

SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

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Reader



The Fall of King Eucalyptus

Balboa Park Plans for the Future

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White boy reggae is over and done with. See Blurt

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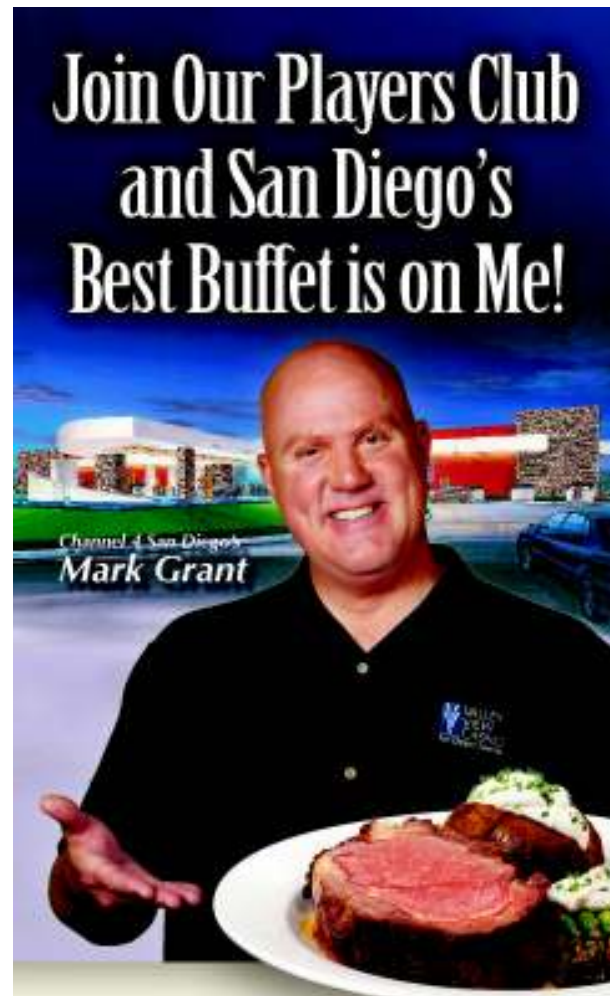
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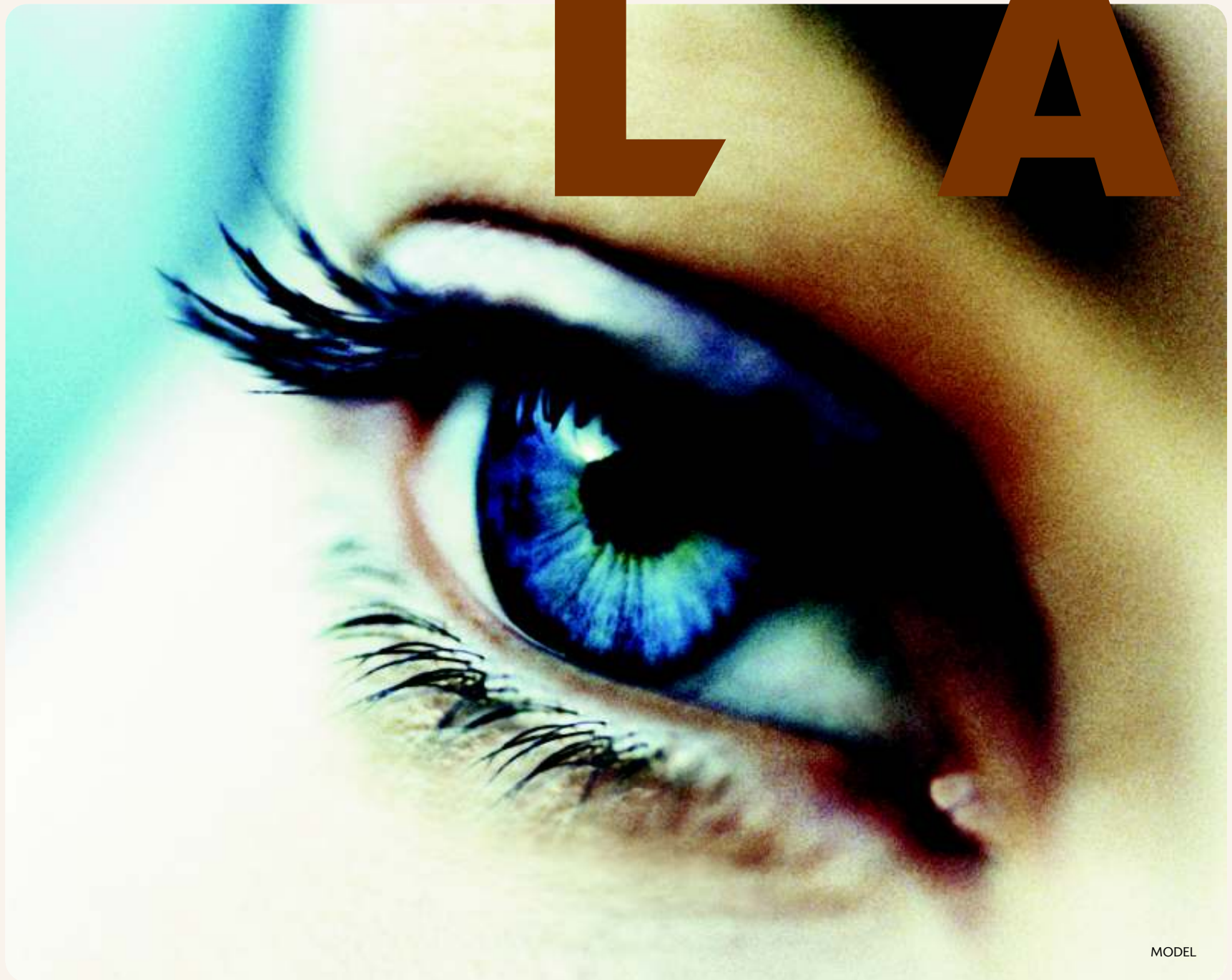
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"I always hated photos because of the glare in my glasses. But worse, I couldn't get out of bed or see the clock because my sight was 20/400 with astigmatism in both eyes."

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."



Actual patient

– Michelle Stewart, San Diego

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"I'm definitely the fearful type...so I talked to lots of people who did the procedure. My friends who did it said it was safe, and it was. Now I wish I hadn't waited so long."

– Mischa Shirazi, San Diego, CA

Q: Is the surgery painful or difficult?

"I had no pain during the procedure and no discomfort or pain afterward. Best of all, I can see without my glasses or contacts. It feels great."

– Greg Schwenk, San Diego, CA

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

"When I came out of the surgery room I could see the hands of the clock – I was doing normal things the next day...amazing immediate results!"

– Glenna T. Casey, Chula Vista, CA

Q: How long does the process take?

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– T.P. Fortin, San Diego, CA

Q: Do the effects of LASIK wear off over time?

"I had the surgery done over 8 years ago and my sight is still a perfect 20/20."

– Sandra Macias, San Diego, CA

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– Darush Mohyi, M.D., La Jolla, CA



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Sunroad to perdition Early last summer, as the battle over the Sunroad Enterprises office tower near Montgomery Field was taking shape at city hall, another potentially high-stakes contest was unfolding a few blocks away at the federal courthouse. On June 26, Sunroad Holding Corporation, one of the many Sunroad companies controlled by La Jolla's **Aaron Feldman**, filed suit against the Internal Revenue Service. That was just one week after the Federal Aviation Administration told San Diego city planners that Sunroad's 180-foot building was 20 feet too tall.

By then Feldman's lawyers and lobbyists had already swung into action, working to persuade the office of Mayor **Jerry Sanders** to ignore the federal government's qualms and allow the office project to proceed. Meanwhile, another of Feldman's lawyers was handling the IRS matter. His name was **Mitchell Dubick**, of the firm Higgs, Fletcher & Mack, and his wife is **Julie Dubick**, the mayor's "director of policy."

Appointed by Sanders early last year at a salary of \$115,000, Julie Dubick, an attorney like her husband, previously worked at Seltzer Caplan McMahon, one of downtown's most prosperous law and lobbying firms. A longtime La Jolla insider who ran unsuccessfully for school board as a staunch backer of then-superintendent **Alan Bersin**, Dubick's role in the Sanders administration is said to be high-level and far-reaching.

On its face, the action that Mitchell Dubick filed was simply an effort to acquire records, requested under the federal Freedom of Information Act, of the corporation's tax audit. But court papers filed by the feds made it sound like something more sinister was going on. According to its complaint, Sunroad Holding had previously asked the government "for records of the Internal Revenue Service relating to the examination file for the Form 1120 of the Plaintiff for the tax period ending September 30, 2003." The IRS had refused.

In an August 2006 response to Sunroad's suit, government attorneys argued that the material was exempt from disclosure under the federal Freedom of Information Act because, according to one citation, the records might "disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions [that] could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law."

Last November, the parties agreed that Sunroad would drop its complaint against the IRS "with prejudice"—meaning it cannot be refiled—and that both Sunroad and the government would "bear their own costs and attorneys fees." Federal judge **Irma E. Gonzalez** approved the dismissal on November 17.

Neither the Justice Department nor the IRS will comment on the matter. But Mitchell Dubick's involvement with Feldman seems certain to add to the controversy about the mayor's role in allow-

ing construction on Sunroad's office tower to proceed in the face of FAA opposition. Julie Dubick disclosed her husband's employment at Higgs, Fletcher on the personal statement of economic interests she filed last month; according to that document, Mitchell Dubick earned more than \$100,000 from the firm.

Reached at his law office late last week, Mitchell Dubick declined to go into details about the Sunroad case but said there was no connection between the Sunroad office project and the legal work he did for Sunroad Holding. "I am a tax lawyer," he said. He denied his work had created any sort of conflict of interest for his wife. "It was totally unrelated. They are miles and miles apart. It had nothing to do with what you see in the paper these days."

All Gaul With Mayor **Jerry Sanders** mired in all manner of controversy, from Sunroad's office tower to his draconian cutbacks of public services, keeping a "protocol officer" on the payroll might seem superfluous, but apparently somebody's got to do it. And that happens to be **Lynn Renee Hajar**, who

once worked for the city-subsidized World Trade Center as a trade research specialist. Hajar, a 1998 graduate of the University of San Diego who got a master of science degree from the school's "Global Leadership" program last year, may be better qualified for the gig than

Mission Bay hotel mogul **Anne Evans** and **Jeanne K. Lawrence**, ex-wife of now-deceased Del Coronado hotel owner **M. Larry Lawrence**. That wealthy pair established the office for Mayor **Maureen O'Connor** and served together as "chiefs of protocol" back in 1989. They were assisted by O'Connor's "director of protocol," **Cheryl Ayers**, a former PR woman for Mission Valley's Neiman Marcus department store.

O'Connor's people were kept busy shuttling international visitors around town during her Russian Arts Festival, during which the late **Malcolm Forbes** personally flew in a sampling of his bejeweled Fabergé eggs to regale the masses. Hajar's duties, to judge by a recently filed statement of economic interests, are a bit more plebian. Instead of hobnobbing with billionaire New York magazine publishers, Hajar has been supping thanks to the *San Diego Business Journal*, which paid for her to go to three events last June, September, and October, worth a total of \$205. The Fleet Week Foundation paid \$135 for her ticket to a Star Salute Gala in September. She was a guest of the "San Diego Military Affairs Council" at one breakfast and two lunches, worth a total of \$80. Hutchens PR anted up a \$150 ticket to a Flag Officers Gala, and the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau gave her a \$130 freebie to attend a gala for outgoing honcho **Reint Reinders**. Hajar's biggest international moment came last November, when the French Navy treated her to a shipboard reception valued at \$70.

— 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.



Julie Dubick



Lynn Renee Hajar



Alan Bersin

A Confession That Wasn't

By Don Bauder

Whenever Mayor Jerry Sanders tries to pull a rabbit out of a hat, he comes up with a skunk. Or a rat. The mayor's confession

last week that he and his aides erred in letting Sunroad Enterprises construct a building that defies airport safety regulations

ers, there has to be a thorough Sunroad investigation now, while the public is aware of the corrupt, incestuous relationship between developers and City politicians and bureaucrats.

Laughably, Sanders



Jerry Sanders photo illustration

should stir San Diegans to action: if the city is ever going to be run for the people and not for real estate develop-

says he wants his chief operating officer, Ronne Froman, to lead an investigation into the Sunroad incident. "That's like asking the fox to investigate the murder in the chicken coop," says Gerald Blank, attorney for the Community Airfields Association of San Diego.

"Ronne Froman is Jim Waring's boss," says Rick Beach, president of the asso-

ciation. Waring, a former lawyer for trusts of the late Las Vegas gangster Morris (Moe) Dalitz, is Sanders's real estate czar. Waring made the decisions permitting Sunroad to go ahead with the building in defiance of Federal Aviation Administration and California Department of Transportation rules.

Initially, Sanders said he wanted Froman's purported investigation to last one or two weeks — clearly a quickie burial with Froman wielding the shovel. On Friday, he revised that to "a number of weeks" — still suspiciously short. The purported probe will not attempt to fix any blame. Ha.

Fortunately, "The city attorney's office will conduct its own independent investigation, but we're happy to work with whomever the mayor designates," says Mike Aguirre, city attorney. I asked him if his investigation would include the police chief's refusal to carry out a search warrant on Sunroad vice president of development Tom Story, the role of District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis in that sorry episode, and other matters, such as Dumanis's sending a letter to Superior Court judge Michael Wellington the day before

continued on page 8

Bauder Talks!

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Neal Obermeyer



Water Man: Down, Then Out

By John Brizzolara

David Ross, known as “the Water Man,” was doing what he does every day in the ghetto, sometimes twice a day, and that is distributing water, purchased at his own cost, to the homeless — the marginalized to the point of exile — when an angry exchange at 18th and Commercial streets turned violent.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 4, beneath the Commercial Street overpass, Ross was producing bottles of water from an ice chest in his trunk for those settling into spots to pass the night in the heart of skid row. Ross, a former case manager for Saint Vincent de Paul’s, now unaffiliated with any charity, has been doing this for over 15 months in the downtown and East Village areas. On this

day morning, his forearm from elbow to wrist in a cast-like bandage. “They were both probably in their 40s. The woman who ultimately assaulted me was probably 250 pounds and very muscular looking. The other woman was black and very large also. The woman who assaulted me was white with kind of rusty-colored hair. The white girl was clearly the aggressor, and I don’t know what preceded my getting there, but things were accelerating. ‘You fat nigger bitch!’ the one woman was screaming. A man with the black woman objected and said something like, ‘You can’t say

screaming obscenities and ‘nigger’ this and that. Now, there were more black faces under that bridge, as I recall, than white.

“Two or three times I got them calmed down. It was easier to calm down the black girl because she was not that aggressive. She was okay with letting it go, whatever it was. I remember now the white woman saying repeatedly, ‘I’m going to Mexico, you fat fuck’ and ‘If I don’t kill you tonight, I’ll come back here with some homeys who will kill you.’ She kept saying, ‘I’m going to kill you’ all through the whole deal. I don’t remember the black girl saying much.”

Ross’s memory of the event is gradually returning to him. When he speaks, it is slowly, unsteadily. He had been put on a morphine drip at Scripps Mercy but refused any further pain medication. The agony in his chest and right forearm was coming back with his memory.

“They began slapping at each other again, and the third

down there.”

Ross does have a history of getting involved down there, though he does not seek out trouble. This past Thanksgiving I accompanied Ross to Tijuana for dental reconstruction after another psychosocially dysfunctional character shoved four of Ross’s teeth into his gums on their way out of his mouth for good — Ross taking the blow meant for another woman on the street between Island and J.

Back at 18th and Commercial, “The white lady pinned the black woman to the concrete at the base of the overpass. Then I saw something in her hand. I remember thinking it might have been a hairbrush or something — it was kind of glistening. She was attempting to hit the woman with this object. She had the upper hand in the struggle, and she was chopping and thrashing with her arm. I didn’t know it at the time, but it was a knife in her hand and a piece of glass like this.” Ross indicates a jagged, fork-shaped-looking blade.

“At this point, I grabbed the white woman’s hair and shook her and said, ‘You can’t do this!’

“‘I’m gonna kill her! I’m gonna kill her. Fuck you!’

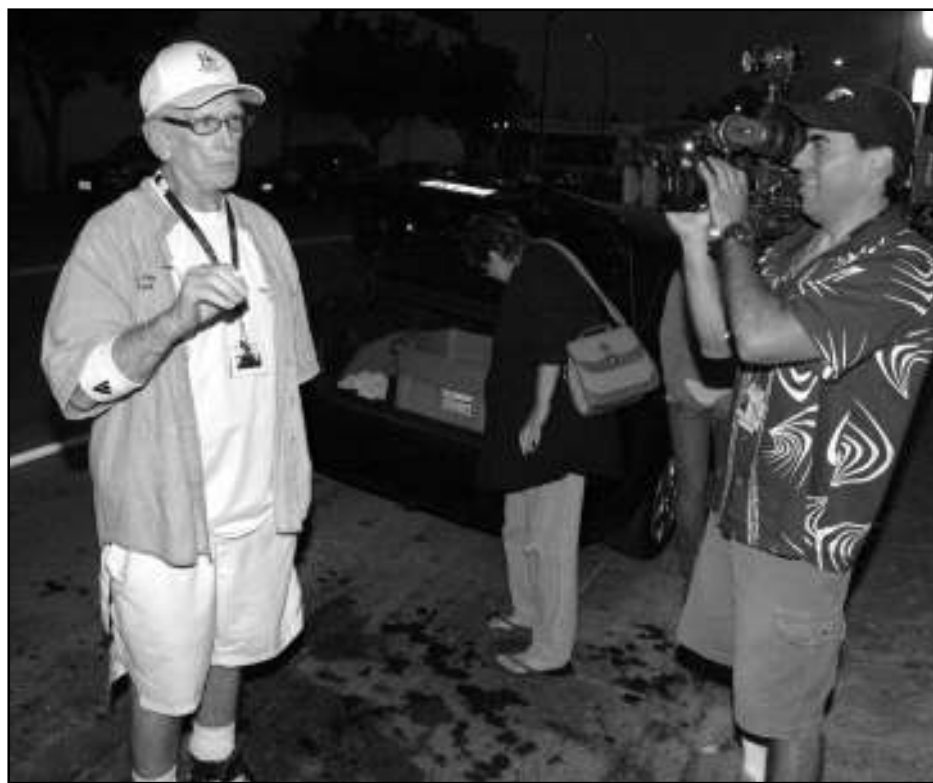
“‘You’re not gonna kill anybody.’

“‘I’m gonna kill you.’ I remember thinking, ‘God, that’s a big knife,’ and I saw the thing coming down toward the woman’s face, and that’s when I grabbed her. She was very, very strong, and I couldn’t keep control of her. I finally got her off some way. I pushed the black girl away and said, ‘Get out of here.’ She wasn’t cut, that I recall, not then. But the white woman started punching me, I thought, in the stomach. I didn’t feel it. I saw the glass thing in her hand, and she was trying to get at my throat, and I lifted my arm. I saw it coming down at me. She stuck it in my arm and pulled it. All of a sudden blood just shot out of my arm. A lot of blood. I looked down, and there was three or four inches of gash in my arm. I said, ‘Oh my God, you’ve stabbed me.’

“The tissue in the inside of my arm was coming out.



David Ross



early evening, the shouts of a heavysset, reddish-haired woman echoed beneath the concrete bridge, vying with the sounds of the trolley and overhead traffic on I-5. The woman was verbally attacking another woman.

“They were screaming at each other, both really big women,” Ross told me from his North Park home on Mon-

that to my wife,’ or maybe he said ‘girlfriend.’ But he did nothing to stop her. It was probably ten minutes this was going on before I went over there and said to both of them, ‘You’ve got to stop it. The police are going to come, and you’ll both be in trouble.’ The black girl seemed okay with that and went to sit down, but the other woman kept

time, I turned to the white woman and said, ‘Stay away,’ but she was out of control and not listening. The black girl apparently had enough at one point and rushed at her. They struggled, pulling at each other, and I don’t remember seeing any weapon at that time. Now, nobody did anything, but that isn’t surprising. Nobody gets involved

I don’t remember much after that except bits and pieces.”

Ross describes a stroboscopic series of actions: Two men grabbing at the attacker. Himself sitting on the trolley tracks. “The next thing I know I’m up on the curb. I’m stretched out on the sidewalk. I kept looking at my arm. Guys were yelling ‘Tourniquet!’ and two guys were wrapping my arm. Cars were coming through intermittently. Guys were yelling for them to stop, call 911. Nobody stopped. I was really dizzy then. It was like a movie.

“It seemed like a long time. One guy was holding the white woman. I don’t know where the black woman went. At one point, I saw the knife on the sidewalk, this kind of purple and red thing, and for some reason I picked it up. I remember what seemed like a lot of paramedics and police. A whole lot of them. I imagine what they saw was this old white guy covered with blood holding a knife.

“In the ambulance they had to cut away my clothes. The police took them and my shoes for evidence. And my I.D.”

At around 7:30 p.m., surgery was performed on Ross at Scripps Mercy Hos-

pital. The operation took approximately two hours. Ross has little or no recollection of arriving at the hospital or subsequent events until some hours after the surgery, in the hours between Friday night and Saturday morning. “I remember a woman, a Filipino woman, I believe, though I don’t know for sure, coming into my room, taking my temperature, my blood pressure, and at one point, very abrasive and high-toned. She said, ‘You go home.’ I didn’t understand what she meant. I hadn’t even seen a doctor, as far as I knew, and I thought she might have said, ‘You’re at home,’ or something, and me saying, ‘Well, feel at home? Huh? That’s good, thank you.’

“‘No. No. You go home.’ Twice she came back and asked, ‘When you go home?’ In some slurry way, I’m sure, I said, ‘I don’t have any clothes.’ She said, ‘We give you token.’ I said, ‘A token for what?’ Now I’m getting a little more conscious. A little while before, I had to go to the bathroom so badly that I did it myself. I didn’t know where it was, but I found it, and inside I fell down, picked myself up, peed all over the floor and myself, and somehow made it back

continued on page 10

Confession that wasn't

continued from page 6

he issued an illogical, emotionally charged, and biased ruling that Aguirre could not pursue Story in a criminal case. Aguirre refuses to say if his department's investigation would look into these matters but says, "We have to look at the entire footprint."

It's quite doubtful any investigation would touch on Wellington, since his ruling is being appealed.

A thorough investigation would take months. A brief, no-blame probe would be quintessential San Diego. Both Beach and Blank say that an investigation of the permitting process alone — how Sunroad got away with murder in the henhouse —

would not take long. "The city attorney's office has collected many documents," says Beach, who thinks issues of Police Chief William Lansdowne and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, et al., should be examined by outside counsel.

"I don't know how you investigate a judge's decision," says Beach. Judge Wellington is up for election in 2008. "Judges are elected by the same influences as city politicians. Do judges get support from developers? I thought the judge's decision was surprisingly over-the-top — not based on factual material. In reading the decision, I thought I was reading a political document."

"The lapses in City processes are astounding," says Blank. "This building should not have been permitted. Developers and builders will try to get away with what-

ever they can get away with. It is up to the City to stop them." But it won't do so if it is in the developers' pockets.

Sanders would like San Diegans to believe that their city has become less corrupt under his administration. If anything, it's more so, as the events of last week graphically illustrate.

As it became obvious that he had to do something about the Sunroad building towering over Montgomery Field, Sanders held secret meetings with his aides and, according to some insiders, with Aguirre. Citizens were finally aware of the corruption (some say incompetence) of the Development Services Department, which Waring oversees. Aguirre had insisted on the issuance of a "stop work" order late last year, but the development bureaucrats had permitted the building to be "winter-

ized" — that is, finished. Installation of air conditioning was part of the so-called winterizing process permitted by Development Services. Hmmm.

By Thursday, Sanders knew he was in deep doo-doo.

So he invited the *Union-Tribune* in for a late-Thursday interview. He ate humble pie, and the *U-T* reporter apparently never tried to find if the pie had too much sugar in it. On Friday, Sanders and Aguirre held a press conference, and the mayor sent a mea culpa letter to the two regulatory bodies. The debacle was his fault, quoth Sanders. He would issue a stop work order, rescinding the bureaucrats' December permission to let construction continue, lest the building be harmed by the elements. Such poppycock.

"Deposition testimony indicates that the building is

a completed shell; everything is done," says Blank. It's too late for a stop work order. The mayor should have ordered that there be no more work on the interior. "The real order that has to be issued is 'We are not issuing permits for occupancy.'"

Sanders was "stopping work on an already-completed building," says Beach. He, too, notes that Sanders never said he would stop work on the interior or ban tenants from moving in.

"It's not all that uncommon for structures to be lowered" on orders of the Development Services Department, says Blank. "You put a crane up there and take it down from the top. The architect for the building testified Tuesday that it could be [lowered]. He has had meetings on the rooftop with Aaron Feldman [owner of Sun-

continued on page 10

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Confession that wasn't

continued from page 8

road], talking about how they would do it."

Sanders proposes to have the building lowered to 163 feet — 3 feet higher than the regulatory bodies demand. He also wants the building to remain at 180 feet in one area to accommodate mechanical equipment. That

area is 15 percent of the roofline. And, as Waring always advocated, Sanders wants the FAA to alter pilots' paths when they near the building. So the mayor is only offering a compromise. He is not capitulating. The regulatory bodies may not agree to his offer — and should not.

Clearly, Sanders, Sunroad, and the Development Services Department are still

more worried about cost than safety. As a reading of e-mails and correspondence shows, from mid-2006 on, Waring fretted about the cost of making the building conform with federal and state safety laws. He had many friendly back-and-forths with Story, who was once head of land-use decisions for former mayor Dick Murphy. Several times, Story scolded bureaucrats in his e-mails to

them, almost as if they were still working for him. Of course, they were, and apparently still are.

A comprehensive investigation is essential. "Marcela Escobar-Eck [director of the Development Services Department] must be forced to say [if] she was influenced by Tom Story," says Blank. Most of all, investigators should look at Sunroad, which owns auto dealers and

real estate property. Feldman has roots in Mexico. He has given generously to politicians, including Sanders. Does the company have a clean record? Where does Sunroad's capital originate? Will the company try to use Sanders's faux confession in its lawsuit to squeeze money out of the bankrupt city that it has exploited? Such a probe would take much longer than a few weeks. ■

Waterman down

continued from page 7

to the bed. A third time she came in and said, 'Go home.' Again, I told her I had no clothes, only a hat. They had taken my clothes, all bloody, for evidence.

"We try to find you a pair of pants.' Very abruptly, very put out.

"A pair of pants?"
"She kept saying, 'Go. You go.'

"Where? I just went to the bathroom and fell down. I can't walk."

"No one had even asked me how I felt. She looked very agitated. Another lady came in and said something about this token. Then this other guy came in. He said he was from the business office. He said, 'Is it correct, you are 47 years old?'"

"I remember saying, 'Yeah, I wish.' " Ross is 72 years old.

"Oh, I see. It says here you were born in '47."

"No, I wasn't."

"Yes, you were. It says so here. Do you have a phone?" I thought he meant cell phone, so I said, 'No.' I've never had one. 'But I have a phone in my apartment.' And that turned it around. 'Apartment?' He looked up. He hadn't been paying much attention until then. 'Aren't you homeless?'"

"I work with the homeless downtown. I'm not homeless. I have a home and hospitalization. Is that what this token thing is about? You've got everything wrong there.' I got very pissed and called my doctor, Suzanne Afflalo at Kaiser, where she is also an administrator. She negotiated for me to stay at the hospital for another day, but by this point I wanted no part of it anymore."

Ross later told me, "I thought about how I would have made out had I really been homeless. I would have been out there on University Avenue with only a pair of pants that may or may not have fit, a token, and some paper prescriptions I had no means of filling — or if I had, would have been stolen. That is exactly the condition, or close enough, that the man was in that I found on the street New Year's Eve two years ago, when I decided to make this my life, working with the homeless." ■

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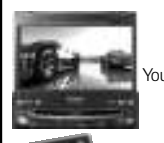
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Acting Out

This is in regard to your "Touchy Business" article (Cover Story, May 17). I have been working in holistic medicine for over 15 years, first as a massage therapist and now more as a medical practitioner. Early on in my career, I briefly, inadvertently, worked at a place where two-thirds of my coworkers were having sex with their clients. I had befriended them before I figured out how many people at the place were actually involved in prostitution. It was a valuable, eye-opening experience for me. Most of the women would claim they did sexual acts along with massage for the money, which I'm sure they did — but what I found was the sad or tragic part is that they all had been childhood victims of incest or rape. They had poor sexual boundaries and felt that sex is what they were good at and did that versus developing more emotionally uplifting skills. And while some made great amounts of money and financial investments, they all had very complicated personal lives. Probably many of the male clients also had the same sexual issues that they weren't handling.

Basically, my point is

that "therapeutic massage" is therapeutic and not sexual. Sexual massage seems to frequently involve people acting out their abuse issues or addictive behaviors, and I don't feel that it's therapeutic. I know that prostitution's always been around. Part of me would like to see it legalized so people can actually say that they're a prostitute and not claim to be a massage therapist. I think it would clear up some of the confusion around our profession.

Name Withheld

A Tip Of The Anonymous Hat

I don't expect you to print this, hence I'm not going to give you my name and number, but I just want to congratulate you guys, because you are the ones that created the situation in which the mayor realized that there's corruption at a high level ("City Lights," April 19 and May 10). And it was not at all to do with the *Union-Tribune's* investigation but rather yours, that you got the mayor on the front page today admitting that he botched the business about the permit on the building that was too high near Montgomery Field. So anyway, congratulations.

Name Withheld

Eschew Victimhood

I thought it was sensationalistic and cheap to title your article "Jimi Hendrix Told Me Not to Scream" (Feature Story, May 17). It degrades the words of that woman, that amazing woman whose words deserve to be exulted. I would like to thank her for telling her story. I wonder if she can possibly know the tremendous gift she gives to women everywhere by

sharing it.

As I read, I felt bile rise in my throat and tears burn my eyelids, aching for the pain she went through, that so many women have gone through. As a mother I could feel her single-minded determination to ensure her daughter didn't wake up. And I have nothing but awe and admiration for her lack of self-pity, her eschewing of the victimhood that so many others wallow in for far less horrific experiences. Maybe some people would call it crazy to view her "degradation [as a] triumph." But I look at my little girl, and I know in my bones exactly what she means.

Jennifer C. Cooke
via e-mail

He's Got Crummy Underoos

Recently, I read the excerpt below in your "Seen on DVD" section (May 17).

"Nate S. Fourth grade and self-described expert on military subjects, Ramona Elementary.

"As an expert on military subjects, I would like to recommend the war movie *The Thin Red Line* on DVD. It takes place in the Pacific during World War II. The film has action and superb Army tactics. At first, it's a bit weird, but if you are a student of World War II and the Japanese and American strategies, you will love this movie."

First of all, I was shocked that a 10- or 11-year-old would describe himself as a "military expert," but that is another discussion.

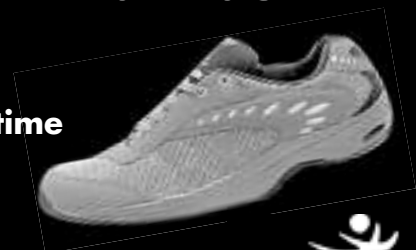
With all the school shootings reported on the news, especially the one at Virginia Tech just one month ago, I was disappointed that this item was included in your paper.

