), a graduate of law school but a flunker of the bar exam, and a latter-day Madame Bovary (Kate Winslet, the sleeker edition), who, married to a clod, champions her literary forerunner as a proto-feminist in her book-discussion group — cannot be considered sufficiently spicy without the added tang of a neighborhood sex offender, a vigilante ex-cop with innocent blood on his hands, and a married Internet porn addict in secret correspondence with Slutty Kay. To have three separate male characters masturbate on screen on three separate occasions must set some sort of record. And there's not even any clear evidence of developing skills since the director's freshman effort, which really was praised too highly, perhaps too intoxicatingly. See, for example, the flash-cut fusillade of innocuous bric-a-brac at the outset. Or see the overly choreographed scene at the public swimming pool when the sex offender's arrival in snorkel and flippers gets everyone out of the water

faster than if he were a Great White accom-panied by the theme from *Jaws*. Or see the treatment of the night-league amateur foot-ball players, through distorting wide-angle lenses, as sneering bruisers suitable for an Adam Sandler comedy. In short, see, all too ostentatiously, the director direct. With Jennifer Connelly, Jackie Earle Haley, and Noah Emmerich. 2006.

★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE, THROUGH 12/28)

**The Nativity Story** — A bearably dull Christmas worship service, fully supernatu-ral in its vision (the voice of God, a lumino-us Messenger, an avian Holy Spirit), yet full of luxuriously tactile costumes, solid sets, atmospheric locales, and earthy Mediterranean faces. (The half-Maori Keisha Castle-Hughes, though harmo-niously olive in complexion, seems a bit overwhelmed in the role of the Virgin. Under-standably.) The treatment hits all the es-sential points of the story without pulveriz-ing them into mush: the three Magi on camels, Mary on a donkey and Joseph on foot, the sheep in the stable, the spotlighting star, the swell of orchestra and chorus in the epic mode of Miklos Rozsa. After the adolescent drug problems of *Thirteen* and the pace-setting skateboards of *Lords of Dogtown*, this makes an odd project for di-rector Catherine Hardwicke, who hereby renounces trendiness and embraces tradi-tion. Although her focus quite reasonably is on the plight of a pregnant teen, the film-maker has made no attempt to "reimagine" the character for a new age, simply to imag-ine her as she might have been, a treacher-ous assignment carried out with unforeseen taste and composure. Oscar Isaac, Ciarán Hinds, Shohreh Aghdashloo. 2006.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; GASLAMP 15; MIS-SION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

**Night at the Museum** — Reviewed this issue. With Ben Stiller, Carla Gugino, Dick Van Dyke, Mickey Rooney, Ricky Gervais, and Robin Williams; directed by Shawn Levy.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CIN-ERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN-CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**The Painted Veil** — Somerset

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**Apocalypse** (R); **Borat** (R); **Casino Royale** (PG-13); **Charlotte's Web** (G); **The De-parted** (R); **Eragon** (PG); **The Fountain** (PG-13); **The Good Shepherd** (R); **The Pur-suit of Happyness** (PG-13); **We Are Marshall** (PG)

### LA JOLLA

#### La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)

**Apocalypse** (R); **Blood Diamond** (R); **Casino Royale** (PG-13); **Charlotte's Web** (G); **Dreamgirls** (PG-13); **Eragon** (PG); **The Good Shepherd** (R); **The Holiday** (PG-13); **Night at the Museum** (PG); **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13); **Rocky Balboa** (PG);

**We Are Marshall** (PG)

### La Jolla Village

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**Babel** (R); **Curse of the Golden Flower** (R); **The Painted Veil** (PG-13); **The Queen** (PG-13)

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#### Mira Mesa 18

10733 Westview Parkway (858-635-7700)

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7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262)

**Apocalypse** (R) Fri.-Sat. 12:20, 3:45, 7:05, 10:25 Sun. 12:20, 3:45, 7:05, 10:20; **Black Christmas** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:00) 1:35, 4:15, 6:55, 9:30; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:25) 2:45, 6:10, 9:35; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:00, 3:30, 6:45, 10:05; **Charlotte's Web** (G) Fri.-Sun. (10:25) 1:05, 2:05, 3:40, 6:20, 7:15, 9:00; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 6:00, 9:15; **The Departed** (R) Fri.-Sun. 10:15p.m.; **Dreamgirls** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:15) 1:25, 4:30, 7:45, 10:50 Sun. 12:40, 4:10, 7:20, 10:25; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 1:20, 3:55, 6:30, 9:10; **The Good Shepherd** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:10) 2:10, 6:15, 10:00; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:20) 2:00, 4:45, 7:25; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:05) 1:15, 4:25, 7:40, 10:45 Sun. 12:10, 3:20, 6:40, 9:50; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:45, 11:30) 1:30, 2:20, 4:20, 5:10, 7:10, 8:00, 9:55, 10:40 Sun. (10:45, 11:30) 1:30, 2:20, 4:20, 5:10, 7:10, 8:00, 9:55, 10:30; **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:20) 12:05, 1:10, 3:00,

4:05, 6:05, 7:00, 9:05, 10:10 Fri.-Sun. (10:20) 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 10:10; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:55) 1:40, 4:05, 6:50, 9:25; **The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause** (G) Fri.-Sun. 12:50, 3:25; **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:35) 4:40, 9:45; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:45) 2:50, 6:25, 9:40

### Mission Valley 7

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)

**Apocalypse** (R) Fri.-Sat. (4:45) 10:45 Sun. (4:45p.m.); **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:45, 1:45) 7:45; **Charlotte's Web** (G) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15) 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15) 7:45; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45) 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45) 8:15; **The Good Shepherd** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00, 10:30 Sun. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30, 10:45 Sun. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30) 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30) 8:00; **Noddy Saves Christmas and Candy-land: Great Lollipop Adventure** (G) Sat.-Sun. (10:00a.m.); **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00

### Mission Valley 20

1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)

**Apocalypse** (R) Fri.-Sun. 12:15, 3:25, 6:40, 9:50; **Black Christmas** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:45) 2:25, 5:05, 8:15, 10:55; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.-Sun. 12:00, 3:10, 6:35, 9:55; **Borat** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:25) 4:00, 9:30; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:05, 3:30, 6:55, 10:30; **Charlotte's Web** (G) Fri. (11:15) 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20;

**Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:45, 6:30; **Dreamgirls** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:00) 12:10, 1:05, 3:20, 4:10, 6:25, 7:20, 9:40, 10:25; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:05) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:15; **The Good Shepherd** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:45, 11:30) 2:30, 3:15, 6:20, 7:00, 10:00, 10:45; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:35) 1:25, 4:15, 6:55, 9:35; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:25, 3:40, 6:45, 10:10; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:25) 2:05, 4:40, 7:10, 9:50; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:05, 10:55) 12:50, 1:50, 3:55, 4:45, 6:50, 7:40, 9:45, 10:35 Sun. (10:05) 12:50, 1:50, 3:55, 4:45, 6:50, 7:40, 9:45, 10:35; **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 11:00) 1:10, 1:55, 4:05, 4:55, 7:05, 8:00, 10:05, 11:00; **Rocky Bal-boa** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:35) 2:20, 5:15, 8:05, 10:50; **The New York Metropolitan Opera: Magic Flute - NCM Event** Sat. (10:30); **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.-Sat. 12:35, 4:20, 7:25, 10:40 Sun. 1:15, 4:20, 7:25, 10:40

### STATE UNIVERSITY

#### Cinerama 6

5831 University Avenue (619-287-8990)

Call theater for program information

#### Ken

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)

**Little Children** (Not Rated) Fri.-Sat. 3:35, 9:05 Sun. 3:35; **Sweet Land** (PG) Fri.-Sun. 1:00, 6:30

### UPTOWN

#### Hillcrest Cinemas

3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)

**Curse of the Golden Flower** (R); **The Good**

**German** (R); **The History Boys** (R); **The Queen** (PG-13); **Volver** (R)

### Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233) **Deep Sea 3D** (G) Fri.-Sat. 12:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 Sun. 12:00, 2:00, 5:00; **Roving Mars** (G) Fri.-Sun. 1:00, 4:00, 6:00; **Santa vs. the Snow-man** (Not Rated) Fri.-Sat. 10:00, 11:00, 3:00, 7:00 Sun. 10:00, 11:00, 3:00

### San Diego Natural History Museum

1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)

**An Inconvenient Truth** (PG) Fri.-Sun. 1:00, 3:00; **Ocean Oasis** (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. 10:00a.m. Fri.-Sun. 11:00, 12:00

## 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)

Call theater for program information

### RANCHO SAN DIEGO

#### Rancho San Diego 15

2951 Jamacha Road

Call theater for program information

Maugham's middlebrow brew of sin and redemption among colonial Brits in mid-Twenties China, where a brave bacteriologist but vindictive cuckold (Edward Norton) drags his faithless spouse (Naomi Watts) into the midst of a cholera outbreak in the backcountry. The spiritual growth of the flighty wife ("When love and duty are one," counsels the Mother Superior at the local orphanage, "then grace is within you")

will restore sufficient happiness to the union, not long before its tragic end, that the husband can stop plastering down his hair and go fluffy. Directed by John Curran (*We Don't Live Here Anymore*, also featuring Watts), this follows after at least two other screen treatments of the novel — the better known of which is one of the lesser Garbo vehicles — and, for all its location shooting and its air of "independence," it's

still stiff and stuffy. Much of that is intrinsic to the original author, and some of it's imported through the stogy British accents of the stars. With Liev Schreiber, Toby Jones, and Diana Rigg. 2006.

● (LA JOLLA VILLAGE, FROM 12/29)

**The Pursuit of Happiness** — The attainment of sappiness. A hand-to-mouth San Francisco salesman — of portable

bone-density scanners, an unnecessary luxury item — lands an unsalaried competitive internship at Dean Witter, but not before his wife walks out on him and their five-year-old son ("Did Mom leave because of me?"). The star is the amiable Will Smith, but the director is Italian, Gabriele Muccino of *The Last Kiss*, which might inspire certain types of filmgoers to draw analogies to the Little Man humanism of De Sica and

Company. The poignance, to be sure, is commensurately unrelenting (pushing through to schmaltziness), but the only real grit is in the graininess of the digital image. And the emotional payoff — this isn't post-war Italy, after all — comes in the form of a cash jackpot. Jaden Christopher Syre Smith, Thandie Newton, Brian Howe, James Karen, Dan Castellana. 2006.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CIN-

## SANTEE

### Santee Drive In

10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)  
**Eragon** (PG) Fri.-Sun.; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.-Sun.; **The Pursuit of Happiness** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.-Sun.

## SOUTH BAY

### CHULA VISTA

#### Chula Vista 10

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)  
**Apocalypto** (R); **Blood Diamond** (R); **Charlotte's Web** (G); **Déjà Vu** (PG-13); **Eragon** (PG); **The Good Shepherd** (R); **Happy Feet** (PG); **The Holiday** (PG-13); **Night at the Museum** (PG); **The Pursuit of Happiness** (PG-13); **Rocky Balboa** (PG); **We Are Marshall** (PG)

#### Palm Promenade 24

770 Denney Road (858-558-2262)  
**Apocalypto** (R); **Babel** (R); **Black Christmas** (R); **Blood Diamond** (R); **Borat** (R); **Casino Royale** (PG-13); **Charlotte's Web** (G); **Deck the Halls** (PG); **Dreamgirls** (PG-13); **Eragon** (PG); **The Good Shepherd** (R); **Happy Feet** (PG); **The Holiday** (PG-13); **The Nativity Story** (PG); **Night at the Museum** (PG); **The Pursuit of Happiness** (PG-13); **Rocky Balboa** (PG); **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG); **We Are Marshall** (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)  
**Apocalypto** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:20, 3:20) 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (12:20, 3:20) 7:15; **Black Christmas** (R) Fri.-Sat. (1:10, 3:30) 7:25, 9:50 Sun. (1:10, 3:30) 7:25; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.-Sat. 7:30, 10:35 Sun. 7:30p.m.; **Charlotte's Web** (G) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 2:35) 4:55, 7:15, 9:35 Sun. (12:00, 2:35) 4:55, 7:15; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 2:30) 4:50, 7:10, 9:40 Sun. (12:00, 2:30) 4:50, 7:10; **The Good Shepherd** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:50) 4:30, 8:10; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:05, 2:35) 5:05; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:05) 4:25, 7:35, 10:30 Sun. (1:05) 4:25, 7:35; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (12:55, 3:40) 7:05, 9:35 Sun. (12:55, 3:40) 7:05; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (1:00, 3:35) 7:00, 9:40 Sun. (1:00, 3:35) 7:00; **The Pursuit of Happiness** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:30, 3:15) 7:10, 9:55 Sun. (12:30, 3:15) 7:10; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (12:10, 2:40) 5:05, 8:00, 10:25 Sun. (12:10, 2:40) 5:05, 8:00; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (12:40, 3:25) 7:20, 10:05 Sun. (12:40, 3:25) 7:20

## ESCONDIDO

### Escondido 16

350 W. Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)  
Call theater for program information

## FALLBROOK

### Galaxy 6

5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)  
**Charlotte's Web** (G) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15 Sat. (1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (1:15, 4:15) 7:15; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **Noddy Saves Christmas and Candyland: Great Lollipop Adventure** (G) Sat.-Sun. (10:00a.m.); **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:30, 1:00, 3:30) 6:00, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:30, 1:00, 3:30) 6:00, 8:15; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00

## POWAY

### Poway 10

13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)  
**Apocalypto** (R) Fri.-Sat. (4:45) 7:45, 10:45 Sun. (4:45) 7:45; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.-Sat. (4:30) 7:30, 10:45 Sun. (4:30) 7:30; **Charlotte's Web** (G) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15; **The Good Shepherd** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00, 10:30 Sun. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 2:00); **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **The Pursuit of Happiness** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:45, 4:30) 7:30, 10:30 Sun. (11:00, 1:45, 4:30) 7:30; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:30, 1:00, 3:45) 6:00, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:30, 1:00, 3:45) 6:00, 8:15; **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:30); **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.-Sat.

(10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00

## SAN MARCOS

### San Marcos 18

1180 West San Marcos Boulevard at Old California Walk (760-471-3711)  
Call theater for program information

## VISTA

### Vista Village

Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7469)  
**Apocalypto** (R) Fri.-Sat. (1:20, 4:20) 7:35, 10:40 Sun. (1:20, 4:20) 7:35; **Black Christmas** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:20, 2:55, 5:30) 8:10, 10:45 Sun. (12:20, 2:55, 5:30) 8:10; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:40, 3:15) 6:50, 10:00 Sun. (11:40, 3:15) 6:50; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 9:45p.m.; **Charlotte's Web** (G) Fri.-Sat. (10:55, 12:15, 2:45, 5:10) 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (10:55, 12:15, 2:45, 5:10) 7:45; **Dreamgirls** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:30, 3:40) 7:10, 10:15 Sun.

(12:30, 3:40) 7:10; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:10, 1:45, 4:20) 6:55, 9:30 Sun. (11:10, 1:45, 4:20) 6:55; **The Good Shepherd** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00, 10:25 Sun. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:05, 1:50, 4:35) 7:15, 9:50 Sun. (11:05, 1:50, 4:35) 7:15; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:30, 3:40) 7:20, 10:20 Sun. (12:30, 3:40) 7:20; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 2:00, 4:30) 6:55, 9:20 Sun. (11:30, 2:00, 4:30) 6:55; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:40, 11:20, 1:15, 2:05, 4:00, 4:45) 6:40, 7:30, 10:10 Sun. (10:40, 11:20, 1:15, 2:05, 4:00, 4:45) 6:40, 7:30; **The Pursuit of Happiness** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:40, 1:25, 4:15) 7:05, 9:55 Sun. (10:40, 1:25, 4:15) 7:05; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:40, 2:10, 4:45) 7:25, 10:00 Sun. (11:40, 2:10, 4:45) 7:25; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:50, 1:45, 4:45) 7:40, 10:40 Sun. (10:50, 1:45, 4:45) 7:40, 10:40 Sun. (10:50, 1:45, 4:45) 7:40

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858/646-9420

AMC  
ENCINITAS 8  
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East H Street &  
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800-FANDANGO #126

EDWARDS CINEMAS  
RANCHO SAN DIEGO  
STADIUM CINEMA 15  
Hwy. 94 At Campo  
800-FANDANGO #132

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800-FANDANGO #161

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## NORTH COASTAL

### CARLSBAD

#### Plaza Camino Real

2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469)  
**Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:15, 1:45, 4:20) 7:00, 9:35 Sun. (11:15, 1:45, 4:20) 7:00; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 2:30, 5:00) 7:35, 9:55 Sun. (12:00, 2:30, 5:00) 7:35

### DEL MAR

#### Del Mar Highlands 8

El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road (858-646-9420)  
**Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (2:15) 7:45, 10:45 Sun. (2:15) 7:45; **Charlotte's Web** (G) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:45) 5:15; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:30 Sun. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **Noddy Saves Christmas and Candyland: Great Lollipop Adventure** (G) Sat.-Sun. (10:00a.m.); **The Pursuit of Happiness** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:45, 4:30) 7:30, 10:30 Sun. (11:00, 1:45, 4:30) 7:30; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:30, 1:00, 3:30) 6:00, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:30, 1:00, 3:30) 6:00, 8:15; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00

### Flower Hill 4

2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425)  
**Apocalypto** (R); **Blood Diamond** (R); **Bobby** (R); **The Good Shepherd** (R); **The Queen** (PG-13)

## ENCINITAS

### Encinitas 8

220 North El Camino Real (760-942-5544)  
**Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 7:40, 10:50; **Charlotte's Web** (G) Fri.-Sun. (10:00) 12:30, 3:10, 5:35, 8:10, 10:40; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:05) 12:45, 3:25, 5:55, 8:25, 10:45; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (9:45) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:10) 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:20) 1:10, 4:00, 6:55, 9:45; **The Pursuit of Happiness** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:40) 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:10; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:00) 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 9:55; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 1:40, 4:50, 7:55, 10:55

### La Paloma

471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-SHOW)  
Call theater for program information

## LA COSTA

### La Costa 6

6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221)  
**Apocalypto** (R) Fri.-Sat. (4:30) 10:30 Sun. (4:30p.m.); **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:30, 1:30) 7:30; **Charlotte's Web** (G) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15; **The Good Shepherd** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00, 10:30 Sun. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15

## OCEANSIDE

### Mission Marketplace 13

College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790)  
**Apocalypto** (R); **Blood Diamond** (R); **Charlotte's Web** (G); **Eragon** (PG); **The Good Shepherd** (R); **Happy Feet** (PG); **Night at the Museum** (PG); **The Pursuit of Happiness** (PG-13); **Rocky Balboa** (PG); **We Are Marshall** (PG)

### Oceanside 16

401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733)  
Call theater for program information

Sorry, No Passes Accepted For This Engagement. For Additional Information, Call Theaters Or Check Directories.



ERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**The Queen** — A spot of simulated Royals-watching, ably guided by the seasoned Stephen Frears: a satisfying, if unsurprising and unrevealing and unimaginative re-enactment of what must have gone on behind closed doors in the week after the death of Princess Di, in specific the diplomatic efforts of the newly elected Tony Blair to compel the Royal Family (“a bunch of freeloading, emotionally retarded nutters,” in the view of Mrs. Blair) to behave like human beings: “Will somebody please save these people from themselves?” Helen Mirren and Michael Sheen embody Her Majesty and the Prime Minister to two T’s. In support of them, James Cromwell at least looks the part of Philip, but plays only one note, and Alex Jennings is a bit short in the snout (in complete contrast to Cromwell) but is otherwise credibly dyspeptic as Charles. The plentiful humor, out of deference to history and living persons, is very mild. 2006.

★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

**Rocky Balboa** — Reviewed this issue. With Sylvester Stallone, Burt Young, Antonio Tarver, Geraldine Hughes, and Milo Ventimiglia; written and directed by Stallone.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA CAMINO REAL; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**Stranger Than Fiction** — The first filmed screenplay of Zach Helm crowds in



*Night at the Museum*

on the domain of Charlie Kaufman: a Pirandellian brainteaser about a robotic IRS auditor (Will Ferrell, constrained by catatonia) who discovers he is a character in the work-in-progress of a blocked novelist (Emma Thompson) and is slated to die at the end of it. (A new approach, there, to the standard time-travel and second-sight conundrum: can the foreordained be averted through foreknowledge?) He discovers all this when he, and he alone, starts to hear the voice of the omniscient narrator — don’t ask how or why — accurately describing his life as he lives it, “but with a better vocabulary,” and he then seeks help not from a therapist but from a literary theorist (Dustin Hoffman). The pedantry tends to get in the way of laughs, and the twisted logic sometimes trips up the plot developments (what does the author think she’s narrating when her hero is dashing to a

phone to dial her own number?), and the voice-over prose samples do not remotely live up to the writer’s reputation. Nevertheless, the improbable romance between the inflexible tax man and a civilly disobedient, tropically tattooed baker, currently under IRS scrutiny, is oddly touching, thanks in large part to the touchingly odd line readings of Maggie Gyllenhaal, who can work wonders with an echoic little query like, “You don’t like cookies?” And immediately after that, her sensuous recital of the goodies in her early culinary repertoire hovers breathlessly between sheer poetry and utter pornography: “Lemon chiffon cake with zesty peach icing,” etc., etc. Directed by Marc Forster. 2006.

★★★ (GASLAMP 15)

**Sweet Land** — Reviewed this issue. With Elizabeth Reaser, Tim Guinee, Alan Cum-

ming, John Heard, Ned Beatty, and Lois Smith; written and directed by Ali Selim.

★ (KEN)

**Volver** — Almodóvar adds to his familiar sour comedy and mock melodrama the new element of an apparent apparition, a mundane ghost, a flatulent phantom, blended in with the familiar elements in uncertain tone. He shows nary a trace of the erstwhile “bad boy,” nothing now but a good, good boy, devoted to mothers in particular, reverential of females in general, the Spanish George Cukor. (The cadaver in the freezer, male, is but a further sign of his respect and his awe.) The result can be recommended to the well-trained legions who are willing to meet this filmmaker seven-eighths of the way. Even the foot-draggers must concede that it’s deftly staged and well acted, and that Penélope Cruz, beyond acting well,

shines like a star. Or more descriptively, a heavenly body. Carmen Maura, Lola Dueñas, Yohana Cobo, Blanca Portillo. 2006.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

**We Are Marshall** — Triumph-over-tragedy true story about the resurrection from literal ashes — a 1970 plane crash — of the Marshall University football team, the Thundering Herd, in the small West Virginia steel town of Huntington. A golden opportunity, obviously, for filmmaker McG (*Charlie’s Angels* and its sequel) to expand his heart if not his name. For the purpose, he adopts a closeup-happy style that seeks to squeeze every drop of emotion from his actors, like grapes in a winepress. Admittedly, the spreading of the bad news and the immediate responses to it deliver a can’t-miss punch. Once past that, however, the movie turns tragedy not so much into triumph as into triteness: the underdog formula. A somewhat goofy Matthew McConaughey plays the foolhardy volunteer coach, the only man in town — an outsider, duly noted — who sports the gaudy plaid pants and jackets of the period; and David Strathairn is the saturnine straight man, the beleaguered college president who persuades the NCAA to relax its strict rule (ancient history, now) against the use of freshmen in varsity athletics. On that score, it’s a seeming oversight that no mention is made of the standing class of freshmen (Class of ’74) who wouldn’t have been travelling with the team and would be an eligible class of sophomores the following year. Another oversight, or blind spot, in the game action, is the blissful unawareness that a fumble in college football at that time (more ancient history) could not be advanced by the recovering player unless plucked out of midair before it hit the ground. With Matthew Fox, Ian McShane, Anthony Mackie. 2006.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; VISTA VILLAGE)

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## Siembran duda

América Barceló

Diario San Diego

Un abogado defensor involucrado en el caso de Francisco Javier Arellano Félix, alias "El Tigrillo", aseguró que el capo mexicano de la droga fue capturado dentro de aguas territoriales mexicanas.

Eugene Iredale manifestó que existe un video donde se demuestra que el arresto del cabecilla del cártel de Tijuana y sus secuaces no fue en aguas internacionales; tal y como lo han manejado desde un principio las autoridades

estadounidenses. De acuerdo al defensor de Manuel Arturo Villarreal Heredia alias 'El Nalgón', el video en cuestión muestra los momentos de la captura de El Tigrillo y sus secuaces.

"La grabación fue tomada cuando la Guardia Costera se aproximaba al barco donde iban Arellano Félix y mi cliente.

"En la cinta se escucha como uno de los oficiales que participó en la captura decir que todavía estaban en territorio mexicano y que no debían proceder", explicó Iredale.

## Mueven el nido

Fuertes cambios se han dado en el seno de las Águilas del América, luego del desastroso año que tuvieron en su 90 aniversario, el cual será recordado por su eliminación en semifinales frente a Guadalajara, y por su mediocre actuación en el Mundial de Clubes Japón 2006. Guillermo Cañedo White, presidente del equipo, parece que agotó su paciencia, y por eso de entrada le dijo adiós al delantero argentino Claudio "piojo" López. El directivo piensa realizar

más cambios radicales en el plantel y en primera instancia se habló que figura más representativa del América, el delantero Cuauhtémoc Blanco, saldría de la institución con destino a los Tiburones Rojos de Veracruz. Asimismo, Dullio Davino, quien a mediados del siguiente año cumple una década como "azulereña", dejaría su lugar en la defensa central para darle paso al paraguayo Paulo da Silva, jugador del Toluca, que está sólo a un paso de cambiar de "aires".

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## Corre con todo

Marty Schottenheimer no pudo evitarlo. El entrenador de los Cargadores de San Diego recuerda a Jim Brown y a Gale Sayers, y conoce los méritos de Walter Payton, Barry Sanders y Emmitt Smith, pero de todas maneras aseguró directamente que no había ninguna duda sobre quién era el mejor. Más que cualquier estadística, estas enormes palabras son la medida exacta para describir la grandeza de LaDainian Tomlinson como corredor. El acarreador de los Cargadores es tan bueno que genera que Marty Schottenheimer muestre su admiración por el jugador que lleva seis temporadas como profesional dentro de la Liga Nacional de Fútbol (NFL).

Tomlinson a sido clave para que San Diego haya conseguido su mejor marca de juegos ganados y perdidos en su historia y que el equipo sea considerado gran favorito para llegar al Súper Tazón representando a la Conferencia Americana. El último partido de la temporada regular de los Cargadores será este domingo 31 de diciembre en el estadio Qualcomm que será visitado por los Cardenales de Arizona. En este partido Tomlinson tratará de anotar su touchdown 29 de la temporada para imponer el récord de más anotaciones en un solo año. San Diego descansará la primera semana de los playoffs.



## No regresan

**JORGE RAMOS** para

Diario San Diego

José Luis, llamémoslo así, no regresó a México para Navidad. Le hubiera encantado hacerlo; hace casi un año que no ve a su familia. Pero, para él y para 12 millones de indocumentados más, el riesgo es demasiado alto.

El problema no es el viaje a México. No. El verdadero problema es regresar a Estados Unidos luego de las fiestas.

José Luis no se puede arriesgar a que lo detenga la Patrulla Fronteriza. Además, no tendría dinero para pagarle a otro "pollero".

En una plática reciente en el sur de la Florida, José Luis me contó cómo tuvo que pagarle 3 mil dólares a un traficante de indocumentados para que lo cruzara a

Estados Unidos. Lo hizo por Laredo y con papeles falsos. Entró caminando. Tuvo suerte; otros son obligados a cruzar el desierto por Arizona o por las montañas de California.

Pero el cruce está caro. Antes de que se enviara a 6 mil soldados de la Guardia Nacional de Estados Unidos a la frontera con México, un "coyote" o "pollero" le cobraba unos 800 dólares a un mexicano por el cruce.

Ahora el precio casi se ha cuadruplicado.

Cada vez más inmigrantes deciden pasar las "Cristmas" en Estados Unidos para evitar, también, el alto riesgo de morir en la frontera. El "bordo", como le dicen muchos, entre México y Estados Unidos está cada vez más vigilado.



## Déjenlo ser

El FBI divulgó los últimos documentos sobre las investigaciones a John Lennon, entregándolos a un historiador universitario, quien libró una disputa legal de 25 años para obtener los expedientes secretos. Las 10 cuartillas contienen nuevos detalles sobre los vínculos de Lennon con grupos izquierdistas y antibélicos en Londres a comienzos de la década de 1970, pero nada indica que los funcionarios del gobierno hayan considerado al ex astro de los Beatles una amenaza seria, dijo el historiador Jon Wiener. El FBI había argumentado sin éxito que un gobierno extranjero, no identificado, proporcionó en secreto la información, y que la divulgación de esos

documentos podría llevar a represalias diplomáticas, policiales o económicas contra Estados Unidos. Los documentos recién divulgados incluyen un reporte de investigación, el cual señala que dos prominentes izquierdistas británicos se acercaron a Lennon con la esperanza de que financiara una librería y biblioteca de contenidos de izquierda en Londres, pero añaden que el cantautor no les dio dinero. Otra página señala que no había pruebas fehacientes de que Lennon hubiera aportado dinero con propósitos subversivos. Wiener solicitó inicialmente los documentos en 1981, varios meses después de que decidió escribir un libro sobre Lennon, tras el asesinato del cantante.

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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: 619-460-6222. South Bay/Coastal: 858-277-3722.

**CAREGIVERS.** Immediate openings: Hourly, Live-in, Nights. Cheerful, compassionate Companions/HHAs/CNAs to assist seniors in-home. Minimum 1-year experience. Premium pay/bonuses/benefits. 24-hour office support. Flexible assignments. Age Advantage, 619-660-8881.

**CAREGIVERS/ESCONDIDO** San Marcos, Vista! North County needs qualified, compassionate Caregivers. CNAs: Come work 1-on-1 with seniors in their homes.

Competitive salary, benefits, flexible. Paid training. Apply 9am-4pm: In-Home Care, 135 West Mission Avenue, #109, Escondido (92025); 760-740-9932.

**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, 619-851-6902.

**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** needed immediately. 1 year experience. All shifts available. Hourly and live in. Call Assertive Homecare Services, 3774 Grove Street, Suite K-2, Lemon Grove. 619-466-6890.

**CAREGIVING/PERSONAL ATTENDANTS.** #1 franchise and best place to work--Comfort Keepers. Live-in work \$115-\$140. San Diego and North County. Benefits/bonuses/discounts. Telephone interview. San Diego: 619-795-6036, or North County: 760-598-3303.

**CASHIER.** San Ysidro. 8am-4pm Monday-Friday. Customer service skills required. \$11-\$13/hour DOE. Apply at [www.sunsetparking.com](http://www.sunsetparking.com) or call 760-753-4004 x333.

**CASHIER/BOOTH/TRAFFIC DIRECTOR.** Fun and rewarding jobs at Viejas Casino! Flexible schedule and advancement opportunities! \$8/hour. Apply at [www.sunsetparking.com](http://www.sunsetparking.com) or call 760-753-4004 x333.

**CASHIERS, Valets, Traffic Directors, Maintenance and Shuttle Drivers** at Lindbergh Field. Full and part-time positions. Various Downtown, La Jolla and Carlsbad locations. EOE. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. Apply Monday-Fri-

day, 8am-4pm: 2550 5th Avenue, Suite 105, San Diego 92103. Fax resume: 619-231-8011.

**CHILDCARE.** \$12-\$16/hour, part time/full time. 12 ECE/CD units required. Call 858-663-6269 or fax resume to 858-842-1332. [www.childcarecompanions.com](http://www.childcarecompanions.com).

**CHIROPRACTORS:** Rent large chiropractic wellness office with ocean view in Cardiff By The Sea. Must see office! Photos available thru e-mail. Call 760-207-7223.

**CHP OFFICERS.** Apply now! California Highway Patrol is hiring. Application filing deadline: February 8, 2007. Test date: February 24, 2007. For additional information and application, check [www.chp.ca.gov](http://www.chp.ca.gov) or stop by your local CHP office. CHP is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Call 1-888-4A CHP JOB.

**CLASSROOM AIDES.** Work with developmentally disabled children in nonpublic school. Experience preferred. Allied Gardens, Chula Vista, La Mesa. Monday-Friday, 7:30am-1pm. \$8.75/hour to start. EOE. [www.vistahill.org](http://www.vistahill.org). E-mail: [steinjobs@vistahill.org](mailto: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.

**CNA/CHHA.** Beginners, experienced. Family Caregivers, Childcare, Home Care Aides, Drivers. Great pay! New-hire bonus! Nonmedical, in-home help for seniors, children, disabled. 12-and 24-hour shifts! Training. Flexible schedules, benefits, retirement, childcare. At Your Home Familycare. E-mail: [homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com](mailto:homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com). Toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS.

**CNA/HHA, Aides, CNA/Nursing students.** Experienced Caregivers to assist Seniors in their homes. 4-12 hour shifts and Live-in positions. Paid medical, dental. Top pay, cash vacation bonus, overtime for holidays. EOE. AALL Care In-Home Services. North County: 760-471-7033. San Diego: 619-297-9601.

**COLLECTORS.** Full time. 1-3 years minimum experience. Kearny Mesa area. 800-743-4782 x506, [nmosalla@aisservicesllc.com](mailto:nmosalla@aisservicesllc.com).

**COLLECTORS.** Fun, fast paced. No experience necessary. 2 weeks paid training/vacations/personal time. 401K, tuition reimbursement. Full/part time. Commission. Bonuses. 858-577-2301. E-mail: [sandiegohr@gcsev.com](mailto:sandiegohr@gcsev.com).

**CONSTRUCTION/REMODEL.** Local home remodeling company is seeking experienced/skilled electricians, plumbers, drywallers and laborers. Interested applicants please fax resume to 619-946-4364 or call 619-271-5864.

**CONSTRUCTION:** Project Managers, Service Technicians, Installers. Seeking motivated, organized people experienced with design, blueprints, A/V systems installation. Benefits offered. Send resume: [dplotkin@audiassociates.com](mailto:dplotkin@audiassociates.com); fax 619-461-9469. EOE.

**COOK/LINE COOK.** Oceanfront retirement community. Experience/ability to work full time, 5am-8pm, Sunday-Saturday. English required. Good pay, great benefits. Apply: White Sands, 7450 Olivetas Avenue, La Jolla. Fax: 858-450-5298; Call: 858-450-5275; [wslajolla@hotmail.com](mailto:wslajolla@hotmail.com).

**CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY PROBATION Officer I.** County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Date: January 20, 2007, 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. \$34,028-\$43,430/year. [www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation). Jobline: 858-514-8558.

**COSMETOLOGY INSTRUCTORS.** Creative? Inspiring? Join our team of career-focused professionals. Estheticians, Cosmetologist, HHP/Massage Therapist and Manicurist positions available. California licensed. Paid training, day and

evening schedules. Salary plus benefits. 3 years combined school and work experience required. Call Patricia: 858-748-1490.

**CRAFTSMAN,** for national remodeling company. Up to \$1200/week, average \$28-\$32/hour. Full time/part time hours. Experience with tools and transportation. South County 619-584-5555, North County 760-607-9977.

**CUSTOMER SALES REP.** 35 hours/week. Great training pay! \$10-\$17/hour after training! Experienced with high outbound calling and focus on customer service. Seeking energetic, enthusiastic, driven team members. Strong, growing company. Paid vacations. Benefits included. Media All-Stars, 3055 Rosecrans Place, #102, San Diego, CA. 92110. Call 619-326-0231.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE REPS.** Farmer's Insurance Agency, Mission Valley. Licensed, reliable, positive. Professional environment. Training provided. Bilingual preferred, not required. Fax resume, 619-280-1444. Allan/Bob, 619-280-1440.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE,** 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 or fax 619-697-9571.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE.** 100+ openings. Call center experience, typing/basic computer skills. Background check required. All shifts/overtime possible. Call Tristaff Group: 858-597-4000; e-mail: [Staffing@tristaff.com](mailto:Staffing@tristaff.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE.** Home shows and special events. Must have transportation. Part-time weekends and some weekdays. Call Tina 858-452-5804.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE.** Top pay \$15-\$22/hour! Immediate part-time openings. Bilingual a plus. Average \$9-\$14/hour. Flexible AM/PM hours. Base salary, weekly pay. Paid training. Management opportunities. DialAmerica Marketing, Inc. [www.dialamerica.com/sandiego](http://www.dialamerica.com/sandiego). 9332 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego 92123. 858-292-8822.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE.** Up to \$500-\$1000+ weekly setting appointments! Paid weekly. AM/PM shifts. Full, part time. Medical, dental. Near Grantville trolley. Call today, start today! Mission Valley: 619-516-4276.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE/BLOCK CLERK** for growing San Diego auto wholesale business. Part time, Thursday mornings and

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**Busser** Basic English required. Must have some experience. Upscale dining experience preferred but not required.

E-mail resumé as an attachment to: [hr@ranchovalencia.com](mailto:hr@ranchovalencia.com) or fax to: 858-756-0165  
Apply in person at: 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe 92067



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## 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: \$34,028.80-\$43,430.40 ANNUALLY**  
**Safety Retirement - Sworn Officers 3% at age 50.**  
**Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply**

#### Test Date:

**January 20, 2007, 8 am**

Montgomery Middle School

2470 Ulric Street • San Diego, CA 92111

Maximum 85 applicants. Applications available at the test site.

For additional information, contact the department's

**Jobline: 858-514-8558**  
**[www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation)**

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9 made over \$15,000 • 3 made over \$20,000  
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some Tuesday afternoons. Basic computer knowledge, data entry and good listening skills. Must have the ability to type 32 words per minute. Pre-employment drug screen and background check required. Apply online at [www.adesainc.com](http://www.adesainc.com) and/or in person at 2175 Cactus Road, San Diego, CA 92154. 619-661-5565. EOE.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE/INSURANCE.** People person/experience a must. Full time. Will train right person. Must have transportation. Serious only. Call: 858-751-0290; or fax resume: 858-751-0295.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE/SALES:** Inbound Call Center, 2 years inbound call center experience required.; high Word, Excel and typing scores a must; \$13-\$25/hour. Receptionist, San Diego, 6 months-1 year experience required, \$9-\$12/hour. 3rd Party Collections, Kearny Mesa, \$12-\$16/hour. Retail, San Diego Airport, 3-6 months experience required, \$8/hour. Inside Sales, South Bay moving to Sorrento Valley, electronics/technical experience required, \$13.50/hour plus commission. Outbound Sales, Vista, \$10/hour. Outbound Lead Generator, Downtown, \$10/hour. Inside Sales, Hillcrest, 3 years experience, \$14/hour. ABCOW Staffing, 2525 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 125, San Diego, CA 92108. 800-690-8367. [recruiter@abcow.com](mailto:recruiter@abcow.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** Representative. Fast pace local office of international franchise. Full-time opening in Mission Valley. Requisites: Strong telephone and customer service skills. Outgoing personality; enjoys working with people. Able to manage small business details. Work independently. Computer skills, 40 wpm. Knowledge of home repair and light remodeling a plus. Competitive wages with benefits and incentive plan available. For immediate consideration call 619-584-5557.

**DELIVERY DRIVER/HELPERS.** Full-time and part-time. Experienced, heavy lifting (75-150 lbs). Includes weekends. Great benefits. Apply in person: Raphael's Party Rentals, 8606 Miramar Road. E-mail: [hr@raphaels.com](mailto:hr@raphaels.com); Fax: 858-689-8040. Drug-free workplace/EOE.

**DEPUTY SHERIFF-LATERAL.** Riverside County Sheriff's Department now hiring. \$4056-\$6041. 10 Patrol Stations, 5 Jails, 4 Court Facilities. Advanced salary steps. Retirement System 3% at age 50. POST Incentives: Intermediate 6%; Advanced, 11%. E-mail: [Recruitment@RiversideSheriff.org](mailto:Recruitment@RiversideSheriff.org). Information/background packet, please contact a Recruiter at 888-JoinRSD. [www.RiversideSheriff.org](http://www.RiversideSheriff.org).

**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: Wednesday, January 3, 2007, 5:30pm arrival (you must register by e-mail Only to take this exam: [Recruit@sdsheeriff.org](mailto:Recruit@sdsheeriff.org)); Sheriff's Administration Center, 9621 Ridgeway Court, San Diego CA 92123 or Saturday, January 6, 2007, 6:30am arrival: Southwestern College, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista CA 91910. Detention/Courts: \$37,901-\$58,675 annual salary, plus benefits. Must be 18 years old. Deputy Sheriff: \$47,338-\$67,714 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID, #2 pencil and \$3 parking at Southwestern. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: [www.joinssheriff.net](http://www.joinssheriff.net). 858-974-2000.

**DINING ROOM SERVERS.** Classic Residence by Hyatt seeks Part-and Full-time servers to take food orders, deliver meals to the residents and guests in the proper manner, clean and reset table to prepare for additional residents, deliver meal trays to apartment-bound residents. \$9/hour to start. Excellent benefits, paid time off, holidays, etc. Please apply in person: 85815 Costa Verde Boulevard, San Diego. 858-646-7740. [www.hyattclassic.com](http://www.hyattclassic.com).

**DISPATCHERS.** California Highway Patrol is now hiring Public Safety Dispatchers II. Apply now! Applications must be postmarked by March 8, 2007. For additional information and application, check [www.chp.ca.gov](http://www.chp.ca.gov) or stop by your local CHP office. CHP is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Call 858-637-3863.

**DRIVER, VENDING ROUTE.** Full time. Experienced preferred or will train. Bring clean DMV. Good pay plus benefits, company vehicle. Apply Monday-Friday: 7988 Stromesa Court, San Diego.

**DRIVER.** Class B with P endorsement. VDDP certificate 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. \$9.75-\$10/hour to start DOE. Unyeway Inc, 619-562-6330.

**DRIVER/LEGAL MESSENGER.** Great opportunity in busy, growing litigation support service. We will train an enthusiastic team player. Good driving record. \$8.75 to start, company car. Full time. 619-298-2385.

**DRIVERS WANTED.** Requires valid CA driver's license, current H-6 DMV printout and good, safe driving skills. Hourly/commission/tips. Call 619-591-0303 or fax resume to 619-591-0300. Xpress Shuttle, 1065 Bay Boulevard, Suite B, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

**DRIVERS, DELIVERY.** Part-time, 10am-2pm, Monday-Friday (pick your days). Corporate catering/deliveries from nice restaurants in Mira Mesa area. Need car, insurance, decent DMV. 888-DDI-WORK(888-334-9675). [www.d-d-i.com](http://www.d-d-i.com).

**DRIVERS, DELIVERY.** Sleep Train Mattress Centers. Over 21, clean DMV, background check. Good customer service. Days, nights, weekends, Mira Mesa. Full-time, \$10-\$13/hour, great benefits. 858-693-6354.



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- **Receptionist** – San Diego, 6 months-1 year experience, \$9-\$12/hour
- **Retail** – San Diego Airport, 3-6 months' exp. req'd, \$8/hour
- **3rd Party Collections** – Kearny Mesa, \$12-\$16/hour
- **Outbound Lead Generator** – Downtown, \$10/hour
- **Inside Sales** – Hillcrest, 3 years' exp. req'd, \$14/hour
- **Outbound Sales** – Vista, \$10/hour

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**DRIVERS.** Attention owner operators, 99% drop and hook! Excellent home time! Company drivers. Paid family insurance! CDL-A. 2 years experience. 800-660-9252 x0.

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**DRIVERS.** Christmas wish to be home more often? Company positions available! Voyager Express. shipvoyager.com. Glenda, 800-552-0950 x114.

**DRIVERS.** Drive our trucks. Sorrento Valley, excellent benefits. Drug screen required. Bring a current DMV report and apply: 5915 Mira Mesa Boulevard Suite A. 619-297-8300.

**DRIVERS.** Local furniture company seeking part-time delivery drivers immediately. 15-20/hours per week. Experience an asset. \$9-\$15/hour. Clean driving record, manual transmission required. Serious inquiries. 858-864-8722.

**DRIVERS.** Must have Class B license with passenger endorsement and at least 6 months experience. Fixed route, Monday-Friday, 31-40 hours/week with benefits. Call 619-287-0628.

**DRIVERS.** Transportation services provider for seniors and disabled. Great pay! At Your Home Familycare. E-mail: [homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com](mailto:homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com). Call toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS.

**DRIVERS/DELIVERY.** Employees wanted! Use your own mini-pickup. \$440/week starting. Openings countywide. Gas bonus paid. Growth opportunity. 619-230-1532, 858-578-7812, 760-639-5400. [www.databay.net/applicant/forms.asp](http://www.databay.net/applicant/forms.asp).

**DRIVERS: MORTUARY DRIVERS.** Growing transportation company has full-and part-time openings for reliable employees. Good driving record, heavy lifting and clean background check required. Healey, Scott & Bradt, 1068 Broadway, Suite 207, El Cajon, CA 92021. 619-441-9867.

**DRIVERS** with own vehicle for messenger company. Pickup truck a plus. \$100+/day potential. Weekdays, weekends, days, and nights available. Apply at 7050 Convo Court Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm.

**ELECTRICIANS/CONSTRUCTION.** Home remodeling company seeks Electricians,

Tile Setters, Rough and Finish Carpenters, Drywallers, Tapers, and Painters. Full/part time. 5 plus years experience. 619-277-1720.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS:** Immediate openings! All positions: EMTs, Dispatchers, Wheelchair Van Drivers. Experienced, start \$10. MedFleet Ambulance, 3479 Kurtz Street, San Diego, 92110. 619-222-2244. Apply: [www.medfleetambulance.com](http://www.medfleetambulance.com).

**EMT:** Immediate full-and part-time openings for entry-level and experienced EMTs and Wheelchair Drivers. Must provide certifications at time of interview: ADL, MEC, CPR, EMT-1 card and current DMV report. Also seeking full-time Provider Relations Rep. Flexible schedules, competitive pay and benefits. Priority One Medical Transport, 800-600-4633. Fax 800-600-4596. E-mail [ssuon@prioritylink.com](mailto:ssuon@prioritylink.com). [www.priorityonemedical.com](http://www.priorityonemedical.com).

**ESTHETICIAN.** Charming salon in Kensington has esthetician room for rent. \$175/per week. Dermalogica training a plus. Clientele preferred, but not required. Call Deborah at 619-339-3140.

**FITNESS CENTERS** hiring Sales Consultants, Personal Trainers and Group Exercise Instructors. Part/full time. Being Fit Fitness Centers. Clairemont, 858-483-9294; Mira Mesa location, 858-549-3456. [www.beingfit.net](http://www.beingfit.net).

**FITNESS INSTRUCTORS.** Traditional and mind/body. All hours, all days, all areas. [www.fitxsandiego.com](http://www.fitxsandiego.com). Fax: 858-715-8681 or call 858-715-8611.

**FITNESS: PERSONAL TRAINER.** Part time for private one-on-one training facility. Degree/certification preferred. Knowledge of weight training/nutrition and health issues. Many career opportunities available. No sales required. 858-454-7774.

**FLORIST.** Floral Designer (3+ years experience); Delivery Driver (clean DMV record, vehicle provided). Needed immediately for high-end, fast-paced florist. Greater San Diego. 619-543-9599.

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**GENERAL.** Housekeepers, Laundry Aides and Janitors for Healthcare Services Group. Apply in person: Pleasant Care of San Diego, 2828 Meadow Lark Drive, 92123; Country Villa La Mesa, 5696 Lake Murray Boulevard, 91942; Telecare San Diego Choice, 3853 Rosecrans, 92110.

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**\$12.86 per hr.**

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Résumés will not be accepted in lieu of a completed application. These positions are open until filled. NCTD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



**MACHINE OPERATORS.** Warehouse Shipping/Receiving, Warehouse Driver and Electronic Assembly with Soldering experience. Various shifts. MDI offers paid holidays after 520 hours and vacation bonuses after 2000 hours. MDI Staffing. San Diego: 8316 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, #204; fax 858-277-5621. Call 858-277-5680.

**MAID SERVICES.** Relax. It's done. No nights, weekends, holidays. Merry Maids offers flexible hours, weekly pay, paid mileage. Work in teams. Insured car required. Must speak English. South Coast/all south areas only. 619-336-1612; 619-226-2621.

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**MECHANIC ASSISTANT.** (NCTD) North County Transit District. \$12.86/hour. Perform preventative maintenance and minor repair work on all diesel and gasoline powered equipment. Air brake experience required. May work in Escondido/Oceanside, various shifts. California drivers license/good driving record proof, with ability to obtain Class B with P license. Comprehensive benefits package. Attach to application: 10 year DMV H-6 printout dated on or after the posting date. Complete job announcement/application: [www.gonctd.com](http://www.gonctd.com), E-mail: [recruitment@nctd.org](mailto:recruitment@nctd.org); 810 Mission Avenue, Oceanside, CA 92054 760-967-2815. EOE

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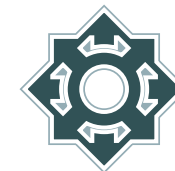
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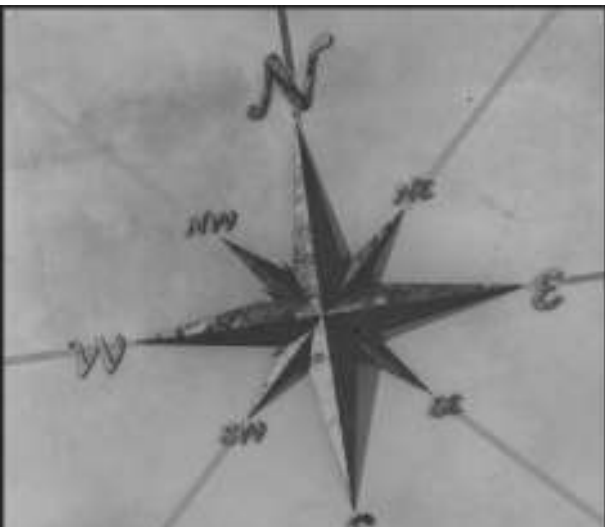
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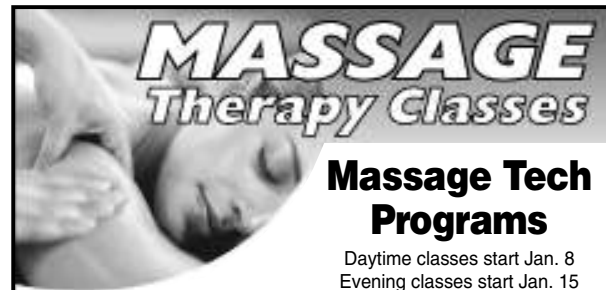
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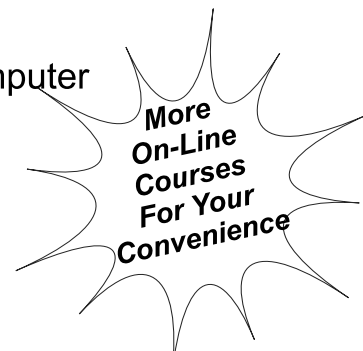
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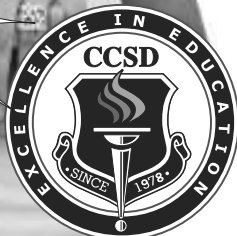
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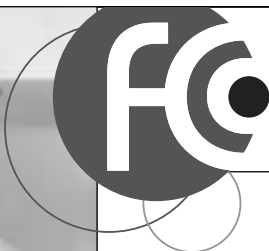
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**Nikki Mayer**  
Architect firm  
Pacific Beach

Oh, absolutely. And I think it still exists in most workplaces and in our society. With me, personally, I don't see black and white. My current firm is really good about not having any racism. We have the most diverse company: black, white, Asian, everything. There is no racism at my company, and I'm really proud to work there because of it. In the past, when I worked retail, only two percent of the employees were African American or anybody other than Caucasian.



**James Edwards**  
Parking attendant  
El Cajon

I've worked for the Los Angeles School District and the school district in Texas. Working here is only the third job I've ever had. In all that time of employment, I've never experienced racism. Oh, well, one time while working here, I heard someone say the n-word. I would say that's racist. The person wasn't fired. It wasn't told to anyone. That's about it.



**Gerald Marino**  
Project manager  
San Carlos

It's all free spirited at my work. I might have a friend make an Italian joke at me. We have a Puerto Rican guy we sometimes joke with. Nobody is bothered by it. The human resources department probably wouldn't like joking around along racial lines, but you know what co-workers that you're friends with can laugh about. In jobs I've had in the past, I've never witnessed a situation where someone didn't advance because of their race or sex. I'm sure there are cases of that, I've just never seen it.



**Dan Valedez**  
Retired military  
Temecula

When I joined the Navy in 1973, Vietnam was still going on. I occasionally heard some racist things, but it was all behind closed doors. My roommate would get drunk and go through the barracks yelling the n-word. In the late '70s, things seemed to get really politically correct. I think the chief of naval operations really clamped down. A few remarks had been made toward me being Mexican, but I didn't come unglued. Near the end of my 20 years in, if you got caught saying something racial, you were looking at brig time. It wasn't tolerated. All races were able to advance. I had a black commanding officer, and he was very fair, and you saw all races represented in the ranks.



**Mike Tomasulo**  
Bus driver  
Serra Mesa

I remember when I was working in a college freshman minority outreach program...this program had a curriculum from which they wanted the teachers to teach. One was ignoring the program and teaching racial propaganda. Of course, they fired her. The next day, she was outside walking with a sign calling the program, and the professor in charge, racist. After that, everybody was in the auditorium and questions were being fired at this professor. His life was working in a program designed to help minorities get into and stay in college. He was available day and night for his students and went above and beyond for everyone. I spoke up, even though I was nervous and the auditorium grew dead silent. Basically, yeah. I have to assume racism exists in some places, but accusations of it also occur where it's not present.



**Wayne Daniels**  
Rapper/performer  
Spring Valley

I've only had a couple jobs in my life. I worked for Albertson's in Spring Valley and also Blockbuster. I worked at a warehouse over at Miramar. I haven't experienced any racism on the job, or even witnessed any. Hopefully, I never do, and I'm happy I haven't.

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**YOUR COMPLETE RETREAT** is A Better Body. Offering you the best in massage, skin care, body treatments, hair and nail care. Open daily. Lic-96001191. 858-560-6740. www.abetterbodyspa.com.

**A LASTING IMPRESSION.** The moment you have waited for! Rose petal soft fingertips offering tender touch and a caring beautiful massage. Instant healings, just sensational! Last minute scheduling available. Incalls/outcalls. Hotels welcomed. Credit cards. MTP-6352. Mercedes, 760-726-1100.

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## THE READER PUZZLE

### Across

- Zip
- Squishee seller on "The Simpsons"
- Ernest J. Keebler, for one
- Fluffy trio?
- Vacationing
- MIV halved
- Whopper
- It's connected to the Strait of Hormuz
- Bug
- West of Hollywood
- Born as
- 2003 Nick Lachey hit "\_\_\_\_ Swear"
- Just beat
- Alternative to briefs
- Not get hung up on
- Polite agreement
- Socialite Brooke
- Dad's bro
- Chang or Eng
- Fire truck tool
- Oak-to-be
- "Probably ..."
- Treelined thoroughfare
- Sock hop attire
- Amazement
- "It's the cola" brand
- "Take \_\_\_\_"
- Stain
- Sugar suffix
- This puzzle's theme
- "My dear man"
- Government org. since 1970
- West Indies island
- UFO pilots
- Bill passer: Abbr.
- Call letters?
- Cooking meas.

### Down

- \_\_\_\_ culture
- They may be bitter
- Rampart parts
- The Diamondbacks, on scoreboards
- Steinway products
- On deck
- www.stanford.\_\_\_\_
- Adjective for rap's Romeo, Kim or Flip
- Liquor measures
- "Mistress of the Dark," in film
- Party in Puerto Rico
- It won't do for NOW
- China's Lao-\_\_\_\_
- "Whaddaya know!"

### 23. Same: Prefix

- Eavesdropping org.
- Silent film star Theda
- 2005 Cooperstown eclectic along with Wade
- Religious faction
- Luuu chow
- Operate
- Foal's mom
- Past dates?
- Compound W's target
- "Gross!"
- 1987 Kevin Costner movie
- Salmonella source
- "Science Guy" Bill
- Counter
- "What difference \_\_\_\_ make?"
- Addicts
- Old activist org.
- Authors Munro and Walker
- The hit of the party?
- Reply to "Am too!"
- Bout enders, for short
- Oak-to-be
- Banned insecticide
- LummoX
- Spank but good
- Altman's "\_\_\_\_ & the Women"
- Tree yield

### 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.

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enced, references. Lic-97005459. Jim, 619-523-1982; cell, 619-459-6872.

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**RELAX AND ENJOY!** Melt into my soft, gentle yet strong hands. An hour of bliss you don't want to miss! Outcalls/incalls. 10am-8pm. Julia, 619-253-5527.

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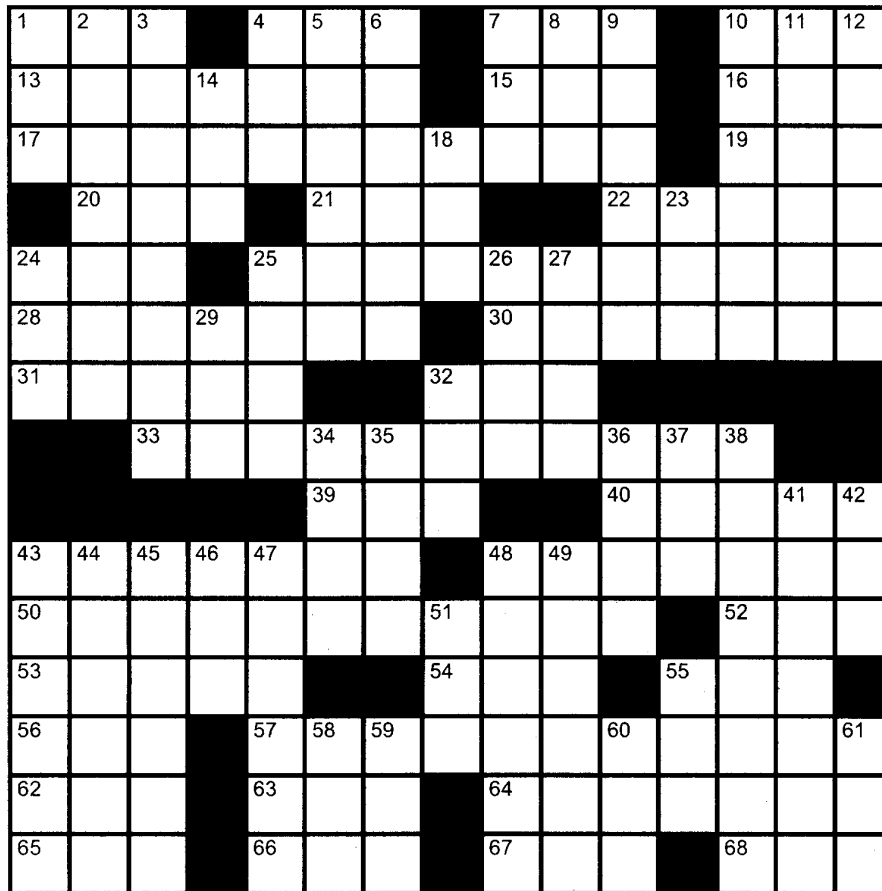
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**ROSE'S BEST MESSAGE** for your body and mind. Call today for an appointment with special, lower holiday prices and free body scrub with 1 hour massage. Lic-003419. 619-281-8851.