Let me be clear, I don't mind fourth graders reviewing DVDs. I don't mind *The Thin Red Line* being recommended on DVD for an appropriate audience. What I do mind is a fourth grader recommending *The Thin Red Line* as if it were good viewing option for his peers. The movie is "Rated R for realistic war violence and language," according

continued on page 67



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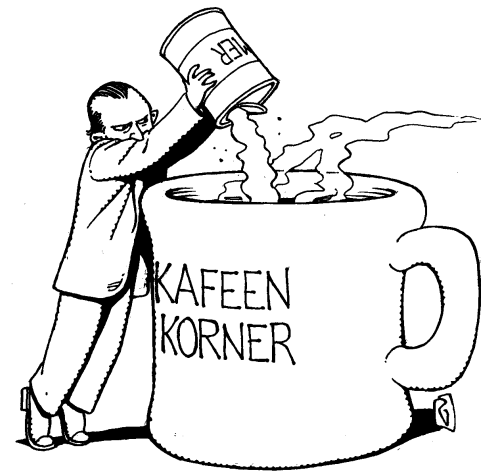
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

Illustration by Rick Geary



Yo, Matt:

Me and the boys here in Corporate Hell are pondering the Mystery of the Powdered Coffee Creamer. When I sprinkle the sinister powder on top of my hot coffee, it kind of coagulates into a strange form, like egg flower soup. No matter how much I stir it up, the soup remains. My friend Ben's technique is to put the creamer in the cup first, then pour the coffee in. Voila! His method does not create the Egg Flower Soup Effect. I'd love to come up with the real reason for this chemical reaction, and I knew just the person to ask.

— Baffled in Cubicleville

Ben must have read the instructions on the creamer bottle. So I'm sure he's the office suck-up. No regular Joe ever reads instructions, right? Coffee creamer is, on average, about 30 percent vegetable fat, maybe as much as 45 percent. A little whey, a little casein, some lactose, some fat-loving and water-loving emulsifiers, and flavorings. In the manufacturing, each ingredient is reduced to as fine a powder or flake as possible, including the fat solids. The hope is that each granule will be saturated with the coffee as quickly as possible and either dissolve or float free in suspension in your cup, depending on the ingredient. The secret to saturation is agitation — keeping the grains separate and moving. Dumping the creamer in the bottom of the cup fluffs it up a little bit, exposing more granule surface to the coffee, and it aids in agitation as the coffee is poured in and shakes up the creamer. A clump of creamer dropped from a spoon wets only a small portion of the powder and creates gummy lumps. The ingredients want to stick together, not disperse.

Hi, Matt:

My friend has the unique habit on certain beer-drinking occasions and/or golfing events of urinating in public. He says the trees and the flowers, well...they "like it," that human urine is a "positive" plant-growth stimulus! What? Is this true, in any common sense, please?

— P.R., Clairemont

So, taking a public leak on the 12th tee will green the place up, eh? Will also gross out the other golfers and give you the back nine all to yourselves, I'd guess. I've always appreciated what a classy crowd you Alicelanders are. Anyway, we're sworn to tell the truth, and the truth is, your friend is right. He's gross, but he's right. Human urine contains a lot of nitrogen, which is one of the most important nutrients for green plants. There are experiments going on even as we speak, using human waste as fertilizer. Sounds a little too much like that toilet-to-tap business for us to readily adopt. But tell Mr. I.P. Freely that some plants don't like being whizzed on, so he should be a little selective. The elves have stowed their clubs in the attic and are taking up volleyball for the summer.

Mr. Alice:

Should I leave a tip when I eat at a restaurant and am served by the proprietor or his wife? I can see tipping a waitress who works for the owner of the restaurant, but the proprietor is already making money off my buying his food.

— Tippy in San Diego

We ran this one past Grandma Alice, the only one in the family who doesn't talk with her mouth full and wipe her nose on her sleeve. We haven't taken her out to dinner in 30 years, so she had to fall back on the rules for beauty salons, where she goes once a week to have her hair reproofed. According to the etiquette nazis, you won't be considered rude if you don't tip the owner, she sez. But if the establishment pools tips and divides the loot among all the busfolks and waitbeings, then you should leave something for them. Of course, a mom-and-pop restaurant is one of the riskiest, most stressful businesses a person can be in, so maybe you should leave a tip to help offset the cost of the owners' massage therapy and psychiatric counseling. But the way things are going these days, your mom-and-pop eatery might actually be a division of Time-Warner or some international cartel based in Zurich, in which case, I wouldn't tip.

Dear Matt:

The other day some friends and I were out on the town being a little wacky, zany, so to speak, and we were wondering if we were "raising cane" or "raising cain."

— B.L., O.B.

When you are out and about, acting like bozos, what you're raising is "cain." Or more properly, "Cain," Adam and Eve's kid, the one that got into all that hot water when he killed his brother Abel. As the Bible's first felon, his name became synonymous with the devil. So when you raise Cain, you raise the devil. And I trust you won't call Matthew Alice when you're trying to raise bail.

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

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



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Waiting Games

How many lines have you stood in this month? Last month? Last year? What do you do while you're waiting? Think about sex? Hate the people in front of you? Think about sex? Replay a marital fight? Count money? Think about sex?

Some people envision their weekend while standing in line. Some people pray. Some people imagine finishing the next chore on their list. Some people plan a crime. And some play games.

Games while waiting for a trolley. Games while waiting for the first pitch. Waiting for the carpool. Waiting for the movie to start. Waiting for your woman to get dressed. Waiting for your man to fix the shower leak. Or the reverse. Waiting for technical support.

Then, there is the magna mater of waiting, the above-mentioned Waiting-in-Line, a category so vast it spawned countless subcategories. A few crowd-pleasers are:

grocery store, college registration, post office, anything to do with the military, anything to do with medicine, anybody's justice system, airports, international border crossings, and major league sports stadia. Generally, the poorer you are, the longer the line (welfare office, food stamps, emergency-room medicine); and the

richer you are, the shorter the line. When was the last time you saw a line at a Ferrari dealership? Very rich people don't stand in lines.

But, to get back to games and waiting. What is your best memory of playing a game while waiting? Put computer keyboard to hand and tell me about it. I'll place the best ones in a column. Here is mine.

The subcategory is Waiting-For-This-To-End. Picture a Mexican third-class bus running from Mexico City to Oaxaca. It's midnight. I'm traveling with Genisia Sharett, an Israeli woman I met in Isla Mujeres. She's a road pro, speaks four languages, was a medic in the Israeli army, and has traveled all her life. Our bus has the standard Day of the Dead motif, with icons hanging from the driver's rearview mirror and a Virgin Mary statue superglued to the dash. All passengers are peasants or Indians except for us. Take the number of people that can be seated on the bus and double it, just like in the movies. Now add two army guys and their rifles, just like in the movies. Baggage is roped to the roof just like in the movies. We are standing in the aisle with twice as many people as the aisle can be expected to hold. The human stink is overpowering. Backs, elbows, butts,

and legs brush against each other as the bus goes *thumpa-thumpa* down the highway.

The bus comes into a darkened village and stops. It's got to be 2 o'clock in the morning. I see a tall, lanky American kid. He's holding one of those huge Kelly backpacks. It's brand new and way too big. The driver and a passenger get out, manhandle his backpack up to the roof and tie it down. They return to the bus, followed by the American. The fellow's face has that zombie pasty-white look, just like in the movies.

The bus jerks forward. Our man spots us, the only other non-natives on the bus, and over the next 20 minutes, makes his way, one inch at a time, into the belly of the bus, until he's standing next to us.

Introductions. He's from Providence, Rhode Island. College student. Never traveled before. Came down here with his girlfriend, in her van. They had a fight, she left him in that village.

It's 3 o'clock in the morning. I've been sweating from the heat of twice-too-many people, so I'm dehydrated. I have a king-hell headache. My bones hurt from standing and my eyes burn. By the way, nobody gets off the bus. Every once in a while the bus will stop and take on

one passenger, occasionally two, but no one ever gets off.

Rhode Island is not doing well. He's taking shallow, quick breaths. I figure he's going to collapse or he's going to start speaking in tongues. I ask, "Have you ever played Botticelli?"

Botticelli is a word game. Someone thinks of a famous person's name...say, Groucho Marx. Another player asks "yes" or "no" questions. Is this person a man? Is this person alive? Is this person in politics? The first time I answer, "No," the questioning moves to the next player. This continues until the famous person is named or until the players give up. Then, another person thinks of a name and onward into tedium.

Rhode Island is hyperventilating. Genisia tells him, "Think of a question!" or I say, "Pick a name. We'll do the asking." Every time we spot him drifting away, one of us is there to drag him back. 3 a.m. 4 a.m. 5 a.m. 6 a.m. 7 a.m....

We got him to Oaxaca. I slept for two days. Genisia started working at the women's center.

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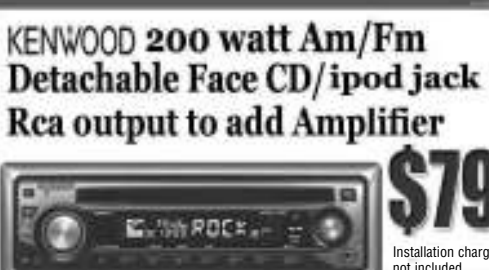


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SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: associated with the Baptist General Conference

Address: services held at Kearny High School, 7651 Wellington Way, Kearny Mesa, 858-268-2330

Founded locally: 2005 (as independent entity)

Senior pastor: Matt Hammett

Congregation size: 1600

Staff size: 9 full-time, 1 part-time

Sunday school enrollment: 70

Annual budget: n/a

Weekly giving: n/a

Singles program: no

Dress: casual, lots of jeans

Diversity: mostly Caucasian

Sunday worship: 10 a.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m.

Length of reviewed service: 1 hour, 45 minutes

Website: www.diveintoflood.com

The table out front offered Bibles with unusual covers: a version of the New Testament entitled *The End of the World as We Know It: Or, The Creator Invites Us to a Whole New Beginning We Never Would Have Guesseed*. Also, more traditional fare: N.T. Wright's *The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is*.

Inside, production guy Tim explained that today's service was part of the "Know (Doubt)" series at Flood, which would include a panel of experts answering questions sent in by congregants via e-mail. The panel: Dr. Glen Scorgie, professor of theology at Bethel Seminary; Sheryl Fleisher, spiritual director and speaker; and Dr. Curt Gruber, associate executive minister and director of missions for the Southwest region of the Baptist General Conference.

Low sidelights gave the auditorium its only light, save for that radiating off the two projection screens bearing the Flood logo. Eventually, the scene shifted to a rising sun, and the piped-in music gave way to sustained synth chords. "Our God reigns," sang the keyboardist in the near dark, her voice breathy and powerful. "Our God reigns. Forever your kingdom reigns." Over and over in a kind of mantra, as the music built below her voice and above the synth: the reverberating bass, the strumming guitar, the gradually more complicated drumbeat, and finally, the riffing lead guitar, earnest and soaring. The band, October Inc., went through a half-hour set, and while the congregation sang along at times, the performance had the feel of an intimate club concert — the sound sometimes threatening to overwhelm the space. "Grace, I call your name/ Oh, won't your smile fall down on me/ I'm cracked and dry on hands and knees/ Oh, won't your grace rain down on me."

After the collection, the panel took the stage, sitting on high chairs under the spotlights. The moderator read sample questions on a given topic ("What about cavemen?" "What about freshwater species during the flood?") and summarized them into a more general question ("How do the Bible and science really fit together?"). Dr. Scorgie spoke first, stressing that he didn't "speak

on behalf of the entire Christian tradition, but only as an individual.... I think the key is to understand that the creation story is inspired and true, but it's not to be taken literally in every detail." We need to "recognize that it is a literary form intended to communicate some really inspired truth." The world "came into being on purpose...through the power of God, and the pinnacle of that creation is you, the image-bearer of God.... Christians should really be free to engage science and regard it as the means by which we flesh out the details of this wondrous story."

Next up, the interpretation of scripture — "why we follow some parts of the Bible today but not others." For instance: Paul prohibits women from speaking in church. Dr. Gruber mentioned hermeneutics — "It's really how you understand scripture, both the methodology as well as the personal journey that goes with that.... My personal hermeneutic is one where I want to hear a women gifted in speaking and ministry exercise that gift." Scorgie weighed in: "We don't want to treat the Bible subjectively.... One of the key ways of distinguishing the passing things from the permanent things is to recognize that the Holy Spirit is moving the people of God back toward a full recovery of what we lost in the original Fall. Along the way, things fall away as obsolete, no longer necessary."

The panel agreed that homosexual persons need to be treated "with love and respect, with dialogue and mercy, and with the same graces that we would hope for ourselves," said Gruber. "My prayer for my own life," said Fleisher, "would be, 'May I be known as someone who loves, not as someone who judges.'" Added Scorgie: "A person can be homosexual and still be saved. I think if they're a practicing homosexual, living below God's liberating ideal...but His grace is much larger than those

ideals." The questions moved to the personal: "How do I tap into God's transformational power?" "The power is love," replied Fleisher. "It's not trying harder. It's receiving God's love in undefended vulnerability.... We're getting honest, getting real...bringing our hearts before God and with a safe community.... People who can handle the real stuff... Then, allowing yourself to be loved by them... Usually, the three great blocks to experiencing God's love are fear, shame, and pride." "How do we really know who's going to heaven?" "Saving faith is trusting Christ," answered Scorgie. "The Father looks down and values that...and He will not let you slip out of His fingers as you go through the vale of death into the unknown beyond." Finally, "After you become a Christian, what happens next?" "It's very similar to a relationship in a marriage," answered Fleisher. "It's growing in a love relationship."

— Matthew Lickona

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com



PANEL AT FLOOD

Flood Kearny Mesa ★★

Sermon

content.....★★½
delivery.....★★★

Liturgy.....★★½

Music

congregational.....★★
band.....★★★

Snacks.....★★

Architecture.....★

Friendliness.....★★

Poor to satisfactory.....(none)

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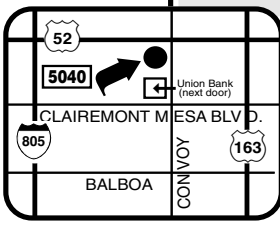


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- EVE KELLY

My college friend Bernice was impressed with my feng shui research and spent the past week trying to rid her home of excess clutter, making way for feng shui. "I am such a packrat," she complained to me. "Parting with things is so difficult." I detected Bernice's frustration and called Dana Korey, founder of Away with Clutter (858-481-9191; dana@away-withclutter.com).

"Being organized is really about the ease of retrieving what you need when you need it," said Korey. "That's the key. It is not about Martha Stewart perfectionism or minimalism. It's about 'Where the heck are my keys' and 'I need my wallet.' If you can't find these things, you're tortured. When I was a kid, my room was always in disarray. When I went to college, homework and having a part-time job stressed me out. I couldn't find the things that I needed; I was overwhelmed, and I realized that this way of being was causing me incredible anxiety. I realized I had to create plans and systems for myself so I could be more effective. I was my own worst challenge, yet I was able to self-teach because I knew what my challenges were."

What does your company offer?

"We have a team of professional organizers that come into people's homes or offices and create an organizational makeover in one to three days, top to bottom. We do the physical hands-on organizing in addition to bringing all the organizational supplies and space-optimizing products. We also do an in-home or in-office organizational workshop to educate the clients and give them the skill set and support they need to be able to carry on without us. Because our goal is not to have repeat clients, it's about creating something that is a life-long solution for them."

Do you organize all areas of the home?

"We do kitchens, garages, closets, bathrooms, attics, everything in the home. We also work with businesses, entrepreneurs, and individual business staff members to help them increase their productivity by creating organized systems for them in their work environment, because that's a huge loss of time and money for people."

Korey walked me through their system.

"We start out with a consultation, which typically runs two or three hours. We speak with them about what the challenges are in their lives, so we understand where all the holes and gaps are so we can create an effective system and implement it." Then, in the space to be organized, "we go through and we sort everything by category. We fancy ourselves the ultimate puzzle people; if a puzzle has 500 pieces or 50,000 pieces, you still have to sort it and put it together. So we sort into categories: electronic, beach gear, holiday décor, memorabilia, etc. Then our lead organizer walks the client through the process of deciding what to keep, toss, sell, trash." Having sorted into categories, the client then sees how much of some-

"Many of our clients have gotten to a point where they are embarrassed to have people over, and they shut themselves off."

thing they have, "so it's a lot easier for them to let go of things. Not that they have to let go of anything, because we can organize what they have. We tell our clients to be aggressive. 'Do you love this item?' 'Have you used it in the past year?' People often say, 'Well, some day.' But some day is not on the calendar. And if you are waiting five or ten years for some day, you are spending money holding it, housing it, caring for it, dusting it, shifting it, for some day."

"Once we've gone through the editing and paring-down process, everything is put into space-optimizing containers and labeled for easy retrieval. Then everything is zoned accordingly. If you were organizing a garage, you might have a holiday décor zone, within that you have outside lights, tree lights, ornaments, dishes."

Are there certain items that are indispensable when organizing?

"Clear, plastic, snap-on lid containers of various sizes are invaluable. They also make clear plastic drawers. We find the better you can separate and contain your items, the easier it is to maintain your system. You're able to see the contents of the box, and the sealed box keeps it protected for life."

Korey says that through watching the organizing project, the client learns the system. "There's a lead organizer on every project and they become that client's personal organizational coach, their support system, and their educator and trainer during the process. While we are doing the hands-on work, the client is observing the way the systems are being implemented, so that when they bring new things into their lives, they understand."

How do people end up in these organizational disasters?

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Korey says that they get a lot of hugs and tears from their clients when the process is completed. "The transformation is so fast and has such a huge impact, it's life-changing. It's like their world just did a 180. Many of our clients have gotten to a point where they are embarrassed to have people over, and they shut themselves off. Then, all of a sudden, they are in a space that they can breathe in; it is like this emotional release for them to have freedom in their own environment."

Prices vary according to the amount of stuff to be organized, but Korey says it is not unusual for projects to start at \$1500 and go up from there.

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by Barbarella

Monks with Sticks

If it weren't for baseball, many kids wouldn't know what a millionaire looked like.

— Phyllis Diller

Months ago, when a friend of mine who lives in L.A. told me she wanted to plan her San Diego visit to coincide with a ballgame at Petco Park, I was a little taken aback. Not horrified or anything, more like

"We've got the priests against the pretty red birds tonight. Where's the intimidation in that? A monk is almost as scary as Delaware's 'Fighting Blue Hen.'"

the kind of surprise I experience when discovering a new blouse in my closet — its tags still attached — that I'd forgotten I'd purchased. *Oh, right, I think. It's totally not my color, and it kind of clashes with everything else I own, but, hey, it's here, it's new, might as well.*

The ballpark had only entered my consciousness in the form of the new buildings that had shot up around it and the impossibility of parking that led me to keep a copy of the game schedule in my purse. Distracted by what went on outside the park, I never

gave a second thought to what went on inside it. It had never occurred to me to go there.

Baseball, like reality television or *E. coli*, was one of those things that, though pervasive, had never made it past my immune system. The one time I attended a baseball game, as a preteen, I'd gone with my best friend, Nancy, and her family. Nancy's family did a lot of things mine didn't; normal American things that I experienced only with them, like camping, sloppy joes, and spectator sports. The television in Nancy's house seemed to only get ESPN. Despite my regular exposure to its flickering light, I never did understand what Nancy's family found so captivating. Take football, for instance — a bunch of men run toward

each other while one guy throws a pointy ball. Most of the men fall down, many on top of each other. Then they get up and take a break while some jock-y talking heads discuss how the men fell down. Then the men line up and do it all over again. At least in boxing there's the morbid fascination of watching two men beat each other until one of them can't get up. It's nothing I care to witness, but I get that the average guy has an animalistic craving for blood.

But, *baseball*? I didn't know enough about the sport to conclude why it sucked; it's just one of those things I knew. Like the way I know a woman who wears pants with letters printed across the ass won't be a stimulating conversationalist. Shirking my intuition, however, I found myself saying, "Sounds great, Amy! Give me a date and I'll score the tickets."

In the weeks before the game, I noted a sort of eagerness building within me. Not for baseball, or the new stadium, but for the anthropological glimpse of that foreign and fascinating culture of people who enjoy going to the park. Was it the taste of the hot-dogs? The camaraderie one finds in cheering for the home team? It couldn't be the excitement — I could not accept that it was "exciting" to watch someone try to hit a ball with a wooden stick. That's one step removed from golf, which, I think it's safe to say, is not "action packed."

Amy and her husband, Billy, arrived in

the afternoon, a few hours before the Padres would play the Cardinals. Somehow, in all the years we'd been friends, I had never known of Amy's affinity for baseball. I was shocked when she told us that the only reason she won't move to San Francisco, a city she loves, is that she doesn't like the Giants. As Amy spoke of the sport over David's pre-game wine-and-cheese spread, I was mesmerized not by the names, dates, and statistics she spouted, but by her Rain Man-like ability to remember such things.

My friend Josue hooked us up with a rock-star parking space in a gated lot a few blocks from the ballpark. As Amy, Billy, David, and I walked to the stadium, the sun slipped behind the tall buildings, chilling the dusky breeze and inspiring us to increase our pace. "What's the Padres mascot?" said Billy.

"A monk, man, you know, like Friar Tuck," I said. "We've got the priests against the pretty red birds tonight. Where's the intimidation in that? A monk is almost as scary as Delaware's 'Fighting Blue Hen.'" I was proud of myself for remembering the hens, a tidbit of information I'd filed away years ago after an hour-long fit of laughter. But I was relieved that no one asked after the sport associated with the belligerent chicken, because that fact had not imprinted itself upon my memory.

"Don't forget the Minnesota Golden Gophers," said David. "They're almost as

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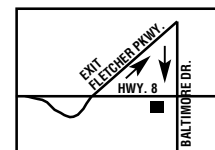
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tough as the Baby Bears. Ahem, I mean, the Cubs."

For missing the "Star Spangled Banner," the only part of the "show" I had really wanted to see, I blame the acumen-deficient attendant I had to deal with at the will-call booth. Our tickets were on the "Toyota Terrace," a premium seating section in which food and drinks are served to your seats and for which ticket holders have exclusive access to restaurants. I was disappointed to discover that the food and drinks served to my seat were the usual "get-your-peanuts-here" variety, and the restaurants were more like bars with airport-quality appetizers than the high-end, sit-down variety I was expecting from the description on the park's website.

I used the hood on my sweatshirt to protect my neck from the frigid wind coming in from the bay beyond the stands across the field and half-listened to the announcer. I thought I heard him say "Poo Holes," a term that incited the crowd to hiss and boo. I was confused until I noticed the headshot on the Jumbotron of a Cardinals man, beside

which was the name, "Pujols," and my confusion morphed to irritation. Booming the opponent? Whatever happened to "sportsmanship?" What was wrong with these people?

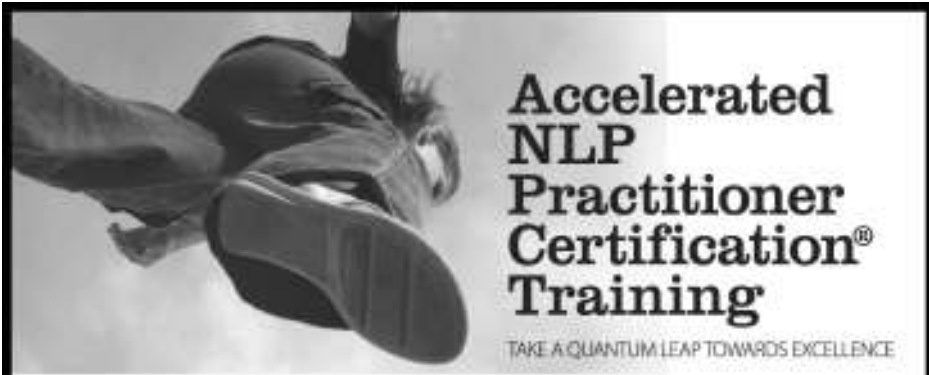
"This is like the Nascar crowd," David said in my ear. "First they played 'Sweet Home Alabama' and now it's 'Devil Went Down to Georgia.'"

"I happen to like this music," I said, bobbing my head for emphasis.

"Well, you might try watching some Nascar races," David suggested. "You may enjoy it. There seems to be some genetic correlation between fans of Nascar and people who dig Southern Rock." I shrugged at David and then my attention was called to the field, where something that could almost be described as "exciting" had happened — one of the Padres players broke his bat, half of which flew almost as far as the

pitcher's mound. It was the same guy who had repeatedly hit the ball straight up in the air. The same guy who clutched his wobbly bits with Michael Jackson-like enthusiasm and frequency — Marcus Giles.

It was a home run hit by the other Giles — brother Brian — that inspired my first real baseball thrill. It wasn't the hit or watching the ball sail 400 feet in the air. It wasn't the slow trot around the bases, the formality of stepping on each white pad before returning to the dugout. In fact, it was nothing about the game itself. What stirred my blood and set my heart aflutter were the sparkly blue and purple fireworks that darted up into the night and the trancelike chant layered over blaring techno music reverberating through my chair. I poked Amy, and when she turned, I shot her a huge grin and said, "That was awesome." ■



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The Fall of King Eucalyptus

Balboa Park Plans for the Future

ON THE MORNING after one of those record-breaking cold nights this past January, Mike Rasmusson checked on his charges. Rasmusson supervises the Kate O. Sessions Balboa Park Nursery — the city facility where many of the park's plants get their start in life. Behind the nursery's hothouses and administrative offices, he stopped at an outdoor table and peered down at a group of four-inch plastic containers. "Ohhhhh, shoot!" he moaned. "This is *Ficus macrophylla*, the Moreton Bay fig. These are the babies." The fig-tree sprouts, grown from tiny, almost invisible seeds that had been buried in the pots for more than five months, had shriveled and turned black overnight. Had they withstood the frost and thrived for a hundred years, each might have rivaled the magnificent giant that reigns over the lawn next to the Natural History Museum. But now they were dead. Rasmusson shrugged. "You just have to take it in stride and say, 'You know, let's try it again.'"

It helps to be dauntless when it's your job to maintain the park's status as a horticultural showplace. Apart from the 150 acres of coastal sage scrub preserved in Florida Canyon, the landscape of Balboa Park's 1172 acres is a wholly unnatural creation, filled with species imported from every continent except Antarctica. The plants have to be watered and mulched and pruned and fertilized and protected from deleterious weeds and bugs. As they die or grow tiresome, they have to be replaced with others both eye-pleasing and apt to thrive. Who decides what goes where? "Right now, I'm pretty strongly involved with that," Paul Sirois said, "but we draw on a lot of folks."

Sirois is one of two district managers in charge of the park. He holds a two-year degree in park management and design and a bachelor's in environmental horticulture, but when he joined the city parks staff in 1993, he started "from the ground up." As a maintenance worker, "I did everything from cleaning restrooms to edging turf," he says. He later advanced through the park department's supervisory ranks and in 2000 became the first city arborist — looking after all the trees in all of the city's 340 parks. In December 2005 he was promoted to the position of horticulturist for Balboa Park, and when the district manager's position opened up last year, Sirois applied for it. "I love the park, so I thought I'd give it a go."

He now oversees about 60 people, including 45 grounds maintenance workers, 5 rangers, 4 gardeners, 5 supervisors, and a horticulturist. Augmenting his team's labors are citywide crews that handle certain tasks, such as mowing the expanses of lawn adjoining Sixth Avenue and at Morley Field. The central crews cut those weekly using seven-gang mowers and smaller trim machines, but Sirois's crews go behind to weed-whip and edge and blow the clippings. "We also do some hand-mowing in areas that are too small, such as the strips of lawn near the Organ Pavilion."

A separate citywide crew attends to

routine pest management for San Diego's parks. "We're trying to get away from chemical use as much as possible," Sirois says. Mulch and mechanical weeding are used to discourage herbivorous invaders, but when herbicides and pesticides are unavoidable, the centralized teams apply them. Balboa Park's gardeners and grounds maintenance workers are on the front line in diagnosing problems. "It's really a combined effort of everybody being aware and watching what's going on." The volunteers who toil in the rose garden are constantly monitoring the roses to see when they've got too much rust and need to be sprayed, Sirois says. Because of his years of working as the city arborist, Sirois himself has been involved with diagnosing tree maladies.

No tree in the park has been more beleaguered in recent years than the eucalyptus. First brought to California during the gold rush, eucalyptuses were

later thought to be a good source of wood for railroad ties, but people soon learned that the young trees grown in California lacked the strength of the several-hundred-year-old specimens that Australians had harvested from their virgin forests. Still, early Californians liked how fast eucalyptus matured, Sirois says. "And they were pretty drought resistant." He thinks that's why so many were planted for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, the event that kicked off the transformation of the park from an almost treeless wasteland to a garden paradise. "They grew so fast, and you had a pretty good shade canopy pretty quickly."

During most of the 20th Century, the eucalyptuses seemed to be pest-free. Then in the 1980s, an Australian beetle known as the eucalyptus longhorn borer began chewing its way through eucalyptus species in Southern California, killing many of



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN DECKER

Paula Root in the Botanical Building

them. Since then an almost biblical series of plagues has descended upon the trees: "at least 16 different pests in the past 17 or 18 years," Sirois says. Dying eucalyptuses have become

a common sight, not just in the park but throughout the city.

Most of the time, scientists have found ways to vanquish the pathogens. That was the case with the

red gum lerp psyllid, a tiny insect that in 1998 began showing up on the leaves of the red gum eucalyptus and a few other species. The psyllids sucked the sap from leaves, an insult that caused defoliation. As the denuded trees weakened, Sirois and other local arborists feared that up to 1000 might be lost. But a Berkeley entomologist went to Australia and found a tiny stingless wasp that was a natural predator of the lerp psyllids. He imported the wasp to California. "For a while, they had to delay the release because a different type of psyllid was being used in Florida to control the overgrowth of melaleuca trees there." There was some concern that the wasp might attack the Florida psyllids, but it turned out not to be a problem, Sirois says. Once introduced here, the wasps spread, and the red gum lerp psyllid population came to be "very well under control." Sirois says another psyllid began attacking

lemon-scented gum eucalyptus around the same time, but it turned out not to be a tree killer, as had been feared.

Another problem has proven more intractable. "We first noticed it in 1999," Sirois explains. "We'd see something like a brown stain that would go up the side of the trunk of the tree. It mostly seemed to start at the bottom, although we've found some trees where it looks like the top branches are being affected first." In the areas of the stain, the bark dries and cracks, and one by one, branches lose their leaves and die. From a distance, it can look as though the tree is rusting to death.

In a grove, "You may see one tree get it, and then a little while later another tree in the grove will get it, and a little while later another tree will get it," Sirois says. "But in general, we haven't seen whole groves disappear." As a preventive measure, park personnel have sprayed the

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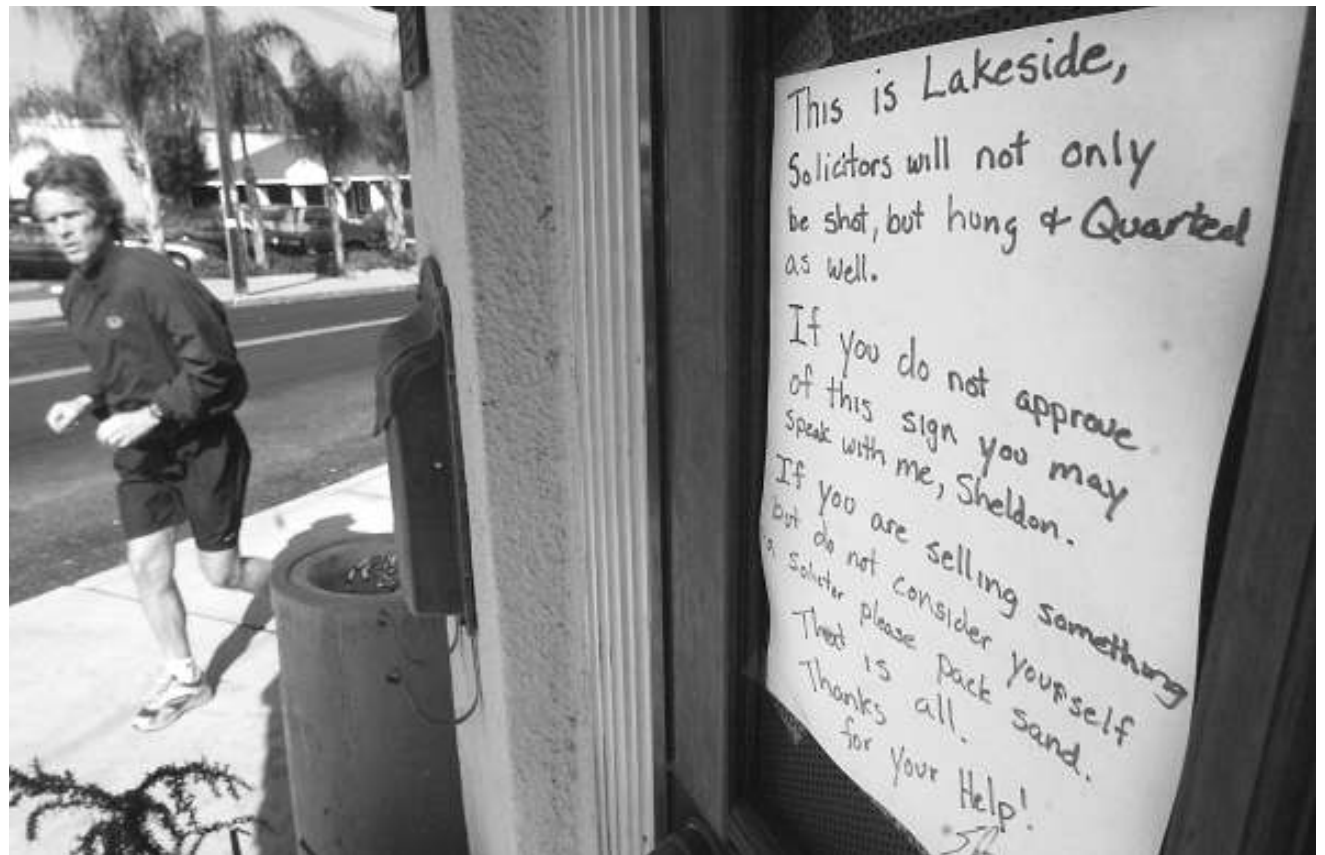
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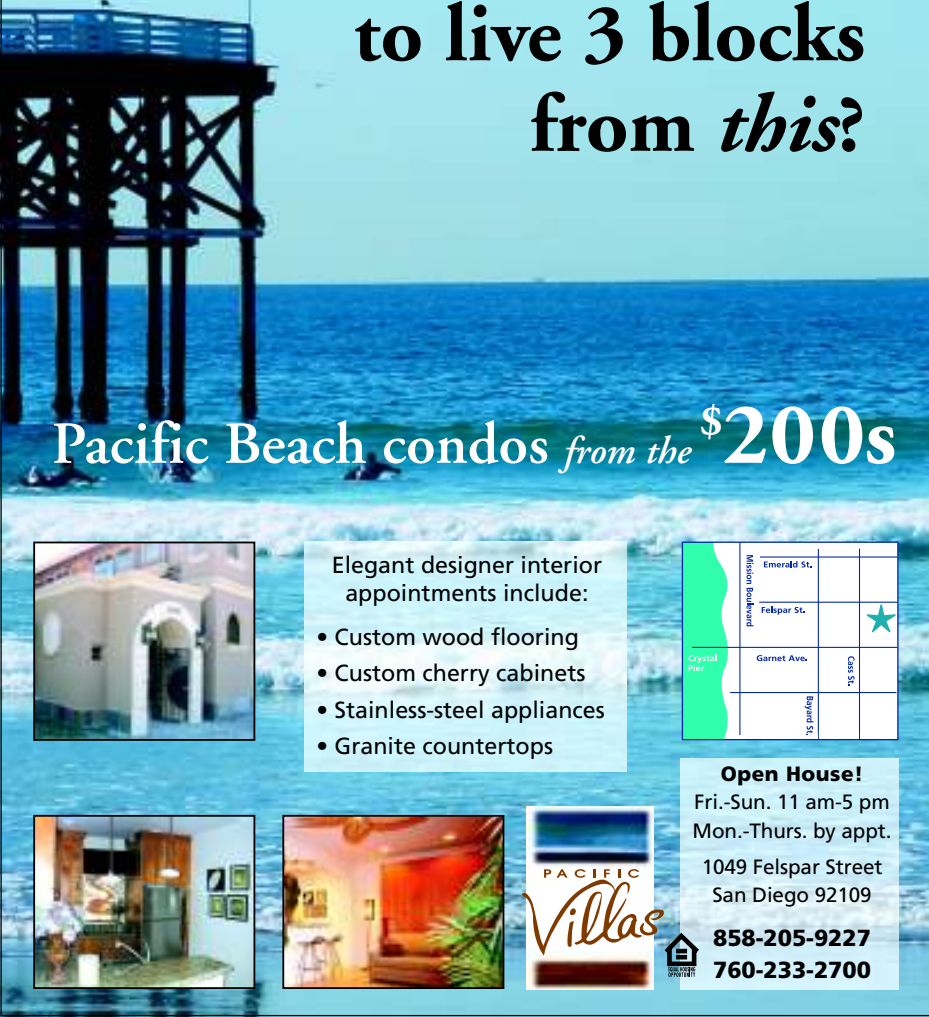
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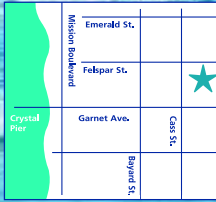


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bark of some trees with an antifungal chemical. "It's certainly not hurting, and a lot of the trees we've treated have not come up with any kind of disease," Sirois says. "But it's too early to say whether it's helping." Also, the fungal spray doesn't work once the tree is diseased; no infected tree has ever recovered.

Most frustrating has been the inability to figure out what's causing the malady. "Several possibilities have been thrown around," Sirois says. "But nothing has really matched up to what we have." He says authorities have conclusively ruled out the funguslike organism that causes sudden oak death. "There's also a disease called Mundulla yellows that they have down in New Zealand and Australia. It's pH-related, and we thought maybe that would have something to do with it." But the pH of the soil around affected trees hasn't "really fit the

bill," Sirois says. "We thought of *Xylella* — the bacteria that's currently affecting the wine crop and olean- der. But that was tested and ruled out." This past winter, the advance of the mystery ailment seemed to

(*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*), although a number of honey-scented gums (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) and silver dollar gums (*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*) have also come under attack. The towering sugar gums also

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slow, a possible consequence of the cold weather, Sirois speculates. "But last summer and spring were pretty bad. We lost quite a few large trees. I would say 30 to 50."

The primary victim has been the sugar gum

happen to be the most prevalent tree in Balboa Park, a fact that was documented when the first-ever Balboa Park Tree Survey was conducted in 1998. "It was an old-style survey, prior to GPS," Sirois elaborates. Brass pins were





PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN DECKER

Desert Garden, Balboa Park

driven into the ground every 250 feet; then teams counted every tree with a diameter of two inches or more within each grid block. The final tallies

revealed 15,271 trees (including 348 separate species). Almost 5000 of the total were some variety of eucalyptus.

That large percentage

worried Sirois and the park horticulturist at the time, Kathy Puplava. "If you grow a monoculture, you're susceptible to losing the whole tree population," Sirois explains. "Back East, Dutch elm disease wiped out all the elm trees." So in the wake of the survey, the two developed a park reforestation plan that emphasized the goal of making Balboa Park's tree population more diverse. Sirois says probably 30 species have been added to the park in the years since then. But he adds that it hasn't been easy to find substitutes for the really big eucalyptuses.

Trees that are skyscrapers in some areas often don't reach the same heights in San Diego's dry climate. The coast redwoods planted in Balboa Park's Redwood Circle during the 1920s stand only about 80 feet tall, compared to the 300-plus feet they attain in Northern California, where summer fogs bring moisture to the uppermost

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branches and free the trees from the need to transport water up that high from their roots. Sirois says another limiting factor is the park's soil, much of it hardpan and impenetrable below a depth of just a few feet. "We don't have the deep alluvial soils that they have in Pasadena," he says. "You see huge, magnificent trees there."

Some species do grow as tall in San Diego as the eucalyptus. The star pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) and bunya-bunya (*Araucaria bidwillii*) do, Sirois says, but their silhouettes look nothing like the broccoli-esque forms of the sugar gums and lemon gums. (Bunya-bunyas have outstretched, almost prehistoric-looking branches, while star pines grow into the classical shape of Christmas trees.) Torrey pines



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN DECKER

Kate O. Sessions Balboa Park Nursery

can reach great size. "But as far as function — meaning having that willowy top but very tall — there

really aren't any trees that match the eucalyptus, and that's something we've struggled with."

Sirois has talked with the urban forester from the City of Los Angeles about what L.A. is doing to

replace tall-canopy trees. "One they're trying is the pecan tree. So we've planted a few of those in the park."

The turpentine tree (*Syn-carpia glomulifera*) "gets pretty tall," Sirois says. "It's close to the eucalyptus family." Familiar eucalyptuses will also continue to be planted, he adds. "We've planted sugar gums in the last six years. But we're just a little more selective in where we plant them. We're not putting them right next to buildings anymore." The risk of branches dropping off or trees falling is too great.

Sirois says the park's reforestation plan recognizes the importance of diversifying not just the types of trees but also their ages. When the 1915 and 1935 expositions were being readied, "Thousands and thousands of trees were planted all at once," he reminded me. Most weren't that old, perhaps four to five years, so they're matur-

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ing around the same time. Sirois thinks the fundamental explanation for the recent eucalyptus woes could just be that the trees are reaching the end of their natural lifespans here and in their waning years are susceptible to disease.

To ensure that future generations of Balboa Park managers don't face the same problem, "You really want to continue planting all the time," Sirois says. "That's critical to maintaining a healthy urban forest with old trees, middle-aged trees, and new trees." In practice, "We gen-

erally try to plant around 200 trees a year." When a stormy year destroys more than 300 trees, as happened in the winter of 2003-2004, "we'll try to accelerate the replanting then. But as a standard, we try to keep it around 200."

In deciding where to plant new trees, Sirois says he and his staff are guided by the master plan developed for the park in the late 1980s. "We may change plant material, but we don't try to change the function of the various areas." They wouldn't, for example, plant a new grove in the middle

of one of the big expanses of turf on the west side of the park. "They're passive park areas, so people can have picnics and other gatherings. We try to respect those layouts."

Earlier master plans also influence current thinking. Samuel Parsons Jr., the Central Park superintendent brought to San Diego from New York City in 1904 to develop the first plan for what was then called City Park, "was very big on the views at the edges of the canyons," Sirois says. "He wanted to have trees every couple hundred feet

or so to provide a frame but not to eliminate the view." Although buildings in the park and downtown have obscured many of the sweeping vistas, some remain, and "we try to stay respectful of all that," Sirois says. "We want to make sure we still maintain some of the view corridors."

Within those broad guidelines, lots of factors direct where a new tree is planted. Input from local residents sometimes influences what gets planted where. One example is the Trees for Health Garden, located on the northeast

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corner of Quince Street and Balboa Drive. The original inspiration for it came from San Diego Herb Club members, who about ten years ago got a small grant to promote awareness of medicinal trees in Balboa Park. Major plantings on the site were started in 1998, and today everything from the African sausage tree to the white popinac lines the gravel paths. The park's gardeners have continued adding trees and shrubs to expand the scope of the garden.

It's not unusual for citizens to ask that a tree be planted to commemorate the passing of a loved one. Several hundred trees have been planted in honor of someone over the years, according to park staffers. Sirois says they normally will tell the bereaved party which locations and trees are available. The charge for arranging such a ceremony is \$200. "We'll usually plant the tree three-quarters of the way and leave a little pile of soil so the folks can come and do their memorial service," the manager says. Plaques used to be installed, but no longer. "It just got to be too many," Sirois explains. "It became a main-



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN DECKER

Mike Rasmusson

tenance problem, and it also kind of was taking on the appearance of a graveyard."

When it comes to flowers and shrubs, Sirois says that 15 areas of the park

have been designated as specialty gardens, and "the specialty gardens are themed out." In those areas, "We're pretty much trying to match the theme of what's already there. In the

Desert Garden, we're bringing in desert plants. In the Rose Garden, it's roses." Sirois adds that the park staff also tries "to bring in new plant material that's being introduced in the

industry. Something we're planning on using in the future are some of the new bougainvilleas that are being developed right now. There are also new podocarpus varieties that have just been introduced. We're going to start incorporating them with some of our plantings. So we're trying to keep on top of the industry, but at the same time, we do have to match form and function to what's already in the landscape."

No place in the park sees more continual change than the Botanical Building. Dominating the area just north of the reflecting ponds, it was touted as the largest lath structure in the world when the 1915 exposition opened. None of the original plant specimens survive. The Navy turned the place into a warehouse during World War II, and several renovations also disrupted the building's function as a conservatory at various times during the last century. Mike Rasmusson says only a few of the largest specimens that were growing in the building before 1994, for instance, were preserved during the makeover that took place that year. One was the wide

clump of Formosa palms at the eastern end of the building. "I love that palm," the nursery supervisor enthused on a recent chilly morning. "The blooms smell kind of like oranges and pineapples. You can even smell them outside!"

I was meeting with Rasmusson and Paula Root, the nursery gardener who works full-time in the Botanical Building. Rasmusson held Root's job back in the early 1990s, so he had the task of redesigning the beds after the 1994 renovation. It's rare to meet people who take such evident pleasure in their jobs as these two. "I'm probably the only lady on my street who can't wait to get to work," Root confided. "My husband's always asking me, 'Why are you leaving so early?'"

"I used to do the same thing!" Rasmusson exclaimed, recalling his days as the Botanical Building's chief gardener. "I used to come in early and have my coffee and just walk around and go, 'Hmmm. What am I doing today? I'll do *this* project!' You see jobs that you need to do, and it's really fun."

It was a Thursday, the



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one day of the week the building is closed, and Root had started her morning by working on the big circular display in the center of the building. The day before, it had been filled with a sea of vermilion poinsettias, but she had moved all those pots to a back room where they would be given away to the public, first come, first served. What remained within the circle was the gigantic fishtail palm (*Caryota obtusa*) that Rasmus-

son planted when it was only about 12 feet tall. Now it looks as though it's ready to punch through the lath roof. Rasmusson says it will be replaced sometime this year, before it does any damage. "We were talking about using another type of palm in there, but we decided to plant another obtusa. We want that spectacular show."

Dark-green-bladed lilyturf and chartreuse Myer's asparagus are the only other permanent

plants within the central circle. "When we developed this place, I needed something that would just kind of sprawl out and hide containers," Rasmusson explained. "They do their job." Within the bright green circle of the asparagus plant's fluffy plumes, Root tucked dozens of pots of epidendrums, some bearing clusters of purple blooms on their tall, reedy stems, others laden with orange and red flowers. On the level below them,

she planned to place frilly purple-and-white Willis Harrington orchids. The orchids had been sent over that morning from the park

nursery. They would remain on display, Root told me, as long as they continued to look good. "The challenge of being a gardener

in this building is the rain," she said. If raindrops penetrated the building's wooden slats, the Willis Harringtons would develop

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unsightly brown spots. "I'm crazy," she confessed. "I've been known to move all the orchids inside because a big storm was coming."

"If it hails, it's all over," Rasmusson added.

After the Willis Harringtons stopped being presentable, Root would replace them with cymbidiums grown in the nursery. "Then in May you have your epiphyllums — your orchid cactus," Rasmusson said. "We're always out there, looking for different plant materials to put in here."

Root likes to tuck orchids throughout the

Botanical Building so that visitors are constantly confronted with their striking colors and forms. If the orchids are the most obvious plants that change weekly, they're not the only ones. Root drew my attention to the raised bed filled with pots of lavender, echinacea, borage, menthol, aloe vera, sage, and other plants used for medicinal purposes. Most of them were sun-lovers, Root explained. The relatively shady conditions in the Botanical Building wouldn't permit most ever to bloom. But "Susan Masing grows these outdoors,"

Root said. Every Thursday, Masing, another of the nursery gardeners, brings good-looking specimens

Rasmusson created years ago. "We had people coming in here touching the orchids and bruising

loves it," Root attested. "But it gets pretty much torn up every week. Because the kids and adults get excited, and instead of just touching it, they pick things."

It's fun to wander through the building with Rasmusson. Most of the plants that today look huge and dramatic were but a fraction of their current size when he selected them a dozen years ago, and his obvious pleasure in their transformation is contagious. When he planted the monstera vine near the front entrance, for example, he was hoping it would someday insinuate itself

around the main door, greeting visitors with its big beautiful leaves, and it's done just that, "Like you see right now! You get that automatic tropical feeling!" The flame-thrower palms were barely taller than Rasmusson when he installed them along the building's eastern wall, but "now they're at least 15 feet tall!" he marvels. "I put them in because when their new foliage comes out, they have a nice maroon color, and they have the really nice fronds. But when you're standing in the back of the building, I also wanted that big grand look."

WHEN HE PLANTED THE MONSTERA VINE, HE WAS HOPING IT WOULD SOMEDAY INSINUATE ITSELF AROUND THE MAIN DOOR, GREETING VISITORS WITH ITS BIG BEAUTIFUL LEAVES.

over from the nursery and removes any that look bedraggled. Masing also changes the plants on the "touch and smell" bed that

plants," he recalled. To channel that urge, he assembled scented geraniums and other fragrant-foliage specimens. "Everybody

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- Decrease your physical and mental functioning
- Interfere with sleep

If you are 18 or older, 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.

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

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



Do You Have Insomnia? Are You Taking Ambien?

California Clinical Trials is conducting a research study to determine if an investigational medication can be used to help patients stop taking Ambien.

Every study conducted by California Clinical Trials is staffed by a team of skilled and experienced physicians and medical professionals.

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

- You may receive up to \$500 for your time and travel.
- You receive investigational study medication and study-related medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.



Depression

steals more
than your mood.
It robs you
of life's pleasures.

Are you between the ages of 18 and 64 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 new 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 \$450 for your participation.
- You receive no-cost research study medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.



Weight Gain is often part of taking medications for Schizophrenia

People taking medications for schizophrenia often worry about gaining weight. If you are taking an antipsychotic, you may qualify to participate in a clinical trial of an investigational drug that might not lead to weight gain.

Every study conducted by California Clinical Trails 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 will receive up to \$780 for time and travel.
- You receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

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Periods Too Heavy?

If your periods are too heavy, a research study is underway using 2 investigational products for women with heavy menstrual periods. If you are over 18 years of age with regular periods and struggle with this heavy flow, you may want to consider this research study.

To possibly qualify you must:

- Be at least 18 years or older
- Have heavy but regular menstrual periods
- Not presently on oral contraception or willing to go off

Participants may receive study-related:

- Exam and consultation by a board-certified physician
- Lab studies, Pap smear and ultrasound
- Compensation up to \$1200 for your time and travel

For more information call:

619-521-2841

Medical Center for Clinical Research

Rasmusson reused a lot of the bedding plants that had been in the building before the '94 renovation, but he organized them differently. "Everything had been pretty much everywhere. There was really no semblance of order, and I wanted to have it be more tour-friendly." So he developed themes, such as the bed devoted to plants of economic importance (bananas, allspice, coffee, and more). There's a woodland area and a dracaena area and a bed filled exclusively with bromeliads. "Before you couldn't get a sense of how many varieties there are," Rasmusson says. Now the profusion of different leaves and petals makes it obvious.

For a while, the beds

bore plaques identifying their themes, but these were stolen over time. The park staff recently has had a new motivation for replacing and expanding signage: they're in the process of applying for the Botanical

museumlike — a place designed to teach visitors about its contents. He's astounded whenever he runs into a San Diego resident who's never been inside the building. "Paula does the most awesome

"YOU WANT THEM TO KIND OF LOOK AT IT AND THINK, 'WOW! I COULD DO THAT!' OR 'WHAT IS THAT PLANT?'"

Building to be designated an accredited botanical garden by the American Association of Museums. But even without the formal designation, Rasmusson says he's always thought of the conservatory as being

job! Even better than when I was here! I'm jealous," he teased.

Root batted away the praise. There's so much to do, all of it engaging, she indicated. Many plants must be hand-watered; she can spend up to an hour a day at that in summer. When it's dry, she mists the tillandsias every day or so. She hand-sweeps the aisles and prunes almost everything. Certain beds require special ministrations. The carnivorous specimens can't tolerate the salts and other minerals in San Diego's tap water, so once a week Root uses a hand pump to remove the water in their swampy bed, and she replaces it with new water that she has filtered. She uses pesticides only as a last resort, instead washing down plants at regular intervals to dis-

RESEARCH STUDIES

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Age 55 or Older?

Covance is looking for individuals to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication.

You may qualify if you are:

- Age 55 or older
- Able to participate in overnight stays

Participants will receive all study-related exams and investigational medication at no cost. Compensation up to \$1300 is available for time and participation.

Call Mon.-Fri. for more information:

1-866-818-3253

9665 Chesapeake Dr., Ste. 200
San Diego, CA 92123
www.TestWithTheBest.com

COVANCE
Study 207608



Do You Get Anxious in Social Situations?

Do you:

- Get very **NERVOUS** around people?
- **FEAR** being the center of attention?
- **AVOID** going to social events and meeting new people?

If you answered **YES** to any of the above, you may be eligible to participate in an experimental research study comparing several study drug options for social phobia. Medical assessment and clinical care are provided.

For more information, please call
1-877-UCSD-SHY (1-877-827-3749)
Or e-mail: veryshy@ucsd.edu



courage infestations. "People crack me up," she says. "They'll ask me, 'Where are the bugs?' I say, 'Trust me. I know where they are!'"

In addition to all the routine chores, "There's constant change, because things get old," Root told me.

"Yeah, I remember you came to me when this was a brunfelsia bed," Rasmusson said, standing at a spot near the building's southeast corner. He explained that the brunfelsia, commonly known as Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow because of the way its flowers change color, wasn't blooming well; the light wasn't bright enough. Root suggested tearing it out and instead planting a tiny grove of miniature fishtail palms. "They were over at the nursery, and I thought it would look really cool to plant a bunch of them together," Root recalled. Rasmusson encouraged her, and the result, tucked between a cluster of bamboo-like palms and a statuesque tree fern, is a striking detail within the verdant tapestry, if one that many visitors never notice.

No one could overlook the clown fig tree across the aisle from the miniature palm grove. When Rasmusson planted it in 1994, it was only four feet tall. Today it's five or six times that height, a mass of dazzling green and white foliage. "This area here was dark," Rasmusson recalled, so he wanted a bright plant that would catch visitors' eyes and lure them over to inspect its leaves, each one dappled with a unique green and cream pattern, as if hand-painted. The little figs it bears have the additional charm of resembling clown's noses. "Kids like that," Rasmusson said. But the tree had grown almost too tall. He planned to prune and thin it out soon. "We call ourselves plantsmen — because we do everything."

Rasmusson directed my attention to another plant in that corner of the building: a hybrid philoden-

dron that develops intriguing eyelike patterns on its main stem as the lower foliage falls out. A local plantsman by the name of Rudy Lasaga developed it, the nursery superintendent told me. Now deceased,

Lasaga "was about 80 years old at the time I knew him, and he used to do lots of crossing of plant material. I had to beg to get this thing! Finally he told me he would give it to me as long as I promised not to give

it to anybody else or cross it with anything."

Rasmusson wheedled and pleaded for other unusual specimens when he was replanting the conservatory. "I went to begonia people's homes. I went

to palm people's homes." When the succulent bed was being developed, Root donated South African specimens she had collected at her home over the years. "I've given plants, too," Rasmusson said. "We

all have our little babies in here. It's like an addiction we have, and we bring them in here to show them off."

As nursery supervisor, Rasmusson has a budget enabling him to buy material from outside suppli-

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 all participants receive compassionate care by our physicians and our team of healthcare professionals.



Do you have trouble falling or staying asleep?

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services is participating in a national research study of individuals who regularly have trouble falling asleep or awake and unable to get back to sleep.

Interested participants must:

- Be 18 - 64 years of age
- Have trouble falling or staying asleep for at least 1 month

Study related care is provided at no charge, including a physical exam and investigational medication.

Qualified participants could be compensated up to \$1,350 for participation in this study.

Trouble staying asleep?

Don't feel rested when you wake up?

A research study is currently being conducted by **Pacific Sleep Medicine** For individuals who are experiencing sleep problems throughout the night.

If you are at least 18 years old, you can be considered to participate in a clinical research trial on insomnia.

Study related care is provided at no charge to participants. This includes a physical exam, sleep exams, laboratory services, and study medication.

For more information, call (toll free):

877-927-5337

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services

Bridging the gap between medicine and science.™



Frustrated with Type 2 Diabetes?

Are you taking metformin/glucofage, exercising and eating healthy? If you are doing everything right to control your diabetes...

And your blood sugar level is still too high, we may have an option for you.

Local physicians are conducting a research study of an investigational medication for Type 2 Diabetes.

If you qualify, you will receive all study-related care and medication at no cost.

Qualified participants could be compensated for time and travel.

Insomnia

Sleepless Nights Exhausted Days



A clinical research study for insomnia is now underway. Doctors are enrolling patients in a study of an investigational drug for insomnia.

To qualify for participation in this study, you must:

- Be 18-64 years of age
- Have had trouble falling and staying asleep for more than 3 months

Study participation includes, at no charge:

- Study visits with a medical professional
- Investigational study drug
- Study procedures and tests

Qualified participants could receive compensation for incidental costs and travel.

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

877-927-5337

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services

Bridging the paths of medicine and science.™



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**



Synergy Clinical Research Center
1908 Sweetwater Rd. • National City

ers. But many of the new flowers and shrubs and trees planted in Balboa Park are developed from seeds and cuttings at the park's Kate Sessions nursery. You could live in San Diego all your life and never notice the inconspicuous sign that marks the nursery's entrance just down the hill from the Frisbee golf course on Pershing Drive. The nursery

occupies 8.3 acres, according to Kim Duclo, the veteran park ranger who accompanied Rasmusson and me on a tour on another recent morning. That's a quarter the size of the nursery Kate Sessions operated 110 years ago in the northwest corner of the park, near Sixth and Upas. Yet the current nursery feels huge; it's hard to imagine that the woman known as the mother of Balboa Park tended to anywhere near the variety of plant life that Rasmusson has under his purview.

Upon our arrival, he pointed out the ice that had formed in a puddle on the ground. "I've never seen it this cold here in San Diego," he said. In addition to the Moreton Bay fig tree seedlings, at least a

dozen other plants had succumbed. But Rasmusson wasn't dwelling on the damage. Just promoted to the supervisory job the week before, he was bursting with ideas for upcoming projects. A small but immediate one was a remake of the south side of Zoo Place, the main road leading into the zoo parking lot off Park Boulevard. The zoo is responsible for the north side of the road, where its gardeners have established a lush and interesting mixture of plants. But only a few undistinguished-looking chitalpa and eucalyptus trees occupied the city-tended strip of dirt.

I'd passed the site any number of times without giving it a second thought. It didn't look disgraceful,



RESEARCH STUDIES

OCD, BDD & Hoarding Volunteers Needed

The UCSD Obsessive Compulsive Disorders Program is looking for people with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD) and Compulsive Hoarding to take part in a study that is providing:

- 12 weeks of free medication treatment
- Brain imaging scans (PET & MRI)
- Diagnostic evaluation
- Neuropsychological evaluation

For more information call Dr. Jennifer Sumner at: **858-534-8056**

HEALTHY MALE STUDY

If you are a healthy man between the ages of 18 and 60 years old, you may be able to participate in a Healthy Male research study.

You must:

- Not have any Major Medical and Psychological illnesses
- Be free of Drug or Alcohol abuse
- Have a Normal Sperm Count

If you qualify, all study related care is at no cost, including exams by a board certified physician and lab tests. You may receive up to \$1,600.00 (Sixteen Hundred Dollars) in financial compensation for time and travel.



CALL
619.299.6500

Do you have Gout?

Pain, swelling, tenderness in your joints?

Our physicians are conducting a research study to see if an investigational drug can lower uric acid levels in the body (high uric acid can cause gout). If you have a history of gout or are currently experiencing gout symptoms, you may qualify to participate. As a study participant, you will receive all study-related care at no charge, including physical exams, lab services and study medication.

To learn how you can join over 2,000 other study participants, call our office today or log on to www.gouttrial.com.

Ritchken & First, M.D.s
4282 Genesee Avenue #103, San Diego, CA 92117
Donna Perez, CRC, at: 858-292-0108 ext. 207



UCSD Research Study on ANXIETY

Do you suffer from these symptoms?

- Worried, nervous, on edge
- Difficulty sleeping
- Tense, keyed up, restless
- Unable to concentrate, agitated

The UCSD Psychopharmacology Research Initiatives Center of Excellence is conducting a research study of the effects of an investigational drug, not approved by the FDA, versus a placebo (sugar pill) on Generalized Anxiety Disorder.

Participants will be compensated for time and travel.

To find out if you may qualify and how to participate call **1-866-UC-PRICE(1-866-827-7423)** today for more information.



Did You Overdo It?



Lower Back Strain, Sprain or Back Spasms?

We are conducting a clinical research trial with an investigational dose of a medication that has been prescribed by physicians for more than 40 years to treat these uncomfortable symptoms.

18-65 years of age.

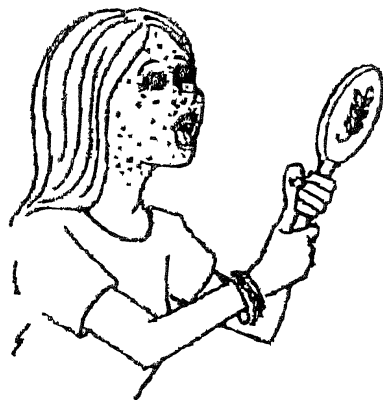
3 visits within 7 days.

Qualified participants receive study-related care, study medication, and may be compensated for time and travel.

Next time you have low back pain/spasms, please call. (Must be within 3 days of first symptoms.)

San Diego Sports Medicine and Family Health Center

6699 Alvarado Rd., Suite 2100
San Diego, CA 92120
619-229-3909



Got Zits?

We are conducting a research study evaluating an investigational therapy for moderate to severe acne.

We are looking for participants who are:

- 18 to 35 years of age with moderate to severe acne
- In good general health

Qualified participants will receive:

- Skin examinations by Stacy Smith, M.D., Sandra Adsit, M.D., Vera Morhenn, M.D., all board-certified dermatologists
- All visits and study treatment at no cost
- Reimbursement for time and travel
- No health insurance required

For more information or to schedule an appointment call: (858) 571-6800 or e-mail: acne@therapeuticsresearch.com or visit: www.therapeuticsresearch.com



Insomnia Research Study

Affiliated Research Institute is currently accepting participants, 18 years of age and older, for an insomnia research study involving an investigational medication for insomnia.