**MESSAGE BY BODYBUILDER,** for your health and pleasure. Consistently told, "The best massage I've ever had!" Friendly, Professional. IPSB graduate. gr8massagepro@aol.com or call Robert, 619-232-2142.

by David Levinson Wilk



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I N C E S T I K I D S I T  
L I E D T O C E E S A N O

Solution to and winners of the *Reader* Puzzle for 12/21/06.

There were 123 entrants. The winners are:

- Cosmo Singleton, *San Diego*
- Vera Holt, *Lakeside*
- Kyle Davis, *Vista*
- Christopher Bauer, *Poway*
- Andreas Walther, *San Diego*

massage. Lic-Z-12494. Call 760-415-2786.

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**ESCAPE HOLIDAY STRESS.** Pain? Tension? Indulge in relaxing, nurturing massage caring and skilled. Female, European Therapist. Swedish deep/light touch, Shiatsu, Reflexology, Tandem Massage available. In/outcalls. Celeste, 619-251-1558.

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**RELAXING MESSAGE THERAPY** by Brooke. Achy muscles, sore neck or back? Stressed out to the max? Try a

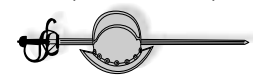
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**AUDITIONS** for "School House Rock," director Joey Minnick, date: 1/12, 4:30-8:30pm, at Green Valley Church, 11501 Rancho Bernardo Road, Rancho Bernardo. Please prepare a one-minute song with tape accompaniment or sheet music. Information: www.cyt.org, 800-696-1929.

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**CLINICAL HYPNOTHERAPY.** "What the mind can conceive, the body can achieve." All issues addressed. Free consultation. Patricia R. Parlin, Ed.D. CHT403-250. Call 619-442-3661 or 619-504-1935.

**COUNSELING/DREAM STUDY.** Curious, unsettled by your dreams? Jungian dream study helps with life issues, transitions, relationships. \$40/session. Paul Hartsuyker, MFT-15896. www.sandiegotherapist.com/hartsuyker.html. 619-269-8939.

**COUPLES WORKSHOP.** Participants will learn how to sustain a committed relationship. Topics will include: Communication, Conflict Resolution, Intimacy. Friday 1/26 6-9pm, Saturday 1/27 9am-5pm. Sally LeBoy, MFT#14768. 619-685-5975.

**FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION.** Relationship therapy: infidelity, sexual impulsivity, betrayal, guilt, resentment, anger, spousal conflict, relationship building, men's issues. Matt Burgan, M.F.T. 858-735-4069.

**FEELING STUCK? STRESSED?** Experiencing crisis? Relationship issues? Career problems? Family conflicts? Grief? Sexual issues? Take back your power. Free consultation: 619-723-9244. Trish Deignan, LCSW21861.

**FIND THE ULTIMATE** Relationship. Are you tired of going from relationship to relationship and not finding happiness? Free consultations, individual coaching and seminars. www.sheilahenry.com. Sheila Henry, MFT-8408. 858-450-1965.

**GAY/BISEXUAL MEN.** Supportive individual therapy. Depression, anxiety, confusion, addictions, spiritual/religious issues. Married, closeted welcome. Discretion, confidentiality assured. Mel Karmen, PhD, MFC-12709. 619-296-9442.

**HEALTHY ADULTS COURSE** begins mid-January. Learn to heal childhood traumas from wounds of dysfunctional family. Includes Thought Field Therapy for eliminating anxieties and traumas. Free introductory session. Counseling for individuals, couples enrichment and family bonding sessions. Sharon Goodlove, TFT Diagnostician, and Glenn Goodlove, LCSW-1450. Goodlove Counseling Center, 858-569-8975. www.goodlove-online.com.

**HOLIDAY BLUES?** Depression, gay and lesbian issues, child and adolescent therapy are my specialties. Individuals, couples, families. Sliding fee. MFC-43174. Phaedra Scoortis, MFT. Call 619-972-0209.

**MALE GROUP MEMBER NEEDED** for mixed process/support group. Relation-

ship difficulties, intimacy, self-esteem, childhood issues. Tuesday evenings, UTC area, fee, Susan Jorgensen, MFT-22281, 858-622-0632.

**TIME FOR CHANGE?** Affordable, effective solution-focused counseling services. Marriage, transitions, grief/loss, addictions, anger, confidence, stress, fear, spirituality, health, wellness. Brian Oltman, Psychotherapist, Lic-#41932. 619-804-2914, www.NDcounseling.net.

## NOTICES

**PLACE PRINTED ADS** in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

**POST FREE ONLINE ADS** with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here!

**A PROSPERITY MINDSET** can be yours. Discover and apply spiritual principles that activate prosperity and success in your life. Call Michael or Michele. 858-622-9509.

**ADDITION PROBLEMS?** Women for Sobriety is a non-12 step self-help program meeting Monday, Wednesday, Saturday. www.womenforsobriety.org or 858-549-3533.

**ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS.** Get group support at San Diego Area meetings. Adults who grew up in alcoholic, other types of dysfunctional households. Feel better about yourself. 619-276-6232, www.adulchildren.org.

**ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL ANGLICAN CATHOLIC.** Welcomes all to celebrate Christmas with us until January 6, Epiphany! Sunday Masses 8am and 10am. 625 Pennsylvania. 619-298-7729 www.allsaintschurch.org.

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL** works for human rights. Meetings: 7pm, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. First Unitarian Church, 4190 Front (opposite UCSD Medical Center). Information, 858-576-3811.

**CANNABIS PATIENTS ACT.** (Association Cannabis Therapeutics.) Nonprofit, seeks registered nurses, LVN, RN, caregivers, to fearlessly join medicinal cannabis movement, Proposition 215, guidelines. Nurses, 800-419-4810, 619-528-0907.

**DIVERSITY** in the alternative press: 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 17-August 12, 2007) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in magazine-style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit: www.altjournalism.org. You may also e-mail us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by February 9, 2007. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

**DIVORCE/SEPARATING?** Get guidance/support during your emotional adjustment. Group meets Friday, 6:30-8pm, in Allied Gardens off Waring Road. Divorce Anonymous, 619-442-1550.

**DONATE** that automobile, boat, RV, etc. to Ronald McDonald House Charities-San Diego, receive tax deduction and possibly a partial cash payment! Call toll-free, 866-244-8464.

**EARN \$100 BEFORE YOU MOVE!** If you are moving soon. Call us to schedule a home interview and environmental sampling. For just 2 hours you will earn \$100. SDSU Healthy Homes Study, 619-594-0501.

**EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS.** 7:30pm Wednesday, College Area. A 12-step program for controlling anger, fear, obsession, etc. No fee. Voluntary donation suggested. Call 619-287-5391.

**FELLOWSHIP OF OLDER GAYS,** (FOG) social club, full calendar of activities. Free strictly confidential information. PO Box 4271. San Diego 92164-4271. Call 619-291-4480.

**FREE BIBLE STUDY** course by mail. Non-denominational. Increase your knowledge of God's word. Palomar Church of Christ, Minister Bill Sisco, Postage paid. PO Box 1473R, San Marcos 92078. 760-436-3730. San Diego, 619-299-6812.

**HERPES/HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS.** (HSV/HPV) Support group. Accurate medical information and support. Recorded message. 619-491-1194. www.SanDiegoCityHELP.org.

**MOVIE BUFFS,** Interested in watching movies then discussing it afterwards, like a book club? Ages 25 to mature welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-272-8727.

**MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS WOMEN'S** Support group, meeting every third Wednesday of the month, 6-7:30pm, beginning January 17. Cardiff by the Sea library, 2081 Newcastle Avenue, Cardiff. Contact MS society at 760-448-8400, press 1.

**NATIVE CITIZEN PROGRESS,** Incorporated, non-profit, supports the repatriation of Mexican Indian immigrants. 4000+ dead. Derechas para los migrantes sin papeles! Amnesty, yes! Wall? No! sancho69ya@yahoo.com.

**OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE** Anonymous 12-step meeting for people with OCD. Mondays, 6-7pm, Free, Department of Health Services Complex, 3851 Rosecrans Street, Mission Room, San Diego. 619-757-6603.

**OPEN MIC NIGHT.** Every Sunday, 9pm-12am. Tom Giblin's Irish Pub, 640-A Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-7234.

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS.** Meetings daily. www.oasandiego.org or 619-521-2538.

**PARENTS, FAMILIES,** and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Find help, support, and understanding. Meetings: Hillcrest, East County, North County. www.pflag.com. Call for details, 619-579-7640.

**PATHWORK DISCUSSION:** "Relationships." January 18, 7-9pm, 1228-1/2 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar 92014. Open meeting, no fee, materials available. For information call 858-259-1880.

**PRAYER LINE.** 619-440-6043.

**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.

**SURVIVORS OF INCEST** Anonymous. Free 12-step support groups for men and women molested as children. Call Tim, 619-282-4798; www.slawsof.org.

**TWELVE STEPS** not working for you? Try a self-empowering, skill-building approach with S.M.A.R.T. Recovery, free support groups. 858-546-1100.

**VOLUNTEER CHILDBIRTH,** assistants needed. UCSD Medical Center Doula Program needs women to help mothers during labor. Big commitment, lots of gratification! 619-543-6269.

**VOLUNTEERS.** San Diego's abused/neglected children desperately need your voice. Make a difference. Serve as a child advocate. Information sessions: Wednesday, 2/7 and 3/7. Call Voices for Children, 858-569-2019 or visit www.speakupnow.org.

**WRITERS WORKSHOP.** Free. Every Monday, 10am-1pm. Joyce Beers Community Center, Hillcrest. Vermont Street, near University Avenue, 858-457-8477.

**YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!** Join in for the Christmas season at Spring Valley Community Church, Sunday Worship: 9:30am-English, 11:30am-Spanish. AWANA for kids, Wednesdays! 730 Concepcion. www.svchurch.org.

## TRAVEL & GETAWAYS

**PLACE PRINTED ADS** in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

**POST FREE ONLINE ADS** with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here!

**DISCOVER COSTA RICA** Paradise! 40 lovely hotel/apartments. Great area to explore Costa Rica! From \$175 weekly, \$295 monthly. www.hotels.co.cr/scot-

**Want to meet singles over 40 and have a great time?**

Meet over 300 singles at the biggest singles dance party in town. The Social Place cordially invites you to our "Find Your Date for New Year's Eve" for an evening of dancing, food, and romance. A DJ will set the mood as you mingle and dance. Call now and purchase your ticket today before we sell out!

*"I love it! This is the natural way to meet people and make friends, face-to-face, with real conversation"*

Where: Camel Mountain Ranch Country Club  
14050 Camel Ridge Rd, S.D., CA 92121

When: Friday, December 29, 2006 6:30 PM

Price: \$25 at the door or \$20 if you prepay  
www.TheSocialPlace.com  
1-866-635-7241

**Lucky 7 Match**

**SPEED DATING**

**Wednesday, January 10**  
Ages 28-38, 37-49 & 48-62

**Thursday, January 25**  
Ages 24-34, 33-45 & 45-57  
both at **30-TWO** Downtown  
Check-in 7 pm, event 7:30 pm  
**Advance registration required.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
Singles & Sushi: Wed. 1/17  
Rock 'n' Bowl: Sat. 1/20  
Fondue Party: Tues. 1/23 & Tues. 1/30  
Wine Tasting/Blending: Tues. 2/6  
See website for details.  
**www.lucky7match.com**  
(619) 890-7117

**the most beautiful single women on the west coast**

With over a decade of experience, Model Quality Introductions is the most effective agency in the nation for commitment minded men seeking beautiful women. If we meet, you will want to join, we guarantee it!

**"If you are ready to settle down with an 8, 9 or 10, we need to talk."**

We are a male owned company that is different from any other agency in existence. If you are extremely particular in choosing a mate, you need to meet with us. MQI seeks out gorgeous people for our massive database by handpicking them at over 1000 events. We offer women the potential opportunity to meet attractive, upscale, intelligent, financially secure, and commitment minded men like you. In return, these ladies refer their most attractive girlfriends to us to ensure an ever-expanding database to choose from.

Visit our web site to preview a vast array of member photos. Let's meet and build a blueprint of your perfect partner.

**MODEL QUALITY INTRODUCTIONS, INC.**  
**1-866-MODELS4**

BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE MAY JOIN OUR REGISTRY FOR FREE.  
**www.modelqualityintroductions.com**

**HOT & HAPPY**

**NEW YEAR'S 2007**

Party for people over 30 by Singles in San Diego

**December 31, 2006 • 8 pm-1 am**  
**Four Points Sheraton • 8110 Aero Drive**

\$30 includes: hors d'oeuvres, champagne toast and dance party

**Hotline: 858.259.6166**

**Join us: Dec. 30 • 8 pm-1 am**  
at Four Points Sheraton

**LUXURIOUS VACATION CONDO.** Heart of the Village, 2 bedroom, 2 bath with ocean view. Fully furnished, Koa floors, limestone counters. Steps from La Jolla's finest shopping, restaurants, beach. 858-926-8123.

## PERSONALS

**PLACE PRINTED ADS** in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

**POST FREE ONLINE ADS** with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here!

**ALL COMMANDERS WORK** In unison/love-- as One, as do you who serve This Light from your dimension. We're one in purpose/unity for incoming God's Kingdom on Earth. Ashter.

**ALL OF A SUDDEN,** I was surrounded, my zipper broke, no pliers, no Home Depot, mini-bike on the fritz, so what did I do?

**BROTHER BEN, BROTHER RANDY,** it's me, your sister. I've sent numerous letters, so why haven't I heard from anyone yet? Slow down, please?! I miss you.

**DOLPHIN HEART NECKLACE,** Doing the family thing over the Holidays. Just wanted to tell you, that you're with me wherever I go. I love you, Merry Christmas. "g".

**I LOVE YOU LEX,** Your in my heart and on my mind, I will be out January 21, 2007. Where are you?

**I MISS MY MAN'S ARMS,** And his love. I miss riding my bike till the break of dawn. When I get released, where do I go?

**MAYNARD,** you're in a cloud of sushi gas, so what? Vacuum in mushroom hatch, press reverse. Blow up like sumo, then fart home.

**SAUNDRA, RICH, BIKE MIKE,** G-rock, Jason, someone out there please write me. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Out of sight, out of mind.

# 3 Ways to Respond to READER MATCHES ADS!

## Call 1-900-844-6282

The cost is \$1.99 per minute. You must be at least 18 years old to call. Call and enter the number at the end of an ad to hear the advertiser's introduction and leave a message. The date in the ad is the last day to reply. The charge will appear on your phone bill as "Dating." Questions? 619-235-8200.

## Use your credit card

No 900# access? Call anytime day or night to purchase a block of calling time and charge it to your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express... for as little as \$1.25 per minute.

## Call 1-800-360-9496 24 hours

No refunds. You may also purchase time at our office with cash or check only.

## Send an e-mail

Matches ads are now on the Web. You may search them by specifying criteria such as age, ethnicity and nonsmoking. Respond to most ads by sending an anonymous e-mail for a nominal charge. You may also listen to intros online.

## SanDiegoReader.com

From this page, click on "Matches."

## MATCHES SHARED INTERESTS

**SEEKING NEW FRIENDS.** I just arrived here! Scandinavian male intellectual, world traveler, nonsmoker, leftist, creative, humorous, genuine, into Jazz, the arts, nature. You: 40-60 kind. (1/10) ☎70742

**SEEKING FEMALE FRIENDS.** For singles activities and meeting men. I am 43 year old female who likes to have fun and friendships. (1/10) ☎70743

## MATCHES WOMEN SEEKING MEN

### European, Educated

Gorgeous, petite. Seeking successful, truthful, generous, educated, anti-war, stylish, monogamous, (com)passionate, no-baggage man, friendship, sportive, no previous kids, spiritual/nonreligious, 35-53, 5'9". (1/3) ☎70152

**ASIAN, EXOTIC, SEXY,** Nice legs/smile, curvaceous figure, 5'3", 115lbs, healthcare professional, childless, homeowner. Desires fun, fit, nonsmoker, upscale, compatible. 36+ Asian/Caucasian stable gentleman. (1/10) ☎70172

**BEEN A GOOD BOY?** Unencumbered, humorous, man of substance? Worthy of a unique black beauty? Tall, beautiful smile, childless. Sassy yet classy, diverse interests salute. (1/3) ☎70160

**SINCERE, ADVENTURESOME,** Loving lady, 5'6", trim, no dependents, enjoys

outdoors. Seeks tall, white, healthy, 57-69, to blend our many nice qualities for lasting relationship. (858) (1/3) ☎70164

**IMPEACH BUSH!** Peacenik, 52, 5'9", son (18), natural, blues dancing-opera, hiking, camping, Dog Beach. Seek leftist, 50ish, easy-going, renaissance man to complicate/complement life. (1/3) ☎70162

**BRITISH GENTLEMAN 43-55,** Desired by pretty, green-eyed white lady, 48, humorous, world traveler, healthy lifestyle, nature lover. Please have similar interests/lifestyle. (1/3) ☎70161

**MUST LOVE JAZZ.** Attractive, Scottish redhead, 50s. Seeking tall, attractive, black gentleman, 50-55, for dating, dining, movies, dancing, concerts, possible romance. Could this be you. (1/10) ☎70167

**QUALITY WOMAN,** Accomplished, retired professional, cultured, great body, lively, aware. Seeking financially/emotionally secure nonsmoking gentleman, aged 59-73 to explore life's possibilities. (1/10) ☎70166

**WHITE,** 34, brown eyes, long brown hair. Brave, fun! Open-minded. Sexy, exciting

bad habit. Seeking realistic, generous guy to drive crazy. You'll love hating me. (1/3) ☎70154

**LATIN LADY,** 54, attractive, professional, 5'5", 135lbs, honest, dark-haired, light skin, nonsmoker, nondrinker; likes sports, traveling and more. Wishes, man with good feelings. (1/3) ☎70157

**NICE LOOKING EUROPEAN LADY,** 50, 5'5" educated with huge travel experience in Europe. Seeking soul mate, good looking degreed white to travel together North. (1/3) ☎70155

**LETS MAKE 2007 OUR YEAR,** Female 40s, sincere, romantic. Seeking Caucasian gentleman for a serious relationship, serious only need apply. (1/10) ☎70173

**LAST CHANCE THIS YEAR** To find your lovable, sexy, pretty lady. If you are 58+ with a playful personality and adventurous soul, excitement awaits. (1/3) ☎70153

**I NEED YOU** For holidays. You, 47-60, work, car, time for me. Call me. I'm beautiful, 47, sexy, Latina Brazil, new in town, love beach. (1/10) ☎70168

**STARTING A NEW YEAR,** 53, 5'4", 140lbs. Travel, movies, walking on the beach, dancing in the kitchen. Looking for secure, honest, no games, Mr. Right. (1/10) ☎70170

**IF YOU THRIVE** To be the king of your castle, then I'm the queen of your world. (1/3) ☎70158

**THIS YOUNG, 63-YEAR-OLD** African American lady is seeking a gentleman of any race, who is interested in finding the humor in life. (1/10) ☎70171

**LITERARY, ARTISTIC,** White, 41, sweet, brown-eyed. Seeks white male, 30-50, soulful, ectomorph with Steve Buscemi eyes, long-term-relationship. Orange County resident, visits San Diego often. Likes film, wine tasting, good conversation. (1/10) ☎70151

**I'M 48, TALL,** Compassionate, good-hearted, truthful, fun, fair and considerate, I'm interested in meeting a single, happy, honest, positive, kind, patient guy between 45-53. (1/3) ☎70165

**CLASSY, PETITE SENIOR.** Friendly. Likes dining out, movies, casinos. Not marriage-minded. Seeking reciprocal relationship with active, healthy, solvent man. Friends first. (1/10) ☎70169

**EUROPEAN, 52.** Looking for 52-60 Caucasian, educated, kind, honest gentleman who loves outdoors, god communicator, professional, sense of humor, caring, romantic Christian man. (1/10) ☎70175

**LET'S BE HAPPY TOGETHER.** Attractive, tall, slim, blonde, college-educated, fun-loving, playful, good conversation, 40s. Seeking someone for fun, adventuresome, sincere relationship. Coastal area. (1/3) ☎70163

**SINCERE, HEALTHY,** Adventuresome, loving lady, French, young-looking 50s; love outdoors, camping, hiking, movies, dining out, quiet time; likes to cuddle; walks on the beach, healthy living. Seeking a fun-filled friendship with a fun-loving, fit, honest, loving, adventuresome, secure man with same interests. 45-55. (1/3) ☎70159

# Try online placement for your Reader Matches Ad!

**Meet Your Match.** Get a free ad in the *Reader* and on the Web at SanDiegoReader.com, and a free voice mailbox for recording and receiving messages. Questions? Call 619-235-8200, 8:30-5:00, Mon.-Fri.

**Free Online Placement:** Ads submitted online receive e-mail responses and voicemail responses. Tell more about yourself and upload a photo, too! These features are free. Online placement deadline: 7 am, Saturday.

**More Free Placement Options:** Can't get online? Fill the form below and mail or fax it to us. If faxing, please photocopy first. Fax/mail deadline: 7 am, Saturday.

## Meet your match! Use the form below to place your free, 2-week Reader Matches Ad and get your free Voice Mailbox.

**OPTIONAL HEADLINE:** 20 characters per line including spaces; the first initial of each word is capitalized; abbreviations and unusual punctuation will not be accepted; the cost of each line is \$12. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

**PRINT CLEARLY:** First 25 words are FREE. \$1.20/additional word. Do not abbreviate words. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_  
 13 \_\_\_\_\_ 14 \_\_\_\_\_ 15 \_\_\_\_\_ 16 \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
 19 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 21 \_\_\_\_\_ 22 \_\_\_\_\_ 23 \_\_\_\_\_ 24 \_\_\_\_\_  
 25/FREE \_\_\_\_\_ 26 \_\_\_\_\_ 27 \_\_\_\_\_ 28 \_\_\_\_\_ 29 \_\_\_\_\_ 30 \_\_\_\_\_

**FREE AD DEADLINE:** 7 am Saturday

**Mail:** Reader Matches, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 **Fax:** (619) 233-7907

**Online:** SanDiegoReader.com

**LATE AD DEADLINE:** 5 pm Tuesday

**Fax:** (619) 233-7907 **Phone:** (619) 235-8200

**Walk-in:** 1703 India St. (at Date St.) downtown

Matches ads are available for any 18+ single person who is seeking a sincere relationship with a member of the opposite sex. Ads containing explicit or implicit sexual/anatomical language will not be accepted. Ads in the "Shared Interests" category must list the primary interest as the first words; these ads will be sorted alphabetically. Either gender may be sought in "Shared Interests" ads; however, physical descriptions are not allowed. No last names, addresses or personal phone numbers will be permitted. No dating services, singles clubs or commercial businesses may advertise in this section. The San Diego *Reader* does not assume any liability for the content or reply to any Reader Matches advertisement. Advertiser assumes complete liability for content of, and all replies to, any advertisement or recorded message and for any claims made against the San Diego *Reader* as a result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold the San Diego *Reader* and its employees harmless from all costs, expenses (including all attorney fees), liabilities and damages resulting from or caused by the publication or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. By using Reader Matches, the advertiser agrees not to leave his/her telephone number, last name or address in his/her voice greeting message.

We must have the following information. Please print.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (evening) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

To receive e-mail responses, simply provide your address below. (Don't worry, your e-mail address will not be revealed.)

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose One:  Woman seeking a man  
 Shared interests  Man seeking a woman

Reader Matches Voice Mailbox .....\$ **FREE**

Headlines \_\_\_\_\_x \$12 each line .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

First 25 words of printed ad.....\$ **FREE**

Additional words \_\_\_\_\_x \$1.20 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Late fee/walk-in fee: \$20.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

No cancellations. No refunds. Make check or money order payable to San Diego *Reader*. To order using Visa, MasterCard or Discover, please fill out the following:

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



**LATIN, FUN, FIT,** Professional, 50s, petite, cute, loving, caring. Love the outdoors, music, dancing. Seeking fun, honest, educated guy for lasting relationship. (1/10) ☎70174

MATCHES

**MEN SEEKING WOMEN**

**RETIRED PROFESSIONAL,** 69, English background, world traveler, slim build, easygoing, humorous. Seeks classy lady, 60-73, San Diego area. Don't be alone these holidays. (1/3) ☎70717

**LIFE IS JUST A BOWL** of cherries. White, 50s, financially secure, very positive, good listener. Special events, shopping, walks, movies. Nonsmoker, seeking that special lady.

**LONG-HAIRED, HANDSOME,** blond, 5'10", 175lbs, light eyes, young 50, likes eating out. Seeks smart and pretty lady for late lunch or sunset dinner dates. (1/3) ☎70726

**Single, Handsome, White Dad**

Of 2, 5 and 6, blond-blue, 5'10", 170lbs, healthy, low 40s. Seeks slim lady, 25-40, kids OK, fun, electric, romance possible, no drugs. (1/3) ☎70699

**Chivalry Still Lives!**

Educated, polite, chivalrous gentleman (6'2", 210, trim) searching for lady (40s-50s) to spoil with attention and care. Let's start something special. Wishing you well. (1/10) ☎70723

**3 Ways to Respond to READER MATCHES ADS!**

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The cost is \$1.99 per minute. You must be at least 18 years old to call. Call and enter the number at the end of an ad to hear the advertiser's introduction and leave a message. The date in the ad is the last day to reply. The charge will appear on your phone bill as "Dating." Questions? 619-235-8200.

**Use your credit card**

No 900# access? Call anytime day or night to purchase a block of calling time and charge it to your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express... for as little as \$1.25 per minute.

**Call 1-800-360-9496 24 hours**

No refunds. You may also purchase time at our office with cash or check only.

**Send an e-mail**

Matches ads are now on the Web. You may search them by specifying criteria such as age, ethnicity and nonsmoking. Respond to most ads by sending an anonymous e-mail for a nominal charge. You may also listen to intros online.

**SanDiegoReader.com**

From this page, click on "Matches."

**BEST TWO THINGS** Can happen. Me running this ad, you answering it. Me handsome, Caucasian, 5'9", 180lbs, clean-shaven, romantic, fun, healthy with hair. Long-term relationship. (1/3) ☎70712

**LET'S WALK!** Beaches, canyons, parks -- 55 year old Clairemonster (I look better than I sound) ex-college teacher and engineer. Like nearby afternoon walks. (1/3) ☎70722

**QUALITY WHITE MALE,** 47, tall, dark, nice-looking, hardworking, honest, ambitious, grounded, caring, talkative, witty. Seeking nonsmoking, accomplished, curvy, family-oriented, grounded woman for relationship. (1/3) ☎70719

**ASIAN LADY WANTED.** I'm 5'11", 220lbs, 53 years old, mixed American Indian and black, never married, no children, nonsmoker, nondrinker. Looking for nice lady. (1/3) ☎70156

**WARM, WITTY, ATTRACTIVE GUY,** 54. Seeking younger, sexy soulmate, for laughs and fun times. I'm 6', 175lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes, Caucasian, Libra. (1/10) ☎70731

**NICE-APPEARING BACHELOR,** Early 50s, trim, successful, childless, blue, brown, North County coastal homeowner without encumbrances. You: 40-something, well groomed, not overweight, serious-minded. (1/3) ☎70678

**IF YOU ARE SINGLE,** Female, attractive in mind/body, 35-55 and want to enjoy life as you deserve to, make risk-free call to Scott. (1/3) ☎70730

**Attention, Experienced, Open-Minded Ladies**

Good looking, educated white male, 42, desires mature ladies who enjoy being accompanied by younger male. Dining, movies, walks. Get spoiled! (1/3) ☎70709

**SINCERELY SEEKING** A quality relationship. I'm 55, 5'3", 145lbs, good-looking, in good shape. I love music, exercise, nature, fun at home! La Mesa. (1/3) ☎70721

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**CARLSBAD.** Ocean view. Share 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Steps to beach. Parking. \$625 plus utilities, \$300 deposit. No pets. Female preferred. Available 2/1. 760-729-7871.

**CARMEL VALLEY.** \$675 plus deposit. Room with private bath in quiet house. Female preferred. Rent includes utilities, kitchen, and laundry. Cat considered, no dogs. 858-755-7693.

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**EL CAJON.** \$2995. 5 bedroom, 3-1/2 bath hilltop retreat, pool, spa, Koi pond. 2-1/2 car garage. Views, views, views! 1063 Vista Madera Lane. Call 619-507-4172.

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**LA JOLLA.** \$2350. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths house, pool, quiet, community spa, extra large brick patio. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**LA JOLLA.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Fireplace, laundry, tile floors. Patio/yard/barbecue. 1-car garage. Appointment only. No smoke/pets. \$2675. 858-454-3140.

**LA MESA.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Open floor plan, shared laundry. 600 square feet. No pets. Available 12/28. 6170 West Manor Drive. \$850. 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

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Elvis at the Sports Arena, April 26, 1973. A month earlier, his manager, Colonel Parker, sold to RCA the royalty rights of Elvis's recording catalog; 700 songs for five million dollars. — by Robert Mizrachi

**PACIFIC BEACH.** 3 bedroom, 1 bath with garage. Fireplace, large rear private enclosed patio. Close to bay. \$2000. 858-272-9511.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1200. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath cottage, carpet floors, parking in-

cluded, refrigerator, patio, walk to bay. Fee. Free search at [www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com). 619-367-3333.

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**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$2395. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath hillside house with views, 2-car garage, fireplace, large kitchen/bedrooms. 2546 San Anselmo. 619-574-0558.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$2700. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, laundry hookups, fenced backyard with the biggest avocado tree you have every seen. Garage plus driveway parking. Gardener paid. Ask about pet with additional deposit. Available now. 1035 Reed. DSPM, Broker, 858-270-2071. [www.delsolpm.com](http://www.delsolpm.com).

**PARADISE HILLS.** 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath house with new Pergo flooring throughout. 2-car garage. Washer/dryer hookups. Fireplace. Extra storage. No pets. 1625 Gilmartin Drive. Call 858-583-0182. [www.cal-prop.com](http://www.cal-prop.com).

**POINT LOMA.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1-car garage, central heat, refrigerator, washer/dryer, yard, fruit trees. Nonsmoking. Pets negotiable. \$2625. Available 1/8. 858-456-5235. [pointrenat@hotmail.com](mailto:pointrenat@hotmail.com).

**POINT LOMA.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Patio. Yard. Washer/dryer. RV Parking.

Room for boat storage. Located on Cul-de-sac. Gardener. Pet OK on approval with additional deposit. Rent \$2100. Available now. 3505 Poe Street. 858-490-1600.

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**POINT LOMA.** 3 bedroom, 1.5 baths, new carpets, remodeled kitchen/bath, washer/dryer, fireplace, lots of storage. No smoking. No pets. \$1800, gardener included. 858-459-5123.

**POINT LOMA.** Upgraded 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Available February. Granite, stainless steel, hardwood floors, jacuzzi tub. Garage. Landscaped, gardener paid. \$2600. Pet included. Melissa, 619-920-5484.

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**RANCHO BERNARDO/Brezza Reata Way.** \$3200. 4 bedroom plus den, 4 baths. Tile and berber. Large back yard, cul-de-sac, gardener, all appliances, granite counters, large kitchen island, 3-car garage, 3158 estimated square-feet, built 2002. No pets. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

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**SAN CARLOS.** \$2095. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath house. 2000 square feet, fireplace, 2-car garage, yard. Pets on approval. 8081 Hillandale Drive. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

**SAN MARCOS/Santa Fe Hills, Avenida Abeja.** 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath plus den, \$2595. Custom upgrades, granite floors/counters, 2600 estimated square-feet, large back yard. Small pet OK. Gardener, extra storage, 2-car garage, high tech hook-ups, top of the line appliances. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

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RENTALS

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**ALPINE.** 55 and up. Spacious luxury living, 1 bedrooms, \$895 2 bedrooms, \$1125. Up to one month free! Creekside Meadows, 1750 Arnold Way, 619-445-2480.

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**BANKER'S HILL.** 1 bedroom, \$1325. Historic building, Sunroom. No pets. 536 Maple. [www.palomarapts.com](http://www.palomarapts.com). Leo, 619-232-1665.

**BANKER'S HILL.** \$1300. Nice 1 bedroom, 1 bath in quiet complex. New Berber carpet, washer/dryer inside, refrigerator, stove, fireplace. Close to all. 858-598-1111 x193. [www.utopiamanagement.com](http://www.utopiamanagement.com).

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**BANKER'S HILL.** \$975 rent, \$900 deposit. 1/2 off first month's rent! Cottage style lower unit. Wood floors, patio, stove, refrigerator, on-site laundry, on-street parking. 1926 3rd Street. 619-300-9487.

**BANKER'S HILL.** \$1125/month, \$900 deposit. 1/2 off first month's rent! Upper unit, wood floors, new paint. View of Point Loma and San Diego bay. Appliances, on-site laundry, 2241 4th Avenue #201. 619-300-9487.

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**BAY HO.** \$1695. Nice, newly remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhome with spectacular bay views. Large kitchen, washer/dryer, hardwood floors, 2 private balconies, 2-car garage. Pool, jacuzzi, racquetball courts, sauna. 3727 Balboa Terrace #B. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

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**CHIHUAHUA MIX,** part miniature Pinscher(?), spayed female, 4 years, 11lbs., mostly black, shots, license. Doesn't like

**CARLSBAD/OCEANSIDE** South of Highway 78. Walk to beach. \$1200. Quiet, bright. 1000 square foot 2 bedroom apartment. No dogs/smoking. 699 Eaton Street. 760-967-8121.

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**CHULA VISTA.** Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$950. Nice, quiet, gated. Laundry. Parking. Near trolley. No pets. Lease. Available now! 552 D Street. 619-271-4890.

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**EL CAJON.** 1 bedroom, \$700. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$800. Great amenities, A/C, laundry on-site, pool, recreation room, secure parking. Lushly landscaped. No pets. 294 Ballantyne. 619-440-3044.

**EL CAJON.** 534 East Lexington Avenue. Remodeled! 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$950. Washer, dryer. 700 square feet. Pets OK. vr@ajprop.com. A&J Property Management. 619-220-4840.

**EL CAJON.** Large studio condo, all new stainless appliances, granite counters, off-street parking, on-site laundry, gated. No pets. \$750/month. 619-820-0003.

**EL CAJON.** \$975. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, Lincoln-Washington Apartments. Very large units, pool, on-site laundry, covered parking, in great location, clean and quiet. 685 South Lincoln Avenue. Agent, 619-444-8191 or 858-560-1178.

**EL CAJON.** \$695. 1 bedroom. \$820. 2 bedroom. El Cajon's best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. No pets. 1072 East Madison Avenue. Move-in special! TPPM, 619-444-1614. www.fourwindsapts.info.

**EL CAJON.** \$700. 1 bedroom. Luxurious property with sparkling pool. On-site parking and large floorplans. No pets.

**ENCINITAS,** \$1300. Lovely 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated complex, private yard, fireplace, pool, laundry. Close to beach, coaster. See pictures: members.cox.net/jbark/tour.htm. Available 12/20. 760-822-5564, 760-436-6038.

**ENCINITAS.** 1 bedroom, downstairs, \$1125; 2 bedroom, upstairs, \$1350. Small complex. Assigned parking, laundry. Bright and airy. Garden setting. 1-1/2 blocks to beach. Close to shopping, freeway, Coaster. No pets/smoking. 760-929-1950.

**ENCINITAS.** \$1175/\$1375. Holiday special! \$500 off first month's rent. Low deposits! Limited availability. Clean, updated 1 bedroom/2 bedroom with gas stoves, dishwasher, private patio/balcony. Cardio-fitness facility, pool, spa. Pets up to 50 lbs. (breed restrictions). Quail Pointe Apartment Homes, 924 Encinitas Boulevard, 92024. 760-944-6939. www.sdreader.com/rent/2149.

**ENCINITAS.** Tiny efficiency cottage with sleeping loft. Small yard, storage shed, covered patio. Quiet country setting. Share bathroom. \$500, utilities included. No pets/smoking. 760-943-7193.

**ENCINITAS.** \$3500. Beautifully upgraded 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath home. 3-car garage. Great outdoor living area. Via Villena. Pets negotiable. Boone Property Management, 858-274-6856. www.booneproperties.com.

**ENCINITAS.** \$875 and up. Sick of roommates? Cozy beach trailers in quiet park. Close to beach, Coaster, restaurants and shops. 760-753-4101.

**ENCINITAS.** 1 and 2 bedrooms from \$1595. Oceanfront spacious renovated apartments. Granite countertops, travertine flooring, upgraded appliances. 760-753-4101.

**ENCINITAS.** \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Huge upstairs apartment. New flooring. Parking. Laundry. Move-in special! 1428 Hermes. Call 858-571-1970.

**ESCONDIDO.** Gorgeous apartment for a great price! Beautiful 1 and 2 bedroom apartment homes starting at only \$979! Call today to make an appointment to view your new home! 760-747-3092.

**ESCONDIDO.** \$825-\$1750. Tired of apartment living? Half off first month's rent, on approved credit. Beautiful manufactured homes offer spectacular hilltop views. Attached private 2-car covered carports. Small yards, full-size washer/dryer most homes. Sorry, no pets. 1924 Sheridan Avenue. 760-745-1677.

**ESCONDIDO.** Spacious 1 bedrooms from \$815. Deposit \$400. 2 bedrooms from \$975. Deposit \$500. Great roommate floor plan. Pool, spa. Covered parking. Laundry. 640 West Lincoln Street. 760-489-8989.

**ESCONDIDO.** \$795. \$300-off 1st month's rent! 1 bedroom with private balcony/patio surrounded by lots of open space. Gated entrance, air conditioning, fireplace. Pool, spa. Small pet OK. 720 East Mission. TPPM, 760-815-6210.

**FASHION VALLEY.** \$2300. 4 bedroom, 2 bath condo/townhome with garage located in Friars Village Community. Approximately 1530 square feet. New paint, all appliances, washer/dryer. Balcony with view off living room. Access to pool/jacuzzi. Available now. 6341 Caminito Juanico. 619-295-1100. www.cethron.com.

**FASHION VALLEY/USD.** \$1050 rent, \$600 deposit, OAC. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 underground tandem parking spots, laundry room. No pets. 5550 Mildred Street #6. 619-291-1755.

**FASHION VALLEY/USD.** \$1200 rent, \$600 deposit. 2 bedroom, 2 bath fourplex, upper unit. Granite counters. 2 parking spots. No pets. At 1357 Bronner Street. 619-298-5820.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$1500. 3 bedroom, 1 bath townhome. Contemporary setting, newly remodeled. Near Downtown. 1-car garage. Laundry facility. Landscaping, back patio, security entry. 619-247-7327.

**GOLDEN HILL.** Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$775. Hardwood floors. Great neighborhood, laundry on site. Available now. No dogs. 2427 E Street. 619-857-3706.

**GOLDEN HILL/SOUTH PARK.** \$1075. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Recently remodeled, tiled living room, kitchen, hallway/bath. Freshly painted. Pool. On site laundry. 1714 Grove Street #9, #10. 619-962-1887.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$944. Restored Victorian-large 1 bedroom. High ceilings, refinished hardwood. All new:

bathtub/appliances. Bay window. Fireplace. Laundry. No pets. 667 21st Street. 619-855-0244. **GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN.** Great move-in specials! Fantastic city views! 2, 3 bedroom flats, two bedroom townhomes from \$1105! Charming! Controlled access entry. Bright, beautiful floorplans. Central air/heat. Microwave. Washer/dryer. Sunny rooftop deck. Barbecue areas. Parking garage. Pet friendly! Golden Pacific, 1015 19th Street. 1-800-433-6156. goldenpacific\_pacifiliving@crossfiremail.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/2028.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$975. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Brand new paint/carpet/blinds. Corner unit. Very clean. 2804 Broadway. Manager, 619-929-8127.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$900. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Remodeled! Laundry room, gated parking, air conditioning. 2966 E Street. 619-220-4840.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$825. Secluded, large studio with lots of windows and views. Disappearing bed. Great kitchen and bath. Rooftop deck. Lots of off-street parking. Coin operated washer/dryer. 2930 C Street. 619-559-5423.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$795. 1 bedroom apartment, overlooks Balboa Park Golf Course. Hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen and bath. Small garden complex. Cat OK. 619-234-5355.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$945. Spanish architecture. Bright, clean 2 bedroom apartment. High coved ceilings. Oak floors. Gas appliances. Security gates. Laundry. Manager position, \$100. No pets. Shore Management. 858-274-3500.

**GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN.** Ugly but goodie! 1 bedrooms, \$750. Cute inside! New flooring - hardwood look. Your patience during remodeling means low rent! Pet OK. 619-231-8723.

**GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN.** 1 bedroom, \$835 includes utilities. Historical building, hardwood floors, decorator colors, incredible view! On site laundry, near bus line. Cat OK with deposit. 619-231-8723.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$795. 1 bedroom apartment. Great location. Near downtown. Parking and laundry onsite. Se habla espanol. 2720 Broadway Avenue. 619-231-1719.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$795. 1 bedroom apartment. \$400 deposit. Great location. Near downtown. Parking and laundry on site. Se habla espanol. 2580 C Street. 619-696-5351.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$825. 1 bedroom 1 bath, upstairs. Parking. Laundry. New carpet, close to Downtown. Move in special, 1/2 off the first months rent. Large unit. 2631 A Street. sunriseliving.com. Call 858-751-6336.

**GOLDEN HILL.** Move-in special! \$1295 moves you in! 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Upstairs. Spacious. Cats OK. Custom paint and design. 4430 Laurel Street. sunriseliving.com. Call 858-751-6336.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Brand new paint and carpet. Balcony, dishwasher, 2 parking spots. No pets/smoking. 2608 Broadway. Agent, 619-283-2144.

**GOLDEN HILL/SOUTH PARK.** \$1350. Pet friendly, 2 bedroom duplex. Private fenced yard, storage shed, 5 minutes to Downtown. Clean, near-new appliances. Recently remodeled, Berber carpeting, large closets, eat-in kitchen. Rent includes water/gardener. 619-203-0363.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$975. Centrally located 2 bedroom, 1 bath. All utilities paid! Upgrades throughout. Onsite laundry. No pets. 525 25th Street, #A. 619-208-8676.

**HILLCREST.** \$1895. Classic 1920s charm with a modern flair. Half off 1st month's rent! It's the next best thing to owning your own home. This newly remodeled upper level 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath apartment home has undergone a complete remodel in excess of \$50,000. Designed by one of San Diego's premier interior decorators, this unit is sure to please. Incorporating the new with the original 1922 design has resulted in a classic rustic look but with all of the modern comforts. All new cabinets with granite countertops. Stainless steel appliances including dishwasher and micro hood. Natural stone flooring in kitchen and baths. Slate shower enclosure. Hardwood floors in the living room, dining room and hall. Plush carpet in the bedrooms. All new fixtures and hardware. Ceiling fans. New blinds and windows. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Includes a 1-car garage. One year lease required. \$1995 deposit. Sorry, no pets.

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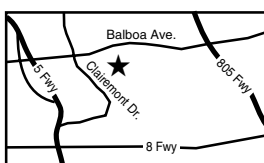
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**HILLCREST, \$1250,** 2 bedroom 2 bath, downstairs unit. Pool, parking, laundry. No pets. 1810 Cypress. 619-295-6005, agent.

**HILLCREST, \$1250,** Charming Spanish two bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs. Hardwood floors, gated entrance. No pets. 3515 4th Avenue. 619-295-6005, agent.

**HILLCREST, \$1250,** 2 bedroom, 1 bath in tri-plex. Hardwood floors, very open, completely remodeled, washer/dryer. Large enclosed yard. Pets OK. Great location! \$1495/month. Call 619-549-4959.

**HILLCREST, \$1425,** 2 bedroom, \$300 off first month! Tiled kitchen. New carpet. Downstairs. Ceiling fan, microwave. Gated entry. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 3914 Centre. 619-294-7044.

**HILLCREST, \$1395,** Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath upper unit. Plush carpet/flooring, lots of cabinet space, on-site laundry, covered parking. 1239 Robinson Avenue. 619-460-8011.

**HILLCREST, \$895/month,** unfurnished 1 bedroom apartment. Parking, hardwood floors. Close to all. No pets. 4030 3rd Avenue. 619-295-6005, agent.

**HILLCREST, \$870,** Small, quiet 1 bedroom cottage, covered parking, new frost-free refrigerator, new carpet/linoleum. Freshly painted inside and out, no pets or smoking, front porch. 619-295-8063.

**HILLCREST, \$870,** Spacious 1 and 2 bedrooms! Berber carpet, fireplace, spa, gym, intercom, elevator. Sorry, no pets. 4134 4th Avenue. See photos at www.WexfordLiving.com. 619-299-0047.

**HILLCREST, 2+ bedroom,** 1 bath apartment, upstairs with front reading room, 900 square feet. Parking. No laundry. No pets. Available 1/9. \$1395. 3611 Third Avenue. 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

**HILLCREST, \$870,** 1 bedroom, 1 bath at 3607 3rd Avenue. Entry-level, corner unit close to all. 1 parking spot. No laundry. No pets. Available 1/9. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

**HILLCREST, \$1200,** 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Quiet, gated, fireplace. All appliances, washer/dryer, private garage. Cats OK. Nonsmoking. 4048 Alabama Street. Available now. 619-269-5237.

**HILLCREST, Studios, \$775 and up.** Lovely garden courtyard with fountain. Walk to Uptown Village. Hardwood floors, blinds, on-site laundry. No pets. EOH. 619-299-8746.

**HILLCREST, Studio, \$815,** 2 bedroom, 2 baths, \$1550 and \$1650. Pool, canyon view. Close to all. Rec room. Nonsmoking. Sleepy Hollow Apartments, 4201 Sixth Avenue. Harry, 619-298-1059.

**HILLCREST, \$1045,** 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. 3rd floor. Garage parking. Dishwasher. 3775 Georgia Street. Xilarent.com. 619-683-7638.

**HILLCREST, \$895,** Studio. Very large, separate kitchen, carpeted tiled. Glass brick in bath. French doors. Lots of charm. On site laundry. Available immediately. 619-962-1887.

**HILLCREST, \$900,** 1 bedroom facing courtyard in charming, old-fashioned building. Stove, refrigerator, laundry facility. Near Uptown shopping and 163. No dogs. Available 1/10/07. 619-298-3229.

**HILLCREST, \$1495,** 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, gated, quiet, washer/dryer in unit, garage, fireplace, large unit. 4520 Campus Avenue #A. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

**HILLCREST, Large 1 bedroom apartment,** 1-car garage, great location near Balboa Park, 2930 5th Avenue across street from Extraordinary Desserts. No pets. \$975. 619-508-1513.

**HILLCREST, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1050.** New carpet/paint, parking space, on-site laundry. Small complex, walk to shops and restaurants. Cat OK. 3827 Herbert Street #1. 619-997-4554. \$1050 deposit.

**HILLCREST, \$775,** 1 bedroom. Brand new carpet. Great location! Parking and laundry onsite. 3620 Georgia. Agent, 619-283-2144.

**HILLCREST, \$1300,** 2 bedroom 2 bath. Move-in special! Half off first month's rent! Controlled access, on-site laundry, elevator, new carpet, dishwasher, central air conditioning, parking and balcony. Great location, near shops, restaurants and public transportation. 4043 1st Avenue. Call 858-571-1970 or e-mail Alfredo at avaquera@sunrisemgmt.com. sunrise-living.com.

**HILLCREST, \$925 rent, \$800 deposit.** First month's rent free! 1 bedroom, 1 bath lower unit. Upgraded appliances. Park-like setting. Small complex. On-site laundry. Garage extra \$100. 3533 6th Avenue #2. 619-379-2896.

**HILLCREST, \$1200,** 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs unit. Near bus. Pool, carport, laundry. No pets. 4039 Brant Street #J. Penny, 619-884-0325 or 619-296-6699.

**HILLCREST, Spacious 2 bedrooms and 3 bedrooms** from \$1225-\$1595. Refrigerator, stove, laundry facility. 619-291-5555 x193. www.utopiamanagement.com.

**HILLCREST, \$800,** 3820 Georgia, between Robinson and University. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. Carpet, laundry room. 1 assigned parking. No pets. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686.

**HILLCREST, \$1150,** 3807 Park Boulevard (behind Numbers). 2 bedroom, 1 bath lovely cottage. Carpet. Fenced. Front and back decks. Laundry room shared with tenants. Street parking. No pets. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686.

**HILLCREST, \$1150,** 1807 University Avenue, behind the Crypt. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Great cottage! Breakfast nook, hardwood floors, laundry room, street parking. No pets. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686.

**HILLCREST, \$1000,** 3843 Park Boulevard. 2.5 bedroom, 1.5 bath. Second floor. New carpet, air conditioning, street parking. Laundry shared with tenants. No pets. Available now. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686.

**HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 1** bedroom, 1 bath. \$965. Charming building. Hardwood floors. Large bedroom. Laundry on site. 625 square feet. Available 1/11, 3673 Georgia Street. No pets. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

**HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, Senior Complex, \$1000,** Extremely large 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. All amenities. New carpet/paint/flooring. Sheltered patio, controlled entry, storage. Near bus, shops. 4574 Campus Avenue. 619-287-5771. 619-461-9415.

**HILLCREST/UPTOWN, Lovely, light 1** bedroom apartment near Uptown shopping, freeways. 2 large patios, shade trees. Secured entry. Laundry. Parking. \$850. Available now. Agent, 619-299-2469.

**HILLCREST/MISSION HILLS, Huge (850** square feet) 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, with large balcony, \$1025. Huge (825 square feet) 1 bedroom with small yard, \$1025. 2 bedroom, 2 bath with balcony, \$1300. Ceramic tile and new carpet. Locked lobby with intercom. 3836 Front Street. By appointment. Broker, 619-548-4599.

**HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY Heights, \$840,** Extra large 1 bedroom, upper unit, wood floor in dining area, appliances, clean, quiet. 4575 North Avenue. Call 858-483-2119 or 858-270-9086.

**IMPERIAL BEACH, \$995,** Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath unit with balcony. Nice complex. Secure underground parking. 1070 Georgia Street, #1B. 619-429-3630.

**IMPERIAL BEACH, Steps to beach! 2** bedroom, 1-1/2+ bath condo, 1-car garage. All appliances, 2-story, fenced patio. \$1395/month. Lease. Agent, Bill, 619-575-1674.

**IMPERIAL BEACH, Newly remodeled 2** bedroom, 1-1/2 to 2 bath condos. Steps to beach. Heated pool, views. All appliances. 1111 Seacoast. Agent Bill, 619-575-1674.

**IMPERIAL BEACH, \$995,** \$200 off first month! Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, Laundry. Courtyard, Carpet. Gated. Storage. \$800 deposit. 750 11th Street. 619-423-4610.

**IMPERIAL BEACH, 2 bedroom, 1 bath,** upstairs. Large yard, small storage unit, laundry facility, off-street parking. Central location. \$865/water paid. 1189 Ebony Street. 619-435-9442. www.homes4rent.com.

**IMPERIAL BEACH, \$795,** Studio. Right on the beach! Refrigerator, stove. Laundry facilities on premises. Off-street parking. Pet? Available now. 1046 Seacoast Drive. Call 619-424-9233.

**IMPERIAL BEACH, \$1495,** Beautiful 2 bedroom, 1 bath. On estuary, across from beach! Tile floors. All stainless. Granite. Washer/dryer. Deck overlooks wildlife preserve. 619-920-2571.

**IMPERIAL BEACH, \$725,** 1 bedroom in well-maintained garden setting. Pool. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 1445 Grove Avenue. Manager, 619-575-0778.

**KEARNY MESA, 1 bedrooms and 2 bedrooms** from \$885. Centrally located at I-805 and 163. Pool, spa, laundry, microwave, parking. Vista Capri North Apartments, 3277 Berger Avenue. 858-560-6067. www.rasnyder.com.

**KENSINGTON, \$2100,** Live/Work Loft. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Washer/dryer, air conditioning. No pets/smoking. 4134 Adams. 858-259-4994. www.kensington-plaza.com.

**KENSINGTON, \$1200,** 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Large, entry-level unit. Charming area. 1 parking space. Laundry on site. No pets. 4656 Edgeware Drive. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

**KENSINGTON, \$1250,** 2 bedroom, 2 bath suite, balcony, skylights, mountain view, coin laundry. Security building. Off-street parking. Garage available. No pets. 858-456-2098.

**LA COSTA, \$1695,** 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse style condo, fireplace, garage, 1 year lease. Deposit \$1750. Available now. 6684 Corte Maria. Leasing Unlimited, 760-436-7273.

**LA COSTA, Complex on golf course,** Spacious. 1450 square feet. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, washer/dryer. 2 space tandem garage. No pets. Nonsmoking. \$1495. 858-335-3534.

**LA JOLLA, \$2200,** 2 bedroom 2 bath condominium. Available early January/flexible. Lease term negotiable. No pets/smoking. Playa del Norte/La Jolla Boulevard, 858-774-7168.

**LA JOLLA/UCSD, \$350 off first month! 2** bedroom, 1 bath. Near shops. Balcony. Garden window. Laundry. No pets. \$1450. 8849 Villa La Jolla Drive. 858-457-4509.

**LA JOLLA, \$1595,** Beautiful 1 bedroom, fully furnished new condo at Villa Toscana. Pool, jacuzzi, washer/dryer in unit, private patio, reserved parking. Available-1/1. 858-459-1065.

**LA JOLLA, By the sea! Absolutely charming** 1 bedroom cottage apartment. \$1400/month. Available January 1. Fabulous small community with ocean views. Private courtyard with lush lawn and manicured landscaping. Kitchen with gas range. Ceiling fans. Laundry room on site. Located at 7771 Ivanhoe Avenue. Management office off site. Please call 858-272-7464.

**LA JOLLA, Studio, Amazing location.** One block to Starbucks, beach and bus. Prospect Street. Kitchen with appliances. Walk-in closet, laundry. \$1195-\$1450, includes utilities. 858-336-0252.

**LA JOLLA, \$2450,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Patio, garage, dishwasher. 700A5 La Jolla Boulevard #2. Call 858-490-1600, kandrproperties.com.

**LA JOLLA, Junior 1 bedroom.** Near UCSD. Newly renovated unit. Beautiful development. Near pool, gym, parking. Nonsmoking. Available 2/1/07. Will consider pet. \$1125. 619-985-2687.

**LA JOLLA, \$975,** Studio. Controlled access. Pool. Secured parking. Laundry. No pets. Steps to beach. Appointments only. 6655 La Jolla Boulevard. 858-882-7494.

**LA JOLLA, By the sea! Absolutely charming** 1 bedroom cottage apartment. \$1400/

month. Available January 1. Fabulous small community with ocean views. Private courtyard with lush lawn and manicured landscaping. Kitchen with gas range. Ceiling fans. Laundry room on site. Located at 7771 Ivanhoe Avenue. Management office off site. Please call 858-272-7464.

**LA JOLLA, 3 bedroom 2 bath condo.** Quiet, washer/dryer, tennis, parking. Near all. Walk to shopping. Available now. \$2250, \$300 off first month, 619-379-6888.

**LA JOLLA, \$2495,** utilities included. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, near La Jolla Village. Utilities paid. No pets. 7342 Girard Avenue #6. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

**LA JOLLA, \$1625,** 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths apartment, pool, laundry on site, close to UCSD/beach and shopping centers. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**LA JOLLA, \$3200,** 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Contemporary masterpiece. Under-ground parking. Brand new everything! Washer/dryer in unit. 7555 Eads. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

**LA JOLLA, 2 bedroom, 1 bath.** Half block to beach! Nice complex. On-site laundry. Available 1/1/07. 6-month lease. \$1600/month. Agent, 858-459-1065.

**LA JOLLA, \$1875,** 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Immaculate garden-style complex in central village location. Walk to beach and shops. Fireplaces, 2 parking spaces. Open Saturday, 12-1pm. 7601 Eads Avenue. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

**LA JOLLA/UTC, 2 bedroom, 2 bath,** \$1800, Pool, Jacuzzi, gym. Near UCSD, facing Hyatt Hotel. No pets. 3550 Lebon Drive #6107. First 2 weeks free! 858-277-1760.

**LA JOLLA/UTC, 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath** townhouse. Remodeled throughout. New appliances. Tile floors. Double garage. Patio. Community pool. \$2390. 8267 Caminito Modena, La Jolla 92037. Available 1/15/07. 858-405-6234.

**LA JOLLA/UTC, 1 bedroom condo** in beautiful Lucera. Gated community, laundry in unit, 1 parking space. Pool and exercise room. Close to everything! \$1500. www.sandiegobestrentals.com. 619-696-7368.

**LA MESA, \$1350,** 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Fireplace, balcony, washer/dryer in unit. Parking. A must see! Available 1/25/07. 4847 Parks Avenue #2. 619-295-1100. www.cethron.com.

**LA MESA, Move in special, \$250/off first** month. Townhomes, (2), \$985/\$995. 2 bedroom 1 bath, patio, laundry, parking, remodeled kitchen/bath, yard. No pets. 619-954-5286.

**LA MESA, \$875,** 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartments. Clean. Close to trolley and Grossmont Center. Laundry. Assigned parking. Cat OK. Section 8 OK. 619-469-3735. www.floit.com.

**LA MESA, \$895,** 1 bedroom, 1 bath, balcony; \$1095, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, upper, balcony; \$1150, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, downstairs, yard. 619-697-3285. For photo, floor plans, map and directions, see website: www.sdreader.com/rent/1035.

**LA MESA, \$965,** 2 bedroom, Upstairs. Garage. Garden courtyard. Dishwasher. Intercom entry. Laundry. 4311 Parks Avenue. 619-460-5406.

**LA MESA, \$910,** 1 bedroom, \$1190/up, 2 bedroom. Across Grossmont Center, trolley and Costco. Quiet, spacious units. Resort living pools. Mellman Apartments. 8750 Mellman Drive. Call 619-461-1940.

**LA MESA, \$900-\$940,** Spacious 1 bedrooms upper units. Air conditioning, large closet, extra large 1-car garage, on-site coin laundry. No pets! Available now! 4757 Jessie Avenue. Other La Mesa area 1 bedrooms available from \$830. 619-460-8011 or 619-469-3809.

**LA MESA, \$1250,** 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Huge apartment, 1200 square feet. Pool. Air conditioning. View. 1 parking space. Laundry on site. 6-month lease. Available now. 8600 Lemon Avenue. Call 858-583-0182 or 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

**LA MESA, \$975,** Move-in special. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath triplex. Laundry hook-ups. Patio. Cul-de-sac. Parking. No pets. Agent, 619-298-7724.

**LA MESA, \$725,** studio, \$975, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, Parking. Laundry on site. Cat OK. Move-in special. 5027 Guava. Viewing by appointment only, call 858-490-1600, kandrproperties.com.

**LA MESA, \$1250,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Garage, pool, laundry, fireplace, patio. 5530 Jackson Drive #11. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

**LA MESA, \$1050,** 1 bedroom apartment, large, fantastic view in historic home in the Village, patio, all utilities paid. 8085 Pasadena Avenue #3. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

**LA MESA, \$925,** 1 bedroom. Award-winning community for beautiful landscaping. Pool and spa. Great location. No pets. 5500 Morro Way. TPPM, 619-884-7900. www.villageaptslamesa.com.

**LA MESA, 1 bedroom, 1 bath,** \$925/month. Move-in special! \$200 off 1st month. Pool and saunas. Off-street parking. On-site laundry facilities. Close to downtown La Mesa, trolley, shops, freeways. Cats welcome upon approval. Available now. Crestview Apartments, 4515 3rd Street. Call on-site Manager, 619-469-5010 or Bob Cota Realty, 619-465-9934.