Did you know...

- Primary insomnia occurs in up to 10% of adults and 25% of elderly adults.
- Insomnia causes significant impairment in work, social, and daily functions.

We are looking for patients who:

- Have difficulty maintaining sleep
- Have difficulty falling back asleep once awakened
- Are 18 years of age and older
- Feel non-refreshed after sleep and tired during the day

Qualified participants will receive study-related physical exams, laboratory tests and investigational medication at no charge. Qualified participants will also receive compensation for time and travel.

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

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com



Depression Study

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

You may be eligible for the study if:

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

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

To find out if you qualify for this study or for more information, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com



Bipolar?

Affiliated Research Institute is currently looking for men and women diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and unhappy with their current medications due to unpleasant side effects and/or weight gain. Patients suffering from bipolar disorder must be currently experiencing a major depressive episode and be willing to change their current medications. All necessary office visits, medical evaluations and study medication will be provided at no cost to qualified patients.

For more information about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

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



Anxiety Study

Signs and Symptoms:

- Experiencing persistent worry?
- Feeling restless, irritable, or tense?
- Having difficulty sleeping?
- Having difficulty concentrating?

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.

If you would like additional information regarding this study and are between the ages of 18 and 65, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com



Avoiding the Scale?

Are you:

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

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

For more information about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

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



Frustrated with Type 2 Diabetes?

Are you taking metformin/glucofage, exercising and eating healthy? If you are doing everything right to control your Diabetes... And your blood sugar level is still too high, we may have an option for you. Local physicians are conducting a research study of a new investigational medication for Type 2 Diabetes. If you qualify, you will receive all study-related care and medication [at no cost].

For more information, please call: **619-229-3909**
San Diego Sports Medicine and Family Health Center
 6699 Alvarado Road #2100 • San Diego

just boring. But Rasmusson was itching to beautify it. He'd like all the park's plantings to make passersby halt in their tracks. "You want them to kind of look at it and think, 'Wow! I could do that!' or 'What is that plant?'" he said. He wanted the new Zoo Place plantings to "kind of match" the Desert Garden across Park Boulevard but also to tie in with plants on the north side of Zoo Place. As the zoo's gardeners had, he wanted to plant New Zealand tea trees and *Westringia rosmariniformis* (an Australian shrub that's a common fixture of the San Diego landscape). But he also wanted to add new, complementary specimens. "There's some bottlebrush over there. But we have a weeping bottlebrush! I'll

probably add that, so it'll be different but also the same. If we tie the whole thing together, it will really flow."

He'd planned to inject some color by planting yellow lantana, but the cold had killed the nursery's stock of it. Still, he had other candidates that he promised to show me. First, we walked through a large room filled with metal tables, the place where most of the nursery's cutting and potting take place. A large plastic bag filled with bright orange stems laden with shiny black berries—nuts from the palm *Chamaedorea tepijilote*—lay on one of the tables. Volunteers work at the nursery every Wednesday morning, and Rasmusson explained, "The next time

they're here, we'll have them take off the seed coats and pot all these up, and we'll grow them on. And that'll be the future chamaedorea in the park."

We zipped through several hothouses, where I glimpsed some of the ongoing experimentation. Rasmusson pointed out sprouts started from seeds that a member of the city's spray-crew had brought back from Florida. "It's one of those weird things that we've never seen before. So we decided to try growing it." On another table, the gardeners had started Malaysian red guavas. "We just did it for fun to see what it'll do," Rasmusson said. The hothouses also hold trusty standards that need a protected start in life, such as golden candles, a Central American native cherished for its glowing yellow bracts. Cuttings were growing in more than 100 four-inch pots, and gazing down at them, Rasmusson noted, "They're super-cold-sensitive. Luckily they're in here!" By September they would be transplanted into one-gallon containers and moved into one of the shade houses outdoors, to grow for another year or so before being displayed in the Botanical Building.

Good news and bad greeted Rasmusson on the series of tables outside the

RESEARCH STUDIES

ARE YOU

experiencing moderate to severe **Cramping and Pelvic Pain** associated with Endometriosis?

You may qualify for participation in a clinical research study being conducted at selected centers.

Qualified participants:
 > Women 18-45 years of age
 > Regular menstrual cycles
 > Surgically documented history of Endometriosis

Qualified participants may receive at no cost:
 > Monthly study-related examinations
 > Consultations with a board-certified physician
 > Study medication or placebo

You may be compensated for your out-of-pocket expenses and inconvenience.

SAN DIEGO CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER
858-793-7220



Are you sad due to bipolar disorder?

There might be hope.

We are seeking volunteers for a clinical research study of an approved medicine under investigation for the treatment of depression due to bipolar disorder.

To qualify:

- You must be at least 18 years old
- You must have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder
- You must be experiencing symptoms of depression

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:

- Monitoring of bipolar and depressive symptoms
- Medical lab exams
- Study medication

To learn more, please call:
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Seeking Patients for a Research Study for Type 2 Diabetes



Dr. Robert R. Henry and his associates at the VA Medical Center are looking for Type 2 diabetic volunteers to take part in a research study to determine if the use of different glucose meters significantly lowers HbA1c.

Participants Will: ■ Attend eight study visits ■ Be randomly assigned to one of two glucose meters

Inclusion Criteria: ■ 18 years or older ■ Have been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes for at least 3 months but no more than 15 years ■ Have a stable regimen for at least 3 months ■ No history of anemia, serious chronic disease, or severe hypoglycemia ■ No use of insulin ■ A1c to be 6.5-9.4

Qualified participants will be compensated for participation up to \$200.

Recruitment Period: 2/2007 to 6/15/2007.

To see if you qualify or to learn more about the study, please contact:

Karla Martinez at (858) 552-8585 ext. 6155 ■ E-mail: karla.martinez1@va.gov
OR Catherine DeLue at ext. 6740

Attn: Heavy Drinkers

The Scripps Research Institute is conducting 3 investigational studies associated with drinking:

- Heavy drinkers not seeking treatment
- Heavy drinkers seeking treatment
- Drinkers with depression seeking treatment



For more information and to find out if you can earn compensation for participating in one of these studies, contact:

(858) 784-7867 (STOP)



For Men and Women Who Suffer From...

Genital Herpes

A 1-year clinical research study is underway to evaluate an investigational medication for genital herpes. Approximately 22% of adults in the United States are positive for genital herpes. Genital herpes is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases in the world. If you are a male or female suffering at least 4 episodes a year, over the age of 18 and in good health, you may be eligible.

To qualify you must:

- Have had 4 or more episodes of genital herpes in the past year (or 4 or more in the year before you started suppressive therapy in the past)
- Be a healthy adult 18 years or older

Qualified participants will receive:

- Examination and consultation with a board-certified physician
- All study-related medications, labs and cultures
- Compensation for your time and travel

Medical Center for Clinical Research

Call

619-521-2841

We need 12 volunteers only

Profil Institute for Clinical Research is conducting a clinical research study testing an investigational medication in Type 2 Diabetes adults.

Are you.....

- A type 2 diabetic controlling your diabetes with diet and exercise or Metformin monotherapy?
- Between 18 and 65 years old?
- Otherwise healthy?

If you answered, "YES" to any of the above questions, you may qualify for this clinical trial.

Qualified Participants Will Receive:

- ✓ Study-related physical exams and lab work at no charge.
- ✓ Compensation up to \$1500 (2 overnights required)

Profil

Institute for Clinical Research, Inc.

Call Today

Local: 619-788-9216

E-mail: studies@profil-research.com



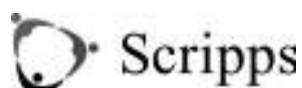
Restless legs keeping you awake at night?

A clinical study is being conducted in your area to research an investigational treatment for Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS). Eligible participants will be compensated for time and travel.

You may be eligible to participate if you are 18 years or older and experience the following symptoms at **least 3 times a week**:

- Creeping, crawling, tingling sensations in your legs
- Compelling urges to move your legs for relief
- Unpleasant sensations in your legs that get worse at night

Call today for more information.



1-866-394-7365



hothouses: the dead Moreton Bay fig sprouts and yellow lantana, dead ruellia. But a crowd of potted violas was unscathed, and the calendulas looked robust. Orange flags stuck out of some of the pots, a sign that the plants had been reserved to go to a particular spot in the park. Green flags signaled availability.

A park and recreation flatbed truck pulled up next to us bearing a young dragon tree (*Dracaena draco*) uprooted from Zoro Garden. A sinkhole had developed requiring repair

work, and the dragon tree had fallen victim to the excavation. Rasmuson told the truck driver where to deposit the tree; it would be placed in a container until another permanent home in the park could be found.

He led me to the first of the nursery's two large shade houses. "This is where we have a lot of the plant material that we rotate to the Botanical Building and then bring back," Rasmuson said. "Here we have all our cymbidium orchids that will be the next dis-

play in the center circle. You can already see the buds." They'd be in full bloom before long, he promised. We stopped in front of more golden candles. Two or three times the size of the young plants in the hothouse, these had been cut down to bare stems, but soon their foliage would reappear. By late spring or early summer, sunny yellow bracts would burst forth. "But you see how these are getting really big?" Rasmuson asked. In another year or two, they'd crowd themselves out of their two-gallon containers. "So we'll plant them somewhere in the park, and the little guys inside will become our display plants."

In another aisle, Rasmuson pointed out a ground-cover plant that he was thinking about using

at the Zoo Place site. "These are still small right now, but they have a real pretty purple flower." What appealed to him even more were the leaves — round and grayish green. "It's a look that I don't see too often," he said. It could blend well with other specimens he was considering.

Later, in the nursery's tree section, I saw two of the trees Rasmuson was thinking about for the Zoo Place site, and his choices made me smile. One (*Beaucarnea recurvata*) is commonly known as the elephant-foot tree because of the pachydermatous appearance of its rough gray trunk base. (Another of its common names is the ponytail palm, an allusion to the long, droopy foliage.) Rasmuson wanted to mix this in with *Brachychiton rupestris*, an Australian native that

develops a rough gray trunk that's shaped like a bottle but calls to mind some body part borrowed from a giant of the animal kingdom. Both would contribute to "that zoo look," Rasmuson suggested.

He had very different ideas for the landscaping around the just-completed House of Spain, the newest of the park's international cottages (and the last one likely to be constructed). Although each of the cottages has a cultural theme, the grounds around each house were never used as a showplace for flora from that part of the globe until the House of Puerto Rico was built in 2005. Rasmuson pointed out that the nursery had a nice stock of Caribbean plants that would complement the national theme. He got permission to develop a design that

used many of them, and now he was planning something similar for the House of Spain. "Definitely got to have a cork oak!" he declared. "And we *have* to have an olive tree! Got to have the bay laurels, because they have a lot of that over there. I could put a couple of strawberry trees in there, too, because that's also a Mediterranean thing." He'd work on the shrubs and flowers once he got the big elements in place.

After we concluded the informal tour, Duclo and I drove to the park's Administration Building, where the rangers are based. Duclo has worked as a ranger for more than 11 years, and his knowledge of the park's history is encyclopedic. He thinks one of the themes that runs through that history is how big an impact certain individuals have had on the park at various times. George Marston was such a figure, as was Kate Sessions. Kathy Puplava (the park's first horticulturist, now retired) was another. "Even though we do things collectively, individual people can have a vision," Duclo commented to me, "particularly if they're really plant-knowledgeable people like Mike [Rasmuson]." Duclo thinks, "We're coming into a renaissance for the park now. We've got a couple of people in place like Paul Sirois and Mike that really have a vision for the next 100 years. And it'll be great, because it's looking at what fits and what works." ■

— Jeannette De Wyze

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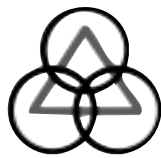
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IN THE EYES OF THE ELDERS

Elders Hinckley, Loveless, Reyes, Jones

IT WAS EIGHT O'CLOCK in the morning and I was standing in a cheap apartment in Leucadia, staring at a wall decorated with the faces of dead Mormon prophets. It had been years since I had seen those faces, and in the meantime it seemed as if I had changed a good deal more than they. There was the aristocratic-nosed Joseph Smith, grumpy-old Brigham Young, snowy-bearded Wilford Woodruff, and so on. They were like goblins out of my childhood, and seeing them again scared the living hell out of me.

The apartment, which was inhabited by four Mormon missionaries, was the kind of place where surf rats

and teenage runaways stay for a few days until they run out of money or find a better place to live. The carpets smelled. The iridescent green sofas had lost their sheen. Every time the Amtrak train went by, the Sheetrock walls rattled.

I looked around to see if I could find the ten-speed bicycles which, even more than dark suits and black copies of the *Book of Mormon*, have become the universal symbol of Mormon missionaries. And there they were in the corner — but something was wrong: The twisted pile of greasy bicycle parts looked like the result of a high-speed collision. “What happened there,” Elder Jonathan Hinckley

explained cheerfully, “was that we tried to put three broken bikes together to make one good one, but instead we ruined them all. Fortunately, we have a car.”

It was Elder Hinckley's birthday, and even though he was only 20, I followed the proper protocol and called him “Elder,” as all Mormon missionaries prefer to be called. Besides denoting their rank in the Mormon priesthood (it's roughly equivalent to a lieutenant), the title serves the elders as a constant reminder that they are not like any other young men of their age.

Elder Loveless, a short young man with eyes as dark and kind as a squirrel's, walked into the room and

shook my hand. Nobody in the world can shake hands quite like a Mormon missionary. I'm sure they must receive training in it. The way they lift their elbow to pump a little more firmness into the grip and look you right in the eye as if scanning your soul for character flaws is truly unique. “Elder Jones is still blow-drying his hair,” he told me sincerely. “He'll be out in a minute.”

Elder Reyes then came padding into the room wearing a dark suit and beach thongs, which somehow seemed to suit him perfectly. The dark and wiry missionary from the Dominican Republic reminded me of the scrappy little boxers his country produces. He shook

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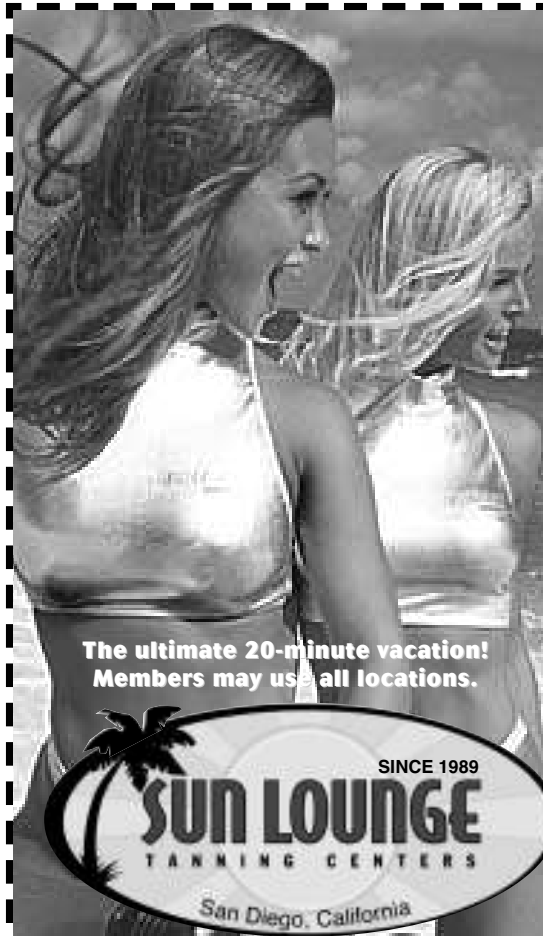
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my hand in a reasonably good imitation of his American counterparts, then went directly into the kitchen to pour himself a bowl of Rice Krispies. "He doesn't speak much English," Elder Hinckley whispered. Elder Reyes didn't seem to mind at all when his thongs stuck to the kitchen floor ("We just mopped that floor yesterday," Elder Hinckley said); he sat down at the table, said a quick blessing over his breakfast, then went about reading the back of the cereal box, as happy as a cartoon character.

Finally, Elder Jones made his entrance, and the entire household was present. Elder Jones, a rather shy young man from Maryland, looked as though he must have fallen asleep while holding the blow-dryer on his strawlike blond hair. He had been on his mission for less than three months, and he still had a startled, dazed look, which I assumed to mean he hadn't quite

adjusted yet to his new and somewhat bizarre lifestyle. With his mild case of teenage acne, the young elder didn't look a day over 16.

Ordinarily, by this time of day the missionaries would have already begun trading—the door-to-door proselytizing which they labor at for 12 hours a day, five days a week, for two years. But it was raining very hard outside, and Elder Hinckley, who is the Leucadia and Olivenhain mission district leader, thought it would be best to wait until the rain had stopped. So we talked about sports for a while. The elders' knowledge of current sports events was somewhat limited, since they are not allowed to watch TV, listen to rock radio stations, or read the newspaper. "Every now and then we buy the Sunday paper just to see how BYU's doing," Elder Hinckley said with a sly smile to show he's not above bending the rules a bit.

I told them, "I went to

BYU for a couple of years, and in those days the football team couldn't even beat El Paso. Every time it looked like they had some good sophomores coming up, they all got called on missions."

The elders looked at

New York, Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois — before they finally settled in Utah. They now prefer the more formal "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints," then abbreviated to "L.D.S." If you know what it means, then you probably are one.

ONE THING I knew about Mormon missionaries is that they're usually broke and hungry, and if you want to get them to talk about something other than the *Book of Mormon*, you have to feed them.

me suspiciously. I knew what they were thinking. "Are you L.D.S.?" Elder Hinckley finally asked.

Mormons almost never use the word "Mormon." It's a word which reminds them of the days when they got run out of four states —

Or at least were one, which amounts to the same thing. A Mormon can no more change his heritage than a black man or a Jew. A Mormon who ceases to follow the teachings of his church simply becomes a Jack Mormon, an apostate, which is

the religious equivalent of a traitor.

Somehow I didn't have the heart to tell the elders that I was an apostate. It wasn't that I cared what they might have thought of me, it was just that I knew there would be a lot of wasted time while they tried to fulfill their obligation to recon-vert me, to bring me back into the fold. Mormons, I knew, never give up on the lost sheep. So I told them, lied really, "No, I'm not Mormon. I just went to BYU for the skiing." And to my relief they seemed to buy that.

I looked back up at the wall decorated with the faces of the Mormon prophets. No doubt about it, they looked annoyed. The pinched face of Joseph Fielding Smith, the great-grandson of the founder of Mormonism, looked particularly unforgiving. At BYU I once heard him stand up in front of 10,000 students and tell them they should have sex-

ual intercourse with their spouses only as often as they wanted to have children (which for most Mormons seems to be quite frequently), and that if at all possible the intercourse should be negotiated with the clothing still on. As near as I could tell, I was the only student in the field house who didn't stand up and cheer him. Judging by the look he was now giving me, he still hadn't forgiven me for that.

It wasn't the only time the church and I had disagreed. Ever since I had been old enough to think for myself, we'd had our problems, the church and I. Like all Mormon males, I had been groomed from infancy to someday become a missionary, but I always knew in my heart it would never happen. I had known so many of them — brothers, cousins, best friends — and it had always seemed like such a useless waste of talent, a kind of ritual sacrifice of male virgins. Still, it

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could have been my fate to become one of them; and now, every time I see two elders somberly pedaling their bicycles through the streets of my neighborhood, I find myself strangely fascinated by them. I want to talk to them, see how they're holding up under their self-inflicted torture, and if possible, find out how they can endure it, while I would never even consider it.

* * *

I offered to take Elder Hinckley and his companion Elder Jones to breakfast. One thing I knew about Mormon missionaries is that they're usually broke and hungry, and if you want to get them to talk about something other than the *Book of Mormon*, you have to feed them. Naturally, they accepted my invitation.

On the way to the coffee shop in Encinitas, I prodded them into talking about how they came to be missionaries. Elder Jones seemed to be struggling with his shyness. Or was he embarrassed to talk about it? "I've

wanted to go on a mission since I was seven or eight," he told me. "When I got to be a little older I realized if I really wanted to go, I would have to save my money. I worked every summer, mostly in construction, and one summer in a drugstore."

"Are you paying your

like Elder Reyes, can't afford to pay, and in those cases the church helps out. The rest of us pay our own way." He went on to explain that the missionaries in the San Diego area lived on about \$300 per month; they reimbursed the church \$125 per month for rent, and \$25 per

"WE GET A LOT of doors slammed in our faces," Elder

Hinckley said. "A lot of people

seem to have disgust for us. It

takes a lot of hard work and hand-shaking to make a convert here."

own way now?" I asked, and he nodded that he was. "Doesn't the church ever help pay for some of it?"

Elder Hinckley answered, "The church says that if a young man wants to go on a mission, the lack of money shouldn't stand in the way. Some of the elders from the poorer countries,

month for use of the car; that left about \$150 per month for food and clothing, which wasn't enough. They depended on the generosity of local church members to see them through. They figured their many invitations to dinner saved them about \$100 per month on food. They were truly

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"going forth with neither purse nor script," as old Joe Smith had commanded the original Mormon missionaries to do.

Listening to them, I found myself oddly envious. I realized my mother would approve of them in a way she hasn't approved of me since adolescence. To this day, whenever my mother calls me from Utah, before the conversation has ended, she will manage to slip in, "The greatest regret in my life is that you never went on a mission for the church." She has a way of saying "the church" which is intended to remind me there is no other. She has learned not to push the point too much, but for many years she hounded me relentlessly about my falling out of the fold.

After I turned 26 and passed the age of eligibility for a Mormon male to go on a mission, my mother quit trying so hard. She could see that my indifference toward being a saint — latter-day, early-day, or otherwise — was a chronic con-

dition and not just a phase I was going through. Her regret then calcified into one of those long-term motherly disappointments, as calm and everlasting as a kidney stone. Fortunately, my father stayed out of the whole mess. He probably remembered the pressures placed on him to go on a mission when he had been my age; he hadn't wanted to go any more than I had, and didn't.

At breakfast I was reminded that the elders were still growing boys, even though they did wear three-piece suits. They ate voraciously. "We don't get a chance to eat out often," Elder Hinckley said through a mouthful of food.

They both had their copies of the *Book of Mormon* beside them on the table. They were the missionary editions, full of handy references. My mother had given me an identical copy on my 16th birthday. I had tried several times to read it, but always found it impossible. The book is absolutely stupefying in its

monotony, a real blockbuster of boredom. Most of my youth was spent listening to people babble incoherently about the book. Week after week they would stand up in church and testify how it had changed their lives. I finally decided that their relationship to the book was similar to the affection captives come to have for their captors after several weeks of being locked up in a dark closet. I had to agree with them that such severe sensory deprivation could indeed change their lives. My dog finally chewed up my copy one day, for which I rewarded him with a package of hot dogs. I was very careful not to ask the elders about the *Book of Mormon*.

While the elders ate, they brought me up to date on the church's vital statistics. There are now six million Mormons around the world, 50,000 of them living in the San Diego area. There are 28,000 Mormon missionaries worldwide, and each year they bring about 200,000 converts into

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the church. There are 182 mission areas around the world, covering every country except the communist countries, where the Mormon missionaries are not allowed. San Diego and Imperial counties represent one of those mission areas,

and there are 180 Mormon missionaries laboring here, converting about 100 people to Mormonism each month.

"Well, that's all very interesting," I told the elders, "but what I really want to know — and forgive me

if I'm out of line here — is why a normal, healthy young man would want to give up two years of his life to try to convert strangers to Mormonism? That makes no sense to me at all."

Elder Hinckley looked at his companion, who

looked away. "The Bible says the gospel will be preached to all the world. We're just trying to fulfill that prophecy," Elder Hinckley said.

"Spencer W. Kimball [the current president and prophet of the church] says

that every worthy young man should go on a mission," Elder Jones added.

"Should go on a mission," I noted. "Does that mean you're here because you should be, not because you want to be? Tell me the truth now, aren't you here

because there are pressures put on you by the church, your families, your girlfriends, and almost everybody else you know?"

Elder Hinckley looked at me suspiciously for the second time that morning. "It's not like you're eter-

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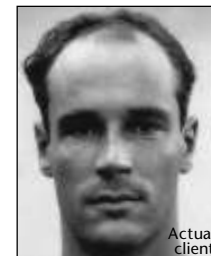
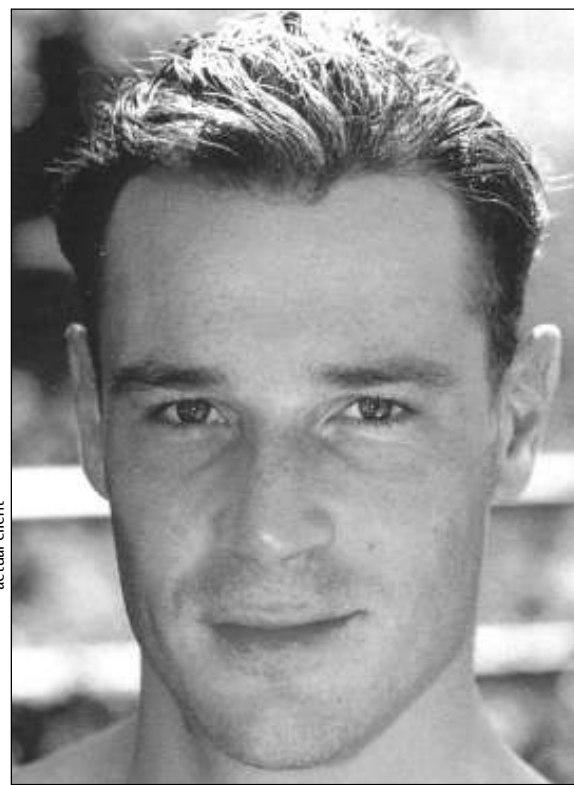


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nally damned if you don't go," he said. "Sometimes the people at church will give a guy a hard time if he doesn't go, but you've got to understand our point of view. We've come to understand that this gospel is true, and we want to share it with the world." Perhaps I was looking at Elder Hinckley in a strange way, because he quickly added, nervously, "We're just ordinary guys."

For some reason I found myself thinking of an old friend of mine from BYU whom I hadn't seen in years — since he left for his mission. Dale had been born into a Mormon family, but like me, he didn't have much use for any of it. Also like me, he was at BYU because it made his family happy — and because some of the best skiing in the world was within 30 minutes of the campus. Another year or two at BYU and Dale would have been among the best skiers in the country. But then he was called on a mission. No one in our circle of friends thought he had a chance of

passing the interview, since he was no more "worthy" than the rest of us. We were shocked when he passed; if they took him, it meant they could take any of us. After the church service held in honor of his going away, after he had been paraded around in front of the congregation like a sacrificial calf, we all met back at Dale's house, and there, after a few beers, he broke down and wept in rage. "Why do we let them do this to us?" he cried. "Why can't we tell them no?"

None of us had an answer for him. Why does the colt let the man with the knife make a gelding out of him? Is it ignorance? Fear? Trust? Cowardice? When I left that day, Dale said to me, "I'm scared to death. I don't want to go." I remember how much it scared me just to hear him say it.

* * *

The first time it occurred to me that there was something strange about this missionary stuff was when

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I was ten years old and saw my brother's close friend, Jack, return from France in disgrace after serving one and a half years of what was supposed to have been a two-year mission. Before he went away on his mission, Jack had been a handsome young man who always had

a few dollars in his pocket and a certain way with the girls. The term "sexual abstinence" didn't mean anything to me at the time, but if somebody had explained what it meant, even I could have concluded that Jack was an unlikely candidate to tolerate two years of it.

I first became aware that Jack's mission was going badly for him when my mother and the other church ladies seemed incapable of talking about anything else during their long phone conversations. I found out what Jack's problem was when he showed up at the

airport with a very lovely, and very pregnant, Parisian girl. I couldn't understand why nobody seemed to share his obvious joy in having found a wife. Far from joyful over the situation, the church promptly excommunicated him.

My cousin Roger fared

a little better. He completed his two-year mission in Guatemala, but then had only been back for a few days when he withdrew his life's savings from the bank and bought a plane ticket back to Guatemala. When he returned home the second time, he was accom-

panied by the prettiest little brown-skinned girl the state of Utah had ever seen. Of course the family ostracized him — what had been going on down there for two years? My grandfather's comment was, "Don't you know Mexicans can't get auto insurance in this state?" Roger and his bride finally had to move to Kansas to get away from them.

My brother's case was less romantic. For two years he sent home letters from Marseilles, France, calling it "one of the most wicked cities in the world." That was enough to fire my imagination, and I kept hoping he would be more specific about the French temptations. But he never was. Not even after he returned. In fact, I never heard him talk about his mission again. He spent long hours alone at his desk, staring out the window. I had to conclude that it had been an awful

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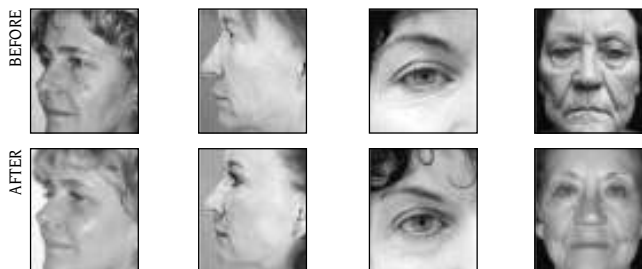
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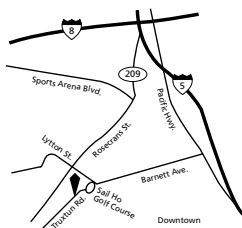
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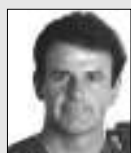
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experience for him.

And what purpose could it have possibly served? Why is the Mormon church so determined to convert the entire world to their way of thinking? I put this question to the young elders there at breakfast, and got the standard response, the one I'd been hearing all my life, the one Mormon children are taught to recite in Sunday school as soon as they are old enough to speak. "We know this gospel to be true."

Of course, I thought. What else would I expect them to say? "But why do you insist that everybody else believe in it, too?" I asked.

"We want to share it with the world," Elder Hinckley replied, and I could tell by his expression there was no point in discussing it further. At Provo, Utah, before the missionaries are sent out into the field, they are trained in a kind of circular dialectic. They could respond to almost any imaginable question about the church in a way that would

lead the potential convert from Lesson One to Lesson Two, and so on. Nothing could divert them.

I knew the answer to my own question, anyway. The reason the Mormons are trying to convert the world to Mormonism is that their history has taught them they can't trust anybody who isn't a Mormon, and in the long run it's a lot easier to convert the Gentiles than it is to fight them. When the Mormons fled Nauvoo, Illinois, in 1846, their homes had been burned by the Gentiles, their farms and businesses destroyed, their families molested, and their prophet assassinated by an angry mob. When Brigham Young led them across the plains to Utah, it was the fourth time they had been forced to resettle. Brigham Young's intention was to get as far away from the United States as he could get, and start his own country in the Rocky Mountains, which he did, calling it the Kingdom of Deseret. At that time the entire Great Basin was inhabited by only a few

impoverished Indians and a couple of hundred shiftless white men pursuing their passion for rape, violence, and wanderlust under the pretension of trapping for furs. If the Mormons had any hope of backing up their claim to the Kingdom of Deseret, they had to settle and populate it, meaning they needed to add thousands to their meager numbers. Mormon missionaries were sent to Europe, where times were hard and people were looking for a way to immigrate to America. The Mormons chartered ships and offered cheap fare to America for anyone who would accept the gospel and be baptized. Once in Utah, the converts were offered free farmland, in locations where everybody in the community had emigrated from the same homeland. The missionaries, of course, had a phenomenal success and converted thousands of people to Mormonism.