**LA MESA, 1 bedrooms, \$880/up,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1425. 2-car carport. Spacious apartments. Near Grossmont Center. Great neighborhood. Convenient to all! 5545 Morro Way. Available December. 619-985-3500.

**LA MESA, 2 bedrooms, \$995/up.** Available now! Great location. Spacious. Air conditioning. Gated complex. Laundry. Tenant parking. No pets. Lease. 619-303-4969.



## Brand-New East Village Community

### MARKET STREET VILLAGE

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1/2 month free rent! (6-month lease required)

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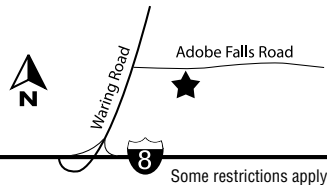
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**LAKEVIEW.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Large yard. 2 parking spaces. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Pets OK. Available now. \$975. 11922 Lemon Crest Drive. 858-583-0182. [www.cal-prop.com](http://www.cal-prop.com).

**LAKEVIEW.** \$650. Clubhouse, on-site laundry, air conditioning, parking. Small pet OK. Seniors 55+ welcome. 12133 Rockcrest. 619-443-9611.

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**LINDA VISTA.** 1307 Colusa Street. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, starting at \$950/month, \$800/deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, \$1095/month. \$1000/deposit. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1300/month. \$1000/deposit. New carpet/paint, laundry. Year lease. Available now. Call Ed, 858-597-6100.

**LINDA VISTA.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1100-\$1250 townhouses and bungalow. New paint, new cabinets, hardwood floors. Central location, assigned parking, backyard. No pets. Office at 2451 Ulric Street. 619-249-9585.

**LINDA VISTA.** \$1295/month, \$1295 deposit. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Appliances, 2 garages, new carpet, paint, vinyl. Patio, on-site laundry. View of sunsets. Blocks to USD. Pets negotiable. 2057 Drescher Street. 619-804-3325.

**LOGAN HEIGHTS.** \$745. 1 bedroom, upstairs end unit. New paint. Very clean! Parking and laundry onsite. 430 South Willie James Jones. Agent, 619-279-2183.

**MIRA MESA.** 2 bedroom plus loft, 2 bath, 1210 square feet, upstairs condo unit, \$1750 month. No pets, no smoking. Call Jessica, 858-472-2059.

**MIRA MESA.** Large 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath. Bright townhome in great neighborhood. Hardwood floors downstairs, brick fireplace and large patio. \$1500. [www.SanDiegoBestRentals.com](http://www.SanDiegoBestRentals.com), 619-696-7368.

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**MISSION HILLS, SOUTH.** 2500-square-foot townhouse, 4 bedroom, 3-1/2 bath, drop-dead views-bay, city, New Berber balcony, washer/dryer, double-garage. No pets. 1148 West Palm Reduced: \$2675. 619-295-7113.

**MISSION HILLS.** \$1200/up. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry. Parking. Pets OK. La Paloma Apartments. Open daily, 1-5pm. 3911 Dove. 619-297-1134.

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**MISSION VALLEY.** 2 large split bedrooms, 2 baths, \$1400. 10425 Caminito Cuervo. 1103 square-feet. Pool, spa, sauna, tennis, fitness, racquetball. Secure building, fireplace. Agent, 619-281-1112.

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**MISSION VALLEY.** Escala. \$2000/month. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Balcony, tile flooring, washer/dryer, 2-car attached garage. Gated community, pools, tennis, recreation room, gym. 619-602-0500.

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**MISSION VALLEY.** Move-in special! One month free! From \$1495! Brand new 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms and 3 bedrooms. Washer/dryer. Vaulted ceiling. Gated parking garage. Elevator. Theater. Fitness center. Steps to trolley, restaurants and shops! The Village at Morena Vista, 5395 Napa Street. Toll free: 888-602-4170. [www.sdreader.com/rent/2153](http://www.sdreader.com/rent/2153).

**MISSION VALLEY/TALMADGE/Kensington.** 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms and 3 bedrooms, \$985-\$1665. Spacious apartment homes include: microwave, dishwasher, balcony/patio. Gated community with tropical landscape, pool, spa, sauna and fitness center. Underground parking. Pet friendly! Mission Pacific. 4454 44th Street. 1-800-372-9146. [missionpacific\\_pacificliving@crossfiremail.com](mailto:missionpacific_pacificliving@crossfiremail.com). [www.pacificliving.com](http://www.pacificliving.com).

**MISSION VALLEY.** 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome with back yard in beautiful Stonecrest Community. Pool, 2 car garage, laundry inside unit. \$2300. [www.sandiegobestrentals.com](http://www.sandiegobestrentals.com), 619-696-7368.

**MISSION VALLEY, EAST.** \$850. Private, attached 1 bedroom apartment. Private entrance. Sunset views. Non-smoking/pets. Vaulted ceilings, fireplace, near Kaiser, quiet neighborhood. Available now. 619-280-7752.

**MISSION VALLEY/OLD TOWN.** Large, quiet 1 bedroom, \$990. Near freeways, USD. Close to Hillcrest. Pool, spa, tennis. Laundry. Extended cable TV. Gas included. 619-823-6145.

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**MISSION VALLEY.** Spacious 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath luxury townhome. 2-car garage. Washer/dryer. Patio. Yard. Fitness. pool, private dog park! Available 12/29. \$2195. 619-417-5876.

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**MISSION VALLEY.** \$950. Nice, clean remodeled 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Near trolley. No pets or smoking. Available after 11/107. 909-725-0027.

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**NATIONAL CITY.** Large apartment, 2 bedroom 1 bath, \$1100. Small complex, 2 off street parking spaces for unit, storage, onsite laundry facilities. Donya, 619-231-2727.

**NATIONAL CITY.** Move-in specials! 1 month free rent! Newly remodeled community, 2 bedroom townhomes, \$1200. Pool. Gated courtyard. Laundry facilities. New carpet, appliances, kitchen cabinets/counters. Available now. 900 Manchester Street. 619-881-7645. [annette@cesnconstruction.com](mailto:annette@cesnconstruction.com).

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$750/\$725. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet/paint. Hardwood floors. On-site laundry. Large closets! Near freeways, shopping. Fenced complex. Great condition! 619-542-2437.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$725. Bright and sunny. Stove, refrigerator, laundry facilities. No pets. Non-smoking. Mr. A's Property Management, 619-697-1888.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** New 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, first floor, 2 parking, 2 balconies, upgraded appliances. Gated community. Casa Bonita, Adams and Ohio. \$1650. 619-296-8555.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** 1 bedroom, \$775. upstairs. Gated, off-street parking, storage. New carpet, appliances, paint, blinds. On-site laundry. On bus route, near shops, parks, library. Clean, quiet complex. 3722 Adams Avenue. Owner/Resident Manager, Call 619-339-5494.

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**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$1000. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Washer/dryer hookups, lots of light, parking. Available now. \$200 off 1st month on approved credit. 4741 35th Street, #4741. 619-295-1100. [www.cethron.com](http://www.cethron.com).

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$995. 2 bedroom. Spacious. Pool, off-street parking, on-site laundry. Close to major freeways. Sorry, no pets! 4841 West Mountain View Drive. 619-282-6440. [Sunriseliving.com](http://Sunriseliving.com).

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**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$695. 1 bedroom, 1 bath with parking. No pets. Close to Adams. Available now. 4575 Idaho Street, #9. [www.cethron.com](http://www.cethron.com), 619-295-1100.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$675. Studio. Completely remodeled. Gas, water, trash paid. New cabinets. Ceramic tile floors. Laundry. No pets. 3355 Madison Avenue #9. [www.SeeTheUnit.com](http://www.SeeTheUnit.com). Agent, 619-298-7724.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$925. Move-in special! 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs corner. Storage. Laundry on site. Parking. No pets. 4678 Ohio Street #4. Agent, 619-298-7724.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$795 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. Lower 1 bedroom. Laundry room. Parking spot. No pets. At 4742 East Mountain View Drive #3. Agent, 619-299-8515.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$975. Deposit \$750. Upstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Limited parking. Refrigerator, stove. No pets. 4681 35th Street #4. 619-226-7368 or [www.bkbinc.com](http://www.bkbinc.com).

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$725. Deposit \$600. Upstairs 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Limited parking. Refrigerator, stove. No pets. 4681 35th Street #8. 619-226-7368 or [www.bkbinc.com](http://www.bkbinc.com).

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$1050/month plus deposit. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Credit check. Laundry, off-street parking. No pets. Call 619-282-6910.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$1050. 4774 33rd Street #1. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Dishwasher, air conditioning. Washer/dryer in unit. No pets. [www.timcassidy.com](http://www.timcassidy.com). Cassidy, broker, 619-275-LIST.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$815. Large 1 bedroom. Downstairs, end unit. Parking. Laundry. \$300 deposit. Garden setting. Gated. Caring management. Available 1/3. No pets. 4724 32nd. 619-584-7790.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$1050. 4774 33rd Street #2. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Dishwasher, air conditioning, washer/dryer in unit. No pets. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST. [www.timcassidy.com](http://www.timcassidy.com).

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$775. 2 bedroom, \$995. 4670 Cherokee Avenue. Very nice, on-site laundry, off-street parking. No pets. 760-672-0425.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$800, \$700 deposit, \$700 1st month. 1 bedroom. New paint, tiles, carpet. Gated, laundry on-site. 4653 32nd Street. 619-315-5938.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$750 rent. \$600 deposit. \$1/2 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upper unit with stove, refrigerator, gated community, on-site



laundry. Pets negotiable. 4609 Bancroft #8. 619-379-2896.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$1250. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, 1-car garage, patio, washer/dryer in unit, air conditioning, heater, dishwasher, microwave, ceiling fan. Just north of Adams. 4783 Hawley Boulevard #4. CCPM. 619-296-6699.

**NORTH PARK.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-story. Freeway, Balboa Park, Morley Field, Hillcrest restaurants close. Gated. Underground parking. No pets. 3759 Florida. \$1750. Mercy. 619-701-1234.

**NORTH PARK.** Six new 2 bedrooms condos left! Fireplace. Washer/dryer. Storage. Parking. Granite countertops, microwave. Gated. Pets OK. Drive by 4165 Mississippi. \$1495. 619-987-8102.

**NORTH PARK.** \$900/month. Spacious, clean 2 bedroom. Newly decorated, carpet. Small complex. Upstairs unit. Laundry. Off-street parking. No pets. Available now. Mission Gorge Realty. 619-229-0231.

**NORTH PARK.** \$795-1 bedroom/1 bath. \$925, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$995, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, all in small gated complex. Peaceful, clean, quiet. Must see to appreciate. 4360 Kansas Street.

**NORTH PARK.** \$795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, recently remodeled. Tiled living room, kitchen, bathroom. Elevator, on-site laundry, security building. 3949 33rd Street. 619-280-2658.

**NORTH PARK.** 1 bedroom, \$835/\$700 deposit. New bathroom, carpet, vinyl, paint. On-site laundry. Off-street parking. Non-smoking. No Section 8. Susan. 619-421-3875.

**NORTH PARK.** Small 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs. \$800/month. Move-in special: \$200 off first month! Available now. Small complex close to downtown, freeways, shopping. Rachel Arms, 4055 Utah Street. Call Manager, Sherri, 619-299-8700.

**NORTH PARK.** \$1150. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, upstairs corner. Vaulted ceilings. Fireplace. Dining area. Tiled kitchen, bath. Balcony. Detached garage. Cats OK. www.goldenhillpm.com. Agent, 619-234-9553.

**NORTH PARK.** \$1095. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Great views! Historic building. Private entrance. Decorative fireplace. Modern kitchen. Hardwood floors. Patio. Off-street parking. No pets. 1 year lease. www.goldenhillpm.com. Agent, 619-234-9553.

**NORTH PARK.** \$850. Cozy 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Move-in bonus! Gas/water paid. Quiet, new carpet/paint, pool, gated, on-site laundry. No pets. 619-281-1714.

**NORTH PARK.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath, downstairs. New paint, good storage, off-street parking. 3662 32nd Street, #2. \$895/month. 619-683-9274.

**NORTH PARK.** \$925. 2 bedroom, 1 bath with parking space. Large rooms. 3766 Swift Avenue #1. Please call McKee Asset Management, 619-435-2700.

**NORTH PARK.** \$750. \$500 deposit. 1 bedroom apartment, 3940 Idaho. Gated. Close to all. Laundry on site. Near bus line, restaurants, shops. 619-298-8383.

**NORTH PARK.** 2 bedroom, 1 baths. \$995 and up. 1 bedroom, \$850. Some with hardwood floors. Quiet complex. Gated. Spacious. Lease. Parking. No pets. 619-303-4969.

**NORTH PARK.** \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Nice, newly painted, hardwood floors, new tile, centrally located. A must-see. Move in Special: Half off 1st month's rent on approved credit. 3016 30th and Quince, #3001. 619-295-1100. www.cethron.com.

**NORTH PARK.** \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs. Hardwood floors, built-in china cabinet, gated complex. Available 12/25. 4058 Hamilton Street #4072-1/2. www.cethron.com, 619-295-1100.

**NORTH PARK.** \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Adorable unit, situated in a lushly landscaped complex. Available 1/10/07. 3949 Kansas Street #22. 619-295-1100. www.cethron.com.

**NORTH PARK.** \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Quiet, gated complex, laundry on site. Available now. 4375 Oregon Street. www.cethron.com, 619-295-1100.

**NORTH PARK.** \$1100. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1000 square feet. \$900, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, attached garage. Newly remodeled. No pets. 4851 30th Street. Available for viewing. www.kandpproperties.com. Call 858-490-1600.

**NORTH PARK.** \$1295 rent. \$800 deposit. Huge 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Driveway parking. Dining room. Some hardwood floors. No pets. At 3638 Bancroft Street. 619-299-8515.

**NORTH PARK.** \$775 rent, \$600 deposit, OAC. Lower, 1 bedroom, laundry, reserved parking spot. No pets. 4178 Kansas Street, #6. Agent, 619-299-8515.

**NORTH PARK.** \$850-\$975. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, cottage style apartment. Hardwood floors, coin-operated laundry, Cat OK. No smoking. 4024 Hamilton Street. Call Trident Pacific, 619-435-9442. www.homes4rent.com.

**NORTH PARK.** \$1395. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse. All appliances. Washer/dryer. Garage. Fireplace. Patio. Vaulted ceilings. 3380 32nd Street. 619-683-7638. Xilarent.com.

**NORTH PARK.** \$795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Spacious unit. Pergo floors. Ceiling fan. On-site laundry. 4340 Wilson Avenue. Xilarent.com, 619-683-7638.

**NORTH PARK.** \$825. 1 bedroom duplex with fenced patio. Newly remodeled. Hardwood floors. 3475 Wightman Street. Xilarent.com, 619-683-7638.

**NORTH PARK/MORELY FIELD.** \$1025. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry. Parking for 2. Gated entry. No pets. 3711 Arnold. Agent, 619-298-7724.

**NORTH PARK.** Move-in special: \$500 off first month! 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Newly renovated. Pool, on-site laundry, parking. Elevator. \$1045. Call 619-543-0730. www.melroyproperties.com.

**NORTH PARK/UNIVERSITY Heights.** \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New paint, hardwood floors. Off-street parking, laundry. Lower unit. Common area barbecue. Storage available. Terry, 619-778-2830.

**NORTH PARK.** \$845 rent. \$945 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 600 square feet. Garage. Available now. 4514-1/2 Idaho. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

**NORTH PARK.** \$825. Bright 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet/paint, large walk-in closet, refrigerator, gas stove, coin laundry, parking. No pets. 858-361-3374.

**NORTH PARK.** \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, centrally located for commuting in any direction. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**NORTH PARK.** \$895. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath apartment, close to shopping, transportation and entertainment. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**NORTH PARK/CITY HEIGHTS.** Large, quiet, clean 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$750, and 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$850. Gated complex, laundry, reserved parking. No pets. 619-276-5520.

**NORTH PARK/CITY HEIGHTS.** \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated. Parking. Laundry. New carpet and paint. Available now. 4380 Van Dyke. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

## SMOG CHECK

**\$16<sup>85</sup>**

(Plus \$8.25 for certificate and \$2.50 communication fee. Most cars.)  
No appt. necessary.

## ADAMS IMPORT

Mon.-Fri. 8 am-5 pm  
3166 Adams Avenue  
(next to 8 & 805)  
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With ad. Expires 1/31/07.  
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## AUTOMOTIVE

### Precision Tune AutoCare

90 Days Same As Cash



### Factory-Scheduled Maintenance 30K/60K/90K

We offer a generic package that includes a tune-up verification, replacement of PCV valve, fuel filter, air filter, oil filter, oil change (up to 5 qts.), radiator flush (up to 2 gallons of 50/50 mix), brake inspection, and a complete maintenance inspection. Our service package price is \$169.95 with the \$50 discount applied.

Or we can build a vehicle-specific package as per your manufacturer's specifications and quote accordingly. Either way you save \$50!

**SAVE \$50**

### Oil Change

**\$13<sup>95</sup>**  
Basic

Includes up to 5 qts. 10W-30 oil, new oil filter, and maintenance inspection.

**\$19<sup>95</sup>**  
Premium

Includes up to 5 qts. 5W-30 or 5W-20 motor oil, top-off fluids (excludes brake fluid), and maintenance inspection.

Most vehicles

### Smog Check \$19<sup>95</sup>

Most vehicles. Present coupon and DMV renewal slip. Plus \$8.25 cert. and \$2 transmission fee. Free retest when we do the repairs.



### Brake Service \$30 Off

Replace pads or shoes, resurface drums or rotors, inspect entire system

### 'Check Engine' Light \$29<sup>95</sup>

Pull computer trouble codes and provide a written description.

### Transmission Power Flush \$89<sup>95</sup>

Includes 12 quarts of dextron/mercon transmission fluid.

### Headlight Restoration \$79<sup>95</sup>

Restores headlight lens to near-new luster! Our 3-step process can remove the yellow, rock-chipped surface and restore the clear sheen that will help the nighttime vision that you once had.

### Wheel Alignment \$39<sup>95</sup>

2 wheels. Includes front toe adjustment. Not valid at Encinitas location.

Appointments & walk-ins welcome!

#### 5 Locations:

- ★ El Cajon • 619-441-8888  
1191 East Main (Between 1st & 2nd Streets)
- Encinitas • 760-634-1000  
318-A N. El Camino Real
- Point Loma/Sports Arena • 619-226-7822  
3425 Midway Dr. (Behind Shell station)
- Keamy Mesa • 858-569-1111  
8027 Balboa Ave. (Between 163 & 805)
- Miramar • 858-450-6677  
6594 Miramar Rd. (At Camino Santa Fe)

★ Open Sunday 9 am-3 pm

\*\*Service not available at Encinitas location.

• Rental cars available • Free shuttle service  
[www.precisiontune.com](http://www.precisiontune.com)

Coupons must be presented at time of service. Not valid with any other offer or discount or for prior service. See manager for details. All coupons expire 1/31/07.



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Factory Standards' State-of-the-Art Computer Analysis



CHECK ENGINE

## FREE DIAGNOSTIC

## BRAKES \$49<sup>99</sup> OFF

4-Wheel Service  
Free Brake Inspection



COMPLETE SERVICE INCLUDES:

- Install new pads or shoes
- Repack non-drive wheel bearings
- Inspect rotors or drums

- Check: hardware, calipers, master cylinder, wheel cylinder, lines, hoses and seals

## 30K/60K/90K/120K SERVICE \$99<sup>99</sup>\*

Most cars.

- Replace spark plugs (resistor)
- Change oil (10W30) and filter
- Inspect emission control system
- Drain & replace coolant (up to 1 gallon)

- Check heating & A/C • Service battery
- Inspect lights & wiper blades
- Check & top off all fluid levels
- Check tire pressure • Rotate tires
- Lube chassis • Inspect exhaust
- Inspect suspension & steering
- Inspect drive belts & coolant hoses
- Road test vehicle

\$50 OFF ANY SERVICE OF \$500 OR MORE

FREE OIL CHANGE AND AIR FILTER WITH ANY SERVICE OVER \$250

## NEW RADIATOR FROM \$149<sup>95</sup>\*

Parts only. Call for details on your vehicle.

### MANAGER'S SPECIAL: OIL CHANGE \$14<sup>95</sup>

Up to 5 quarts new oil & filter.

### TRANSMISSION FLUID CHANGE FROM \$49<sup>95</sup>\*

Prolong your transmission's life with new fluid.

### TIMING BELT FROM \$49<sup>99</sup>\*

Replacement at 60,000 miles recommended to avoid engine damage. Parts extra. A/C or P/S additional \$20 labor each. FWD additional \$25. V6 additional (call). Most 4-cyl. RWD cars & light trucks.

### SHUTTLE SERVICE AND AUTO RENTALS AVAILABLE

### ENGINES & TRANSMISSIONS STARTING FROM \$495

\*Additional parts and labor are often needed at substantial extra cost.

Plus labor.

## FREE TOWING



90 DAYS INSTANT CREDIT 90% QUALIFY.

OPEN MON.-SAT. 7 AM-6 PM • SUNDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
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## NEXUS Auto Service

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# GRAND OPENING

## FTS AUTO'S

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**DOMESTIC & IMPORT EXPERTS**  
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**90 Days Same As Cash OAC**

#### Free Brake Inspection for SUVs, Cars & Trucks

## Brake Special \$89

(Regularly \$129)

Most cars. Ask about our lifetime brakes.  
Guaranteed for 1 full year.

- |                              |                            |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Safe-brake package includes: | • Front pads or rear shoes | • Inspect drums and rotors |
|                              | • Clean and lube hardware  | • Inspect hydraulic system |
|                              | • Clean caliper guides     | • Inspect wheel bearings   |

Keep yourself and your family safe while eliminating irritating brake noise. Call for brake service.



## Premium Oil Change \$19<sup>95</sup>

With SYNTHETIC Blend Oil

- Up to 5 qts. of 5W-30 oil
- Check fluids
- New oil filter
- Check tire PSI
- 64-point inspection

Most cars.

We also carry



San Diego's Most Complete

## 30K/60K/90K Major Service \$249

4-cyl.

Looking for quality? There is a difference. Compare our service with other shops.

- |   |  |                                   |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Includes:                                   | • Change oil filter                        | • Inspect fuel filter             |
| • Maintenance tune-up                       | • Change master cylinder brake fluid       | • Check differential fluid        |
| • Drain & refill radiator                   | • Check suspension                         | • Check manual transmission fluid |
| • Replace air filter                        | • Top off fluids                           | • Check & tighten all belts       |
| • Install spark plugs (premium plugs extra) | • Clean battery terminals                  | • Rotate four tires               |
| • Inspect brakes                            | • Check radiator, radiator cap & all hoses | • Check tire balance              |
| • Clean & adjust rear brakes                | • Check tire balance                       | • Adjust tire air pressure        |
| • Change engine oil                         |  |                                   |

Most cars and light trucks. We also honor extended warranties. We follow manufacturer's service schedule on inspection, adjustments, and replacement parts. Timing belt extra. Removal of plenum, injectors, etc. extra if necessary. Platinum plugs additional.

## WARNING!

Don't call any other auto repair company until you listen to this FREE recorded message! Learn 4 costly misconceptions before you set up an appointment.

**Free Consumer Information Toll-free: 877-288-6005**  
Call anytime 24 hours a day.

**How can you get over \$400 worth of auto repairs for only \$89? Call us for information.**

**Mufflers from \$39** With ad.

Plus labor. Performance exhaust systems available. Call for prices.

**Performance Exhaust from \$139**

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**4-Wheel Computerized Alignment \$49**

Inspect shocks & struts, computerized printout upon request, inspect steering linkage, inspect suspension, inspect tires, inflate tires to manufacturer's specs. Most cars.

**Catalytic Converters As low as \$169**

Installed. 6-cyl. add \$20. 8-cyl. add \$30. Trucks and vans add \$40. OBDII from \$299.

**Fuel Injection Service \$49**

**Belts & Hoses Replacement \$20 Off**

**Pre-Purchase Inspection \$39**

Bumper to bumper

**NORTH PARK.** \$975. Downstairs 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry. New carpet, paint. Garage. No pets. 4371 Swift Avenue #1. More Property Management, 858-514-2021.

**NORTH PARK.** \$800. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Easy freeway access. Pets OK. Available 1/1. 4440 32nd Street. 619-574-0558.

**NORTH PARK.** \$945. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, downstairs apartment in small, quiet, gated complex. Available now. Laundry. Garage. \$100. No pets. Deposit. 4127 Wabash. 858-483-7011.

**NORTH PARK.** \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo with 1-car garage, washer/dryer inside condo, refrigerator, dishwasher and stove, back patio, renovated. Available for move-in 11/25, can show 9am-5pm Monday-Saturday. 3745 Swift Avenue #2. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400, www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

**NORTH PARK.** Move-in special! \$1100, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Beautiful, spacious. Ceramic tile. Berber carpet. Gated community. On-site laundry and parking. No smoking and no pets. 3967 Illinois Street. Call 858-751-6336. sunriseliving.com.

**NORTH PARK.** \$750. Custom designed studio with utilities included! Cat friendly. Laundry and parking included. Move-in special: 1st month's rent moves you in! 3185 Madison. sunriseliving.com. 619-584-4928.

**NORTH PARK.** \$775 rent. \$700 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upper unit, garage, stove, refrigerator, new vinyl, fireplace, air conditioning. On-site laundry, off-street parking. 1/2 off first month's rent. 3805 Boundary #1. 619-723-0367.

**NORTH PARK.** \$1150 rent. \$1000 deposit. 1/2 off 1st month's rent. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, large upper unit with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, fireplace, air conditioning, balcony, gated, elevator, underground parking. On-site laundry. 3928 Illinois Street #204 and #206. 619-843-0796.

**NORTH PARK.** \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Laundry on-site. Assigned parking. Courtyard. Quiet. Gated. No pets. Available now. Manager on-site. 619-563-9727.

**NORTH PARK.** \$750. Large, 1 bedroom 1 bath apartment in quiet complex. Refrigerator, stove, parking. www.utopiamanagement.com. 858-598-1111.

**NORTH PARK.** \$885. Nice 2 bedroom 1 bath duplex. New carpet and paint. 3461 Thorn Street. Available now. www.utopiamanagement.com. 619-291-5555 x193.

**NORTH PARK.** \$200 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom, \$785. Small complex, gated, laundry, parking. No pets. 4128 Wabash Avenue. 619-281-0579. www.melroyproperties.com.

**NORTH PARK/HILLCREST.** \$200 off first month! 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1150. Gated, dishwasher, laundry facilities, parking. No pets. Close to Naval Hospital, shops, freeways. 3722 Alabama Street. 619-299-1699. www.melroyproperties.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$925. Blocks to the beach! Ask about Manager's Special. 1 bedroom. Clean. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Seacoast Apartments, 5030 Lotus. Call Doris, 619-204-1651.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$925. Blocks to the beach! Ask about Manager's Special. 1 bedroom. Clean. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Seacoast Apartments, 5030 Lotus. Call Doris, 619-204-1651.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1195 and up. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Available now. Complex is just 2 blocks from Pacific. Enjoy beaches year round at Ocean Breeze Apartments. No pets. 619-223-8186 or 619-422-8334.

**OCEAN BEACH.** Beautiful beachfront ocean view! 1 bedroom, \$995-\$1200. 2 bedroom, \$1350-\$1500. Serene security garden buildings. Hardwood floors, ceramic tile, laundry. Garages available. Pets considered. For address and availability, call 619-224-1748. For applications, call 619-501-5553.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$875/bargain! Large, quiet 1 bedroom, near beach, bus, pier, and shopping. 1 off-street parking, laundry. No pets. Available now. 619-224-1413. 619-709-7075.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1050, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$1450, large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. All amenities. Dishwasher, fireplace, large closets, pool, laundry, parking. No pets. 4825 Del Mar Avenue. 619-758-9565.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1250, 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Charming lower unit, 1 block from beach. Laundry, small patio, appliances. Cat OK. 5060 Muir #1C, 92107. 619-698-6911.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath attached cottage. Laundry on site. 1 block to beach! 5069 Cape May Avenue. No pets. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacifcrealty.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1195. 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment with garage. New tile, paint and carpet! Steps to sand. Includes utilities. No pets! 5064-1/2 Niagara Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacifcrealty.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1325. 2 bedroom, 1 bath attached cottage with new carpet, paint and vinyl. Located in South Ocean Beach just blocks to ocean! Laundry on site! No pets. 4843 Coronado Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacifcrealty.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$925. 1 bedroom, 1 bath attached cottage located steps to beach! Parking and laundry! No pets. 5113 Saratoga Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacifcrealty.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartment with hardwood floors and deck. Ocean view! Located just 1 block from beach! Includes utilities. No pets. 2188 Abbott Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacifcrealty.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, downstairs apartment with patio. Dishwasher and laundry. No pets. 4231 Voltaire Street #1. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacifcrealty.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment with parking and laundry. Blocks to beach. No pets! 2243 Abbott Street #C. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacifcrealty.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$975. 1 bedroom with courtyard, on-site laundry and parking. 4878 Saratoga Avenue #205. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1250-\$1300. 2 bedroom with on-site laundry. Half block to beach. 5043 and 5050 Del Monte Avenue. 619-279-6411 or 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$500 off 1st month! Spacious newly remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1525. Located a block from the beach! New carpet, ceramic tile, fully equipped kitchen with dishwashers, gated courtyard setting, laundry, parking, barbecue. Cats OK. No dogs. 4940 Del Monte Avenue. 619-226-3171. delmontepalms.rasnyder.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$500 off 1st month! Newly remodeled 1 bedroom. \$1125. Located a block from the beach! New carpet, ceramic tile, fully equipped kitchen with dishwashers. Gated courtyard setting. Laundry, parking, barbecue. Cats OK. No dogs. 4955 Narragansett. 619-226-3171. plazadelsol.rasnyder.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1125. \$500 off first month! Upgraded 1 bedroom in a small complex located a block from the beach. Parking, laundry, barbecue, gated community, extra storage. 619-221-8158. parkdelmonte.rasnyder.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** 1 bedroom. Free rent! Newly remodeled small complex located less than 100 yards from Ocean Beach pier. Fully equipped kitchen, gas range, balcony/patio, garage with opener, laundry, gated community, bike rack. 619-226-3171. beachwalk.rasnyder.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** Remodeled studio, cathedral ceilings, skylight, full kitchen and bathroom, laundry. \$765 includes utilities and parking. Quiet complex. Non-smoking. 619-222-3978.

**OCEAN BEACH.** Smell the ocean! Walk 3 blocks to beach! \$1650. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse apartment. Only 6 years old. New carpet. Tiled kitchen. Refrigerator. Gas stove. Dishwasher. Free washer/dryer. Tiny yard. Garage plus gated parking space. Available now. 4857 Voltaire. 619-224-7322.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$975. 1 bedroom. Large, upstairs, end unit. Stove, refrigerator. Coin laundry. Parking. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Steps to ocean.

## AUTOMOTIVE



Mack Pool

**DBL**  
Don't Buy a Lemon™

Same-Day Service  
Dealership Alternative

**FREE DIAGNOSTIC**  
• "Check Engine" Warning Light  
• Air Bag Light • Brake Check  
Any make or model—  
"WE CAN FIX IT"



### FACTORY SCHEDULED SERVICE

**3,000 Mi.**

- Oil change (10w-30) • Oil filter
- Rotate tires & inspect tire pressure
- Inspect brakes & major components
- Inspect & top off all fluids

From **\$35<sup>95</sup>**

**15,000 Mi.**

- Oil change (10w-30) • Oil filter • Replace air filter
- Rotate tires & inspect tire pressure
- Check/top off all fluids
- Clean, inspect & adjust brakes
- Inspect suspension, exhaust & steering
- Check & set timing
- Inspect wipers & headlights
- Inspect belts & hoses
- Road test

From **\$84<sup>95</sup>**

**30,000 Mi. MAJOR SERVICE**

- Replace spark plugs (resistor)
- Drain & refill coolant (1 gallon) • Service battery
- Rotate tires • Check & top off fluids
- Check tire pressure
- Inspect exhaust, steering & suspension
- Inspect headlights & wipers
- Inspect emission controls
- Check AC & heating
- Inspect belts & hoses
- Road test

From **\$149<sup>95</sup>**

### OIL CHANGE

Includes new oil filter, brake & safety inspection, tire rotation.

From **\$14<sup>95</sup>**

### BATTERY STARTER ALTERNATOR

Test battery & inspect battery cables/terminals, test starter & alternator.

**\$9<sup>99</sup>**

### MAINT. TUNE-UP

Replace spark plugs, adjust idle & timing. Improves performance & fuel economy.

From **\$29<sup>95</sup>**

4-cyl.

### BRAKES

Special discount from our affordable 2-wheel brake service. Complimentary brake inspection.

**25% off**

with any service.

### ENGINES & TRANSMISSIONS

Starting at **\$495**

### AXLES

From **\$74<sup>95</sup>**  
Part only. Labor extra  
Most cars.

### COOLING SYSTEM

Recommended yearly service. Drain & refill radiator, pressure test system.

From **\$29<sup>95</sup>**  
New Radiator from **\$149<sup>95</sup>**

### TIMING BELT

60K replacement recommended to avoid engine damage.

From **\$58<sup>95</sup>**  
Labor only. A/C or P/S additional.

### TRANS FLUID CHANGE

Extend transmission life with all-new fluid.

From **\$49<sup>95</sup>**

**858-455-1111**  
OPEN MON.-SAT. 7 AM-6 PM

**LA JOLLA / UTC / MIRAMAR**  
5782 Miramar Rd.  
(one block east of 805)

Available now. 4853 Orchard. DSPM. Broker, 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1225. 2 bedroom, 1 bath in quiet four-plex setting. Parking, laundry. Near Robb Field. 4449 Mentone Street. TPFM, 858-699-3851.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1395 rent. \$1200 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, charming cottage-style unit, new carpet and paint, lots of windows, small private yard, stove, refrigerator, on-site laundry, great location. One block from the beach. 4980 Cape May Avenue. 619-804-3325.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$925. Large 1 bedroom with courtyard. On-site parking and laundry. Quiet complex. Close to all. 4861 Del Monte #4. 619-223-0338 or 619-226-7368. www.bkbinc.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1595. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath, upstairs. Garage, washer/dryer hookups, new carpet/paint, blinds, floors. Pool, Jacuzzi. Pets OK. Available 01/06/07. www.beachykeenrentals.com. 760-230-2508.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$750. Large, remodeled studio. Nice, quiet, small complex. 1 mile/beach. Secure parking. No pets. Near Oceanside Boulevard and I-5. 1973 Apple Street. 760-754-1708.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1095. Spacious 2 bedroom apartments. Private yards/balconies. Great location. Pool. Laundry. Barbecue. Free garage, gas utilities, heat. Large closets. No pets. 760-757-4641.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$850. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath apartment, light and bright unit with eat-in kitchen. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$750. Studio, 1 bath apartment, newly remodeled and spacious unit. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**OCEAN BEACH/CARLSBAD.** Luxury living 1 bedroom apartments, \$925-\$945. Spectacular views, gated/covered parking. Pool/spa, laundry. Cats OK. 760-439-5728. www.casavistaapartments.com.

**OLD TOWN.** \$650-\$695. Low \$150 deposit. Fully furnished studios-alcoves on excellent hillside location. Free basic cable. 1616 Guy Street. 619-298-6242.

**OLD TOWN.** \$1195. 1912 San Diego Avenue #4. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Bay view! Garage. Dishwasher. Clean. No pets. Available now. www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, broker, 619-275-LIST.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1195/\$1535. 1 bedroom/2 bedroom. Year lease. Beautifully remodeled, quiet luxury building. Nice views. Intercom entry, dishwasher, tropical garden, heated pool. Garage available. No pets. 858-272-4398.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** Gorgeous, large 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Balcony, deck, laundry, walk-in closet, hardwood floors, and parking. Close to beach/bay. \$1750/month. 858-342-2591.

**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** \$925. 1 bedroom, near Bay. First floor, off-street

parking, onsite laundry. Approximately 725 square-feet. Available 12/19. No pets. Month-to-month rental. 1846 Oliver Avenue. Photos on our website: http://www.freebies.com/lefrontenac/. Contact on-site manager: lefrontenac@inbox.com. 858-272-2825.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$825. Bright 1 bedroom. California beach bungalow style. Quiet, clean. Hardwood floors, laundry. Available immediately. Near I-5. 3436-1/2 Del Rey Street. 619-222-9308.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$725. Deposit 1 month's rent. Studios, furnished or unfurnished. No pets. Nonsmoking. Off-street parking. See at 4160 Ingraham Street. 858-274-4344.

**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** \$1175. Clean, neat 1 bedroom. Steps to Mission Bay on Sequoia Street. Hardwood floors, laundry. No pets. Long term. 858-454-1375.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** On Everts. 2 bedroom 2 bath condo, top floor. Kitchen remodeled. Pool. Bay front building with bay views. \$1750. Reza, 619-279-2553.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1150. Two bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Parking, patio, laundry facilities. Walk to bay. No pets. 4117-1/2 Ingraham Street, Pacific Crown Villas. 858-270-4674.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1025. 1 bedroom with parking. \$1485. 2 bedroom, 2 bath with garage and new carpet. Quiet. Upstairs. Laundry. No pets. 1920 Felspar. 858-459-1102.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** 1 bedroom, \$975. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1250 and up. Pool, barbecue area. Some with balconies. No pets. Quiet, immaculate. Call 858-273-9370.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1-1/2 blocks to beach. On-site laundry, no pets. 858-273-3233.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$830. Studio with bay view, block to bay. Rent includes gas, electric, water. Fresh paint. Quiet area. Off-street parking. No pets. 619-894-2111.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1495. Includes cable/water. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Dishwasher, balcony, new bathroom and new carpet. 4750 Noyes. Small pets acceptable. Available immediately. 858-967-0839.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1795/month. Charming, spacious cottage-style 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Patio, laundry room. Cat OK. 9-unit complex, I-5 close. Available 01/01/07. 2241 Garnet Street. 619-602-0500.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1650. Brand new condo, never lived in, 2 bedroom, 1 bath washer/dryer, stainless appliances, wood burning fireplace, granite. Call: 858-531-2825. E-mail: sarah@oceanpacific-properties.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1300. Brand new, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, luxury condo, washer/dryer, stainless appliances, wood burning fireplace, granite, Italian flooring.

Call: 858-531-2825. E-mail: sarah@oceanpacific-properties.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1100 plus \$600 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Off-street parking. Close to Mission Bay. Laundry available. All utilities paid. 3487-1/2 Del Rey Street. 858-272-2889.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$400 off first month's rent! Large 1 bedroom, upstairs, new carpet/paint/blind. Gated, laundry, parking. No pets. \$1025 with \$1025 deposit. 858-483-8952.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$975. Upstairs, darling 1 bedroom. Hardwood floors, 8 blocks to beach, sunny corner, quiet. Stove, refrigerator, laundry close. Cat OK. Available 1/8. 1572 Hornblend. 858-490-9121.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$500 off 1st month's rent on 1 bedrooms, immediate move-in only! OAC. Studios from \$945. 1 bedrooms from \$1195. 2 bedrooms from \$1650. Heated pool, aerobics. Spas. Tennis. Basketball. Fitness centers. Air conditioning/heat. Cats welcome! Bay Pointe, 3866 Ingraham Street. www.progressmanagement.net. Toll free: 1-888-759-7435. www.sdrreader.com/rent/2081.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** Charming 1 and 2 bedroom apartments starting at \$995. Across from Mission Bay. Gated entry. Landscaped courtyard. On bus line and near bike trail. Call our rental office today: 800-490-6372.

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**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$775. All utilities paid. On-site parking. No pets. 4220 Noyes. \$300 deposit. Call 714-505-4923.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1550. 2 bedroom, 1 bath with bay view. Upstairs, corner unit. Fabulous location! Laundry. No pets. Available 1/9. 1778 La Playa. Call 858-483-3534 or 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$825. Studio, 1 year lease, utilities included. Parking. Laundry on site. 3755 Ingraham Street, #406, #106. 619-295-1100; www.cethron.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$875. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Centrally located, cottage style. Pets OK. 3-month lease. 4325 Gresham. As is, available now. Call 858-483-3534 or 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

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**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1175. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, minutes to beach, walk to all. 1 parking spot. No laundry on site. No pets. 1870 Diamond. Available 1/13. Call 858-483-3534 or 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1395. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, steps to bay. Quiet complex, corner unit, laundry on site. 1 year lease. Available 1/13. 3829 Sequoia Street. Call 858-483-3534 or 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs unit 3 blocks to the beach. 2 parking spots. Laundry on site. No pets. 954 Agate Street. Available 1/9. Call 858-583-

0182 or 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1400. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 3 blocks to beach. Ground floor, corner unit. 1 parking space. Laundry on site. 1057 Missouri Street. Available 12/15. Call 858-583-0182. www.calprop.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath. \$2250. Upstairs condo with garage. Washer/dryer. 1000 square feet. 6-month lease. No pets. Available now. 1844 Diamond Street. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1295. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs unit steps to beach. Up-

graded with ocean view, parking. 500 square feet. Available 12/28. 715 Santa Barbara. Call 858-483-3534 or 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$900 & \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Large units, clean complex, parking, laundry onsite. Available 12/25. 4639 Pico #2 and #8. www.ctrhon.com, 619-295-1100.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1295/month. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs apartment. Near bay and ocean. New paint, laundry, parking. No dogs. 1258 Pacific Beach Drive. Available now. Call 858-454-4161.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1650. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. New carpet/tile. Laundry on site, pool, spa, tandem underground parking. Cat OK. 4730 Noyes Street #410. Call 858-490-1600, kandrproperties.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1595 rent. \$800 deposit. Huge 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex. Parking. Extra large master bedroom. No pets. At 1605 Diamond (at Ingraham). 619-299-8515.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$900. Large 1 bedroom. Small quiet building. 3 blocks ocean. Parking. Near stores, bus. No pets. Available 1/7/07. 4322-1/2 Cass Street. 858-274-7980.

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**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** \$1125/rent, \$550/deposit. 1 bedroom. Building right on Mission Bay. Large beautiful unit. No pets. 3840 Lamont Street. Available 12/27. 858-483-3221.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1325/rent, \$650/deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 5 blocks to beach or bay. Lush courtyard, dishwasher. No pets, no co-signers. 4445 Fanuel Street. Available now. 858-483-3221.

**PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH.** Lovely 1 bedroom apartments, \$1095-\$1365/month. Available January 1! Small community in fabulous location, 1 block from Pacific Beach. Unique floorplans, high-speed Internet, French doors leading to sun deck or private patio. Some with ocean views! Located at 5024-5040 Mission Boulevard. Leasing office off site, please call 858-272-7464.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$950. 860 Missouri #C. Spacious studio. Stove and refrigerator. 1-1/2 blocks to beach. All utilities paid. Available now. www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker. 619-275-LIST.

**PACIFIC BEACH Condo.** \$1500. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath with tiny yard. No pets, please. Available now. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

**PACIFIC BEACH Townhouse.** \$1750. 2 bedroom 2-1/2 bath. Approximately 1100 square feet. 1-car garage. New paint, includes refrigerator. Lots of closets and storage, small private patio. No pets. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$2600. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 2-car garage townhouse. Clean and painted. Fireplace, washer/dryer, patio, deck. No pets. Available mid-January. 1545 Hornblend. 858-270-4492 x203.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** 1 bedroom available. On the beach between Reed Street and Pacific Beach Drive. Pets under 30 lbs., sharing cosigners OK. Priced by size and location. Year-round rate. 6-month lease, then month-to-month. Shown 8:30am-5:00pm, Monday-Friday. Beachfront

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**PACIFIC BEACH.** Townhouse, 2 bedroom (masters), 2.5 bath, 2-level, 2 parking, brand-new carpet, on-site laundry. On Hornblend. Available now. No pets. 858-270-3372 or 858-740-8595.

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**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$995. Studio, 1 bath condo, pool, laundry on site, granite countertops, spa, tennis, gym. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

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**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$875. Upper 1 bedroom above pool. Spacious, clean, quiet, parking, laundry, ceiling fans. No pets. 2275 Grand Avenue. 619-279-0031.

**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** \$1400. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, downstairs, end unit. New carpet, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, fireplace, garage, coin laundry. No pets. 1 year lease required. Available now. 4122 Jewell. DSPM, Broker, 858-270-2071, www.delsolpm.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** \$1295. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, shared courtyard, coin laundry, garage space. No pets. Available now. 3711 Ingraham. DSPM, Broker, 858-270-2071, www.delsolpm.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH.** \$950. 1 bedroom. End unit in 4-plex. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available now. 4536 Gresham. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH.** \$1125. 1 bedroom, downstairs. Remodeled. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, 2 private patios, coin laundry. Shared garage. 1 block to Tourmaline Surf Park. No pets. Available 1/15 or sooner. 760 Sapphine. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH.** 41425. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large units both upstairs and downstairs. 2-1/2 blocks to ocean!

Stove, refrigerator, balcony/patio. Coin laundry, parking. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 1/10/07. 945 Chalcedony. Del Sol Property Management, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1495. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Great location. Close to beach, restaurants and shopping. Lower unit. Open Saturday 3-4pm. 1065 Hornblend Street. TPMM, 858-699-3851.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1295. 2 bedroom, 1 bath with great courtyard and central location. 2 parking spaces. No pets. Open Saturday, 1:30-2:30pm. 1461 Missouri. TPMM, 858-699-3851.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$900 plus \$900 security deposit, 6-month lease. 1 parking space, laundry room. No pets. 1820 Grand Avenue, #H. 619-435-3830.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1100. Condo, spacious 1 bedroom, large patio. Quiet street. New paint/carpet. Laundry, storage, covered parking. Great location. Near all. 8 blocks to ocean, 5 blocks to bay. No pets. Year lease. 1645 Emerald #1A. 858-273-8763.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$2200. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Good condition. Off-street parking. No pets. 4451 Haines Street. 858-270-4492 x203.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$2600. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 2-car garage townhouse. Clean and painted. Fireplace, washer/dryer, patio, deck. No pets. Available mid-January. 1545 Hornblend. 858-270-4492 x203.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** 60 yards to the beach! 1 bedroom, \$1300. Spa and laundry on site. No pets. 633 Missouri Street. Call for appointment or information 858-483-3335.

**POINT LOMA.** Large units! \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Garage extra. New appliances, carpet. Cats only. Pool. Laundry. Available now. 2551 Worden Street. 619-224-8806.

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**POINT LOMA.** \$735, lease. Bright, open studio. Near all, 3191 Kemper. Security gate, laundry on-site, beautifully landscaped. \$600 security deposit. No pets. Call 760-505-7736, www.lomascenic.com.

**POINT LOMA.** \$1465. Remodeled, 1200-square foot, 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse apartment. Views from living room and bedroom. Imported tile and carpet floors. Huge closets plus storage. Private patio. Pool. Saunas. Recreation room. No pets. Available now. 619-226-8158. bsrttr@earthlink.net. It's a great place to live.

**POINT LOMA.** \$1695. 1423-square-foot, 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Fantastic ocean, bay and sunset views from balcony, extra large living room and master bedroom. Imported tile floors in entry hall, kitchen/breakfast room and baths. Huge closets. Pool, saunas and recreation

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**LEAD STORY**

— Christian stand-up comedian Brad Stine says his muscular GodMen revivals are a reaction to the “wuss-ification” of the Promise Keepers movement and encourage spiritual men to “cowboy-up” and “thank God for testosterone!” According to a December *Los Angeles Times* report, GodMen celebrates traditional male excesses, such as cussing, raucousness, and sexuality. Added a Stine associate, “For heaven’s sake, don’t ask the guys [as Promise Keepers does] to take the hand of the guys next to them.... Do not think Sunday morning worship. Think Saturday afternoon tailgate.” Back to “Onward Christian Soldiers” rather than Jesus love songs. And tell your wife the rules, Stine says: “Learn to work the toilet seat. If it’s up, put it down.”

**Leading Economic Indicators**

— An appeals court in Florida finally applied the brakes to the so-called “contingency fee multiplier,” available under state law for lawyers who assist mistreated insurance customers. In extraordinary cases, a lawyer is permitted to recover up to 2 1/2 times the customary fee, which supposedly helps customers with smaller claims to find legal representation. However, the court said the fee is being granted too routinely, and in one October case, a client won his \$1315 claim while his lawyer got \$193,750.

**The Entrepreneurial Spirit!**

— The Oklahoma City company Skulls Unlimited International is, it claims, the world’s leading supplier of bones — cleaning and polishing human and animal heads by picking off the tissue by hand and then using dermestid beetles to eat what’s left. Said owner Jay Villemarete, on the greasiness of the human head: “I am not exaggerating. It is nasty.” But, said an employee, you get used to the work: “I’ve been waist-deep in a dead hippopotamus, and I’d rather do that than change diapers.”

— Cutting-Edge Inventions: (1) South African inventor Willem van Rensburg has begun to market the Pronto condom, which he promised

can be applied directly from wrapper to penis in three seconds (and, with practice, one second). It’s available now only in South Africa, but he has obtained a U.S. patent. (2) On display at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis., in October was a \$250,000, self-service milking machine (introduced in Europe in 2005) in which the cow wanders in, and lasers and video cameras guide the rubber cups to her teats, with a computer directing the actual milking.

**Family Values**

— Christine Marmolejo, 39, of Downers Grove, Ill., pleaded guilty in October to a plot in which she had her 14-year-old son plant marijuana and prescription drugs in the backpack of another boy to embarrass that boy’s mother, with whom Marmolejo had been feuding for years. Marmolejo’s son eventually confessed, and now Marmolejo faces an enhanced penalty because she involved a 14-year-old in drug possession.

— New-Age Punishments: Rosewood Elementary School (Rock Hill, S.C.) teacher Daniel Johns was investigated in October for having his students line up and stomp the feet of a classmate as punishment for the kid’s own foot-stomping. No criminal charges were filed. ... In a non-classroom incident, Alcorn State University professor Festus Oguhebe was sentenced in Jackson, Miss., in November to two years in prison for disciplining his 11-year-old son by tying his hands and then covering him with ants (which Oguhebe said was a traditional punishment in his native Nigeria).

**Bright Ideas**

— A Georgetown University student, whose dad bought him a \$2.4 million off-campus house and who wants his eight best friends to live (and party) with him, ran up against a Washington, D.C., zoning law permitting no more than six unrelated people per house. In October, after researching the issue, the students filed papers declaring themselves a “church” (the Apostles of O’Neill, after owner Brian O’Neill) because churches are allowed to house up to 15 unrelated people.

O’Neill’s dad supports the students, as judged from his testy response to a *Washington Post* inquiry: “Who says they aren’t a [real] religion?”

— Surgeon Michael Koenig of Cologne, Germany, who said he was cheated out of thousands of dollars in fees by women who failed to pay for their breast enlargements, said in October that he had no photos of the women but did have photos of their new chests, and he gave them to the police, hoping they would somehow help in finding the women.

— The United Nations Millennium Campaign’s worldwide program to “stand up against poverty” solicited amateur videos for distribution to help dramatize the issue in industrialized nations, but one video drew the attention of a *Wall Street Journal* reporter in October: Three men were sitting around a table, eating beans and raucously discussing their gas-producing qualities, when the men suddenly turned serious. One looked into the camera and said, “Some folks don’t even have a bowl of beans to eat.” The videomaker said he was “a little disappointed” that his piece was rejected.

**Christmas Mania (continued)**

— In Mentor, Ohio, firefighters struggled to keep avid Christmas shoppers from continuing to enter the Dillard’s at Great Lakes Mall after a Dec. 6 electrical fire filled the store with smoke. ... In Anderson, S.C., driver David Allen Rodgers, who was driving a float in the town’s Christmas parade on Dec. 3 (despite being inebriated), was arrested after impatiently breaking out of the slow-moving parade line and speeding down Main Street, endangering riders and spectators. ... In London, the regional manager of unemployment offices banned traditional Christmas decorations because he did not want his clients (since they are jobless in the holiday season) to feel worse by witnessing any festive spirit.

**Least Competent Criminals**

— (1) The man who stole the safe from a Runza restaurant in Omaha, Neb., in October was forced to abandon it in the middle of a street when he realized his getaway plan (dragging it through town

behind his car) attracted attention that he had somehow not anticipated. He fled empty-handed. (2) Federal inmate Brandon Sample won his appeal in November and is entitled to have on computer discs the public records he requested (rather than the paper copies the Bureau of Prisons was offering). However, Sample still lacks a computer to read them on, and the appeals court ruled that he has no legal right to one.

**Recurring Themes**

— Still More Texas Justice: Death-row inmate Daniel Acker’s court-appointed lawyer, 26-year veteran Toby Wilkinson, filed a writ of habeas corpus for his client in 2003 that consisted largely of verbatim text from an earlier letter that Acker himself had written to the judges, including this passage: “I’m just about out of carbon paper. As soon as I get some more typing supplies I have about 30 more errors I wanted [noted] in my appeal.” Wilkinson was paid \$22,270 for “writing” the writ. However, in November 2006, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals denied the writ, satisfied that it raised no issues not resolved in Acker’s 2000 trial.

**The Right to Go Through Life Never Being Offended**

— (1) Last summer, a British passport office in Sheffield turned down the application for Hannah Edwards, 5, because her mother had submitted a photograph showing Hannah from the neck up, as prescribed, but wearing a sunsuit that left her shoulders bare. The passport office said that Hannah’s exposed skin might be offensive in a Muslim country. That decision was later overruled, according to a report in London’s *Daily Telegraph*. (2) Also in Britain, the Robert Walters employment agency notified its offices in October that the words “vibrant,” “dynamic,” “ambitious,” “energetic,” “experienced,” and 17 others must not be used in recruiting ads, lest the company risk lawsuits for age discrimination.

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room. Digital cable and high-speed Internet. Sorry, no pets. Available 1/10/07. bsrtir@earthlink.net. 619-226-8158. It's a great place to live.

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## TEN CAMELS AND TWO FERRARIS

Although I was inclined to frantic groin grabbing, inarticulate moaning, and random curling into balls, the last day of the holiday was a good one by any standards. The itinerary had me trying a body-conditioning class at the poolside, followed by aqua-aerobics. I enjoyed both and resolved to make a better effort to shake my thang when I returned home. A tasty Russian gym goddess who took both classes with me declared that I was very agile and flexible. Confidence inspiring, of course, though spoiled by the inevitable caveat "for a fat chick," which she tacked on in a barely audible but charmingly accented whisper.

Later, I was booked into the beauty parlor where I was "pampered" — a shameless stretch of a definition if ever I heard one. I had my eyebrows threaded, an experience that I had considered torture until he decided to thread my moustache (humiliating), beard (mortifying), and nostrils (excruciating). As he passed my feet on his way to remove further hairy evidence of my Neanderthal ancestry, he sucked between his teeth in a way I had thought reserved for the use of British plumbers. He offered to remove my "huge" dead skin build up. While scraping, he wagged in my face to shame me. After he pedicured me, he massaged my feet, which made me laugh, especially as he was doing so in time to Egyptian music.

My facial was marvellous, particularly since there was no excess hair to slow him down. He extended his reach into my head hair and pulled delicious hanks of it hard enough to make me break into gooseflesh. The manicure was French,

but no talons for me; I hate long nails unless they're raking into my flesh.

I emerged to discover Andrew had also had his mono-brow threaded, a huge improvement for any man who prefers to be spoken to with intelligence, and his nostrils were capaciously empty of hair (and bogies). His ear rims had been threaded too, and he pronounced them sexy enough to make a Ferengi envious. His haircut was long overdue and restored him to a man who looked like he might be able to stave off the number one razor cut for another year. (When his hair's longer, it looks thinner — odd).

The princely sum of 25 pounds was handed over after we'd been worked over like film stars. What a deal! On the way out of the parlor, Andrew was offered ten camels and two Ferraris for me, an increased bid on the paltry five camels of the day before. What a difference a lack of beard growth can make for a woman's saleable worth. We suspected that the potential buyer had little means to complete the sale,

or I'd have been wrapped in a bow and presented before I could say "But they're such ugly cars."

We had dinner, bought two leather pouffes, and went back to the room to escape the evening heat; today had been a hot one, and we were all burnt. Jamie continued to pester us to play with the bidet tap we'd discovered in the toilet,



which was so powerful it was our opinion that it would actually blow the bog seat open and hit the wall beyond if there was no bum there to bore into. We concluded that this bidet could cope with the very worst of the Egyptian ab-dabs (a.k.a., Montezuma's revenge or the Sharm-el-Sheik shits).

That night, the packing

beckoned. We knew we would argue — we always argue. Especially since we had bought a pharaoh's treasure trove of goodies and had had little spare space on the way here.

Our holiday had been lovely, though marred with sickness. My bladder didn't enjoy it much, and my nose began to peel in a very unattractive way. In spite of my best efforts, I ate too much and burnt a Hallmark card border on the dark side of my breasts.

But the prospect of a return to an autumnal Scotland wasn't so bad, as we had a cosy fire to light, rambles through fallen leaves to enjoy, bonfire night to look forward to, and Christmas to plan. A late-summer holiday is to be recommended, and Egypt is a fine place to take it.

I do wonder, however, if my facial hair will grow in even thicker — I may not need to buy a new winter coat this year.

<http://gekkolick.livejournal.com>

dining. Easy freeway access. 619-867-4417.

**ESCONDIDO.** 3,000 square feet. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath. Hidden Meadows. 1+ acres. 100% of payments towards down. Owner carries mortgage for 3 years. \$600K. 760-294-0032.

**ESCONDIDO.** Lake Wohlford views are stunning. Country cutie. 1958 1/1mh, solid, very large deck, private covered area. Lake resort family park, pool, restaurant. \$25,700. 619-563-8650.

**FALLBROOK.** Unbelievable, unique custom home. 4.26 acres. 3 bedrooms. Gourmet kitchen. Sauna. Decks. Hot tub

in gazebo. Waterfall, koi pond. 2 guest houses. \$1,150,000. 760-723-0305.

**HIGH ON A HILL.** Rancho Penasquitos. Incredible 5 bedroom, 3 bath, 2880 square feet. 3-car garage, family room, formal dining, 8'x 8' skylight in stairwell.

All for only \$739,000. Call Kraig at One Source Realty, 858-592-2130.

**HILLCREST.** Great location just \$255,000-\$280,876. Mission Hills Craftsman only \$443,000. Income property under \$400,000. Call for pre-foreclosures. www.

ListWithTheBest.com. Stephanie Murphy, 619-246-8230.

**MIRA MESA.** 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse with good size yard. Best buy. Call Top Notch 619-807-0327.

## AUTOMOTIVE



**EAGLE MOTORS**  
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

7980 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. • 858-244-1062  
(on the north side of Clairemont Mesa Blvd., between Convoy & Mercury). WE HAVE OUR OWN TOW TRUCK.  
Expires 1/18/07. All offers valid with this ad.

805	CONVOY	163
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**SMOG CHECK SPECIAL** **\$14<sup>75</sup>**

All car models and years. SUVs, pickups light trucks & minivans \$10 extra. No hidden fees. No appointment necessary. Bring DMV papers if available.

Plus \$8.25 certificate and \$2 transfer fee

**Castrol GTX Premium Oil Change Special** **\$24<sup>95</sup>**

Most cars.

GTX Castrol/high-mileage oil change \$31.95.  
BMW, Mercedes, Volvo \$29.95. Includes reset service oil light.  
Non-Castrol oil change \$19.95.  
Castrol synthetic oil change \$49.95.

**30K, 60K, 90K SERVICE**

Done according to manufacturer's specs, and we use only factory parts. Factory shuttle services.