An interesting footnote to this story is that Brigham Young originally conceived

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of his kingdom as extending as far west as California, though he knew little about that territory. In the winter of 1846, when the Mormons were camped at Winter Quarters, Iowa, waiting for the spring thaw so they could push on to Utah, war broke out between the United States and Mexico. The United States Army conscripted 500 Mormon men (and ten women cooks) to go fight in California. Though Brigham Young had no desire to aid the United States, which had been very unkind to the Mormons, he saw an opportunity to establish his people in California — his kingdom's outlet to the sea! — and he gave his consent for the men to go. Their brutal winter journey to San Diego is said to have been the longest infantry march in the history of the U.S. Army. Many of the Mormons ended up staying in California, and in fact started a colony of sorts in San Bernardino.

There isn't any farmland to give away in Utah

anymore, and the Kingdom of Deseret became part of the United States after all. But the Mormons never quite overcame their suspicions of the Gentiles. It's as though they're still afraid the angry mob will show up again some dark night to run them out of town, and they're trying desperately to avert that tragedy by converting the mob one by one, making believers out of them, bringing them into the fold, before it's too late.

No harm in that, I thought. If the elders are persuasive enough to get somebody actually to read the *Book of Mormon*, then they deserve the right to claim their souls. Salesmen — that's what they really are, door-to-door salesmen. "Okay," I said to the elders, "so you want to share the gospel. And how successful have you been here in San Diego?"

"We get a lot of doors slammed in our faces," Elder Hinckley said. "A lot of people seem to have disgust for us. It takes a lot of hard work and handshaking to

make a convert here."

Not a very fruitful vineyard, I gathered. Wickedness and sin are out of control here; men in three-piece suits are not held in esteem as highly as they are in other parts of the world; and the competition is vigorous from the human-growth potentialists, the new-age gurus, and all the other odd-ball religions in San Diego. The missionaries have no choice about where they are sent, but if they did, San Diego wouldn't be their first choice. Like most missionaries, Elder Hinckley would have liked to go to Europe. But at least the climate is agreeable here, and compared to much of the world the health facilities are good — so good in fact, that when missionaries sent to places like Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Peru contract local diseases, they are sent to San Diego to recuperate.

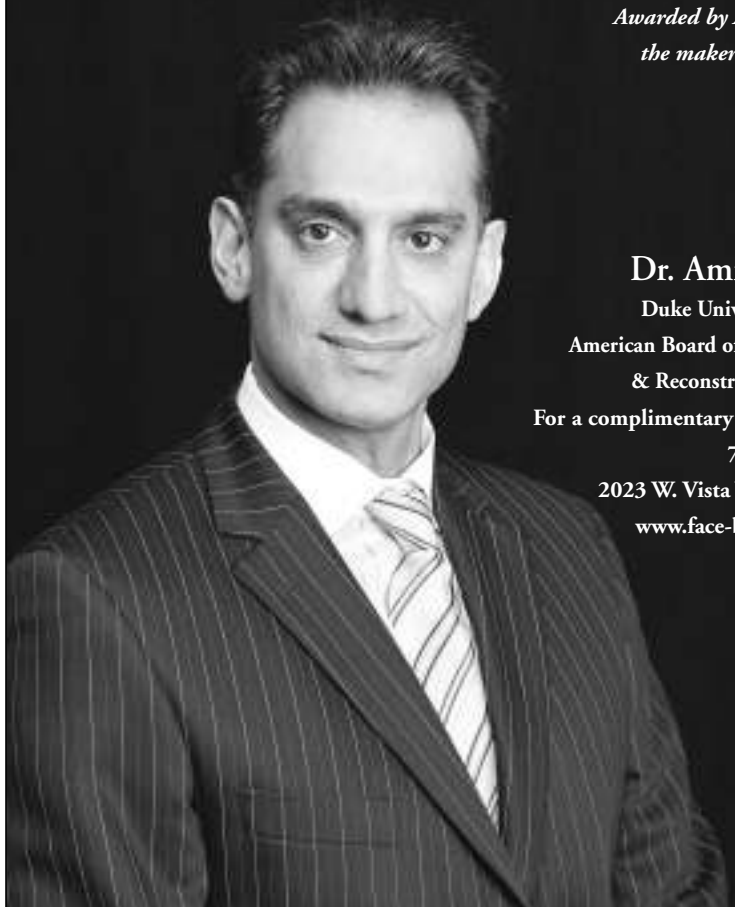
Outside it was still raining, and I could see the elders weren't ready to go tracting quite yet. A young woman in a red dress passed by our window, tiptoeing

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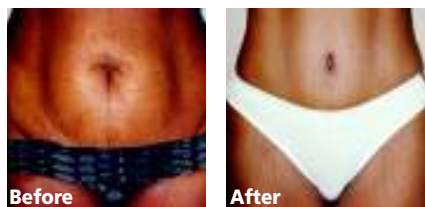
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gracefully around the puddles on the sidewalk. I couldn't help but notice how she caught the elders' attention. They looked at her longingly, but secretly, as though neither wanted the other to catch him looking. It seemed like a good time to bring up the

subject of sexual abstinence. "So every worthy young man should go on a mission," I said, drawing them back to reality. They nodded to show they were with me. "Tell me then what you have to do to be considered 'worthy.'"

"There's three things

they ask you in the interviews," Elder Hinckley recalled. "First, there's the Word of Wisdom — do you use alcohol, tobacco, or coffee?"

"And if you do, are you automatically out?" I wondered.

"No, I had friends in high school who were out in the parking lot smoking and drinking, and they're on missions now. We do believe in repentance."

"Good," I said.

"Second, they want to know if you're living by the Ten Commandments —

everybody knows what they are. And third, there's chastity; they're really tough on that."

"And how do they define chastity?" I asked.

"No necking, no petting, no premarital sex," Elder Hinckley said, counting them off on his fingers.

"No girls, in other words."

"I guess kissing's no sin," Elder Hinckley said with a sly smile intended to let me know he had personally explored the outer limits of worthiness.

"Do you guys have girlfriends at home waiting for you?" I asked.

Elder Jones leaned forward as if to let us know he had something to say on this subject. "Neither of us has girlfriends waiting at home, but a lot of missionaries do. Most guys get a 'Dear John' letter after about six months of being away. You hardly ever hear about a young lady waiting longer than that. Two years is a long time. That's why I didn't want a girl waiting

for me."

"I wanted one. I just couldn't get one," Elder Hinckley said, a bit sullenly.

"Well," I told him, "if it's any consolation, while I was at BYU, I noticed the returned missionaries had

have a bulky hem which can sometimes be seen through clothing at the collar and thighs.) The reason the young women at BYU look for returning missionaries — other than the pleasure of rejecting ineligible

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in another land; he might contract some horrible Nigerian skin disease; or worst of all, she might complete her degree in child development and family relations and have to go back to Panguitch, Utah, to live with her parents and wait faithfully for her betrothed to return from his mission. No, like women everywhere, Mormon women play the odds, and the odds favor a returned missionary.

While I was at BYU, some of the more devious males who hadn't been on missions had taken to wearing rubber bands under their trousers in imitation

of the hem on the elders' garments; that way, while they were sitting on the steps of the student union, waiting for innocent young girls to beguile, they would at least appear to be returned missionaries. Like men everywhere, they knew how to play the odds, too.

"Something bothers me about this 'worthiness' stuff," I told the elders. "It seems as though the church is asking you to live by impossible standards. There's something almost abnormal about telling a young man he can't have anything to do with young women."

"It causes a lot of missionaries problems," Elder

Hinckley admitted. "A lot of them get sent home because of it. While one

them — that kind of thing." "Wait a minute," I said. "You're not telling me you're

**"WE GOT AN ORANGE
thrown at us during Elder
Jones's first month here," Elder
Hinckley said, almost happily. "A
lot of people driving by yell
things at us."**

guy's in the shower, his companion will be running upstairs to visit the girl living in the apartment above

supposed to take showers together so you can keep an eye on each other?"

"We don't have to take showers together," Elder Hinckley said. "But we are supposed to be in the company of our companion at all times, and never alone in the company of a young lady." I must have been looking at Elder Hinckley strangely again, because he

quickly added, "We're just ordinary guys. We think all the same things you do. We'll go to a party and talk to all the girls — and we'll shake their hands, but that's all that will come of it.

"Actually," Elder Hinckley said, trying to change the subject, "I think this is good for us. It's a character builder. I think being with a missionary companion all the time prepares you for marriage. You learn how to live with somebody. You learn all their little mannerisms, all their problems. It's the hardest part of being on a mission for me. Actually, it's sickening sometimes."

"Not just that," Elder Jones said. "Sometimes we get too close to the local church members."

"Meaning?"

"Too close to the young ladies," Elder Jones conceded.

"Girls will be girls," I said.

"And we're just ordi-

nary guys," Elder Hinckley shrugged.

* * *

Nobody said much for a while. I finished my tea, while the elders chomped on their ice. Finally I said, "You know what I've always wondered? The church says every worthy young man should go on a mission. But what about every worthy young woman? Why don't they have to go?"

Elder Hinckley looked perplexed, "They can go if they want," he said. "The church encourages them to get an education and try to get married."

That was about as much as I had ever heard said on the subject. While it is true there are some female Mormon missionaries, their numbers are insignificant when compared to males (about 12 percent are females). The truth is — do I dare say it? — that the female missionaries are generally the old

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maids, the BYU lasses who completed their degrees before they could find a husband. So, like Catholic nuns, they resign themselves to a lifetime of serving the Lord — the only man who would have them. For this reason, the age limit for female missionaries is extended beyond the age 26 limit for males, to 65, even 70, to accommodate their long spinsterhood.

After a while the rain stopped, the sun came out, and from our booth in the coffee shop we could see it would be a wonderful day for proselytizing. “Almost 10:30,” Elder Hinckley said, looking at his watch. “We’ve got to get to work.”

We drove to Neptune Avenue in Leucadia. It was a neighborhood of half-million-dollar homes overlooking the ocean. It also had a reputation for a pretty fast beach life. I had to consider the elders’ choice a gutsy one. I couldn’t imagine a neighborhood more challenging to a couple of Mormon missionaries.

I was excited as we got out of the car. I was finally going to see firsthand just what it was I had missed. I watched the elders’ faces closely as we got out of the car, expecting to see their teenage innocence glaze over as they hardened themselves against the cruel-hearted Gentiles. But to my surprise, their expressions brightened, as though they were laughing about some private joke. They straightened their ties and unruffled their suits as happily as if they were going on a double date.

We had some difficulty finding our way to the front door of the first house we approached. “I’m convinced architects in California are designing houses these days so Mormon missionaries won’t be able to tell which door to knock on,” Elder Hinckley said, bearing the hardship cheerfully.

“Sometimes we end up in the back yard looking through the patio window at someone lying on the couch in their underwear,” Elder Jones said. “Either that or we run into the attack dogs. Elder Hinckley’s been bit a couple of times.”

Nobody was home at the first house, so we moved on. “We got an orange thrown at us during Elder Jones’ first month here,”

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Elder Hinckley said, almost happily. "A lot of people driving by yell things at us."

"Once we got yelled at by an 89-year-old lady who said we were invading her privacy," Elder Jones recalled.

"What did you say to her after that?" I asked.

"We told her to have a nice day," he said.

After a half dozen houses with nobody home, we finally met a man coming out his front door just as we were coming up the walk. He tried to backpedal but could see it was too late. We had him

cornered. "Good morning," Elder Jones said. "We're representatives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints." (He said it slowly, and it seemed to take forever for him to get it all out.) "We have a message we'd like to share with you."

The Gentile, in his mid-30s, was unshaven, scraggly haired, and looked as though he had been up all night indulging in wickedness. Still, he managed to smile at them. "I really don't feel like talking right now," he said. Just then he spied his

next-door neighbor coming out of his house, and with a flash of inspiration he said, "But that guy over there really likes to talk to missionaries. Hey, John!" he called. "These guys want to talk to you!"

The neighbor raced for

his car as we raced out the gate. But he beat us. The elders just smiled, almost taking courage from this little farce. "Looks like a tough neighborhood," I said.

"It is," Elder Hinckley agreed with a sigh. "The Spanish-speaking commu-

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nities are a lot easier. Their customs are different. They'll always let you in the house, and once you get inside that door [the elder's eyes brightened], then you have a big advantage." He went on to explain that their roommates, Elders Reyes and Loveless, work just the Latino neighborhoods in North County, and they have been very successful in making converts. Also, there are five elders who speak Laotian working the Southeast Asian neighborhoods in San Diego, and they are making about 25 baptisms per month, as compared to Elders Hinckley and Jones's one baptism in three months.

At the next door there was a brief but encouraging conversation through the mail slot. "Have a nice day, boys," the middle-age female voice said.

"Boys," Elder Jones said, shaking his head as we walked away. After you've been called "elder" for a while, "boy" just won't do.

We knocked on several more doors, but nobody wanted to invite us in. "I can't believe you guys do this 12 hours a day," I said.

"Don't you ever get bored?"

"Sure," Elder Hinckley said. "We get bored sometimes. We have little games we play to get us through."

"Like what?"

"We like to play the 'word game.' You give your companion a word, say 'sugar,' and he has to use it in his next door approach. When the person at the next door tells us he doesn't want to hear our message, I might say, 'Please, with sugar?'" The two elders began laughing uncontrollably at this corny example. They seemed to turn into unruly children right before my eyes.

At the next house there was a No Solicitors sign on the gate. The elders ignored it. "One time this woman got really mad at me," Elder Hinckley said. "Can't you read the sign? No Solicitors! I told her, 'Ma'am, I come from Utah, and they don't teach us how to read too well back there.'"

At a run-down house buried in shrubbery, an attractive young woman engaged us in a conversation. "I'd like to invite you in," she said after a while, "but I'm leaving for work pretty soon. I want you to know I appreciate what you're

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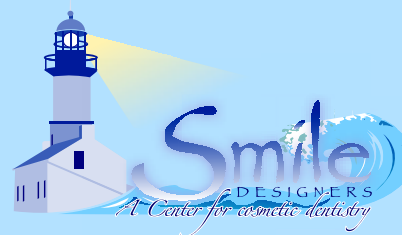
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doing. I'm a member of a local church myself."

"Oh? What church is that?" Elder Hinckley politely inquired.

"S.R.F."

Elder Hinckley looked at me. "Self-Realization Fellowship," I translated. "There's a lot of them around here."

"Never heard of it," Elder Hinckley shrugged. I could almost hear him thinking: "For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets..."

"Perhaps we could make an appointment to come back another time," Elder Jones offered.

The young woman considered it. She obviously loved to talk religion, particularly with handsome, clean-cut young men. "No," she finally said. "I'm following a different path than you. Perhaps we should leave it at that."

As soon as we were out of hearing range I said to the elders, "She looked lonely."

"Yeah," Elder Jones agreed. "We have to be careful. Sometimes the young women just want a man to talk to.... But the old ladies

do it, too. Sometimes we'll come back and give them all seven lessons; then when we ask them if they're ready to be baptized they say no, but they sure enjoyed our company."

We walked on for a while. "Well," I said. "We haven't done too well so far."

"Sometimes we go all day — maybe 100 doors — before anybody invites us in," Elder Jones said, not in the least discouraged. "Then other days the spirit is different and it seems like we can get inside every other door."

As we moved along to the next house, I dropped behind the elders to watch them. They were in an expansive mood now, both lighthearted and serious, like kids playing grown-ups. I found myself envying their innocence. Fifteen years ago they might have been my brothers, my cousins, my best friends...even me.

We walked up a flight of white stairs and found a door waiting open for us. The elders peeked in curiously. The back door, as well

as all the windows in the house, were open. We could see to the ocean, and clear to the horizon, for miles and miles. A strong wind was blowing through the house and into our faces. Loud rock music was coming from somewhere. A young man greeted us warmly.

Then it made sense to me. I knew why the elders seemed so happy. For two years they were on a reprieve from responsibility — no money, no work, no career, no cars, no clothes, no women. They spent their time peeking into peoples' houses, seeing how people lived behind closed doors, smelling their odors, tasting their cooking, eyeing their daughters (but nothing more), listening to their confessions, their fears, their delusions, their hunger and obsession for anything true and pure. The elders were like teenage holy men. It was their sacrifice — all the things they had given up — which gave them their purity, their happiness, their holiness. ■

— Steve Sorensen

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LETTERS

continued from page 12
to IMDB.

I would appreciate you including ratings next to the reviews in the "Seen on DVD" section in the future.

Jennifer O'Connell
via e-mail

A Whiff Of History

I found the article "What's That Smell?" fascinating (Cover Story, May 10). He described how smell can transport you back to another time. I had such an incident a few years ago. I caught the whiff of a certain Italian dish, and I actually saw myself eating that dish in an Italian restaurant in Chicago 40 years ago. It felt so real that it was eerie. Now I have a better understanding.

Ken Druhot
via e-mail

Crapless!

I don't believe it! Movie reviews that aren't loaded with total self-serving crap! Well-written, useful reviews — what a concept.

Who knows? Maybe the Reader can finally get someone who can write a movie review that somebody wants to read.

The A.V. Club is a real upgrade — from Duncan Shepherd 1.0 to A.V. Club 2007.

Rich Goodsell
via e-mail

Old Shep

Is Duncan Shepherd on vacation, or has he been replaced by the OV group. Or whatever their name is. I really look forward to his reviews, and I missed him

last week. It could have helped me avoid a bad film.
Clifton Odom
via e-mail

Duncan Shepherd will return in the fall. — Editor

Say You're Sorry

Re "Cool San Diego" (Cover Story, April 19) and letters in following editions.

The Reader has my sympathies and respect for publishing the hate letters from readers who were offended by your cover photo containing a fox

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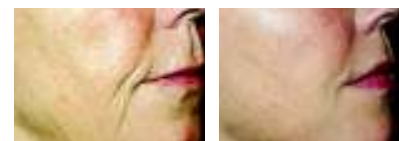
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pelt accessory. The *Reader* publishes a dining review each week, but there is no outrage for the animals who gave up their lives to be eaten and their pelts discarded. In fact, people have been wearing fur since we became people. In fact, one reason some people like fur is because they like animals that have pelts with such obviously appealing properties — softness, warmth, visual beauty. In fact, fur farming is not torture (as Bobbi Weaver asserted in her letter). My guess for an explanation of the misguided vitriol is that fur activism is simply indefensible by any rational discourse, so one resorts to bullying, pejoration, and redefining terms like torture. And to attacking the bearer of the bad news these readers can do nothing about. Perhaps they should consider psychological counseling before their hatred gets out of hand. A decent person would write an apology to the *Reader* for

their angry words. A sensible person would reflect on the issue and lay out for others to consider the most compelling reasoning they can muster to defend their activism. If others cannot be persuaded in their fashion, then they should not be coerced to change their preference for fur. It's not any different than the issue of carnivorousism. People have advocated vegetarianism throughout recorded history, and just look how compelling that has been so far. Not very.

David Case
Golden Hill

Comments from Reader Website

Diary of a Diva Published May 16

Posted by Amy on 05/16/07, 4:04 p.m.

Wow, that sounds just like me and my husband!! I know it's cheesy, but sometime's it really is like we speak two different languages and our view points are so different! I'm amazed when I assume he

interprets something one way (my way), but when I slow down and actually ask him, his view is always so different. Not wrong, just different. Relationships are work, but it's the best job I've ever had!! Ok, that was lame. You're writing rocks! Thanks for making me laugh week after week! :)

Crasher Published May 16

Posted by Sophie on 05/18/07, 3:00 p.m.

So, you never went in and saw Spears. Hmm, does not sound much like a party. But a great story anyhow. I read it last week and loved it. My favorite part was the comment about her wig or wiggling out. Classic!

As I Hear It Published May 16

Posted by Jim Sheetz on 05/18/07, 5:12 p.m.

It appears as if you ask the listeners what they dislike the most about the band in every one of these articles. It really puts a

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damper on all of these reviews when it gets to the part where you force the negative response. Please stop making our local bands look bad.

Letters

Published May 16

Posted by Josh Board on 05/16/07, 11:19 p.m.

Ivan — a few things. You may not have been “paparazzi”. Should the caption on the photo have said, “Paparazzi waiting for Britney Spears. Oh, aside from the tall African-American guy in front. He’s a local photographer who is just there for fun.”??? Nobody would’ve noticed, until you made an issue of it all. In regards to me asking how much you got paid, I never remember that conversation happening. I asked if you were paparazzi. You said no. You then asked who I was. When I said I was from the Reader, you immediately asked if I knew someone there, and we talked about the Reader. No mention of money.

Posted by Chris on 05/17/07, 11:50 a.m.

To Peter the French hater, I don’t know what France you’ve been to but the one I visited I had no problems what so ever. In case you are not aware of this but the French are that same way with each other. They are stand offish with anyone who they’ve never met. That are that way untill they make formal introductions. Despite that, the majority of the French I came accross were super friendly and helpfull. As far as the politics goes, who cares? 62 years ago is 62 years ago.

Posted by shizzyfinn on 05/18/07, 12:44 a.m.

so I wanted to make a smarmy comment under the latest movie review, and they tried to stop me by not accepting comments on that page, but i fooled them! so reviews from The Onion are dandy but Reader readers deserve something with unique flavor that fits America’s finest city - like the class A

stuff the mighty Duncan Shepherd, currently on that most deserved of sabbaticals, has provided us with so reliably since well back into the 1900s. you can’t hold out on us like this...we’re fiending!

Posted by Ivan S. Harris, the I.S.H. on 05/20/07, 8:53 a.m.

HA! Josh that is funny, you would bring the race card in huh about me being tall and african-american? What does me being black have anything to do with the caption. I am a photographer not a member of paparazzi. It doesnt matter what color I was, the fact remains that I wasnt there for fun, I was on an assignment just like all the other news facets.

Not to mention since you used MY picture in your article and You’re caption clearly labeled me paparazzi, it was wrong. For me bringing an issue to it, hmmm, the picture is my “likeness” and well seeing as I am on my way to be pretty well known in this town for credible

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photography in events, nightlife and lifestyle photography, people brought it to my attention and not in a positive manner. As for money, you DID in fact ask me how much do I think they got paid after I told you I wasn't a member. I could go back and forth with you all day, because it is fun, but fortunately for me, I do not do "things" just for fun anymore, I get paid! -ish

Posted by Fred Dalton on 05/20/07, 3:52 p.m.

Mr Harris, I don't think your skin colour is the issue here. I read the article and no attention was drawn specifically to you. Mr Board mentioned a Middle Eastern reporter with an Australian accent and relayed a conversation with him. There was no mention of a black man. So why complain, is it because you didn't get a mention? I don't think you are in a position to comment as there is no offensive material in the article and given the nature of your photography I'm surprised you even feel moved to complain about a family friendly publication like the Reader.

Posted by I.S.H. on 05/20/07, 5:04 p.m.

First off, I'm not complaining about the READER itself! I love the READER. I'm concerned about a writer for the reader and HIS MISPRINTED captions NEXT to a picture of me... That's where my problem is...LOL Mr. Dalton, if you read the article that was printed and placed on newstands, and wait, actually before I even get involved in this further, Josh made the comment of skin in his reply to my letter to the editor, not me, AND You would have had to have read the actual print article that was on newstands with MY picture in the top right corner of is article. I was talking about that caption and I actually stated that there was where my problem lied. My picture was not online it was only printed in the actual HARD COPY of the reader. Basically, you should KNOW all the facts before you comment.

Posted by I.S.H. on 05/20/07, 5:05 p.m.

The only reason I even said anything was because I realized JOSH had the audacity to make a comment ONLINE and not directly to my email which he ALREADY HAS! Now how is that for publicity? -ish

Posted by Josh Board on 05/21/07, 1:42 a.m.

First, Ivan I would've LOVED nothing better then to have commented in the hardcopy of the Reader. For some reason, I was told nothing about this. Second, it's not a "race card". You are misunderstanding the point. So, let me carefully walk you thru what I mean. You didn't like the caption labeling you paparazzi, right? Well, I'm taking a picture of the 15 or so papazzazi, right? You are standing with them, right? Okay, I'm assuming you are following all that. Now, should the caption have said, "Paparazzi waiting for Britney Spears, except for Ivan." You see, nobody would know what that meant. So, I said "The African American." Because, they would understand what that meant. Nobody would know your name, but they would know the description. Instead of you telling that guy to read the facts, maybe you should try to figure out what I mean, before accusing me of "playing the race card".

Local Events
Published May 9

Posted by chris on 05/16/07, 11:53 a.m.

ONE CANT BASE AN ACADEMIC INQUIRY ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCES. Saying all French people are this way or that based on a handful of experiences is the mark of the most questionable scholarship. If Markovits is applying such a "method" to his "research" he is helping to support the notion that American universities are substandard. How embarrassing! The French just elected the most "Americanized" president they've ever had: a man who wants to Americanize all of things French. He wants to reduce the standard 5 week vacation, increase the work week above the standard 35 hours (i.e. turn it into a free-market rat race). More

than half the country voted for him. And yet 7% voted for communists and many many more voted for the leading socialist candidate. Like anyone else, the French are too diverse to stereotype. What kind of a fool fights "prejudice" by childishly arguing "oh yeah, you think we're bad, well YOU'RE the ones who are bad."

Cover Story
Published April 25

Posted by Shyam Kumar on 05/14/07, 8:47 p.m.

This is in response to the ludicrous Peter Fonte letter: Dear Mr. Fonte, your absurd rant against my good friend Danielle is utterly baseless, irrational and uninformed. If anything, it exposes your insecurity, immaturity and lack of character whatsoever. Fact is, Danielle is an extremely caring and loving person who is completely devoted to her family, friends and community. She has many men (like myself) in her circle of friends who love her, respect her and admire her for all that she has done (and is doing) for Indie music and the community at large in San Diego. She is extremely passionate about social issues and causes and is willing to stand up and actually do something positive about it. This social consciousness is amply reflected in her music as well and makes her music all the more important and relevant in the world today. Several people have already posted in support of Danielle, I completely concur with them and applaud them for standing up for our friend Danielle. I can say with absolutely no doubt in my mind that she is truly one of the most amazing women I have met and is truly an inspiration to all of us. Let's all support someone who is socially conscious, compassionate and making a difference in this world rather than pay heed to the hateful and hurtful words of the rather clueless and irrelevant Mr. Fonte.

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Beginning Wednesday, May 23, "paintings" produced by Cohen's creation will be on display at the Earl and Birdie Taylor Library in Pacific Beach.

LOCAL EVENTS

About five years ago, Cohen replaced a painting machine that used velvet pads to distribute fabric dye on canvas with a modern printer. Cohen commands the program to create work overnight. In the morning, he finds between 100 and 150 images on his computer, a Dell Workstation, from which he culls about a dozen to print on his large-format Roland Hi-Fi Jet Pro. This high-end inkjet printer, often used for fine-art applications, produces output at a resolution of 1440x1440 dots per inch. This resolution is so fine that the dots cannot be seen by the unaided eye. According to one of its vendors, the printer's "variable dot technology uses three different dot sizes, which allow the nozzle to vary the droplet size."

"Think about how human experts behave," says Cohen, describing how his robotic artist works. "By the time somebody

gets to be an expert in anything, all of the rules have all been internalized. A world-class chess master, at any point in the game, has thousands of possible moves that can be made, and he only ever sees three of them. There's some algorithm going on there [that makes him] go straight to those three. In an expert system, it has all been internalized and encapsulated in this small procedure that does everything the big thing had done and a great deal more. It took me 20 years of programming with respect to color and another 30 or 40 years of painting before that to get to the point where I could encapsulate a lifetime of experience in coloring into a few lines of code that I don't even really understand."

Cohen adds that the program is now "a better colorist than I ever was." Within the past year, Cohen came up with a new algorithm, a set of instructions that works like a recipe as a block of code that tells the machine how to accomplish a specific task. "The whole coloring program now is not more than about 4 percent of the amount of code that it had been."

The current body of work that the program is outputting is comprised of brightly colored abstractions of organic forms based on plant life. "All of the material in all of the images is in fact derived from plant growth, not plant forms, but plant growth, because when [the program] goes about drawing a leaf, it has to generate a leaf from scratch from the way it knows how things grow," says Cohen. The program only "knows" what Cohen has written into the code and makes "decisions" based on this knowledge.

"Starting with the organic source of the material imposes a kind of order. You don't



Harold Cohen

have to think in terms of 'It would be nice to have a blue blob there and a green blob there' — it's actually representing plants." In the program's earlier stages it was assigned the task of producing figures of people in a landscape setting. "Gradually, the landscape settings took over, until there were a couple of people, Adam and Eve figures so to speak, in front of a big tree. And then there were a number of portraits with sort of potted plants in the background, and eventually the potted plants took over, then the pots disappeared and the only thing left was foliage."

Cohen guides his computer program in the direction he wants the artwork to go. "What I do for a living is work on the program, almost all day, almost every day; so obviously the program has changed a good deal over time."

Cohen is not willing to sell his creation, though futurist-author Ray Kurzweil (whose inventions include the flatbed scanner and the first natural-sounding electric

piano) was licensed to distribute a desktop screensaver version of AARON. The license expired five years ago and has not yet been renewed because, according to Cohen, Kurzweil is "too busy being famous."

When it comes to how he selects which of his program's images to print, Cohen says, "If I knew how to answer that question, I'd know how to tell the machine to do the choosing for me."

— Barbarella

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- Erykah Badu** May 25
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- Indigo Girls** June 4
- Manu Chao** June 5
- Charlie Daniels** June 8
- Vicente Fernandez** June 9
- Keith Urban** June 10
- John Mayer** June 12
- Alejandro Sanz** June 13
- Kenny Loggins** June 15
- O.A.R.** June 15
- B-52s** June 22
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- Fall Out Boy** July 1
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- Diana Krall** Aug. 22
- Incubus** Sept. 8
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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Events that are underlined occur after May 31.

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.

BAJA

The 25th Annual Book Fair with author appearances, concerts, activities, runs Thursday, May 24, through Sunday, June 3, on Avenida Revolución. 011-52-664-688-1721. (TIJUANA)

A Cuban Music Gala is planned by Orchestra of Baja California,

with Emiliano López Guadarrama (clarinet) and conductor Iván del Prado, Thursday, May 24, 8 p.m., at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río). \$15 U.S.

Busy on 24th? Program repeats Saturday, May 26, 7 p.m., at Escuela de Artes, UABC. Information: 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA, TECATE)

"Musique," take in paintings by Elizabeth Ortega, music and vocals by César Ortega, and performance by actress Ursula Tania, Friday, May 25, 7 p.m., at ICBC. \$5 U.S. 011-52-664-251-6314. (TIJUANA)

La Quinta Estación plays pop music, Friday, May 25, 9 p.m., at Baby Rock Café in Zona Río. Tickets: \$30, \$50, \$80 U.S. 011-52-664-634-2404. (TIJUANA)

Comedian Teo González performs Friday, May 25, 9 p.m., at Grand Hotel Tijuana (on Boulevard Agua Caliente). 011-52-664-681-7000. (TIJUANA)

La Misión Fiesta — festival on May 26 and 27 with parades, rodeo contests, cultural exhibitions, regional foods, entertainment held at San Miguel Arcangel de la Frontera Mission (at km 65.5 on Tijuana-Ensenada free road; take La Fonda exit from toll road). Events begin on Saturday with sports contests (8 a.m.), rodeo contests (3 p.m.), folkloric dancing (4 p.m.), *calabaceado* dance contest (5-7 p.m.),

OUT & ABOUT

SAN DIEGO PADRES first baseman Adrian Gonzalez autographs photos, hats, jerseys, baseball cards on Saturday, May 26.

(SEE IN PERSON)



bonfire and dance (8 p.m.).

Sunday promises parade (10 a.m.), inauguration ceremonies (noon), folkloric dance groups (12:30-5 p.m.), a *cabalgata*

(procession of costumed horseback riders) at 2 p.m., rodeo (3 p.m.), performance of *Nativo*, a music and dance production based on history of Baja California

(5 p.m.). Fiesta concludes with live music for dancing from 8 p.m.—midnight. Free admission. 011-52-664-682-1697. (ENSENADA)

Mountain Biking planned, Saturday, May 26, 8 a.m., from Ejido El Porvenir to La Misión. 619-656-1897. (ENSENADA)

The Tijuana-Rosarito Beach Bike Ride starts at 8 a.m., Saturday, May 26. Routes, details: 011-52-664-686-1511. (TIJUANA)

Mountain Bike Guadalupe Valley on Saturday, May 26, 10 a.m. Registration: \$35 U.S. 011-52-664-680-9862. (GUADALUPE VALLEY)

Infected Mushroom presents rock concert, Saturday, May 26, 9 p.m., at Multikulti (on Avenida Constitución). \$20 U.S. 011-52-664-680-2631. (TIJUANA)

Jazz Music promised when Bill Caballero performs Saturday, May 26, 9:30 p.m., at El Lugar del Nopal (Privada 5 de Mayo #1320). 011-52-664-685-1264. (TIJUANA)

5K Run, Sunday, May 27, starting at 8 a.m. at Herbalife Center (at Boulevard Sánchez Taboada and 9th Street). Registration: \$5 U.S. 011-52-664-969-5914. (TIJUANA)

Race Along the Beach during the 10k planned Sunday, May 27, starting at 8 a.m. at Rosarito Beach pier. 800-962-2252. (ROSARITO BEACH)

Festival del Caballo, Arte, y Vino Sunday, May 27, 10 a.m.—6 p.m., at Adobe Guadalupe Vineyards and Inn in Valle de

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Guadalupe. Equestrian and *charrería* exhibitions, Andalusian dancing horses, folkloric and flamenco dancers, music, arts and crafts, wine tasting, regional foods. Tickets: \$16 in advance, \$20 at door, free for those under 12. 011-52-646-178-3136, 011-52-646-171-5502. (GUADALUPE VALLEY)

The Powerade Cup Mountain Biking event is Sunday, May 27, 10 a.m., at Abelardo L. Rodríguez Dam. \$15 U.S. 011-52-664-685-2448. (TIJUANA)

Ensenada Celebrates 125th Anniversary with "Ensenada de Todos, Suma de Culturas" international festival, Sunday, May 27, 11 a.m.–6 p.m., at Plaza Ventana al Mar (near "gigantic flag pole") on Boulevard Costero. Music, dance, arts, food, exhibits by local community groups of various nationalities plus historical and cultural societies, museums, city's founding families. Admission: Free. 011-52-646-174-5898. (ENSENADA)

Bridal Expo with "everything for your wedding," Sunday, May 27, 11:30 a.m.–7 p.m., at Hotel Marriott on Boulevard Agua Caliente. 011-52-664-608-0510. (TIJUANA)

Bulls from San Martín have a date with matadors Rodolfo "El Pana" Rodríguez, José Mauricio, and Víctor Mora on Sunday, May 27, 4:30 p.m., at Monumental Bullring by the Sea. 011-52-664-681-7000 x9019. (PLAYAS DE TIJUANA)

Mexican Folkloric Dances presented by Ballet Folklórico Tijuán at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río) on Sunday, May 27, 3 and 6 p.m. \$10 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

"Regina en Divan," performance by Regina Orozco begins at 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 27, at El Foro (on Avenida Revolución). Tickets: \$7.50–\$25 U.S. 011-52-664-685-8676. (TIJUANA)

Baja 500 Autograph-Signing Fiesta, Wednesday, May 30, 1–11 p.m., at Plaza Ventana al Mar (near giant flag pole) on Boulevard Costero. Meet, obtain autographs of drivers from more than 50 racing teams from Mexico, U.S., and Germany. Trophy-Truck, motorcycle, race car exhibitions, off-road products, music, food. Free admission. 011-52-646-120-5555 x255. (ENSENADA)

Chamber Music may be heard when pianist Aiko Yamada, soprano Norma Navarrete, tenor Andrés Carrillo perform Wednesday, May 30, 7 p.m., at ICBC in Zona Río. \$5 U.S. 011-52-664-684-8609. (TIJUANA)

The Play Dulce Lentejuela may be seen Thursday, May 31, 7 p.m., at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, in Zona Río). \$10 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

OUTDOORS

Lavender in Bloom, the Lavender Fields open Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., starting April 25. Meet on the main gift shop porch for "Walk and Talk" tours at 10:30 a.m. Free. 12460 Keys Creek Road. 760-742-1489. (VALLEY CENTER)

Agaves, or century plants (*Agave americana*), have been sending up their asparagus-like flower stalks all over the San Diego area lately.

In warm weather, the tips can rise as much as a foot a day. During summer big clusters of yellow and green flowers should appear on the tops of the stalks, some up to 30 feet tall. After the blooming cycle ends, the spine-tipped, fleshy daggers at the base of the stalk die (after a life of 10 or 20 years, not a century) and the stalk dries up, but suckers usually remain to continue a new cycle of growth, flowering, seed production, and death. The smaller desert agaves (*Agave deserti*), which are native to the western edge of the Anza-Borrego Desert, are now finishing their blooming cycle.

Oleander, a consistent spring/summer bloomer widely planted in front- and back-yards throughout the county, is putting on a fine show in the medians of certain area thoroughfares and freeways, especially Interstate 5 in North County. Alternating white, pink, and red bands flash by the traveler, with an occasional splash of out-of-sequence color, perhaps a subtle attention-getter designed to keep sleepy drivers awake. Most gardeners are aware of oleander's toxic characteristics: all parts are poisonous if ingested.

The Planet Mercury reaches a favorable evening elongation position from the sun during late May and early June. This is the best time, and perhaps the only time this year, to easily spot Mercury with the naked eye, as it hovers over the western horizon at dusk. There is a narrow window of opportunity — perhaps only 15 minutes or so — when in the steadily darkening sky the pinprick glimmer of Mercury appears near the

horizon, just before disappearing below the horizon. To find Mercury, look well below and to the right of the much brighter planet Venus.

Trail Repairs in Paso Picacho at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park continues on Saturday, May 26, 8 a.m. Bring work shoes, gloves, hat, water, snack. Group gathers at Paso Picacho campground maintenance area behind fire department building. Free. Registration: 619-669-1697. For those 16 and older with a parent. (CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK)

Over Easy? See fried egg flowers, a.k.a. Matilija poppies, during a guided walk at Old Mission Dam on Saturday, May 26, 8:30 a.m., in Mission Trails Regional Park at Kumeyaay Campground entry station (Two Father Junípero

Serra Trail). Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

Audubon Society Bird Walk in Tecolote Canyon on Saturday, May 26, 9 a.m., at Tecolote Nature Center (5180 Tecolote Road). Free. Bring binoculars and drinking water. 858-581-9944. (CLAIREMONT)

Del Mar-Velous Delights, meander around Del Mar with Walk-about explorers, Saturday, May 26. The three-hour saunter over mixed up-and-down terrain starts at 9 a.m. at northwest corner of Del Mar Heights and Durango Drive. Bring water. Free. 619-231-7463. (DEL MAR)

Bizarre Trees, cacti, and succulents star when Offshoot Tours hosts its monthly hour-long guided stroll through desert garden, Saturday, May 26, 10 a.m., starting at



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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Balboa Park's visitors' center. Free. 619-235-1122. (BALBOA PARK)

Birding Basics Class planned by trail guide Winona Sollock at Mission Trails Regional Park Visitors' Center, Saturday, May 26, 1-2:30 p.m. Participants learn five simple techniques for identifying birds at a glance, how to use a field guide (bring yours if you have one). Free. Find visitors' center at One Father Junipero Serra Trail. Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

Explore Cottonwood Creek Falls with Canyoners, Sunday, May 27, 9 a.m. Two-mile hike in Laguna Mountains boasts 500-foot elevation gain/loss. Free. Directions: 619-255-0203.

Have Fun on the Trails when naturalist/biologist Carol Stanford leads moderately strenuous five-mile hike along in Daley Ranch. Hike to top of Stanley Peak via Stage Trail. Meet in main parking lot (on La Honda Drive) at 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 27, with water and hiking boots. Free. Reservations: 760-839-4680. (ESCONDIDO)

What's Biting and Where? "Lake Jennings Fishing University" convenes for instruction by Helix Water District lake manager Hugh Marx, Sunday, May 27, 1 p.m., at Lake Jennings County Park (10108 Bass Road). Program is free, parking is \$3. 858-565-3600. (LAKESIDE)

Herb Walk planned Sunday, May 27, in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. How were trees, plants, shrubs used for food, medicine? Outing starts at 5 p.m. at west end staging area on south side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard

(one-half mile east of intersection of Vista Sorrento Parkway). Free. 858-484-3219. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

DANCE

Get Your Groove On! Latest dance steps taught by instructor/dancer Prince on Thursdays at Dancing Unlimited (4569 30th Street). Beginners at 7-8 p.m., intermediate/advanced 8-9 p.m. \$10 per class, \$35 for four. 858-635-1211. (NORTH PARK)

Dance Concert by students at Coronado School of the Arts, Thursday and Friday, May 24 and 25, 7 p.m. in campus theater, 650 D Avenue. Tickets: 619-522-8969. (CORONADO)

Zydeco Dances with lessons are offered every Thursday at Tio Leo's (5302 Napa Street, between Morena Boulevard and Linda Vista Road). Beginning dance lessons at 7 p.m.; open dancing to recorded tunes from 8-10 p.m. \$5 (first visit free). 619-857-8409. (LINDA VISTA)

Swing Fusion Performance Class with Meeshi combines swing, salsa, African, and jazz dancing. Lessons begin Thursday, May 24, at Firehouse YMCA Community Center (7877 Herschel Avenue). Beginning class: 8-9 p.m.; firehouse dance 9 p.m.-midnight. Prior Lindy or salsa experience "highly recommended." \$12 drop-in fee or \$60 for six-week series, includes admission to dance. 858-395-6060. (LA JOLLA)

Flamenco Olivar presents series of original dances, Friday, May 25, 7:30 p.m., at Weingart/City Heights Library (3795 Fairmount Avenue). Sara Olivar dances, Juan Moro plays flamenco guitar, joined by Gypsy singers. \$25

OUT & ABOUT

CANCIONES FAVORITAS

Tish Hinojosa plays at AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, May 25.

(SEE IN PERSON)



adults, \$15 for children under 12. 858-658-0384. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Memorial Day Weekend Dance with John Knapp, Saturday, May 26, 7:30 p.m., at Folk Dance Center (4569 30th Street). \$6. 619-422-1584. (NORTH PARK)

The Fiddlerats make music, Karen Fontana calls for contraband on Saturday, May 26, 8 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thorn Street). Beginners' dance work-

shop: 7:30 p.m. \$10. Wear foot-soled shoes. 619-594-6828. Optional potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. (NORTH PARK)

"Taking Flight," Colette Harding Contemporary Dance Company presents collaborative work with choreography by artistic director Colette Harding, company dancers, and scientific presentations by Douglas L. Altshuler from the UC Riverside biology department and Elisa Cullaty on Satur-

day, May 26. Work includes premiere of music composed by Norman Beede, artwork by Keely Campbell. Curtain rises at 8 p.m. at Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive). \$15. 619-516-2854. (LA JOLLA)

Bellydancing by Dilek and Ginger, live Mideast fusion music by Middle-Earth Ensemble, Sunday, May 27, 8 p.m., at Turquoise Cafe Bar Europa (873 Turquoise Street). \$10 cover. 858-488-4200. (PACIFIC BEACH)

FILM

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, currently screening in the IMAX theater: *The Alps: Giants of Nature*, *Hurricane on the Bayou*, *Everest*, *Coral Reef Adventure*. "Fridays at the Fleet" showcases *Wild California* (6 p.m.) and *Stormchasers* (7 p.m.) on May 24. Ticket prices and showtimes: 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

Bob Fosse's 1972 Cabaret won eight Academy Awards. The classic screens for spring film series, Thursday, May 24, 7 p.m., at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla (700 Prospect Street). \$7. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

Carlsbad High School 2007 Film Festival video award nights planned Thursday and Friday, May 24 and 25, 7:30 p.m., at Carlsbad Village Theatre (2822 State Street). \$6. 760-331-5100 x5264. (CARLSBAD)

Cinema under the Stars series features *There's Something About Mary*, Thursday-Saturday, May 24-26, 8:30 p.m., at Tops (4040 Goldfinch Street). Next up: Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Claude Rains in *Casablanca*, Thursday, May 31-Sunday, June 3. \$12.50. 619-295-4221. (MISSION HILLS)

Sapphic Cinema series features *Watching You*, Friday, May 25, 7 p.m., at San Diego Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center (3909 Centre Street). Free. 619-692-2077. (HILLCREST)

35mm, award-winning short films and "cinematinis" served at W San Diego (421 West B Street) in partnership with San Diego Film Festival, Tuesday, May 29, 8 to 10 p.m. No cover. 619-231-8220. (DOWNTOWN)

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"Big Wednesday," boasting "some of the most spectacular surfing footage ever filmed," screens for ongoing Carlsbad Library film series, Wednesday, May 30, 6 p.m., in Schulman Auditorium (1775 Dove Lane). Events begin at 5:30 p.m. with "behind-the-scenes features." Free. 760-602-2026. (LA COSTA)

A Palermo Mafia Wife's Tale is told by director Roberta Torre in *Angela*, which screens for Film Forum at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street) on Wednesday, May 30, 6:30 p.m. Free. 619-236-5800. In Italian with English subtitles. (DOWNTOWN)

LECTURES

Films by Billy Wilder — director of *Some Like It Hot* and *Sunset Boulevard* — discussed by UCSD film professor Alain Cohen on Friday, May 25, 2:30 p.m., at Lemon Grove Library (8073 Broadway). Free. 619-463-9819. (LEMON GROVE)

"The Osa Peninsula: Mecca of Biodiversity" is topic for slide-illustrated lecture by professional photographer Roy Toft when Sierra Club meets, Friday, May 25, 7:30 p.m., at Joyce Beers Center (3900 Vermont Street). Peninsula is found in remote southwestern corner of Costa Rica. 619-585-3773. Free. (HILLCREST)

The Biochemistry and Microbiology of Composting and nutritional benefits of biodynamics on food discussed by Maria Linder, Saturday, May 26, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., at Tierra Miguel Farm (14910 Pauma Valley Drive). Linder, chair of chemistry and biochemistry department at CSU Fullerton, will discuss "importance of the life and work of Ehrenfried Pfeiffer." \$60. 760-742-4213. (PAUMA VALLEY)

"Xeriscape: Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget" presented by landscape designer Connie Beck, Saturday, May 26, 9:30 a.m., in Cuyamaca College's Water Conservation Garden (12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West). Learn seven principles of xeriscape, planting techniques. \$15 general. Reservations: 619-660-0614. (EL CAJON)

Make Your California Roll and Eat It Too! Mayumi Masubuchi leads sushi class, Saturday, May 26, 10:30 a.m., at Japanese Friendship Garden. Bring small knife, cutting board. \$35. Reservations: 619-232-2721. (BALBOA PARK)

"Cooking with Lavender — Bread Machine Mania," Karen England leads class promising "lavender bread and lavender jam in the bread machine," Saturday, May 26, 11 a.m., at Lavender Fields (12460 Keys Creek Road). "Nothing serious, just plain old cooking fun." \$20. Registration: 760-944-9369. (VALLEY CENTER)

Nose-Flute Music by Tongan artist, musician Semisi Ma'u precedes lecture entitled "In Search of Tongan Goddesses" by Roger Neich on Saturday, May 26, 3 p.m., at San Diego Museum of Art. Neich is an "Oceanic art scholar and curator of ethnology at the Auckland Museum"; he'll focus on "rare carved wooden sculptures of Tongan goddesses, of which only six have survived." Free. 619-696-1966. (BALBOA PARK)

"Receiving Your Good," Reverend Patricia Paris gives talk

based on principles addressed in the film *The Secret*, Sunday, May 27, 10 a.m., at Vision Center for Spiritual Living (11260 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). Offering. 619-303-6609. (TIERRASANTA)

Grafting, Pruning, Rooting — learn about various culture techniques when Southern California Plumeria Society meets, Sunday, May 27, 1-3 p.m., at War Memorial Building. Free. 760-451-1472. (BALBOA PARK)

The San Diego Science Fair is discussed by Phil Gay, manager of science programs for San Diego Unified School District, for San Diego Association for Rational Inquiry on Sunday, May 27, 7 p.m., in Joyce Beers Community Center (1230 Vermont Street). Free. 619-421-5844. (HILLCREST)

The Search for the Historical Jesus illuminated by Harry Sutton for Atheist Coalition, Tuesday, May 29, 6:30 p.m., at North

Park Recreation Center (4044 Idaho Street). Free. 619-342-7388. (NORTH PARK)

"Antigay Groups and the Road to LGBT Equality" is subject when Rockway Institute executive director Robert Green speaks Tuesday, May 29, 7 p.m., at San Diego LGBT Community Center (3909 Center Street). Green will describe new effort, highlight ways attendees and LGBT citizens and their allies can engage in "every-

day acts of advocacy." Free. 415-314-8952. (HILLCREST)

"How to Live Happily Ever After with Your Dog" presented Wednesday, May 30, 6 p.m., at San Diego Humane Society and SPCA (5500 Gaines Street). Houstraining, socialization, calmness, nutrition, communication, more. \$35. Reservations: 619-299-7012 x2247. (LINDA VISTA)

"The Power and Facts of Self-Hypnosis" explained by Walter Holtschi, Wednesday, May 30, 6 p.m., Sacred Pathway Bookstore (300 Carlsbad Village Drive, suite 107). What can and cannot be achieved by hypnosis? Free. 760-729-2434. (CARLSBAD)

"Mixing Religion and Politics: Does the Combination Threaten — or Enrich — American Democracy?" Radio show host Michael Medved speaks for Lipinsky Fam-

The 2007 San Diego County Fair Presents Summer Concert Series

Shows listed below are FREE with Fair admission unless otherwise noted. A limited number of reserved seats are available for free shows.



JUNE 8
Gym Class Heroes
ALTERNATIVE ROCK & HIP HOP
PAID SHOW



JUNE 26
Earth, Wind & Fire
R & B • PAID SHOW • DINNER PACKAGE



JUNE 27
LeAnn Rimes
COUNTRY • PAID SHOW



JUNE 28
The All-American Rejects
ALTERNATIVE ROCK/POP • PAID SHOW



JUNE 29
Paul Anka
CLASSIC POP • PAID SHOW
DINNER PACKAGE



JULY 2
The Moody Blues
CLASSIC ROCK • PAID SHOW
DINNER PACKAGE

- June 9 **Reggae Festival**
FEATURING: **Steel Pulse, Third World & Boom Shaka**
Presented by *Novacada* Inc.
- June 10 **Lupillo Rivera** HISPANIC
Presented by *Cervica Tejada, Telemondo 33 & State of Colima*
- June 13 **"Weird Al" Yankovic** COMEDY • DINNER PKG
- June 14 **The Wailers** REGGAE
- June 15 **Kenny Loggins** CLASSIC POP • DINNER PKG
- June 16 **REO Speedwagon** CLASSIC ROCK • DINNER PKG
- June 17 **La Banda Machos, Patrulla-81, & Lalo Mora**
HISPANIC — Presented by *Cervica Tejada, Telemondo 33 & State of Colima*
- June 20 **John Michael Montgomery** COUNTRY
- June 21 **Engelbert Humperdinck** CLASSIC POP • DINNER PKG

- June 22 **Jean Jett and the Blackhearts**
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS **The Dollyrots & Throw Rag** ROCK/PUNK
- June 23 **3rd Annual Gospel Festival**
FEATURING: **Fred Hammond**
- June 24 **9th Annual ¡Viva El Mariachi! Festival**
FEATURING: **"Sol de México" & Miss Angeles Orban** HISPANIC
Presented by *Cervica Tejada, Telemondo 33 & State of Colima*
- June 30 **The Jonas Brothers** POP
- July 1 **El Coyote y su Banda Tierra Santa**
WITH **Los Alegres de la Sierra** HISPANIC
Presented by *Cervica Tejada, Telemondo 33 & State of Colima*
- July 3 **Switchfoot** ALTERNATIVE ROCK
- July 4 **Navy Band and Fireworks**
Rock Never Stops FEATURING: **Vince Neil of Mötley Crüe** WITH **Slaughter and Quiet Riot** ROCK



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ily San Diego Jewish Arts Festival on Wednesday, May 30, 7:30 p.m., at San Diego Repertory Theatre at Lyceum in Horton Plaza. Question and answer period promised. Tickets: \$25, \$36, \$90. 619-544-1000. (DOWNTOWN)

"New Methodologies in Connoisseurship of Early Chinese Painting" — from 7th to 14th Centuries — documented by Yu Hui, professor of Chinese painting at the Palace Museum in Beijing, on Thursday, May 31, 1 p.m., for San Diego Museum of Art's Asian Arts Council. \$10 general. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

"Four San Diego Sculptors" Kenneth Capps, Tom Driscoll, Jesus Y. Dominguez, and James Skalman, whose works are currently on exhibit, speak about their work, Thursday, May 31, 7 p.m., at Oceanside Museum of Art (704 Pier View Way). \$5 general. 760-721-2787. (OCEANSIDE)

"Foam: The Birthplace of the New Lesbian Frontier" is explored by author Eileen Myles for "Women's Lecture Series," Thursday, May 31. Myles has "been thinking kind of obsessively about when a witch, for example, is killed and all that's left is a pile of foam. Or when a goddess appears and there's also some bubbles. I'm not sure, but I think there's more than one kind of reproduction..." Free lecture starts at 7 p.m. at San Diego LGBT Community Center (3909

ROAM--RAMA

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

Barely a mile's walk from the little community of Mount Baldy (at the base of 10,000-foot-high Old Baldy, or Mount San Antonio), you can be sitting on a rock, communing with nature, feet dangling in the sun-and-shade-dappled, crystalline stream of Bear Canyon. With a bit more time and energy, you can climb to Bear Flat, where a binocular sweep of the surrounding hillsides often nets sightings of bighorn sheep.



Bigleaf maples, Bear Canyon

To get to the hike's starting point, exit the 210 Freeway at Mills Avenue in Claremont, and follow Mills north toward the mountains. After about a mile Mills becomes Mount Baldy Road. An eight-mile uphill drive through San Antonio Canyon on Mount Baldy Road takes you to the small village of Mount Baldy.

You begin walking at the intersection of Mt. Baldy Road and Bear Creek Road, in the center of Mt. Baldy village. (A small parking lot is located right at the foot of Bear Creek Road.) Walk — don't drive — up the paved road to its end (0.4 mile), then continue on a dirt trail that soon becomes narrow.

Many cabins, in various stages of repair (or ruin), line the way as you proceed up drainage of Bear Canyon. Nonnative ground-covering vegetation like ivy and vinca have overrun the bottom of the canyon, and magnificent native live oak, bay laurel, and bigcone Douglas-fir trees rise from that understory. After crossing the creek twice, the trail divides. Take either path: the right branch climbs up the right slope; the left branch stays low along stream, passing more cabins, before curving right to join the other branch.

After the two paths rejoin, the main Bear Canyon Trail goes by a water tank (part of the village's water supply), switches back, curves around sun-struck slopes, and plunges into a shady oak grove high on the east slope of the canyon. At about 1.7 miles, the trail crosses the stream for the last time. Bear

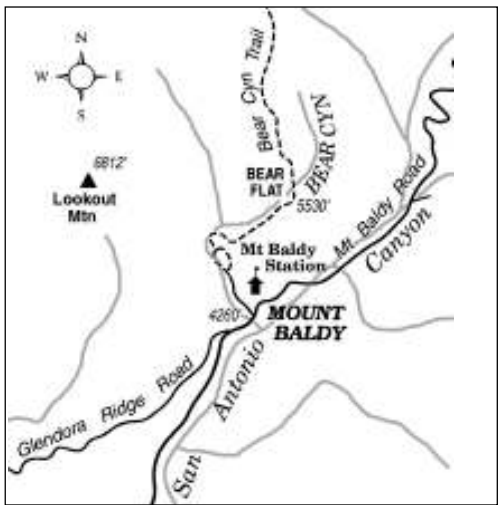
Flat is the bracken-filled, sloping meadow just above this crossing. For casual hikers, this is the place to sniff a few spring wildflowers, look for bighorn sheep tracks, and then think about turning back.

Beyond this, the Bear Flat Trail switchbacks up to the south ridge of Mount San Antonio and relentlessly continues all the way to the summit, almost five miles away, 4500 feet higher than Bear Flat.

BEAR FLAT

Bear Flat in the San Gabriel Mountains offers a perch for viewing bighorn sheep.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 125 miles
Hiking length: Up to 3.5 miles round trip
Difficulty: Moderate



Centre Street). 619-692-2077. (HILLCREST)

Award-Winning Journalist, Writer Adam Gopnik speaks Friday, June 8, 7 p.m., at San Diego Museum of Art. Gopnik has written for *New Yorker* for over 20 years, with recent essays on Charles Darwin, Shaker design, "busyness." His books include *Paris to the Moon*, *Through the Children's Gate: A Home in New York*. \$5. 619-696-1966. (BALBOA PARK)

Support Your Local Banjo Maker! Deering Banjo Factory offers workshops on Saturday, June 9. Lawson Peets of Deering presents banjo basics (10:30 a.m.), banjo maintenance (1 p.m.), banjo history (2:30 p.m.). Factory tours throughout day. Free. Register for workshops: 619-464-8252. Find Deering at 3733 Kenora Drive. (SPRING VALLEY)

Flower Floozie! Annie Hayes, owner of Richmond nursery Annie's Annuals, plans slide show of "Exciting and Fabulous Mediterranean Climate Rarities" for San Diego Horticultural Society on Monday, June 11, 6 p.m., at Al Bahr Shrine Center (5440 Kearny Mesa Road). Plant sales, raffle. Admission: \$5 general. 760-295-7089. (KEARNY MESA)

IN PERSON

Highlights from the Opera *Orpheus and Euridice* performed in English by Waldorf Choir with student soloists, Thursday, May 24, 7 p.m., at Waldorf School of San Diego (3547 Altadena Avenue). A play about composer Gluck's life written by students for

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Acclaimed Local Author Victor Villaseñor discusses his writing and signs books on Thursday, May 24, 7 p.m., in Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library (1775 Dove Lane). Among his books: *Rain of Gold* and *Burro Genius*. Free. 760-602-2012. (LA COSTA)

Five Recent Landmark Court Battles Over Separation of Church and State examined by Peter Irons in *God on Trial: Dispatches from America's Religious Battlefields*, which he'll sign, discuss on Thursday, May 24, 7 p.m., at Book Works (Flower Hill Promenade, 2670 Via de la Valle). Irons is lawyer and constitutional scholar. Free. 858-755-3735. (DEL MAR)

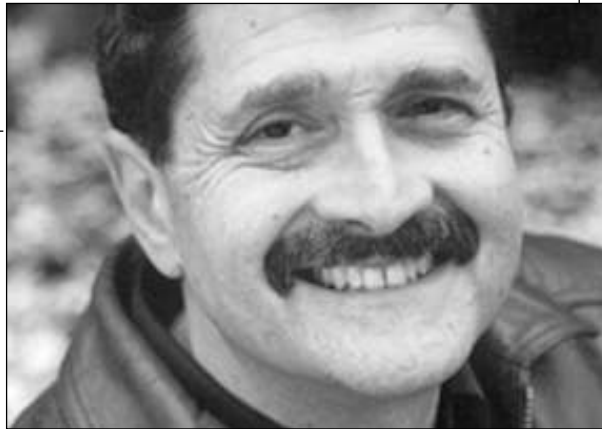
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OUT & ABOUT

MIXING RELIGION AND POLITICS:

Does the combination threaten or enrich American democracy? Michael Medved, Wednesday, May 30, Lyceum Theatre.

(SEE LECTURES)



Thursday, May 24, 8 p.m., at Desi 'n' Friends (2734 Lytton Street). \$10. 619-318-7380. (POINT LOMA)

"Curriculum in Ridiculum!" Fern Street Circus presents *Academia* through May 27 on lawn at Park Boulevard and Presidents Way. "Join Fern Street College and travel back in time to the 1950s"

for "wacky antics, zany fun, and spectacular circus skills."

Performances begin at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 25; 1, 4, and 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 26; and at 1 and 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 27. Tickets: \$7 children, \$14 adults. 619-235-9756. (BALBOA PARK)

Spirit West Coast — Christian music festival runs May 25–27 at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Concerts by over 40 artists (Third Day, BarlowGirl, Kutless, Hawk Nelson, Todd Agnew, Falling Up, Transistor Radio); comedians, contemporary Bible and life application teaching, action activities for all

ages, shopping, various activities.

Hours: 1 p.m.–midnight on Friday, 9 a.m.–midnight on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets available for single days, in packages. 408-377-9232. (DEL MAR)

"Persian Girls: A Memoir" discussed by author Nahid Rachlin, Friday, May 25, 2 p.m., in deCerteau Room 155 Literature Building at UCSD. Free. 858-534-4618.

Rachlin — who "has spent her career writing novels about hidden Iran" — will also sign and discuss her work on 25th at 7 p.m., at D.G. Wills Books (7461 Girard Avenue). Free. 858-456-1800. (LA JOLLA)

Enjoy Boogie Woogie when Sue Palmer presents first Concert on the Green of the season, Friday, May 25, 6 p.m., at Prescott Promenade (2111Z2 East Main Street). Free. 619-401-8858. (EL CAJON)

First-Time Headliner, "Road Dog" Mike Faverman, joins crew for Ocean Beach comedy on Friday, May 25, 7 p.m., at Winstons Beach Club (1921 Bacon Street). Many other comics featured. Free. 619-222-6822. (OCEAN BEACH)

"A Night on Broadway" starring Ric Henry and Leigh Scarritt, joined by guests Eric Hellmers and Tiffany Jane, slated for Friday, May 25, 7 p.m., at Seaside Center for Spiritual Living (1613 Lake Drive). Program includes classic Broadway standards and contemporary Tony Award winners. \$20 general. 760-753-5786 x810. (ENCINITAS)

"¡Canciones Favoritas!" Tish Hinojosa demonstrates her "multicultural musicality" for AcousticMusicSanDiego on Friday, May 25, 7:30 p.m., at Normal Heights United Methodist Church (4650 Mansfield Street). Tickets: \$18, \$22. 619-303-8176. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

The Outcasts of Comedy — self-described as "six of strangest/funniest stand-up comedians from all over the world" — begin their tour with performances at 9 p.m. on May 25 and 26 at Twiggs (4590 Park Boulevard). Headliner on Friday is Shawn Halpin; Yoshi leads line-up on Saturday. Roster includes Stephen Kramer, host Stuart Swanson. \$5. 619-296-0616. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

The Search is on for San Diego's MEGA STAR!

The search is on for two musically talented "San Diego Mega Stars" to sing with the celebrities at the 2007 Mother Goose Parade.