**A/C SPECIAL**

Includes Freon R134

- Evacuate system
- Replace compressor oil
- Check system pressure
- Check for major leaks
- Check A/C lines and belt
- Charge system with Freon
- Rear A/C \$15 extra

**\$99<sup>95</sup>**  
Complete

**Transmission Power Flush**

Includes 16 qts. oil and BG's clean and conditioner kit. Extended-life synthetic oil is extra depending on vehicle type.

**\$119<sup>95</sup>**

**COMPLETE FRONT BRAKE JOB**

Includes resurfacing rotors. Parts and labor included. \$25 extra for ceramic pads.

**\$99<sup>95</sup>**

**AXLE SPECIAL** **\$109**

Parts and labor. Most cars. \$25 extra for new axle.

Installed



**BC International Auto Repair**

**Import & Domestic Shuttle service available**

**TOWING AVAILABLE**

**Under New Ownership & Management**

**Unlimited Mileage Warranty! Call for details.**

**BRAKE SPECIAL**

starting at **\$59\*** **\$79\*** **\$119\***

GOOD BETTER BEST

Front or rear. Call for details! Parts & labor. Resurfacing rotors additional for the \$59 price. \$79 or higher includes resurfacing rotor.

**30K/60K/90K FACTORY SERVICE**

starting at **\$109\***

4-cyl.

- Replace engine oil & filter
- Check timing
- Inspect air filter
- Rotate tires
- Replenish all fluids
- Inspect brake system & adjust brakes
- Other services as needed

**TIMING BELT**

starting at **\$70\***

4-cyl.

Plus parts.

**AXLES**

starting at **\$94**

Installed! 12-month warranty!

**COOLING SYSTEM WATER PUMP**

starting at **\$129\***

4-cyl.

**"Check engine" light on?**

**FREE\*** diagnostic with shop repair.

**REBUILT TRANSMISSION**

**\$399\***

Parts extra.

**HEAD GASKET SPECIAL**

starting at **\$199\***

Labor only.

**STARTERS & ALTERNATORS**

starting at **\$190**

Installed. Most cars.

**JAPANESE ENGINE REPLACEMENT**

starting at **\$1025\***

6-cyl., 8-cyl. extra. Call for details.

**FUEL SYSTEM 3-STAGE FLUSH**

**\$49<sup>95</sup>**

**TRANSMISSION SERVICE**

Includes filter starting at **\$79<sup>99</sup>**

**CLUTCH SPECIAL**

starting at **\$199\***

Rear wheel.

**ENGINE REBUILD CALL FOR SPECIAL PRICE!**

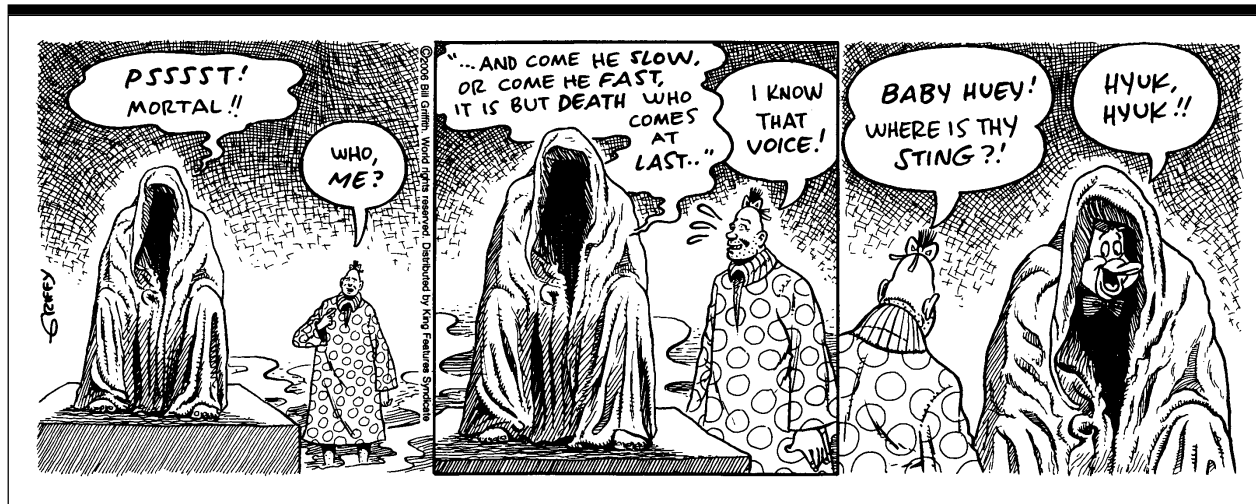
10% Military Discount

**7030 Carroll Rd. • 858-455-5440**  
(Near Miramar Road)

\*All offers most cars. Parts extra. MasterCard / Visa / Discover







**MISSION HILLS.** Classic Mission Hills 4 bedroom 2 bath house. Spectacular 180 degree skyline/bay views from almost every room. \$1,350,000/owner. 3909 Henry Street, 619-253-5839.

**MURRIETA. GORGEOUS** 2-story, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 3200 square feet. Gourmet kitchen. Too many amenities to mention! 1%-5% down, no bank qualifying! \$599,000. 760-723-0305.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Big lot. Move-in ready! \$395,000-\$435,000. Open Saturday and Sunday, 1pm-4pm: 3834 Madison Avenue, 92116. Big fenced yard. hdr1@cox.net. 619-281-8869; 619-823-8166.

**OCEANSIDE.** Home with panoramic ocean view. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1472 square feet, unique, private location, approximately 1/4 acre, \$489,000. By owner, 760-967-4015.

**OCEANSIDE.** Nice lot, nice neighborhood, 55+ community, as is, \$305,000. By owner, 760-940-4231.

**RANCHO PENASQUITOS-** Just reduced! Gorgeous, bright 5 bedroom, 3 bath. Family room, fireplace, private backyard. \$675,000-\$710,000. No HOA/Mello-Roos. Deborah Engel, McMillin Realty, 858-829-1989. www.propertybydeb.com.

**SAN DIEGO** 3 bedroom, 2 bath HUD home, \$122,500! Must sell fast! For listings and info: 1-800-690-3990 x1172.

**SANTEE.** 4 bedroom. Family room. Updated kitchen, new stove, dishwasher, microwave. Central air/heat, covered patio, 2-car garage. \$529,000. RE/MAX, Bill Howland, 619-980-2455.

**SANTEE.** Why rent when you can own? Beautiful 3 bedroom condo. Must have good credit! Total cash \$2800 down. Mortgage, taxes, HOA=\$1250/month. Agent, 619-596-8888, 619-723-3333.

**SERRA MESA.** Beautiful, newly remodeled, new kitchen, new roof, new hardwood floors, new lights and paint, just gorgeous, huge back yard, 3 bedrooms, \$475,000. 619-249-7846.

**SOMETHING SPECIAL!** Mint 3 bedroom, 2 bath Santee house. California Room in-ground spa, fountain, gorgeous pool, large lot. Granite counters, fireplace. \$465,000. No agents. Agent, Kelly, 619-562-6999.

**SOUTH SAN DIEGO.** Manufactured home for sale. \$80K, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1344 square feet. New paint/carpet. Updated kitchen/bath. Call Agent, 619-459-8678.

**TIJUANA-4 ON 1!** 4 houses plus 1 hacienda. Hilltop location. Mexico/San Diego views. Client moving to El Paso.

\$275. Need to sell now! Agent, 619-459-8678.

**WOW!** Everything new in this 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 2 story home on cul-de-sac in Lakeside. All new granite countertops, cabinets, carpet, paint and floor tile. 1350 square feet. \$375K to \$400K. Call Kraig to see, 858-592-2130.

**YOUR SEARCH IS OVER.** Custom built home in Escondido on 1/3 acre. Single story, 2207 square feet, view of the valley. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths. All for only \$450K to \$590K. To see, call Kraig at One Source Realty, 858-592-2130.

**CORONADO.** \$619,900/best. Beautiful, spacious, 2 bedroom, 1 bath (spa tub), upper-level. Small complex. New kitchen/appliances, washer/dryer. Off-street, 2-car parking. Storage. HOA \$80. Pets OK. Owner, 619-628-1810.

**DEL MAR.** Lovely, sunny 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with pool and Jacuzzi. Monthly interest \$1695, \$15,000 down. APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 619-286-5813.

**IMPERIAL BEACH.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, large. Moments walk to the ocean, pier, shops, restaurants. Classic beach living. Serious seller. \$429,000. 619-405-3356 or 619-423-6001.

**LA JOLLA.** Sunny, lovely 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with pool and Jacuzzi. Monthly interest \$1695, \$15,000 down. APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 619-286-5813.

**LITTLE ITALY.** Views of the city from this 11th floor corner unit with floor-to-ceiling windows, granite and stainless! \$389,000-\$415,000. Ascent, Cheryl, 858-229-2843.

**MISSION HILLS.** Highly desirable Alicante, 10th-floor, south-facing unit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath with stunning patio views! Many upgrades throughout. \$399,000-\$425,000. 475 Redwood Street #1004. Ascent, Cheryl, 858-229-2843.

**MISSION VALLEY.** For sale by owner. Owner financing. No banks needed. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 parking, views San Diego River \$324,500, www.SanDiegoHomeSellers.com, 619-599-7790.

REAL ESTATE  
CONDOS

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**CARLSBAD-NO MONEY DOWN!** Million dollar neighborhood. Renovated 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2-car attached garage, quiet cul-de-sac, large fenced yard. \$619K. Broker, 760-436-3415, 760-815-8417.

**CARLSBAD.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo, 2-car garage. Large fenced yard. New floors/appliances/landscaping. Raised hearth. 5 minutes/beach. \$539K. Broker, 760-436-3415, 760-815-8417.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** Gorgeous condos, beautifully remodeled. 5, 1 bedroom units and 3, 2 bedroom units. Garage spaces available. Open Saturday-Sunday, every weekend, 11am-3pm. \$370,000. 760-207-9382.

**POINT LOMA.** Point Loma coastal area. Close to all. 2 bedroom 2 bath, carport, patio, pool, spa. \$300,000/owner. 619-522-3766.

**SAN DIEGO.** 3 bedroom 2 bath condo. Gated, 2 parking spots, end unit/private backyard. 4429 Tremont Street #3, 92102. New price \$284,000/owner, 619-886-5665.

**CHULA VISTA/TERRA NOVA** Land. Approved tentative map. Approximately 4-1/2 acres, at intersection H Street/805, \$2.8 million/owner. Lotsa luxury lots, 619-602-9236.

**DISTRESSED PROPERTIES WANTED!** Confidential telephone consultation. Ask for Taylor, 619-665-4062.

**FIND KILLER REAL ESTATE DEAL.** Visit the Learning Annex, Monday evening, 1/22. Instructor: Bob Boog, Author, Selling Homes 1-2-3 and Finding Killer Real Estate Deals. 619-544-9700.

**FOR A FREE FORECLOSURE LIST** in your area. Call 619-269-3910.

**FOR SALE BY OWNER.** 4-units with large owner's unit. 11 units with large 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Trade for your home/units. Owner/agent: Lisa, 760-505-3141.

**FORECLOSURES AND DEFAULTS.** Huge increase in daily volume! Daily reports. 30-50 new properties daily throughout San Diego County. All loans researched. Call 800-664-2567; www.CountyRecordsResearch.com.

**HOTEL OWNER WANTS TO BUY** property anywhere. Small houses, big houses, condos, apartments, commercial, vacant land. Call 619-204-0610.

**LANDLORDS.** Tired of tenant destruction and late rent excuses? Visit our website at www.section8bible.com. Book includes eviction information, investor lending and exact banks we used. (AAN CAN)

**WE BUY HOUSES!** Any condition, any situation. No fees, fair market value. 760-730-9850, Agent/contractor.

**ZERO DOWN ALL AREAS** or cash out for any reason. Credit scores to 300. Foreclosure, bankruptcy OK. No out-of-pocket costs. Loans available. Ron, 408-461-0406, www.wenedaloannow.com.

REAL ESTATE  
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**ACTUAL CASH VALUE.** Sell me your house or condo for up to \$400,000. Fixer uppers are OK, too. (Subject to buyer approval.) Call Jeff, 1-858-354-1852.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING** in San Diego! Fixer-uppers/foreclosures. Good/Bad credit OK. 100% financing. Zero down with no closing costs! Many homes available. www.aFreeListofFixerUppers.com, 1percentloanrate.com, 619-507-8419.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Kearney Mesa, 92117. Manufactured/Mobile homes from \$40,000. All for sale plus homes/condos. www.byrd-houses.com. Call Charlene Byrd, Century 21-1st Choice, 858-337-5149.

**AFFORDABLE HOME.** Live almost free! Allied Gardens. 2 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home with separate unit to help pay spare rent. Nice Senior Park. \$49,900. Easy terms by owner. 619-286-5966.

**AIREIS.COM.** Private money. We buy homes in any area/condition. Foreclosure help! No equity, no problem. Stop making payments today. www.aireis.com. Call Brent, 619-606-1462.

**ATTENTION SELLERS!** We'll buy your house in 11 days or pay you \$500 cash! 24 hour information: 800-398-8864, Box 305.

**BANK FORECLOSURES!** Homes from \$10,000! 1-3 bedroom available! HUD, repos, REO, etc. These homes must sell. For listings, call 1-800-425-1620 ext. H107. (AAN CAN)

**BUYERS' SPECIALIST!** All San Diego homes and condos. Jump in now while prices/interest rates are still low! Experienced! Foreclosures too! Fantastic financing! www.ElizabethSellsSanDiego.com, 619-788-2720.

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**AIRLINE TICKET,** roundtrip anywhere Southwest flies, last minute reservations OK. No blackout dates. \$395 cash only. 858-505-0504.

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Oil Change <b>\$16<sup>95*</sup></b> Includes new oil filter and up to 4 quarts of oil. Hazardous waste fee \$2.	Smog Check <b>\$16<sup>75</sup></b> Plus \$8.25 for certificate. Most cars. 1996 and newer trucks, SUVs, vans extra.	
Radiator Flush <b>\$24<sup>95*</sup></b> + labor	Fuel Injector Cleaning <b>\$39<sup>95*</sup></b>	Timing Belts <b>\$90<sup>*</sup></b> Includes parts and labor. Most cars.
Muffler Special <b>\$64<sup>95*</sup></b> and up	Catalytic Converter Special <b>\$109<sup>95*</sup></b> and up	
Brakes (2 wheels) <b>\$69<sup>95*</sup></b> • Install new lining • Resurface drums or rotors extra	Alignment & New Tires Coming Soon	

**Computerized Tune-Up**

4-cyl. <b>\$29<sup>95*</sup></b>	6-cyl. <b>\$34<sup>95*</sup></b>	8-cyl. <b>\$40<sup>95*</sup></b>
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• Install spark plugs and set timing • Diagnostic (scope hookup)

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**THAO AUTO REPAIR**  
3400 El Cajon Blvd. • (619) 640-4606 • (619) 640-4607  
3752 Park Blvd., Hillcrest • (619) 692-1065  
Visa • MasterCard • Special rates for auto body repair without insurance.  
\*All offers valid on most cars, with coupon. Exp. 1/13/07.

**ADVANCED MACHINE**  
PARTS • SERVICE • WELDING  
Your Complete Automotive Machine Shop • 3400 El Cajon Blvd.  
619-640-4609 • Se habla español

COMPLETE LONG BLOCK REBUILD FROM \$699  
• Flywheels \$15 • Valve jobs from \$75 • Crankgrinds \$55  
Most flywheels & crankgrinds available in 1 day or less.

**VALUE TRANSMISSIONS & AUTO SERVICE**  
YOUR FULL-SERVICE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR CENTER...

**Automatic Transmission** Starting from **\$444**  
Rebuilt and installed. Parts and labor. Includes torque converter. Non-lockup. Hard parts extra if needed. 2-year/24,000-mile warranty. Some 3-speed, RWD domestic vehicles. Call service manager for quote on your vehicle. RWD=C4, C5, T8, T6, TH350, TH400

**Brakes \$44<sup>95</sup>** Pads or shoes  
**Labor Special!!** Includes replace pads or shoes, inspect rotors, repack wheel bearings. Parts additional. Semi-metallic or premium pads not included. Turn rotors extra if needed. Most cars and light trucks. With this ad.  
**Free Brake Inspection** with completed brake repair.

**Scheduled Maintenance**  
30/60/90,000 Miles • **Labor Special!!** 4-cyl. \$109 • 6-cyl. \$139 • 8-cyl. \$189  
Tune-up, cooling system service, oil & filter, lube chassis, inspect fuel & ignition, set timing, adjust idle, air filter, top off fluids, rotate tires, vehicle inspection. Most cars and light trucks. With this ad.

**New Clutch** RWD from \$245 FWD from \$295  
Includes pressure plate, disc, throwout bearing, inspect flywheel. Parts and labor. Most cars. With this ad.

**8730 JAMACHA ROAD, SPRING VALLEY**  
**866-891-5394** • FREE TOWING ON MAJOR JOBS

**Smog Special**  
**Test Only**  
Fast • Easy • No Appointment Needed  
**\$26<sup>75</sup>** plus \$8.25 certificate & \$1 transfer fee. Trucks, vans & SUVs \$10 extra.  
or  
**\$31<sup>75</sup> with a Free Retest**  
We Certify: Gross Polluters • Out of State DMV Renewal • Change of Ownership

**SMOG CLINIC**  
7535 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite C (Next to Kearny Mesa Bowling Alley)  
858-292-7903 Mon.-Fri. 8 am-6 pm • Sat. 8 am-3 pm  
Visa • MasterCard • Coupon expires 1/11/07.  
Must present coupon at time of purchase.

State of California LICENSED SMOG CHECK TEST ONLY  
ASE CERTIFIED

**BRAKE CO**  
AUTOMOTIVE CENTER  
12 years at this location

<b>15K/30K/60K Major Service \$99<sup>99*</sup></b> Includes maintenance tune-up, oil change, install spark plugs (premium plugs extra), inspect brakes, check fluids and more. *Most cars. 6-cyl./8-cyl. extra.	<b>brake special \$99</b> Complete Brake Service Includes free safety inspection (most cars). Installation of new pads or shoes. Repack non-drive wheel bearings. Inspect rotors or drums, master cylinder, wheel bearings, hardware, lines, hoses & seals. Front or rear. Semi-metallic pads \$20 extra. Valid with this coupon. Not valid with other offers. Large vehicles extra.
<b>tune-up \$24<sup>99</sup></b> 4-cyl. With this coupon.	<b>axles • alternators starters much more</b> Call for details.
<b>oil change \$24<sup>95</sup></b> Includes up to 5 quarts oil & filter. EPA extra. from	<b>timing belt \$99</b> Power steering & A/C extra. from

Additional parts & labor may be required at substantial extra cost.

**5812 Miramar Road • (858) 546-1200**  
Near UTC, 1 block east of I-805, next to Enterprise  
Mon.-Fri. 8-6, Sat. 9-4 • All offers expire 1/18/07.

**T HONDA and ACURA SPECIALISTS**  
Repair and Service All Japanese Cars

**Major Service 30K • 60K • 90K • 120K \$185<sup>\*</sup>**  
• Change engine oil & filter  
• Valve adjust & new gasket (if necessary)  
• Change transmission fluid  
• Replace air filter  
• Replace fuel filter (non-EFI type)  
• Replace spark plugs (platinum extra)  
• Change brake fluid  
• Check front & rear brakes  
• Check cooling system & hoses  
• Check tire pressure & rotation  
• Check lights  
• Adjust hand brake  
• Inspect exhaust pipe & muffler  
• Inspect power steering system  
• Inspect fuel lines • Inspect all belts  
• Check clutch free-play & adjust  
• Replace distributor cap & rotor  
• Adjust timing  
• Lube front end • Road-test  
Call for details. 6-cyl. extra.

**Clutch Job \$245<sup>\*</sup>**  
4x4, twin cam extra. Up to '89 models.

**Engine & Transmission Overhaul**  
Call for details.

**Intermediate Service \$95<sup>\*</sup>**  
15K • 45K • 75K • 105K Call for details.

**Oil & Filter Change \$17<sup>95\*</sup>**  
Up to 5 qts. Exp. 1/31/07. Some cars higher.

**CV Boot \$49<sup>95\*</sup> CV Axle from \$145<sup>\*</sup>**

**Fuel Injection Service \$35<sup>\*</sup>**

**Timing Belt \$115<sup>\*</sup>**  
Twin cam extra. Up to '89 models.

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4030 43rd Street • San Diego (619) 284-0050  
Between University and El Cajon Blvd.  
Offers good for Hondas & Acuras only (\*Most cars)

Mon.-Fri. 8 am-5:30 pm  
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ALL SERVICES INCLUDE PARTS & LABOR plus tax

# BLOG DIEGO

Current mood: ranty and shallow. (This is a shallow, pointless rant. If you read this and think I'm being shallow, ranty, and pointless, consider yourself warned. Something enlightening and intellectual might follow in a week or so, in case you don't give up on me just yet.)

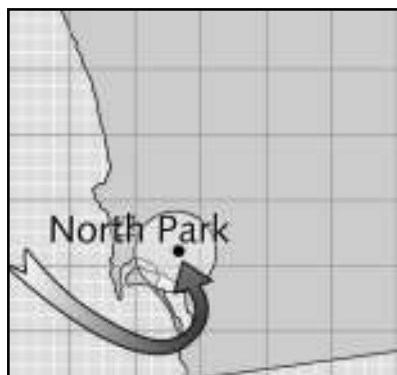
My sense of fashion has always operated outside of what other people deem in style or cool. I seem to either deviate so far off the path that I can't be classified, or I just stick to the same jeans and T-shirts with an Amanda-style twist, like Princess Leia buns or a colorful scarf or huge silly sunglasses. My time in Buenos Aires and a subsequent (almost) week in San Francisco caused me to really look at the fashions around me and learn to appreciate the artistry, creativity, and individualism that went into the putting-together of people's attire. I can't say I like it when people buy expensive name brands and expect to impress. I'm inclined to find the thrift-store crazy ensemble more interesting to mentally dissect than a \$50 T-shirt with some designer's name on it. (My brother actually had a physical reaction to Louis Vuitton bags. When he was on the El and someone with a LV bag sat down by him, he had to move. They totally freak him out. It's one of the things I love best

about him.)

Nevertheless, I have grown in a fashion sense. Maybe a little bit with my own choice of clothes and accessories, but more so in not judging others' choices so much — trying to appreciate the statement rather than pick apart the person. I know we all like to think we're nonjudgmental, but c'mon, let's be honest. "People-watching" is a favorite pastime, and it could just as well be called "people-bashing" or "let's make fun of everyone who walks by." It's not malicious, really. It's just something us evil, evil people do.

There are very clear exceptions to this rule of "all fashion choices of others are now okay with me," one of which is visible thongs. Another is intentionally exposed, dirty, nude-colored bras. Yuck. My latest complaint is running rampant all over SDSU campus, and I am simply enamored with how very ugly the situation has become.

It's "winter" now in San Diego, which means that the weather feels like a nice Indian summer in the Midwest. It's a little cooler, and the days are shorter. It's perfectly reasonable



to walk around in a tank top or T-shirt while the sun is out, so long as you have a sweater to cover up with when the wind blows. It actually does get "cold" here (though nowhere near as cold as back home).

Anyways, it is the habit of some of the more...sensitive local ladies to take winter as a signal for a complete wardrobe

makeover, including buying and wearing full-on winter coats, hats, and gloves. I get the excitement of a total wardrobe change, it just seems a bit on the extreme end here — the lows are in the high 50s, after all. I remember the days when I would take out my big trunk of pants and sweaters and get to wear clothes that had been hiding for months — create new color schemes, try new combos. Even more fun is when summer comes back into town, and the skirts and sandals and skin-baring sundresses find their way back into the closet.

Here, the latest "in" winter accessory are Uggs. For the uninitiated out there, Uggs are huge boots that look as though they fit over other shoes. They are made of leather or suede and sometimes covered in real or very-real-looking faux fur. Now, don't get me wrong, I like Uggs, at least the plain ones. I think in wintry, cold places such as, I

don't know, Wisconsin, these ginormous boots are stylish and even practical. But not here. Even though it gets cold, it never really gets cold. So be it. Hooray for fashion. Wear what you want when you want. My complaint is that these boots cost anywhere from \$150 to \$500, depending on the style you want. Most of the ones I've seen on campus are in the upper end of the price spectrum. (I did my research. I was curious — I looked for prices online.) And the lucky young ladies on campus whose parents or boyfriends bought them Uggs have so much taste as to pair them, consistently, with saggy pajama pants.

I kid you not. It is a regular sight on campus to see some little-miss-thang strutting her stuff all just-rolled-out-of-bed style with her \$400 Sasquatch feet completing her look impeccably. Now, I know this is shallow, and it doesn't matter, and who knows, you probably think that dirty, saggy pajama pants look great with furry Uggs. Especially when paired with a stretched-out thong peeking over the top of those saggy pants and a dirty bra-strap hanging out on the left shoulder. What do I know? Maybe they look incredible and I'm the crazy one. But this is my blog, so I say what I want.

I just have to change the lyrics of the song: "U-g-g-l-y, you ain't got no alibi, you ugg-ly."

Got a blog you'd like to flog? Send your best stuff — around 900 words' worth — to [FlogYourBlog@SanDiegoReader.net](mailto:FlogYourBlog@SanDiegoReader.net). If we run your posts, we'll send you \$50.

**BOAT**, 1965 32' Cruizon Sportfisher, Fly-bridge, fiberglass over wood, single 1985 260hp Chevy Crusader V-8, 150-gallon tanks. Free to good home. Needs slip. 619-990-5075; 619-823-7094.

**COMPOUND BOW**. Virtually new. PSE Thunder-Flite, paid \$450, asking \$375/best. Fleece-lined canvas case, cable trigger release, forearm guard, Easton arrows, tip replacements, paper targets, \$75. 858-488-4803.

**GOLF CLUBS**, complete set, men's and ladies', left-handed and right-handed, includes putter and bag. \$35/each. 619-461-4805.

**KAYAK CLEARANCE**. All used demo and rental kayaks from the summer season

are now for sale. Cobra Explorers, XLs, Navigators, Strikes, Marauders, Fish 'n' Dives and Tandems. Prices from \$195 to \$899. Used two person kayaks include Ocean Kayak Malibu 2, Cobra Tandems, Double plus 1, Triple and Hobie Odyssey: prices from \$399 to \$799. Also, 6 sit-inside kayaks priced \$195 to \$395, and a large selection of new and used seats, paddles and life vests. San Diego Sailing Center, 1010 Santa Clara Place, Mission Bay. Phone 858-488-0651. For photos and pricing, visit [www.kayaksforsale.com](http://www.kayaksforsale.com).

**KAYAK FALL SPECIALS!** \$5 off any kayak rental or 25% off any accessory with this ad. Kayaks starting at \$299.

Allen's Kayaks 858-488-5599, [www.hikebikekayak.com](http://www.hikebikekayak.com).

**LT FOR MVP**. Wear your vote for San Diego's record breaking running back Ladanian Tomlinson! \$14.99. Visit [HTTP://WWW.LTFORMVP.COM](http://WWW.LTFORMVP.COM) for more information.

**PWC SINGLE TRAILER**, 1997 galvanized single jet ski trailer. Fully adjustable winch/bunk system. Tilt features allows you to load from the ground. \$550, 619-669-3634.

**SKIS, DYNASTAR CSS**, 203cm, Tyrolia 570 bindings, bag, poles, Nortica 581 boots, size 12, bag, almost new. Great giant slalom skis \$100/firm.

**SOFTBALL TEAM** needs an experienced, unlimited arc pitcher, shortstop, and fast outfielder. 619-295-0385.

**SOFTBALL TEAMS**. Sponsor needs a team. Men's slow pitch. 619-517-5791.

**SPORTING GOODS**. Deluxe dartboard, \$10. Aerobic exercise stepper, \$8. 2 sleeping bags, \$8. Large tent, \$10. Snow ski boots, \$7 pair. 760-522-8199.

**SURFBOARD PEARSON ARROW**, 7'2" semi-gun. Glassed fins, 10 5/8x18 1/2x12 7/8x2 3/8. White board/black skegs, semi-rounded pin tail, shaped by Rob Pearson, \$200 760-815-6988.

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Skateboards, wetsuits, boogie boards. New/used for sale. Play It Again Sports. Pacific Beach, 858-490-0222. Tierrasanta, 858-751-0338. College Area, 619-667-9499. [www.playitagainsd.com](http://www.playitagainsd.com).

**TENNIS LEAGUE**. Intermediate to advanced skill levels. Join the year round fun at the #1 League in San Diego. Leagues starting now. 858-794-1800; [www.tennisleague.com](http://www.tennisleague.com).

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sports leagues, fitness/dance classes and social events. Join over 15,000 members and see what is offered at: [www.govavi.com](http://www.govavi.com).

**WET SUITS**, 2 surfing, O'Neill, medium, shoulder zippers. Mares XL Farmer John dive suit with jacket. \$50/best for each. 858-292-9597.

## AUTOMOTIVE

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**WOMANS SNOWBOARD**, 152/boots size 8 \$125/both/best. Also Thule locking rack with wind deflector (fits most imports) \$175/best. Carlsbad area, 336-456-9683, 760-994-3319.

## PHOTO

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**DIGITAL & FILM SLR CLASS.** \$60/person. Sunday, January 28th, 8am-5pm. La Jolla Nelson Photo location, 7720 Fay Avenue. Reservations required. Call Frank, 858-729-6565. www.nelsonphotosupplies.com.

**MINOLTA**, maxmium 3000i with 28-70 zoom lens. Promaster FA 1000 flash brand new. New battery camera case \$125. Vivitar 135mm lens 49mm cap \$35. 619-542-1306.

**NIKON 35 PRIME LENS**, 1.8, 50mm zoom, 35 70 F2.8 Macro 1.6 lens self timer flash adapter, miscellaneous items one owner, perfect \$85. Pacific Beach 858-273-7211.