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Applications are now being accepted through June 30, 2007.



Visit www.mothergooseparade.org for more details.

Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

San Diego Padres First Baseman Adrian Gonzalez signs autographs, takes photographs with fans, Saturday, May 26, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., at Cricket in Palm Plaza (3410 Palm Avenue, suite 103-105). Bring photographs, jerseys, hats, baseball cards to be signed. Free. 858-882-9923. (NESTOR)

Grand Slam Finale for San Diego Poetry Slam promises three

rounds to select poetry slam team for next year. Slamming begins at 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 26, at Voz Alta (1544 Broadway). \$5. 619-239-3872. (DOWNTOWN)

You're Getting Sleepy? Comedy hypnotist Don Spencer presents his audience participation show, Saturday, May 26, 8 p.m., at Carlsbad Village Theatre (2822 State Street). \$15 in advance, \$20 at door. 760-720-2460. (CARLSBAD)

"Julie and the Lost Fairy Tale" — described as a "new middle-grade novel for all ages" — signed by author Janie Lancaster, Sunday, May 27,

noon, at Captain Fitch's Mercantile (2627 San Diego Avenue). Free. 619-298-3944. (OLD TOWN)

Performance Art at North Park Vaudeville and Candy Shoppe (2031 El Cajon Boulevard), Sunday, May 27, 7 p.m. Expect "performance art from dance to psychometry." Donation. 619-220-8663. (NORTH PARK)

Open-Mike Poetry Reading, Monday, May 28, 8 p.m., at Twiggs, 4590 Park Boulevard. Free. 619-295-0616. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Sketch on the Rocks improv sketch by Comedy Under Con-

struction, Tuesday, May 29, 8 p.m., at La Jolla Brew House (7536 Fay Avenue). \$5 cover plus two-item minimum. 858-550-8088. (LA JOLLA)

Musical Theatre Revue by over 65 students at Coronado School of the Arts, Wednesday, May 30. Program with songs, musical theater numbers, and dance begins at 7 p.m. in campus theater at 650 D Avenue. \$5. 619-522-8969. (CORONADO)

"Star Wars: Legacy of the Force: Sacrifice" is signed by author Karen Traviss, Wednesday,

May 30, 7 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy Books (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). Free. 858-268-4747. (CLAIREMONT)

Student-Directed One-Act Plays presented May 30–June 3 by tyros at San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts (2425 Dusk Drive). Performances begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday–Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. \$7. 619-475-8556. (PARADISE HILLS)

Musical Selections from *Yours, Anne* may be enjoyed when J*Company takes stage for Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts

Festival, Wednesday, May 30, 7:30 p.m., at San Diego Repertory Theatre at Lyceum in Horton Plaza. Program includes "world-premiere theater piece about the ideas and aspirations of today's Jewish teens" entitled *We Are...*, which stars actors from High School of Jewish Studies. \$12. 619-544-1000. (DOWNTOWN)

"Sonnets @ 6," experience "Waking Dreams" exhibit at San Diego Museum of Art through works of authors, poets who were inspired by Pre-Raphaelite movement. Poems, sonnets, plays by Shakespeare, Keats, Byron, Chaucer, Longfellow, Tennyson, Dante, and others will be featured on Thursday, May 31, 6 p.m. Included in museum admission. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

The Skank Agents play ska tunes for "Rock the Library" family concert, Thursday, May 31, 7 p.m., in Carlsbad City Library's Schulman Auditorium (1775 Dove Lane). 760-602-2058. (LA COSTA)

"Buddha Is as Buddha Does" will be signed by Lama Surya Das, described as "the most highly trained American lama in the Tibetan tradition," Thursday, May 31, 7:30 p.m., at Warwick's Bookstore (7812 Girard Avenue). Free. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

Changing the Way Americans Eat? Bestselling author Michael Pollan speaks for UCSD's Revelle Forum on Tuesday, June 12, 7 p.m., at Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive). Pollan's most recent book is *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. \$35. Suggested reservations: 858-534-3400. (LA JOLLA)

What's All the Noise About? Matchboxes, wooden poles, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, hubcaps — all help create the percussive pleasures of *Stomp*,

Wedding Guide

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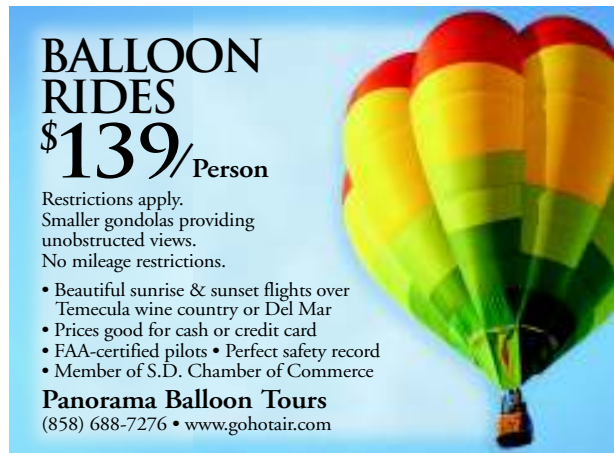
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returning June 12–17 to San Diego Civic Theatre (Third Avenue and B Street). Tickets range from \$20–\$72, depending upon seat, show time, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (DOWNTOWN)

The "Scottish James Taylor"? Live acoustic singer-songwriter music from Dougie MacLean and band on Tuesday, June 26, at 7:30 p.m. at Stephen and Mary Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Avenue. \$30, \$33; \$10 off for student/senior. 619-239-8836. (NORTH PARK)

SPORTS

Crack of the Bat, the San Diego Padres host Chicago Cubs, Thursday, May 24, 7:05 p.m., in Petco Park. The Milwaukee Brewers arrive for a series May 25–27, at 7:05 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 1:05 p.m. on Sunday.

Pads head to Pittsburgh for games Tuesday–Thursday, May 29–31, at 4:05 p.m. each day. Tickets for future games: \$8–\$67. 619-795-5005. (EAST VILLAGE)

Showpark County II Horse Show, Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., at Del Mar Horsepark (14550 El Camino Real). Free. 858-481-9085. (DEL MAR)

Bicycle to Golden Hill with Knickerbikers bicyclists, Saturday, May 26. The 25-mile outing starts at 9:30 a.m. in north parking lot at East Mission Bay Drive and Clairemont Drive. Venture downtown, to Golden Hill, South Park, and arrive uptown near Vermont Street Bridge. Free. 619-523-5522. (MISSION BAY)

Dwarfs, Modifieds, Sprint Cars, street stocks, pony stocks, factory stocks compete at Barona Speedway on Saturday, May 26. Gates open at 1 p.m., racing starts at 5 p.m. Admission: \$10 general, \$5 teens, \$2 for those 7–12, free for kids 6 and younger. Track is located 5.8 miles north of Barona Casino on Wildcat Canyon Road. 619-669-1303. Racing continues on June 16. (LAKESIDE)

Wear Bright Clothing and Use Lights for Solana Beach evening express bike ride hosted by Sierra Club cyclists, Wednesday, May 30. The 37-miler starts at 5 p.m. in

north parking lot at Mission Bay visitors' center. Ride at brisk pace through Rose Canyon, Torrey Pines, along coast to Solana Beach, and back. Optional dinner at Da Ninos (bring money). 858-974-4871. (MISSION BAY)

Region-One Arabian Horse Show at Del Mar Fairgrounds, Thursday–Sunday, May 31–June 3. 858-755-1161. (DEL MAR)

SPECIAL

What Lies Beneath? "Bodies...the Exhibition" features more than 250 "real, whole, and partial human body specimens...dissected and preserved," providing up-close looks inside skeletal, muscular, reproductive, respiratory, circulatory, other human body systems. Many whole-body specimens "are dissected in vivid athletic poses."

Exhibit continues through Sunday, August 26, in former Robinsons-May at University Towne Centre (4425 La Jolla Village Drive). Exhibit opens at 10 a.m., closes at 7 p.m. Sunday–Thursday, 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets: \$26.50 general, \$21 seniors, \$18 for those 5–12. 877-263-4375. (LA JOLLA)

Consider the Internet as a propaganda tool when P&R Discussion group meets, Thursday,

May 24, 7 p.m., at Other Side Coffee House (4096 30th Street). Free. 619-421-1879. (NORTH PARK)

Valley Center Western Days Festival and carnival runs May 25–27 around Valley Center Community Hall (28246 Lilac Road). Parade, food for sale, Marshall's Posse shootouts, pancake breakfasts, motorcycle stunt show, country and western music, entertainment. Friday and Sunday: free admission; Saturday: \$3. 760-749-8472. (VALLEY CENTER)

Little Guys Car Club is showcased during Cruisin' Grand, May 25. Events held every Friday through September 28, 5–9 p.m. Over 400 pre-1974 American-made hot rods, custom, vintage, classic cars and trucks participate in cruise loop running down Grand Avenue and back up Second Avenue. Free viewing. 760-745-8877. (ESCONDIDO)

"Super Inky Paper Pop" Art Show, promising "super-sized cartoon images of pen and ink drawings by Gubba," Friday, May 25, 7 p.m., at Red Lantern Tattoo (upstairs, 449 University Avenue). Free. 619-794-2522. (HILLCREST)

American Heritage Car Show honoring Escondido "racing legend" Ted Cyr is Saturday, May 26, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., at Grape Day Park (321 North Broadway). Show is

open to all domestic and import, pre-1974 vintage, classic, muscle cars, hot rods. 760-743-4382. Free for spectators. (ESCONDIDO)

Rubik's Cube Competition, Saturday, May 26, 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., at Reuben H. Fleet Science Center. Competitors solve Rubik's cubes blindfolded in under three minutes! Included in regular admission for spectators; fee for competitors. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

Bromeliad Study Group presents annual plant show and sale, Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., in Casa del Prado room 101. Free admission. 619-239-0512. (BALBOA PARK)

Ethnic Food Fair promising food from over 30 nations, Sunday, May 27, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., at In-

ternational Cottages of the House of Pacific Relations. Native costumes, ethnic music, songs, and dancing. Admission: free. 619-234-0739. (BALBOA PARK)

"Salute Our Troops" during San Diego Auto and Cycle swap and show, Monday, May 28, 6 a.m.–2 p.m., at Qualcomm Stadium. Vehicles on display and for sale, along with "acres of parts and accessories." Admission: free for active military and kids under 13; \$5 general. 858-484-9342. (MISSION VALLEY)


Dogs in the City, PAW (Pets Are Welcome) happy hour for dogs and their owners at Magnet (in the W Hotel, 421 West B Street), Tuesday, May 29, 5 p.m. No cover. 619-231-8220. (DOWNTOWN)

Cajon Classic Cruise Car Shows continue on Wednesdays through August 29, 5–8 p.m., on East Main Street. "American Legends" have their day on May 30. Free. 619-401-8858. (EL CAJON)

What Happens When Oil Runs Out? Bring your prognostications when P&R Discussion group meets Thursday, May 31, 7 p.m., at Other Side Coffee House (4096 30th Street). Free. 619-421-1879. (NORTH PARK)

Calling All Harry Potter Fans! San Diego State University Library plans series of brown-bag book discussions of each title in J.K. Rowling's series, every Thursday, June 14–July 26, noon, in room 430/431 of SDSU Library. Bring lunch, a book, comments and questions for discussion of each book, starting with first in series

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

and ending with discussion of final book (the week after its release). Costumes welcome. Free. 619-594-5148, 619-594-4991. (SDSU)

FOR KIDS

Comic Ventriloquist Lynn Trimble presents "Comical, Magical Ventriloquism" through Sunday, May 27, in Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater. Next up: *Pico's Pail* based on Mexican folk tales, by Old-Fashioned Kite-Flying Puppeteers, May 30-June 3.

Showtimes: 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday-Friday; 11 a.m., 1 and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Find theater near Aerospace Museum. Admission: \$3 for children, \$4 seniors, \$5 general. 619-544-9203. (BALBOA PARK)

Tots and Tales, interactive story time for preschoolers at San Diego Humane Society and SPCA involves crafts and animals, Thursday, May 24, 10:30 a.m., at Humane Society (5500 Gaines Street). \$2. Reservations: 619-243-3432. (LINDA VISTA)

What Happens in Harry Potter 7? Find out during Muggle Net.com event, Friday, May 25, 6:30 p.m., at Barnes and Noble Bookstore (1040 North El Camino Real). In addition to performances

and acting, Emerson Spartz and Ben Schoen will discuss their new book, *What Will Happen in Harry Potter 7?* Free. 760-943-6400. (ENCINITAS)

Be There or Be Square! *Grease* is the word for Broadway Bound Youth Theatre, presenting the musical May 25-27 at Lyceum Theater in Horton Plaza. Cast of 65 youths from around county will "wow audiences" at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. \$15. 858-486-2104. (DOWNTOWN)

"Battle for HMS Surprise," reenactors from Naval Historical Education Foundation will stage "a pitched battle between bloodthirsty pirates and the Royal Navy for control of the HMS *Surprise*" at Maritime Museum of San Diego (1306 North Harbor Drive) on Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27, with shows beginning at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Expect "dramatic sword fighting, guns blazing, and other swashbuckling action." Dress as your favorite pirate, participate in costume contest between shows. Included in regular admission. 619-234-9153. (DOWNTOWN)

Art-Inspired Stories for Families told Saturday, May 26, 11:45 a.m., at San Diego Museum of Art. "Professional storytellers will perform a variety of tales, from the Brothers Grimm to stories from Greek mythology." Program lasts approximately 30 minutes. Included in museum admission. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

OUT & ABOUT

CURRICULUM IN RIDICULUM!

Fern Street Circus in Balboa Park through May 27.

(SEE IN PERSON)



Round-Robin Chess tournaments continue through June for those from kindergarten through 12th grade at La Colonia Community Center (715 Valley Avenue). Series five is Saturday, May 26, 2:30 p.m. Points awarded at each tournament, with overall winners determined after June 23 competi-

tion. Preregistration is \$27 per tournament; space-available day-of-tournament fee is \$30. 760-721-4400. (SOLANA BEACH)

"Round About the Rondo Cake," in this program, children participate in identifying "ingredients" of music such as beat, rhythm, dynamic, and form. Vio-

linist, music educator Monique Mead is joined in 50-minute culinary concert by San Diego Symphony musicians Demarre McGill (principal flute), Kathryn Hatmaker (violin), and Ines Irawati (piano). During preconcert workshops, join musicians with "an instrument or any kitchen items that

make a nice sound!" Concert is presented by Mainly Mozart on Wednesday, May 30, at Jackie Robinson YMCA (151 YMCA Way). Workshop at 6:30 p.m., concert at 7 p.m. Free. 619-239-0100 x304, 619-264-0144. (SOUTH-EAST SAN DIEGO)

"Elmo Makes Music" for Sesame Street Live at San Diego Sports Arena. Jenny, Sesame Street's new music teacher, discovers her instruments are missing; new Muppet friends rescue and discover instruments they never knew existed. "Elmo and friends teach children that everyone can make and enjoy beautiful music together."

Performances begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 21; 10:30 a.m. on Friday, June 22; 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 23; and 1 and 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 24. Tickets: \$13-\$35 general, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TLXS). (SPORTS ARENA)

MUSEUMS

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

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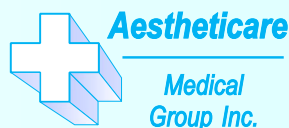
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Barona Cultural Center and Museum is located at 1095 Barona Road; 619-443-7003 x2. (LAKE SIDE)

California Surf Museum, "The Surfer-Shapers," on exhibit through 2006, showcases several surfers whose conceptual abilities and crafting talent radically altered surfboard design. The search has always been for lighter, faster, more maneuverable boards, from Duke Kahanamoku in early 1900s to Tom Blake in 1920s to Simon Anderson in early 1980s.

The museum features surfing artifacts and memorabilia — such as surfboards and clothing — of local legends Phil Edwards, John "L.J." Richards, and Peter Johnson, and Duke Kahanamoku. The museum is located at 223 North Coast Highway; 760-721-6876. (OCEANSIDE)

Chula Vista Nature Center, an interactive living museum devoted to the endangered Southern California coastal wetlands, located in Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors can use a Bioscanner to view animals macroscopically, use a Wentzscope for views of microscopic organisms found in the "Sweetwater Soup," and interact with computerized videos exploring how tides affect the bay in the "Moons, Tides, and the San Diego Bay" exhibit. Pet sharks and rays in the David A. Wergeland Shark and Ray Experience, see burrowing owls and migratory birds, and enjoy the xerophytic gardens.

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

Coronado Museum of History and Art, ongoing exhibits explore the overall history of Coronado, Navy and Army, Tent City, and the Hotel del Coronado. Find the museum at 1100 Orange Avenue. 619-435-7242. (CORONADO)

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

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

Heritage of the Americas Museum, more than 100 Chinese jades of the Late Neolithic (4300–2500 B.C.) through the Ming periods (A.D. 1368–1644) are included in "The Stone of Heaven: The Enduring Art of Jade Age China." From ancient times, jades in China were treasured as talismans, worn on the body either as final adornments in death or as ornaments in life. See a rare and valuable jade burial suit of the Han dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 221), one

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

of only about two dozen that have been excavated in China. The suits were made of more than 2000 square and rectangular plates of jade sewn together with threads of gold, silver, or bronze (depending upon the status of the wearer). Ongoing.

The museum features art and artifacts from South and North America, concentrating on the utilitarian and decorative artistry of crafts workers from ancient cultures. The museum also features wings dedicated to natural history, archaeology, education, anthropology, and fine art. Find the museum on the Cuyamaca College campus, 12110 Cuyamaca College Drive West. 619-670-5194. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

Heritage Walk Museum, the museum includes the restored Victorian House, the city's original Santa Fe Train Depot, a railroad car with model train, working blacksmith shop, and a barn. Find Heritage Walk in Grape Day Park, at 321 North Broadway; 760-743-8207. (ESCONDIDO)

John DeWitt Historic Museum and Library, operated by the Alpine Historical Society, it is located in the 1897 home/office of Dr. Sophronia Nichols. She was the first doctor in Alpine and the first female doctor in the East County. Indian artifacts from the Kingery

family on exhibit. The museum is located at 2116 Tavern Road; 619-659-8740. (ALPINE)

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

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

Museum of Making Music, "Harp Guitars: Passion, Imagination, Artistry," showcases "over 30 extremely rare, historic, and contemporary instruments representing the creative genius of European and American guitar building tradition from the early 1800s through today." Exhibition explores how human capacity for invention led to creation of harp guitar. Closes Monday, July 30.

The past 100 years of American music and music making are highlighted at the museum, with over 450 vintage instruments, hundreds of audio and video clips, and an interactive stage. Find the

OUT & ABOUT

BUDDHA IS AS BUDDHA DOES
Lama Surya Das,
Warwick's Bookstore,
Thursday, May 31.

(SEE IN PERSON)



museum at 5790 Armada Drive; 760-438-5996. (CARLSBAD)

Ramona Pioneer Historical Society and Guy B. Woodward Museum is a complex of historical buildings, including the Verlaque House (the only Western adobe home of French provincial design still in existence), wagons, antique exhibits, and artifacts. There is a cowboy bunk house, women's

clothing and accessories from 1700 to 1800, a ranch blacksmith shop and tack room. The Casey Tibbs Memorial Exhibit is dedicated to Tibbs, a local resident who was a world-champion rodeo rider. The Bancroft Memorial Rose Garden is on the grounds. Rare documents, historical exhibits, books, photographs, and a research library are also part of the complex.

Find it all at 645 Main Street. 760-789-7644. (RAMONA)

San Diego Aerospace Museum, the technological advancements made in aircraft propulsion over the last century are showcased in "100 Years of Aircraft Engines," including a functional reproduction of the 1903 Wright Flyer Engine; a Rolls-Royce liquid-cooled Merlin V-12 that powered the Spitfire and P-51

Mustang fighters; and a rare German Junkers Ju504, one of the world's first operational jet engines.

Concurrently, see "The History of Commercial Aviation in America." A new section of the exhibit celebrates the 40-year history of PSA, with original graphics, a re-creation of the airline's first ticket booth at Lindbergh Field, and uniforms and memorabilia donated by former employees. Ongoing.

"P-51 Mustang" celebrates the legendary Air Force fighter used during both World War II and Korea. The museum's Mustang is painted in the red-tail livery of the Tuskegee Airmen, who distinguished themselves flying bomber escort and ground attack missions during World War II.

The museum offers exhibits of over 65 aircraft — including an RQ-1K Predator UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) on indefinite loan from the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which "saw action over the Balkans in the late 1990s"; a replica of Spirit of St. Louis, a Fokker Scourge (or Fokker Eindecker E-III), a World War I Spad VII, flight deck of the USS Yorktown, and a Lockheed Blackbird spy plane — 1400 scale models, 10,000 aviation-related items, and memorabilia from Montgolfier hot-air-balloon era to Space Age, along with an International Aerospace Hall of Fame.

The museum is located in the Ford Building in the Palisades area. 619-234-8291. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego County Sheriff's Museum, the 150-year history of the sheriff's department is highlighted at the museum, which is located "just feet away" from the original cobblestone jail site, built in 1850. The museum boasts artifacts, photographs, equipment, uniforms, and vehicles, along with exhibits from each of the departments making up the organization such as crime scene, K-9, court service, detentions, crime lab, bomb squad, and many others. Find the museum at 2384 San Diego Avenue; 619-260-1850. (OLD TOWN)

San Diego Electric Railway Association, located in historic National City Santa Fe Depot (922 West 23rd Street), offers exhibits,

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

video displays, trolley equipment, restored passenger car from National City and Otay Railroad. 619-474-4400. (NATIONAL CITY)

San Diego Model Railroad Museum, the San Diego American Flyer Association is displaying numerous varieties of classic toy trains, including original American Flyer trains from late 1940s and '50s, when "trains became...more realistic with engine smoke and sound." Exhibition continues through Sunday, June 3.

Layout features both classic O-gauge locomotives and cars and more current models.

Museum celebrates American railroads with "the largest permanent operating model railroad and toy train exhibit" in North America. Four scale-model railroads of the Southwest, the "San Diego County Relief Map" exhibit, and an interactive toy train. There is a multimedia presentation on railroading, an operating railroad semaphore signal, and interpretive displays on railroads and model railroading. The museum is downstairs in the Casa de Balboa building. 619-696-0199. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Natural History Museum, "Visions of the Natural

World through the Lens of the Masters," continuing through May, is collaborative effort between museum and Ordover Gallery, with variety of nature-based photography. "Contemporary Expressions," closing May 31, includes work by San Diego photographers Bill Everts, Lew Aulafia, Abe Ordover, Lisa Ross, Nancy Keating, Charles Sherman. Also on view and for sale: sculpture and glass.

The permanent exhibit "Fossil Mysteries" showcases last 75 million years in Southern California and Baja California region, a time known for its rich fossil record. Highlights include life-size models of *Albertosaurus*, *Lambeosaurus*, a sea cow, megalodon shark, more.

Current "giant-screen films" are *Too Hot Not to Handle* (through June), *Ocean Oasis*. 619-232-3821. (BALBOA PARK)

San Dieguito Heritage Museum, the museum offers informative dis-

plays on the North County coastal history including Native Americans, early homesteaders, and recent times, as well as photographic collections and archives. Find the museum 561 South Vulcan Avenue; 760-632-9711. (ENCINITAS)

Serra Museum, "Commemorating 75 Years: The Serra Museum" is said to "remember the events leading up to the dedication of Presidio Park and the Serra Museum" on July 16, 1929. The exhibit includes a "visit back in time to 1929."

The museum interprets the Native American, Spanish, and Mexican periods of San Diego's history and contains Spanish Colonial furnishings, art, and artifacts. It's located at the site of the West Coast's first European settlement, 2727 Presidio Drive. 619-297-3258. (OLD TOWN)

Birch Aquarium at Scripps, an aquarium and museum under one roof, the facility is a component of

the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD. Look for 33 tanks containing marine life of the Pacific Northwest, the California coastline, Mexico's Sea of Cortés, and the South Pacific. One highlight is the La Jolla Kelp Tank, a two-story-high tank with giant kelp plants and nearly 30 species of local marine life. "Sea of Genes" offers visit "to the genomic frontier"; "Earthquake! Life on a Restless Planet" explores earthquakes and their impacts on life. "Wonders of Water" waterplay area includes three interactive stations. The Lynne and Howard Robbins Shark Reef Exhibit features a 13,000-gallon shark tank with black tip, white tip, nurse, and wobbegong sharks.

The aquarium is located at 2300 Expedition Way (off North Torrey Pines Road, south of La Jolla Shores Drive). 619-534-FISH. (LA JOLLA)

The San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum onboard the decommissioned USS *Midway* is open for tours, now berthed at 910 North Harbor Drive. Exhibits include Navy jet simulators, carrier and flight deck touring, captain's sea cabin, pilot house, navigation bridge. Admission fee includes audio guide. 619-544-9600. (DOWNTOWN)

Wells Fargo History Museum, the museum features a working agents' office staffed by guides in period costumes and contains a working telegraph for visitors to send and receive messages. Short films on California and Wells Fargo history; a gold display, part of the collection assembled by Wells Fargo agent Samuel Dorsey at the end of the 1800s; an exhibit of Concord Coach #251, a restored stagecoach built in 1867; and the Davies watch. The museum is located in the reconstructed Colorado House, at 2733 San Diego Avenue. (OLD TOWN)

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Undercurrents

"If the audience wanted only the words, they'd stay home and read the script."

A while back, I wrote a feature about D.J. Sullivan, who has taught acting in San Diego for 40 years. I couldn't let her get away without some thoughts on her favorite topic: subtexts. "You see them all the time in real life," she says, "but not often enough in theater."

Park bench: a man smiles, says, "Nice day" to the woman next to him.

"It is," she replies. Yet somehow you sense she's having anything but.

Or the clerk at the checkout counter asking a woman, "Need help with those groceries?" — and deep down thinking, "Omgod, it's her! Will she even notice me this time?"

Unspoken thoughts may influence how he phrases the question or how he moves. And if she says "yes," which part of him responds? The guy supposed to carry groceries, or the deeply smitten soul?

"Generally speaking," says Sullivan, "the subtext is what's happening beneath the dialogue. It can have nothing to do with what's being talked about at that moment. A character's like an iceberg. The tip is the lines. Underwater's all this other stuff."

"Many actors, and not just beginners, think if they read a script five times and do 'character analysis' — likes and dislikes you can drum up in minutes — they'll know what's going on. They assume the playwright's made everything clear. But that's not true. Playwrights create a form. They de-

pend on actors to add layers and colors and textures and breathe life to their words."

In Yasmina Reza's *Unexpected Man*, a woman and a famous writer ride on a train. She loves his novels and wants to talk but is reticent. Except for a few lines, the play takes place in their thoughts. At one point she says that conversations are "meatless, because the meat of a conversation obviously doesn't lie in what's actually being said."

"That's it," says Sullivan, "the meat's in the subtext! If the audience wanted only the words they'd stay home and read the script."

San Diego's most legendary example happened 40 years ago. Jack Aaronsen won an Atlas Award without uttering a syllable. He played the Old Jew in Arthur Miller's *Incident at Vichy* at the Old Globe. The 70-year-old man sits on a bench in a Nazi detention room. As people passed, or denied the possibility of concentration camps, Aaronsen reacted in silence.

"You could read his mind," says Sullivan, who was so impressed she asked Aaronsen his secret. There wasn't one, he replied, just the "work": pages and pages of notes in his script, describing what the Old Jew was thinking every second.

Sullivan had a role in *Raise the Titanic*. The movie was a "clunker," she says, but the shooting ranks among her favorite experiences. Between takes, she had an ongoing conversation with Jason Robards Jr. about his process.

First, he said, he read the play at least 50 times out loud. He'd read it until he made contact, he felt, with its core.

"When I start to cry," he said, "or my stomach gets tied up in knots, I know I've hit the mother lode."

Then he'd begin writing: undercurrents of pain, humor, emotional weather. Nothing was too trivial. No avenue unexplored. Careful to avoid labels, which lead to generalized acting, Robards constantly asked how his character's mind worked — and what it was working on each moment.

After mapping inner terrain with voluminous notes, Robards would reach a second takeoff point. He'd set the writing aside — rarely looking at it again — and dive into the character.

Robards was always concerned, says Sullivan, that the audience could read what his character was "really thinking."

By writing everything out, Robards made conscious his character's unconscious thoughts and feelings. Then he internalized them and moved on.

Sullivan began teaching acting in 1967, the year Aaronsen won the Atlas Award, and always has students write out their subtexts. For beginners, she assigns Gene Bua's "Getting Better," a 13-line conversation between a man and a woman. They're in a psychiatrist's waiting room for the first time.

Sullivan first has students just read the lines ("Nice day"; "Been coming here long?"). Then she has them write at length, underneath the lines:



Jack Aaronsen in *Incident at Vichy*

What are the conflicts? Who are these people? And — David Mamet's famous question — "Why now?"

In class, Sullivan has two actors sit side by side, not looking at each other. One reads the subtext for a line, taps the other, who reads the next subsection.

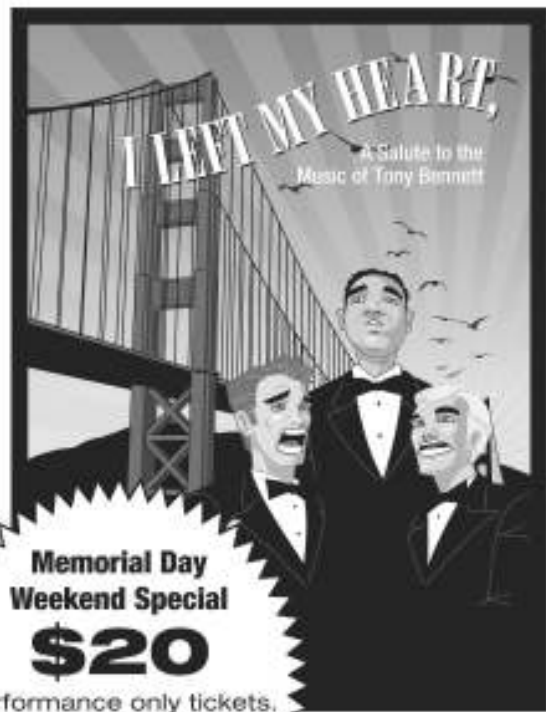
The exercise concludes with a third rinse: the actors sit face to face and add "relationship." How do the characters relate to each other? "When they just read the lines it's boring," says Sullivan. "But add subtexts and relationship, and suddenly they've

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got some things going on."

Whose work does Sullivan admire today? The usual suspects: Robert DeNiro, the French genius Isabelle Huppert, Judi Dench, who said, "Good acting is not the things you say. It's the things you don't say. It's like in watercolor — it's what you leave out that's most important."

Sullivan loved the cast of the Old Globe's *Two Trains Running*: "I cried at the end. Those actors: underneath it all they *knew* their characters completely!"

When Jimmy Smits won a SAG Award for *NYPD Blue*, Sullivan — a member of the national board for 30 years — praised his subtexts at the ceremony. "I never knew what they were until I did the show," he said to her astonishment. "Dennis Franz taught me."

Franz, who played Andy Sipowicz, began the series with lengthy dialogue calculated to make him likably unlikable. As the show progressed, the writers realized that he could tell the story without words. "After a while," Smits said, "they rarely wrote speeches for him. You could watch his face and see what he's thinking — because he is thinking."