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**COMPUTER PRINTER**, scanner, fax, copier, all-in-one Hewlett Packard, nice condition, works great. Needs new ink jet cartridge \$39/best. 760-732-1315.

**LAPTOP BLOWOUT. FREE** Diagnostic. Laptops starting from \$298 for ACER, Dell, IBM, Toshiba and more. Laptop/projector rentals-\$25/\$75. 3 locations! Going fast, call now: 1-888-861-8347.

**MICRON**, complete Pentium system, color monitor, printer, scanner, mouse, keyboard, USB, cable/DSL ready, free internet, \$150. Laser printer, \$50. http://aocd.tripod.com or 858-273-2290.

**PENTIUM 4 SYSTEM** Windows XP/Office, \$235. 619-582-7183.

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**WANTED:** Brooks leather saddle (seat), Cinelli old-style drop handlebar, bike rack to accommodate tailgate or dock bumper ball hitch. 858-484-2253.

**TOP DOLLAR PAID!** Gold, diamonds, platinum, laptops, vintage music gear, DVDs, tools, plasma TVs, diamonds, watches, coins, rings. Free appraisal! 9am-7pm. 3439 University Avenue. 619-582-4068.

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**ANSTEAD'S AUCTION.** We buy antiques, collectibles, household furniture, appliances, TVs, home electronics, pianos. Prompt service. Local buyers. Licensed/bonded. Serving San Diego since 1971. 619-233-3148; 1-888-722-2002.

**COMICS.** 200+ Punisher, GI Joe, Fantastic 4, and X-Men. Related comics and Action Figures. \$70. 760-753-8726.

**WANTED:** Many old military medals are worth hundreds of dollars. I have \$3000 cash to spend. Other old military items also wanted, especially USMC. 619-280-8089.

## GARAGE SALES

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**SAN DIEGO.** Huge moving sale. Saturday, 12/23, 7am. Furniture, Christmas things, decorating items, kitchen items, French doors, plants. All must go. 4118 Middlesex Drive.

## APPLIANCES

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**REFRIGERATOR**, freezer. Washer/dryer, side-by-side stackable, dishwasher, under counter portable, microwave stand, stove. Energy savers, late models, can separate. \$720/all. 619-670-8356.

**SHOWER DOOR**, sturdy, heavy duty, \$10. 760-522-8199.

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**KENMORE**, Side by side refrigerator \$500. Kelvinator top freezer \$75. Tow dolly (car) \$600. Wood burning fireplace, \$200/best, 619-206-6051, 619-466-5993.

**OLD MAGNAVOX CONSOLE**, with build-in T.V. radio and record player \$125. 68" long 27 high 858-459-6179.

**SATELLITE TELEVISION**, DirecTV, free equipment, free 4 room installation, free HD or DVR receiver upgrade. Packages from \$29.99/month. Call 800-380-8939. (AAN CAN)

**TV, color, 27"**, remote, stereo, like new, excellent picture, \$99. 619-461-4805.

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**BED \$100 ABSOLUTE BARGAIN!** The Furniture Warehouse now open to the public. We sell warehouse direct. Come see our large showroom. We have over 70 sets in stock from \$89! 995 Bay Boulevard, Chula Vista, 91911. Open 11am-7pm daily. Closed Monday. Credit cards accepted. Legitimate warranties in writing! Fast delivery. 619-426-2727. www.furniturewarehouse.com.

**BED \$169 A BARGAIN.** A Ortho Pillowtop Queen, new in plastic with warranty, mattress/box. All sizes. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

**BED A DISCOUNT store.** Mattress World in Hillcrest sells new beds at warehouse pricing lower than regular stores. Student specials, fast delivery or pickup, national brands. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Mattress World, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. Check www.sandiegobeds.com or email to: info@davisworld.com. Call: 619-260-8000.

**BED FRAME**, metal. Fits different size beds. Can be easily taken apart to be transported in a car. \$20. 858-277-3065.

**BEDROOM CLEARANCE 6-PIECE SET.** \$599. Brand new, still in boxes, solid wood bed, espresso color. Must move! Can deliver. 619-250-1446.

**BEDROOM SET**, 5 piece, Scandinavian, cherrywood, queen-size bed frame, 2 nightstands, 9-drawer dresser, and armoire, excellent condition, \$900. 858-535-1456.

**COMPUTER DESK**, light oak, rollout, like new, antique-style drawer pulls, shiny brass. Sells for \$1047.50 to \$749 new.

Asking \$395. Gently used, annee@yaho.com or 619-414-7723.

**CONCRETE PATIO TABLE**, seats 6, high grade, your choice of tile installed, all weather. \$300. Credit cards accepted. 760-250-7055.

**DINETTE**, bamboo/rattan, 4 chairs, new upholstery, \$375. Antiques: Mahogany china cabinet, \$595. Mahogany vanity/desk, \$295. Mirror, \$55. Mahogany dropleaf clawfoot desk, \$375. 760-729-6571.

**DRESSER**, wood, \$45. Recliner, \$45. Padded adjustable office chair, like new, \$20. 760-230-2902.

**ENTERTAINMENT CENTER.** Wood, 5'10" Lx5.4'x1.6'D, open, adjustable, assemblable \$80. Head/Wall board, side-pier cabinets, upper lower bar, built-in lamps, 10'Lx5'H, assemblable \$270. 858-688-2136.

**FURNITURE A DISCOUNT** Factory Direct store. Lowest prices. Order from manufacturers' catalogues and save. Solid cherry, maple, oak or pine, American made Vermont craftsmanship or imported. San Diego's best home furnishings source since 1960. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Al Davis Furniture, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. Check www.davisworld.com or email to info@davisworld.com. Call 619-296-1221.

**HUTCH/CHINA CABINET**, beautiful and rustic natural oak, excellent condition, purchased at Pacific Beach Home and Garden store on Garnet for \$550, asking \$250. 858-775-7201.

**MATCHING 4-PIECE** Settee and chairs. \$395/best. Beautiful curved backs, square wooden legs/metal ends/wheels. Settee and armed side chair-good shape. 619-283-9600.

**MATTRESS A DISCOUNT** store-Mattress World in Hillcrest sells new beds at warehouse pricing lower than regular stores. Student specials, legitimate warranties, fast delivery or pickup, name brands. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Authorized Sealy, Simmons, Spring Air, Aireloom dealer. Also Latex, chemical-free and Swedish style Visco-Memory! Mattress World, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. Check: www.sandiegobeds.com or email to: info@davisworld.com. Call: 619-260-8000.

**MATTRESS A BABY-SOFT QUEEN** \$145. Pillow top mattress set. Brand new, in plastic. Must move! Can deliver. 619-808-8205.

**MATTRESS BOX PILLOWTOP SET.** New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. Call 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

**MOVING**, 5 piece dinette, fridge \$75/each. 4 station universal gym \$150. Yamaha keyboard \$50. Best offer on all items. 619-422-7553.

**OK BEDROOM SET**, traditional. Full-size bed with mattress. 9-drawer dresser/mirror. Perfect condition/possible small

scratch. Can show photo through email \$550/best. 619-938-2075.

**PATIO FURNITURE**, table with umbrella, 42" round glass top, very good condition, \$75. 858-274-6350.

**TALL WICKER CHAIR**, \$25. Upright vacuum cleaner \$15. 858-458-4333.

## MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

**:2600 MIX OF**, Football, basketball and hockey cards \$100, 619-938-2075.

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**ARCADE GAME**, collection, Galaga, Ms Pacman, Operation Wolf, Super Cobra, Asteroids, Pong, Arabian and Commando. Can separate or all \$3500. Please leave message. 619-461-2643.

**BEDS A PILLOWTOP MATTRESS** Box Set. New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

**COAT**, cashmere, light gray, 42, \$30. China set, white porcelain, \$30. Wet suit, 1/4", tall, 140lbs., \$30. Badminton racket, Wilson titanium, \$25. 619-262-4681.

**FIGURE SKATES**, men's 11-2/3. Leather jacket ladies large. Derby hat. Movie memorabilia. Various magazines. Microwave oven large. Aluminum walker. Crockpot. Grocery cart. 619-420-1028.

**FILE CABINETS (5)**, Letter size, vertical, 5 drawer, heavy duty, commercial grade. All very good condition \$35/each. Can deliver. Near Downtown San Diego, ronluc@hotmail.com, 619-235-4672.

**FLAG POLE**, white, 21'H, 2-3/8" diameter, galvanized, new with all accessories, accept flag, \$230 installed. Steve, 858-279-0492.

**GOBLET**, giant clear glass goblet shaped bowl, 11-1/2H, 9-1/2D, use to float flowers on water, sand painting, fill with sea shells or pretty rocks \$20. 619-562-0152.

**GRANDFATHER CLOCK.** Howard Milleroak grandfather clock with Westminster Chimes and moon time. Excellent visual and working condition. Will make a perfect gift \$600. 858-592-0746.

**JEWELRY BOX**, wood, 8 drawers, 13"Wx12"Hx8"D. \$40. 619-296-7125.

**JVC SVHS VCR**, HRS8000OU, remote manual \$100. Canton speakers, 40hm, small, German made, \$50. 8 foot light fixture for 4 tubes \$25. Cordless phones \$5. 8am-9pm 619-291-0830.

**METAL DETECTOR**, \$45/Overhead projector, \$45. Makita 12V drill kit, \$55. Vacuum, Kirby, all attachments, shampooer, self-propelled, \$250. Sears router, \$55. Leather jacket, \$45. 619-449-8069.

**MINERAL COLLECTION**, cabs, slabs, cutting rough, crystals. Knife collection, old Kershaws, Shrade IXLs, Henckels, others. Maui Jim sunglasses, like new, very high quality, \$60. 619-260-8482.

**MISCELLANEOUS.** Schwinn mountain/road bike, tall frame, 12 speed, unique. New beach cruiser, balloon tires, large seat, pedal brake. Filing cabinets, 2 drawers. 619-298-8942.

**MOVING SALE.** Aquarium stand, refrigerator, washer/dryer, dishwasher, freezer, microwave, TVs/stands, stereo, beds,

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**FREE Oil Change** with tune-up  
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**Clutch Premium** Parts & Labor from \$195  
Front-wheel drive extra. 12,000-mile warranty.

**Smog Check \$15<sup>75</sup>**  
+\$8.25 certificate +\$2 ET. Most cars. Bring DMV notice. Vans, SUVs, RVs, trucks, V8 extra.

Must present coupon at time of service. Not to be combined with any other offer. Expires 1/11/07.

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**AER LINGUS WAS MY NEW FAVORITE AIRLINE.** Mostly because its name sounded like a romantic euphemism for something dirty. But, also because my flight from Dublin, Ireland, to Edinburgh, Scotland, cost me only 30 pounds sterling.

I'm not sure what that was in Euros, but it was about 66 bucks American when I was over there. Since I hadn't figured out the exchange rates and was drunk most of the time, I had at least that much in loose change cling-a-linging around in my carry-on luggage. I wondered how they could offer flights at such a bargain price, and in my paranoid traveler's mind, I figured they cut maintenance costs on their planes.

"Please, take your seats, we'll be departing shortly," a lilting Irish voice requested over the intercom. The Hyundai-sized seat groaned when I set my Cadillac ass in it. European plane seats are much smaller than American.

I'd traveled around Europe for a couple months, and I never got used to the smaller, flimsier construction of things — taxi cabs I sat crooked in because of the low roof; narrow doorframes I turned sideways to get through. In Hungary, I popped a tiny faucet — spigot, knobs, and all — out of a Lilliputian sink, trying to adjust the hot water.

Squeezed between the aluminum armrests on my Aer Lingus flight, I noticed the itty bitty TV in the back of the seat in front of me. The flight's only an hour, and I checked the pamphlet of scheduled broadcasts and read the lineup of entertainment. Channel 1: *The Simpsons*. Channel 2: *Absolutely Fabulous*. Channel 3: *The EastEnders*.

"Your Captain today is Maureen Kelly. She's assisted by her co-pilot, Moira O'Hare. We'll be taking off directly, please fasten your seatbelts properly," the gorgeous Irish voice sang.

This may disappoint some of you. I know some of my readers are religious people. But, I am not. Like a great many Italian Catholics, my faith had lapsed, and I'd embraced a secular outlook on life.

But when I heard those words: "Your Captain...SHE...by HER..." I said to myself, "Well, let's give this prayer thing a shot."

My too-large fingertip couldn't push the buttons to change channels on the miniature TV in front of me. For an hour, I sat in a tiny, creaking seat at 30,000 feet over the North Channel, watching *Absolutely Fabulous* and whispering, "Hail Mary, full of grace..."

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

THE VIEW

ABC 10:00 A.M.

If I were Renée Zelweger and Donald Trump was Tom Cruise, I would trot across the living room, jump into his arms, and pepper him with kisses while saying, "You had me when you called Rosie O'Donnell fat and ugly. You had me when you called Rosie O'Donnell fat and ugly."

ANDERSON COOPER 360

CNN 7:00 P.M.

After the elections in November, I thought, *There's nothing that can stop us now! We're tak-*

*ing the White House in 2008!* Then the Democrats announced that their leading candidates are a woman and a black guy. I'm not usually one for sports metaphor, but every athletic cliché I knew came spilling out of my head right then. "What? No! Fumble! It's not time to swing for the fences and try for a grand slam; it's time to lay up, get it out of the sand, and back on the green!"

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND

CW 7:30 P.M.

Someday I'm going to shoot Ray Romano in

the ass with a bb gun. Not enough to hurt him, only enough to be a stinging inconvenience. Much like his career has been to me.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

BOB ESPONJA

XEW 8:30 A.M.

A quick online translation reveals that the literal translation of "Bob Esponja" is "Bob It Puffs Up." Digging around the translation website again, I find that "butt" translates to "extremo." With that, I've found the motivational nickname for my rear-end that's going to get me back in the gym on January 1. "Ollie: Extremo Esponja!" becomes "Ollie: Butt, It Puffs Up!"

WHY I WORE LIPSTICK TO MY MASTECTOMY

LIFETIME 7:00 P.M.

Probably the same reason I wore a diamond tennis bracelet to my vasectomy. Although, I gotta tell ya, sister, it wasn't on my wrist!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

A GIRL LIKE ME: THE GWEN ARAUJO STORY

LIFETIME 7:00 P.M.

THE FANTASIA BARRINO STORY:

LIFE IS NOT A FAIRY TALE

LIFETIME 9:00 P.M.

I'm going to start a guy's network, like the anti-Lifetime, so I can have a movie made about me that has a title like these two shows. *Anthony Olivieri: The Story of One Fat, Tattooed, Drunkard Tackled to the Floor by a Deaf Hooker in a Bangkok Strip Club.* (Based on actual events.)

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

HEROES

NBC 8:00 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M.

A *Heroes* marathon? Seriously, it's the bus to Dorkville, and I just can't get there fast enough.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

BOXING — 1975: ALI VS. WEPNER

ESPN 7:30 P.M.



Heroes

You know professional fighters choose intimidating nicknames to scare their opponents, like "The Boogeyman" or "Rampage" or "Psycho Killer." I've chosen my fight name based on a real-world occurrence: "Ollie the Greasy Mattress Laying in an Alley, Because, Woof! You Don't Know Where That Thing's Been." A friend of mine has chosen his name using reverse psychology. He's trying to lull his opponents into overconfidence with the moniker, "Edward the Aromatherapist."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

TOP CHEF

BRAVO 8:00 P.M.

M\*A\*S\*H

TVLAND 8:00 P.M.

I'd like to mix the show *Top Chef* with *M\*A\*S\*H* so I could hear Colonel Potter yell, "Damn it, Klinger, this is a hospital not a fancy restaurant!" and Hawkeye Pierce can quit complaining about the food and get back to making out with the hot lady nurses. Oh, my.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

SCRAPBOOKING

HSN 9:00 P.M.

In the coming revolution, when the power grid has fallen and global warming threatens to spread the next age of ice, your scrapbooks will come in handy as kindling. Keep scrapbooking my portly middle-aged lovelies. Keep scrapbooking.

daybed, dressers, recliner, coffee/end, dining table/chairs, vacuum, bikes. 619-670-7821.

**MUST SELL ASAP!** Moving. Beautiful hot dog stand, working burners, plenty storage, running hot/cold water, refrigerator/ice chest. Mobile with hitch, \$3500/all offers! 619-922-2192.

**PICTURE/ART FRAMES**, wood, large, 6 for \$10. Large wood frame with glass, \$15. 760-522-8199.

**PLANT SALE**, 5 gallon avocado, pomegranate \$15-\$20. 1 gallon boysenberry \$3. El Cajon 619-447-4117.

**RIDING BOOTS**, Treadstone front zip, plain black jodhpur, full grain dry milled leather, leather lined, side elastics, Neolite rubber soles, used by girl for 1 month, nearly new, size 8, cost \$90, asking \$60. Encinitas, 619-890-9600.

**ROLLERBLADES**, size 7/8DX, complete with protective gear, like new, \$20. Desk, 2 drawer, 4'x2'. Umbrellas with stand. Spare wheels, 4 lug, T105/70R14, T115/70D14, \$12 each. La Jolla, 858-454-1422.

**RUGS WANTED**, old Persian and oriental rugs, any size, any condition, for cash. 760-730-8940, 760-473-9600.

**SUNGLASSES**, French designer's, Chopard, UVA and B lenses, unused, originally \$499, now \$199/best. Two beautiful handmade silk Chinese decorative pillows, unused, each \$59/best. 858-792-5380.

**WORMS**, Redworm, nature's fertilizer, 1 bucket \$40. Guarantee 1000+ worms. Lisa 619-449-7875.

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**HARLEY DAVIDSON FXDL**, 2003, 100th Anniversary, silver and black, low miles, super clean. \$12,700. Vin-303301. A Plus Rentals, 760-250-7055.

**HARLEY PAN HEADS**, 1950, \$300. 1970s 4 speed close ratio \$900, 760-941-9371.

**HONDA SCOOTER**, 250 Elite, parts only. Crashed, but engine/transmission excellent. Wheels/tires/headlight, instruments,

seat, fuel tank, ignition, other parts all good. \$475. 858-300-6081.

**VESPA** 150 moped/scooter, 150cc, 4 stroke (no mixing oil and gas), will go 60+mph, gets 80mpg, low profile tires, 3-year warranty, blue, \$1350. 858-568-0051.

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San Diego Reader December 28, 2006 173



**CHEVY MALIBU LS**, 2000, 4 door, clean, runs great, 6 cylinder, automatic, electric windows and locks, keyless entry, silver, spoiler, good looking car. \$4800. 619-667-5262.

**FORD MUSTANG GT**, 1998, well maintained, clean inside and out, teal/green, V-8, automatic transmission, 130K miles, power everything, rebuilt transmission, \$5000. Home, 760-761-0711; 760-274-5325.

**FORD MUSTANG**, 1995, 5.0 liter, white hard top, excellent condition, many new parts, but has not been modified, must see, \$4000. Tim, 858-270-0636, or 850-346-4543.

**HONDA CIVIC**, DX 1997, red, 5-speed, 117,000 miles, Pioneer CD. Good condition. Great mileage \$3900. 619-271-9540.

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**LINCOLN MARK**, 8 LSC 1995, damage to left side. All else excellent \$2000. Call 858-538-3347.

**MAZDA 626 LX**, 1997, 4-door sedan, great commuter car, reliable, great gas mileage, 138K miles, clean, non-smoker, runs great, recently serviced, \$2500. 760-215-0402.

**MAZDA MIATA**, 1995, Red, alarm, 88,000 miles, 5 speed, \$3500/best, 619-886-8598.

**MERCEDES BENZ**, 2001, S500. Silver interior, Silver exterior. Also, extra set of 4, 20" wheels with brand new tires, \$30,000/best. Serious buyer only. 619-793-6461.

**MERCEDES-BENZ**, 1973, convertible, smog unnecessary, new top, needs tune up, \$3500. 1953 MGTD. 1967 Cadillac, 51K, \$19,500. Diesel pickup, lift gate, \$4450. 858-663-3399.

**NISSAN MAXIMA GLE**, 2001, automatic, air conditioning, leather, loaded, original owner, 94K miles, always garaged, excellent condition, asking \$9950/best. 619-589-9002.

**PONTIAC GRAND AM GT**, 1999, white, V-6, all power, automatic, air conditioning, AM/FM, CD stereo, cruise, power sunroof, aluminum wheels, new brakes, \$5750. 619-227-9535.

**PORSCHE BOXTER**, 1999, 75K miles, owned for 2-1/2 years, great car in good condition, pastel yellow, must sell soon, new car arriving soon, \$14,500. 619-778-3079.

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**SAAB**, 1990, convertible 900 turbo, 5 speed transmission, white, tan leather interior. New top rear window, tires, shocks, brakes. Mint condition, low mileage. \$3650/best, 760-310-2559.

**TOYOTA CAMRY LE**, 1994, 2-door coupe, great car, killer stereo, sunroof, electric windows/locks, automatic transmission, 4 cylinder, good gas mileage, 125K miles. \$3500. 619-667-5262.

**TOYOTA CAMRY**, 1998, good condition, beige exterior/interior, 144K miles, 4 cylinder, 2.2 liter, automatic,

4-wheel drive, air conditioning, tilt, air bags, \$3990. 760-580-3548.

**TOYOTA COROLLA WAGON**, 1989. \$1500/firm. Automatic, four cylinder 170,000 miles, smogged and registered this month. Works great mechanically, excellent interior and exterior. New brakes, 619-865-3744.

**VOLVO S80T PREMIER**, 2004. Safety your priority, this is the car for you. Too many features to mention. 13,000 miles. Ash Gold Metallic, \$30,500, 760-505-5278.

**VW GOLF**, 2001, 1 owner, loaded, GLS with power moonroof and zips past gas stations, 5 speed, 2.0 4 cylinder, always serviced, \$6450. 858-945-6102.

**VW SUPERBEETLE**, 1979, convertible, nice body, top, interior, runs well, 32,500 miles on rebuilt motor, new alternator, Jensen MP3 player, American Racing rims, \$4500. 619-445-6319.

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**CHEVY CARGO VAN 2500**, 2003, white, chrome wheels, new tires, air conditioning, AM/FM stereo, CD, power windows/locks, 83K miles. Excellent condition. It's a beauty! \$12,000/firm. 619-670-5734.

**DODGE**, 1980, 1/2 ton, \$699. Longbed 318 auto. GMC 1973 3/4 ton. New motor, tires, 4 core radiator, bucket seats, \$3200. 350/400 horses! 619-660-8491.

**FIFTH WHEEL TRAILER**, 1984, must sell ASAP. \$1250. 619-606-0217.

**FORD EXPEDITION**, 1999, well maintained, power everything, keyless entry, 3rd row, tow package, overhead 7" video screen, 9" RCD lift, 35" tires, Borla, \$9999. 858-699-3895.

**HONDA ODYSSEY**, 2000 van, loaded. New tires, no accidents, 98,000 miles. Excellent condition. Asking \$9750/best, 619-933-5874 or 619-741-4840.

**JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO**, 2002, 2-wheel drive, dark blue on black leather, original owner, 6 cylinder, automatic, air conditioning, loaded, CD, alarm, remote, \$10,995. 760-271-3065.

**MITSUBISHI MIGHTY MAX**, Pickup 1991. 4 cylinder, fuel injection 5



AUTOMOTIVE

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will throw in pair Recaro seats, \$2000. 619-280-4651.

**BMW 330ci**, 2002, black, automatic, 61K miles, M3 wheels, great condition, 100K warranty, 235hp, everything except navigation, \$21,000. eldirectorJJ@netscape.net or 858-472-0499.

**BUICK CENTURY**, 1995, auto, 110,000 miles, white exterior/burgundy interior, runs good, new major tune up. \$1800/best. Call 619-204-6883.

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# T.G.I.F.

“Hey, dog, you gotta move, homey. You’re scratchin’ yer head like you got lice or scabies or somethin’.”

By John Brizzolara

A few more revolutions of this ball of rock and all of us happy water molecule coincidences can introduce ethanol molecules into our organisms and party like it’s 1999, or if you prefer, boogey ooegey ooegey ‘til we just can’t boogie no mo’. I will be cowering indoors.

That New Year’s Eve falls this year on a Sunday night, the Friday-night factor should be more pronounced than usual, charged with more than just a three-day weekend factor but in a particularly apocalyptic, biblical atmosphere, not only overseas but also, say, on the #2 bus.

A friend of mine, a local celebrity of sorts, Buddy Pastel, Jr., a drummer and son of an even more famous cult figure of a drummer, whose real name is Owen, is a kind of barometer of the Apocalypse, commenting here and there, “It’s a sign,” meaning a sign of the end. When Arnold became governor and I asked Buddy if it was a sign, he only said, “Please.” It was so obvious. But I think he would agree with me that what passes for socially acceptable behavior in public is indeed a true sign that we are approaching those passages in Revelation where we find “the great harlot,” and “the Word of God” is “clothed in a robe dipped in blood” and we “behold a white horse.”

A young man recently, while riding the #2, leaned forward in his seat and spoke to me, “Hey, dog,” was his salutation. “You gotta move, homey. You’re scratchin’ yer head like you got lice or scabies or somethin’. I don’t want ‘em on me.”

Plenty of seats were available, and he had sat down well after I had been seated. “My name isn’t dog,” I told him. “Or homey.”

“Well what is it?”

I told him, and his response was to ask if I were going to relocate my head parasites.

I did not inform him it was some sort of dermatitis, not because it was gross but because it was far from being gross enough. “Actually, it’s a festering syphilitic lesion. I don’t think it’s contagious unless you yourself have an open wound and I get some blood or pus on ya.”

“That’s sick, John.”

“Thank you.”

“Jeez, what is it again?”

I told him. “All right,” he said and sat back smiling into his T-shirt that read: “Fuck milk Got pot?”

I rode the rest of the way down 30th Street reading *Jurgen*, by James Branch Cabell. It was considered “offensive, lewd, lascivious, and indecent” when it first appeared a little less than 100 years ago, but I scanned pages in vain for evidence as to why. I wondered if it too, in its time, had been considered a sign of the Apocalypse.

On page 133 of the Dover edition, I did find the word “naked,” but the surrounding prose was so colorfully inscrutable, it might have been written by the fasting mystic author of Revelation:

“Now the hooded man and the two naked girls performed their share in the ceremonial, which part it is not essential to record.

“None the less,” *Jurgen* said: ‘O cord that binds the circling of stars! O cup which holds all time, all colour and all thought! O soul of space!...’”

A few lines down I found what might have been a sign of an apocalypse: “Therefore by every plant which scatters its seed and by the moist warm garden which receives and nourishes it, by the comminglement of bloodshed with pleasure, by the joy that mimics anguish with sighs and shuddering, and by the contentment which mimics death — by all these do we invoke thee...”

I got off the #2 at University and thought about a cigarette. It was and is everywhere. Clearly Satanic. I don’t need a building to fall on my head, nor do I need to read on to find out Cabell is not talking about Satan at all. We’re just doomed. Period.

I am writing this sometime before the ball drops at Times Square (where, I’m thinking, it would be a good place to revel with naked abandon until the end. No, no, cowering is the best bet). Say at the corner of Eighth and 42nd, that northeast corner where — there used to be anyway — just down the subway station stairs, a malevolent looking animatronic gypsy told (maybe still



tells?) fortunes for a quarter behind a glass and wooden case. I once saw a deranged homeless man talking to God through the gypsy, who would answer him cryptically, saying things like, “This too shall pass,” and “All in good time.” It was an early sign, about 1972.

I haven’t seen Buddy for a few months now. He lives in an old tuna cannery off Midway Drive somewhere and builds insanely beautiful guitars he never seems to want to sell. He lives alone and quietly collects evidence of conspiracy in the JFK assassination and signs of the Apocalypse. The last I heard of him, he was composing a manifesto for the New Libertarian, little more than a diatribe, I’m told, against obscenity in popular music and tips on low-tech, urban farming, all to be tapped out in Morse code during a drum solo in *Caravan* during performances of Jose Sinatra and the Troy Dante Inferno, his long-time musical aggregation.

I should try to reach him or possibly other members of the band, but certainly any one of them would take evidence of my survival recently as a sign of, you know.

Happy New Year.

speed. Runs good, FM CD player, \$1500/best. 619-368-4490.

**NISSAN FRONTIER**, 2005 king cab pickup, gray, 6 cylinder, 2-wheel drive, 6-speed manual, air conditioning, radio/CD, alloys, power locks/windows, 24K miles, \$15,900. 858-218-4844.

**TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5**, 1999, silver, automatic, 93K miles, power doors/windows, sunroof, moonroof, tow package, privacy glass, running boards, very clean, excellent condition, \$11,750. 760-521-5343.

**TOYOTA 4RUNNER**, 1990, \$2199, 4-wheel drive. Clean and nice looking, 21,000 miles on new motor, has blown head gasket. Trades? Need pickup, 619-466-2403.

**TOYOTA TACOMA**, 1998, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, air conditioning, only 65K miles, regular cab, white, with bed liner, anti-theft, custom cover, excellent, economical, \$5700. 858-581-6223.

**TOYOTA TACOMA PRE-RUNNER**, 1998, clean, 5 speed, 4 cylinder, 2.4 liter, good on gas, great power, 150K highway miles, Fabtech lift kit, excellent, \$7400. 619-398-6005.

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**FLEETWOOD FLAIR 25Y**, 2000, Chevy 454 Vortec V-8 engine, heat, air conditioning, kitchen, full bed, bathroom, solar panel, satellite dish, DVD/VCR, \$33,000. 858-571-1417.

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### Examples of our work\*

Blood alcohol level:  
.12 **NOT GUILTY**  
.13 **NOT GUILTY**  
.15 **NOT GUILTY**  
.16 **NOT GUILTY**  
.16 **OVERTURNED DMV SUSPENSION**  
.17 **OVERTURNED DMV SUSPENSION**  
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