Franz had a clause in his contract: the day after the initial read-through, he required the actors to discuss what was going on beneath the words. Many in the cast found this table work odd at first, Smits included, since most television is just surface entertainment, without subtexts. People are who they are, especially in sitcoms. They have no inner lives.

Sullivan teaches subtexts "little bit by little bit." Actors who have done the work, like Robards, dig a deep pool for their character. Once they've filled in the pool, they walk away. They can dip into it for acting choices: to show "a side, a layer, a reversal or contradiction, a deepening."

The pool remains, but specific choices must change. One of the hardest things to teach, says Sullivan, is letting choices go. Onstage, actors must react to what's happening this second. "How they express subtext *has* to change from night to night. It's woven into their reactions and words. A choice that worked one night could poison the next. This

is hard to teach *and* one of the most exciting things about theater."

Sullivan loves to quote Frank Langella (who can make this statement, she says, "because he knows his subtexts"): "I have a sense about acting in the theater: there is no right. There's only the truth. Each night is a different night. Each night I bring all sorts of things I didn't have the night before. I don't believe in hanging on to moments. I don't believe if something works beautifully on Tuesday you should try to recreate it on Wednesday. The point to me about acting is it's a moveable feast." ■

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.

All in the Timing

Due to popular demand, Ion Theatre reprises its hugely funny production of David Ives's one-acts, this time in a downtown bistro that enhances the playwright's surrealistic scenes (in *Sure Thing*, his reiteration of a chance meeting anticipates the movie *Groundhog Day*; *Philadelphia* says we live in varying mood states, which can change). Ion's smart, daring physical comedy matches Ives's poetic-absurdist language with visual accents (even the minimalist scenery gets changed with a flourish) and crisp business. Co-directors Glenn Paris and Claudio Raygoza accept only bold choices from a game four-person ensemble: energized Andrew Kennedy does Babels of voices; Jonathan Sachs handles roles as disparate as a typing chimp named Milton (his version of *Hamlet* begins "Of man's first disobedience...") to Leon Trotsky philosophizing with an axe in his skull; gifted Laura Bozanich shines as various women put in strange circumstances: from Philip Glass's ex-lover (Glass buys a loaf of bread, and the cast turns the mundane event into a hilarious, postmodern show tune) to a lost, stuttering soul who believes "language is the opposite of loneliness" — and proves it; Kim Strassburger's a scream as a chimp named Kafka (who keeps



Desire Under the Elms

typing *K's* and wonders if she's being redundant) and as Trotsky's mercurial wife so sex-crazed, at one point, she tumbles through a window. This show could run for a long, long time.

Worth a try.

SIXTH AVENUE BISTRO, 1165 SIXTH AVENUE (CORNER OF SIXTH AND B), DOWNTOWN, OPEN-ENDED RUN; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-374-6894.

Baby

North Coast Repertory Theatre presents the Maltby/Shire/Pearson musical about three couples reflecting on the "joys (and terrors)" of parenting. Paula Kallustian directed.

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Beckett3

Three acts combine in Sledgehammer's "aural and visual search" for Samuel Beckett, housed, and Beckett might have liked the irony, in "the Comfort Zone." You enter through a hall of mirrors, inscribed

with text (a sketchy story about "Samuel," written by director Scott Feldsher), stones crunch at your feet. A sideways glance warps the letters (throughout the installation, words are present and absent: lights dim, a movie palimpsest over-inscribes, texts in multiple languages that can be read left to right, right to left — the words often refer to this duality — or top to bottom). Tim Root's music, per-

formed with (very loud) drums and woodwinds, joins Beckettian, quarter-tone repetitions with changing pitch centers. Is Becky Guttin's sculpture, silver objects suspended from above, meat in a freezer, or devastated tree trunks after a fire? Mirrors ordered on the floor reflect something that has been stripped or skinned. A walkway on the east side and a small room, marked "Tumba," are the

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most referential: suggestions of Winnie's mound in *Happy Days*; Hamm's bloody *Endgame* handkerchief; a black bowler hat and the skinny, leafless tree from *Godot*. Sledgehammer couldn't get the rights to Beckett's work. Thus the three-art approach, which will evoke different responses from different observers. I found the deliberate vagueness annoying, at first. This is Beckett deconstructed. But, says his biographer Anthony Cronin, Beckett was the "last Modernist." And he was after the opposite of "unfixed" meanings. "More and more," he wrote, "my own language appears to me like a veil that must be torn apart in order to get at the things (or the Nothingness) behind it." You can move through the installation at your own speed. The frequent giving and taking away of meanings felt like being in the shoes of Beckett's characters — say, Vladimir or Estragon — and how they half-perceive, at best, the world.

Worth a try.

SLEDGEHAMMER THEATRE, 4025 GOLDFINCH STREET, MISSION HILLS, THROUGH JUNE 3; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-544-1484.

Bunbury

Diversions Theatre stages Tom Jacobsen's "serious play for trivial people," about an offstage character in *The Importance of Being Earnest* who decides to infiltrate the classics. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BOULEVARD, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, THROUGH JUNE 17; THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 618-220-0097.

Cabaret

OnStage Playhouse presents the Tony Award-winning musical about decadence in pre-WWII Berlin. Raylene J. Wall directed. ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVENUE, CHULA VISTA, THROUGH JUNE 9; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-422-7787.

Delirium

For three performances only, Cirque du Soleil stages its touring arena production, featuring musicians, dancers, acrobats, and multimedia displays. IPAYONE CENTER AT THE SPORTS ARENA, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-220-TIXS.



Two Trains Running

Desire Under the Elms

On paper it looked like a lock. The same Cygnet Theatre team that did award-winning work with Tennessee Williams's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* last year rejoined to produce Eugene O'Neill's breakthrough tragedy. The opening-night performance, however, was strangely flat. If you don't count fluctuating New England accents and fussy, unmotivated movement, the acting was consistent but consistently restrained and lacking O'Neill's hallmark "size." His characters are possessed, though not by demons. There's no room for demons in these tormented psyches. Possibly to avoid the purple patches lurking in O'Neill's script, or to make them seem more human and believable (as opposed to the "appalling humanness" he wanted), Cygnet toned down the epic intensities. Some of the production's best moments are unspoken. Director Sean Murray uses stage pictures to show daily life and the passage of time. The set, wooden planks and two platforms, lit evocatively by Eric Lotze, conjures the hardscrabble New England farm built by Ephraim Cabot. But even the set has shrinkage. The house and famous hovering elms (that O'Neill wanted to show a "sinister maternity") are reduced to dollhouse-

size in the rear. Of the cast, only Jim Chovick has the requisite larger-than-life size as Ephraim, a red-faced belligerent who will stay King of the Mountain to the end of his days, then tear the mountain down. CYGNET THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, COLLEGE AREA, THROUGH JUNE 3; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-337-1525.

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.

The Last Class and A Hundred Birds

As part of its Human Rights Festival 2007, 6th@Penn Theatre stages Marianne McDonald's drama about a professor's deeply personal final lecture, which runs with Ira Bateman-Gold's story of three survivors of abuse. 6TH@PENN THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH JUNE 18; FOR DAYS AND TIMES CALL 619-688-9210.

Lemkin's House

6th@Penn presents Catherine Filoux's drama about the afterlife of Raphael Lemkin (1900-1959), a man haunted by victims of genocide (the word he coined in 1943). 6TH@PENN THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH JUNE 18; FOR DAYS AND TIMES CALL 619-688-9210.

Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival

The San Diego Repertory Theatre closes its 2006-2007 season with the 14th annual festival celebrating the "diversity of the Jewish Diaspora through music, dance, theater, fine arts, food from around the world," and the Klezmer Summit. SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN; NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987D LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH, THROUGH JUNE 25; FOR A SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, DAYS, AND TIMES CALL 619-544-1000.

Menopause the Musical

The San Diego Rep hosts a production of Jeanie Linders's musical about "the change." Songs include "I Heard It Through the Grapevine," "You'll No Longer See 39," and a remake of the disco tune "Stayin' Alive" called "Stayin' Awake."

LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH AUGUST 26; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. MATINEE WEDNESDAY AT 2:00 P.M. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 3:00 P.M. 619-544-1000.

National Comedy Theatre

Improvisational 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 ac-

knowledge 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.

Oh God, I'm Single

California Center for the Arts hosts this one-person show about the life of a single woman, from childhood to present-day. CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESCONDIDO, 340 NORTH ESCONDIDO BOULEVARD, FRIDAY, MAY 25, AND SATURDAY, MAY 26, AT 8:00 P.M. 800-988-4253.

Oliver!

Looking Glass Theatre stages the Lionel Bart musical based on Charles Dickens's tale of a winsome orphan in Victorian England. FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO, 4190 FRONT STREET (ACROSS FROM UCSD MEDICAL CENTER), HILLCREST, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. 619-298-9978, X8006.

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.

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The Damage Done
“Chris Austin single-handedly tried to wreck my business, vandalized my warehouse, [and] stole over \$1500 in band equipment,” says promoter

with his car in front of my house. I had \$8000 in hospital bills. He threatened to kill me.”

Austin says the business relationship began to unravel a year ago, following his return from an out-of-town funeral.

“I was gone for two and a half weeks,” says Austin.

“When I came back, he [had] thrashed my equipment and trashed my vehicle and my

property, which I gave him use of for his bands’ rehearsal and to make money while I was gone. When I came back, he tried to pin it on me to get me to take responsibility for the damage done to the property. At the end, the landlord came to my defense in court.”

Earlier this month, Austin asked a Vista judge for \$7500 in damages (the small-claims court maximum) from Carter. On the day of the trial, May 4, Carter didn’t show. The judge determined that Carter must now pay Austin \$4750 in damages plus court costs.

“I got that judgment vacated,” says Carter. “There is a new court date June 4.”

Austin and Carter say neither one of them has been arrested or cited by the police.

The two have a long history of promoting shows separately. Carter, who plays bass in two bands (the Drapes and Willie Psycho), has organized punk shows at the Masonic Hall in La Mesa, Theater X in Escondido, the Jumping Turtle, and the now-defunct Hindquarters. Austin used to host bands at his now-closed Escondido coffeehouse called the Library and at Joltin’ Joe’s, Pounders, and the bar formerly known as Takilyaz.

— Ken Leighton

White-Boy Reggae Is Over Tomorrow marks the 11th anniversary of the death of Sublime front man Bradley Nowell. Gadget singer/guitarist Tommy Dubs says, “People are basically jacking the whole Sublime sound and style, and that sucks.” He says Sublime copycat bands have “created a culture of

boy reggae is over and done with.”

Gadget is a two-year-old, all-original trio that does have loping reggae rhythms in many of its songs, but Dubs believes it’s shortsighted for reggae-inspired bands to attempt to co-opt all things Sublime.

“People think Sublime was the first band to put reggae and punk together. They don’t realize that 20

dreads or long hair. To further confuse stereotypes, bandmembers tend to wear country-western-style shirts onstage.

“No one knows what to expect when they first see us,” says Dubs. “We get a kick out of that. Someone called us reggaebilly. We don’t necessarily agree.

We call our

blurt

the inside track

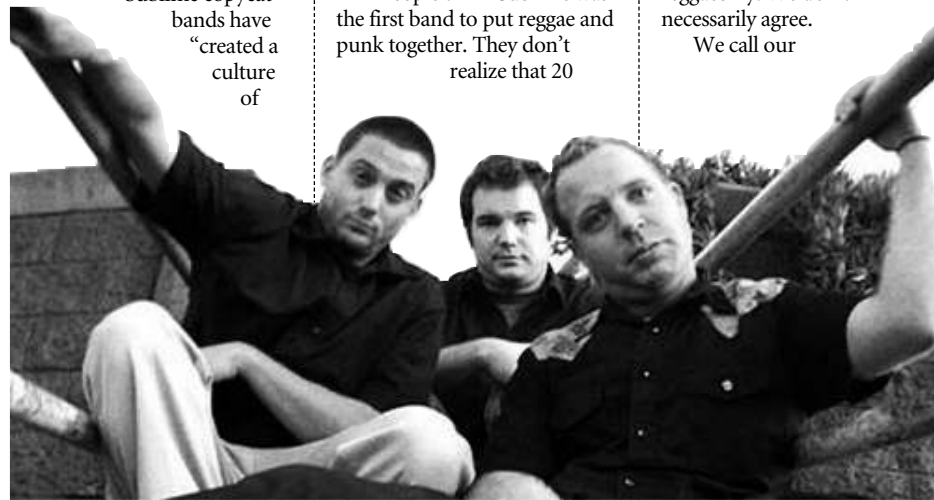
Willie Carter (a.k.a. Tuckerson) via e-mail. “He pulled a knife.... He slashed my car. I have a witness to that.”



TUCKERSON AND AUSTIN TAKE IT TO THE JUDGE

Chris Austin, meanwhile, who had established a partnership with Carter in a recording/practice studio in an industrial warehouse in San Marcos, says his former partner “...hit me

trailer. He decided to have a drunken paint party. There was paint on my truck and my equipment. Beer and glass was embedded in my beer-soaked speakers. He had no regard for



GADFLY...AS INDIE AS MOST BANDS

cliché. It’s called ‘white-boy reggae.’ I hate it when people get pigeonholed into that whole Sublime culture. Bands look like them and sound like them.... The fact that they even made ‘white-boy reggae’ a catchphrase is ridiculous. As far as I’m concerned, white-

years earlier there was the Clash. Then there was HR and Bad Brains. I think the kids that are stuck in the whole Sublime cliché haven’t taken the time to look into where Sublime came from in the first place.”

No one in Gadget has

music rock-steady rock. But, basically, when something gets labeled, it’s over.”

It doesn’t help Gadget that some clubs may perceive homogeneity in reggae-inspired music played by white boys.

“One thing I noticed is

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3:20 **Skanic**
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JUNE 7

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KING OF THE (həd)PE

MOWER SUBNOIZE SOULJAZ

JUNE 8

MASON JENNINGS

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REAL TO REEL

JUNE 11

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JUNE 25

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JULY 11

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JULY 12

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local media and venues tend to cater to indie rock," says Dubs. "If you're not playing indie rock, you get ignored by the media and certain clubs. We have totally flown under the radar in San Diego.... We've only gotten [our music] played on KPRI.... And outside O.B. and P.B. we don't get a lot of gigs. We'd like to play the Casbah, but they're not knocking down our door."

Gadfly appears Saturday at the 710 Beach Club.

— Ken Leighton

And Then There Was None

A rumored deal in the making could spell the end for San Diego's last major independent local concert firm.

La Mesa-based Viejas Entertainment, which is a division of Viejas Enterprises, currently books Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, the Sports Arena, Bayside concerts at the Embarcadero, and all the shows at Viejas Casino. It is rumored that AEG Concerts, the second-largest national concert company, is working on an agreement with the Viejas tribe to take over all of the venues Viejas Entertainment books.

The transfer would give AEG — which owns half of the Coachella Festival and controls the Staples Center in L.A. — a foothold in San Diego. Currently, Live Nation — which owns Coors and books Cox Arena, Open Air Theatre, and Pala Casino — dominates the local music scene. Live Nation is the largest U.S. concert company.

Insiders say Viejas

Entertainment talent buyer John Wojas would leave Viejas and work for AEG.

Viejas Entertainment president Steve Redfearn says there have been meetings between AEG and the Sports Arena, but nothing has been finalized. As for Viejas Entertainment getting swallowed up by AEG: "I have heard those rumors, too, but at this time they are not true."

Last week Sports Arena general manager Ernie Hahn said his company Arena Group 2000 was in talks to move the Sports Arena to National City.

"That does not surprise me," says one insider. "The Hahns are real estate developers, not venue operators. They want to develop that property [where the Sports Arena is now], but the public doesn't want high-density condos there. They want an arena."

— Ken Leighton

Metalheads Open to Slagging

"The fact that some people view us as knuckle-dragging metalheads is unfortunate," says Mower front man Brian Sheerin. While "harder and faster" is the general rule with most rock groups, Mower is heading in the opposite direction. Their new jazz-oriented side project, Slower, features the same membership and set list as Mower, but they trade their thunderous volume and denim for more sedate song stylings and suits.

As Mower, the band has toured Japan, opened for Slayer, and had the video for their song "Road Rage" shown on MTV's *Headbangers Ball*. The band has also appeared on *The Dating Game*. The Slower approach evolved from playing Mower material in different

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ways, for fun, during rehearsals.

Though the move has taken some listeners by surprise, Sheerin says, "In a way, the new band is more subversive than our metal music." While the music has changed, "The lyrics are the same, the sentiment is the same." According to him, the response from Mower fans has been good so far, though "Some people go as far as to tell us they like Slower better.



PHOTOGRAPH FROM MYSPACE/MOWER

MOWER GOING FAST IN JAPAN

No one ever tells us anything negative to our face."

Sheerin says Slower will introduce cover tunes into the mix and record an album in between Mower projects. He says it's possible that they may perform both acts at an occasional show and does not rule out the possibility of experimenting further with the group's sound, envisioning "another side project in the style of Yanni or John Tesh,

just to torture our friends." — Bart Mendoza

Jewel Asks Stranger to Kiss Posterior

"Jewel lived in her car, so she should know the rules," said Ashton Kutcher, introducing a new *Punk'd* segment last month.

Jewel's boyfriend Ty Murray sets her up by moving an orange parking cone that effectively situates their car in a construction zone. An accomplice prevents the singer from moving her car as a large sign is erected nearby. Twelve seconds into their conversation, Jewel scowls and says, "Are you gonna give me shit?" Asked to stand behind the orange cones, she replies, "Can you kiss my ass?" and apparently calls him "a fucking weirdo." Twice.

The sign is then "accidentally" dropped on a nearby truck as onlookers accuse Jewel of being responsible. Through much bleeping, she seems to say (to the "fucking weirdo"), "Before you start talking shit to blame this shit on me, who the fuck are you? You're starting to piss me off!" When the prank is revealed, she turns to her boyfriend and says, "I can't believe you, I thought you loved me."

No reaction on the show from Jewel's fan club message

forums, as they were recently shut down to new posts and removed from public view.

— Jay Allen Sanford



EASY ON THE EYES, ROUGH ON THE EARS (JEWEL)

Music Lovers Mar Hendrix Concert

Thirty-eight years ago today, the Jimi Hendrix Experience played one of its final gigs at the Sports Arena. Ticketless fans rushed the doors en masse, resulting in local headlines the next day reading "Police Arrest Gate Crashers" and "Music Lovers' Mar Hendrix Concert."

Backstage, Hendrix was interviewed by *San Diego Free Press* writer Jim Brodey. "At one point," according to Brodey, "the interview was interrupted by promoters and someone with a 'love medallion.' Top 40 radio

station KCBQ had sponsored a contest in which entrants who had made the 'grooviest love medallion' would win a free ticket to the concert and present their love beads to Hendrix in person. Jimi, who knew nothing of the contest, refused to save face for the bumbling KCBQ and wouldn't see the winners."

When the Experience hit the stage just before 10 p.m., a professional crew recorded the entire concert. Hendrix told the audience, "You people down here are witnessing some really beautiful times. Like, groovy times you'll be telling your children and their children's children about, man. This is, like, the epicenter of where it's happening, right here in California. I just wanted you to know that, even though I think you know it already. Does it ever rain here? Would you care if it did? I didn't think so."

Just over a month after playing San Diego, the Experience played its last concert at the Denver Pop Festival.

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS

William Crain, Dave Good, Larry Harmon, Michael Hemmingson, Ken Leighton, Ryan Loyko, Derek Plank, Eric Rife, Jay Allen Sanford

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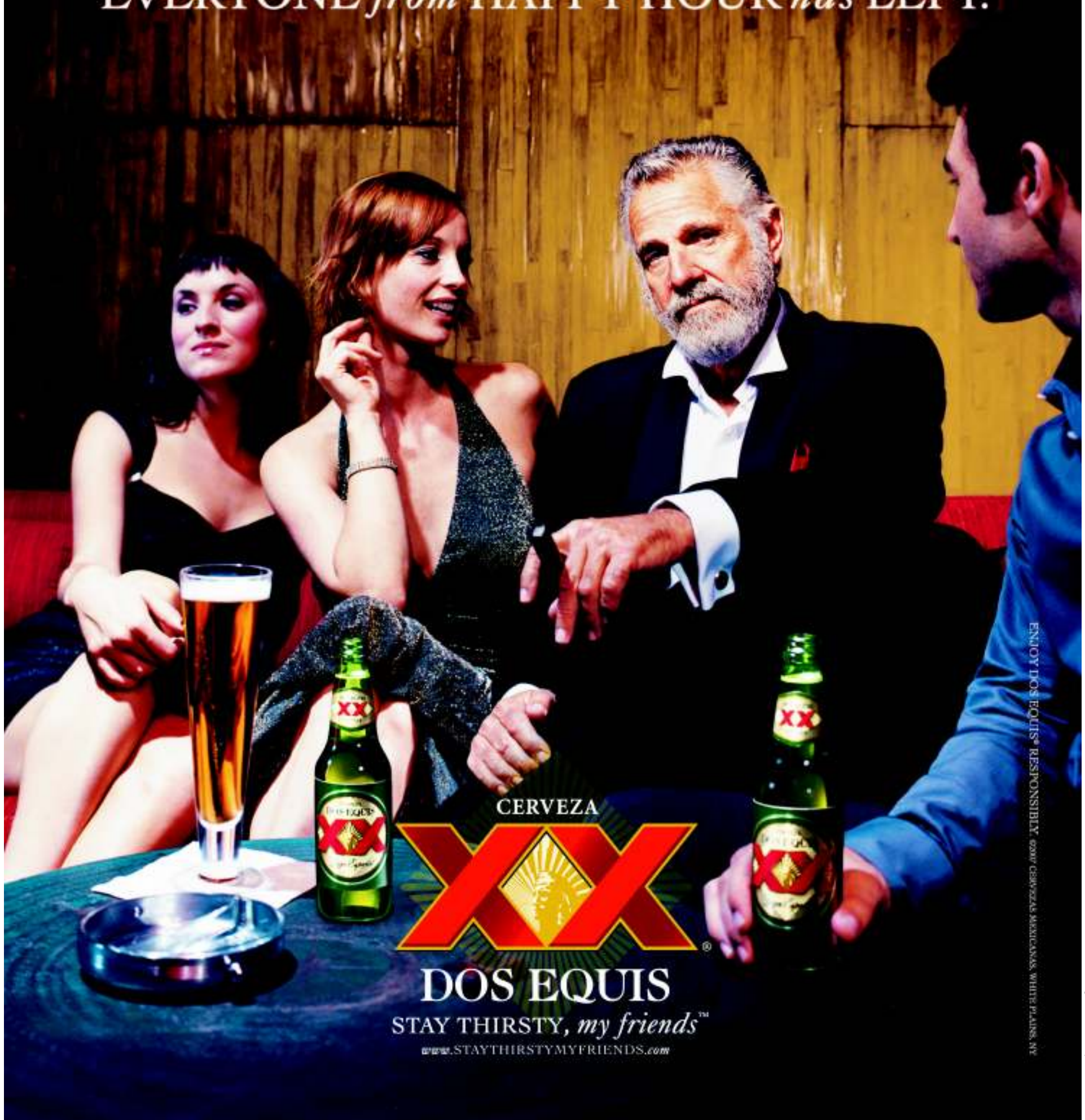
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The Tiara Chronicles

"I think the sentimentality in this album is gorgeously cheesy."

I wanted an organized way to document the music I see," says Rosey Bystrak, who chronicles, lists, and discusses all things music and San Diego on her blog, www.sddialedin.com.

"I'm an Internet addict," she says. "This is not my job, just a hobby, and I do it because I love music, I love shows, and I have some free time to write about it all. I have a full-time day job, and I do not work for any band, management company, promoter, radio station...my opinions are mine and mine alone."

LISTS

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

one who loves Elliott Smith should check out this album.")

2. Bright Eyes, *Cassadaga* ("The alt-country sound of the first single, 'Four Winds,' sucked me in.")

3. Mando Diao, *Ode to Ochras* ("Something about Swedish bands just does it for me.")

4. Youth Group, *Casino Twilight Dogs* ("They had to cancel their

show at the Casbah, but I think the sentimentality in this album is gorgeously cheesy.")

5. Paolo Nutini, *These Streets* ("In the player because he was recently in San Diego for a private show at the Abbey.")

6. Arcade Fire, *Neon Bible*

DESERT ISLAND DVDs?

"Anyone who has been to my house after 2 a.m. knows that I'm always gonna throw in *Reality Bites*, *Beautiful Girls*, or *Love Actually*. I like the talkie chick flicks, I guess."

FAVORITE TV SHOWS?

"I love really bad reality shows. I watch *Real Time with Bill Maher* and *The Daily Show* and *Colbert Report*. I wish more people watched Bill Maher because this country seems to lack political discourse. What we're stuck with is *Fox News* shouting matches."

LOCALS DESTINED FOR SUCCESS?

"Grand Ole Party are well on their way. I think Dynamite Walls could have mass appeal. And, if I had things my way, Swim Party would be touring with Arcade Fire. A lot of bands are gonna be mad that I didn't mention them."

LOCAL BAND WITH THE WILDEST SHOW?

"Anytime the Homeless Sexuals play is pretty nuts, but the first time I saw them at the Zombie Lounge, a chick in the opening band peed on Dave Buck. Allegedly. I was at the bar getting a drink, and I kicked myself because I always miss the good stuff."

WHAT'S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

1. The One AM Radio, *This Too Will Pass* ("Any-

WORST PICKUP LINE EVER HEARD?

"You don't have enough space on the page. Once, I'd been hanging out with a guy for a couple weeks, and he hit on my best friend in front of me. And he expected a ride home."

BEST NONLOCAL BLOG?

"I love reading *Dooce.com*. Heather is an amazing writer, and her blog is her income, so I look up to her in a lot of ways."

ARCADE FIRE OR WHITE STRIPES?

"Obviously, Arcade Fire. Jack and Meg never really did it for me. I prefer a ton of people onstage with all kinds of crazy instruments, for a full cathedral sound."

FAVORITE LOCAL EATERY AND BEST DISH?

"Ponce's [on Adams Avenue] number two combo. Two cheese enchiladas, a beef taco, rice, and beans. Nine bucks, plus tax and tip, and the second enchilada makes a great breakfast the next day."

BIGGEST POLITICAL CONCERN?

"With Bush as a president, where can I even begin?"

ADVICE TO CITY GOVERNMENT?

"Let the Chargers go."

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU FEW WOULD KNOW OR GUESS?

"I was class president and a homecoming princess in high school. I actually had to wear a tiara. For a whole week." ■



Rosey Bystrak

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTY BYSTRAK-KIENNAN

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Ramsey Lewis	6/8 & 9
Karrin Allyson	6/12 & 13
Jane Monheit	6/15 & 16
Arturo Sandoval	6/20 & 21
Chick Corea	6/22
Jesse Colin Young	6/23
Tierney Sutton	6/26 & 27

JULY

Royal Crown Revue	7/10 & 11
Larry Coryell	7/13 & 14
Mose Allison	7/25 & 26
Jazz Fusion Superstars	7/27
Roy Ayers, Wayne Henderson, Lonnie Liston Smith, Jean Carne & Jon Lucien	

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Calendar CONCERTS

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THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

THURSDAY

Boyz II Men: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, May 24, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

The Expendables: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, May 24, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

FRIDAY

Tish Hinojosa: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, May 25, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Erykah Badu: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Friday, May 25, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

SATURDAY

Chayanne: San Diego Sports Arena, Saturday, May 26, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Queensrÿche: 4th & B, Saturday, May 26, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

TUESDAY

Bucky Covington: Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, May 29, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

MAY

Pretty Girls Make Graves and Kill Me Tomorrow: The Casbah, Thursday, May 31, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

Bo Bice: House of Blues, Thursday, May 31, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

JUNE

The Hold Steady: Canes, Friday, June 1, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

P.F. Sloan: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, June 2, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Morrissey: Viejas Concerts at Bayside, Sunday, June 3, Embarcadero Park South, 619-445-5400.

Gregg Allman: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Sunday, June 3, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

The Indigo Girls: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Monday, June 4, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Lucinda Williams: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Tuesday, June 5, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Gregory Isaacs: Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, June 5, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Los Abandoned and Ima Robot: House of Blues, Wednesday, June 6, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

The Charlie Daniels Band and The Marshall Tucker Band: Palomar Starlight Theater, Thursday, June 7, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4580.

The Rebirth Brass Band: Canes, Thursday, June 7, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

Unwritten Law: House of Blues, Thursday, June 7, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Los Lobos: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, June 7, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

The Charlie Daniels Band: Coors Amphitheatre, Friday, June 8, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

Kingspade and (hed) pe: House of Blues, Friday, June 8, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

The Faint: Soma, Friday, June 8, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

Ramsey Lewis: Anthology, Friday, June 8, and Saturday, June 9, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Vicente Fernandez: Coors Amphitheatre, Saturday, June 9, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

The Raveonettes: The Casbah, Saturday, June 9, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

Bob Schneider: Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, June 9, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

"Reggae Festival": Del Mar Fairgrounds, Saturday, June 9, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161.

Keith Urban: San Diego Sports Arena, Sunday, June 10, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Lupillo Rivera: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Sunday, June 10, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161.

Mason Jennings: House of Blues, Sunday, June 10, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Lindsey Buckingham: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Monday, June 11, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Jonatha Brooke: Belly Up Tavern, Monday, June 11, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Tesla: House of Blues, Monday, June 11, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

John Mayer and Ben Folds: Coors Amphitheatre, Tuesday, June 12, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

San Diego's Hottest FREE Ticket!

Rising Star	Friday, May 25	9pm
Reaganomics	Saturday, May 26	9pm
The David Patrone Extravaganza	Sunday, May 27	4pm
Cash'd Out	Thursday, May 31	9pm
80z All Stars	Friday, June 1	9pm
	Saturday, June 2	9pm
Ultimate Music Challenge	Sunday, June 3	8pm

Los Reyes Del Ritmo	Thursday, May 24	8pm
Modern Day Moeshine	Friday, May 25	5pm
Encore	Friday, May 25	10pm
David Patrone	Saturday, May 26	5pm
Ladie Dittie & The Diamonds	Saturday, May 26	10pm
Jack Butler	Sunday, May 27	7:30pm
Nitro Express	Thursday, May 31	8pm
Iron Eden	Friday, June 1	5pm
Los Reyes Del Ritmo	Friday, June 1	10pm
Modern Day Moeshine	Saturday, June 2	5pm
Shellee Blue	Saturday, June 2	10pm
Jack Butler	Sunday, June 3	7:30pm

Go to Viejas.com or call 619-445-5400 for more details.
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FRIDAY!



Erykah Badu
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Friday, May 25 • 8:00

SATURDAY!



Generation Hawaii Tour featuring **Amy Hanaiali'i / Kaukahi & Keli'i Kaneali'i**
Saturday, May 26 • 7:00

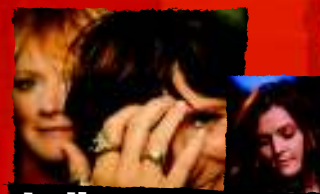
WEDNESDAY!



Lisa Gerrard of Dead Can Dance
Wednesday, May 30 • 8:00



Gregg Allman
with special guest **Bill Magee Blues Band**
Sunday, June 3 • 7:30



Indigo Girls
with special guest **Brandi Carlife**
Monday, June 4 • 7:30



Lucinda Williams
with special guest **Kelly Joe Phelps**
Tuesday, June 5 • 7:30



Lindsey Buckingham
Monday, June 11 • 7:30

MAY

Boyz II Men
Thursday, May 24 • 8:00

Erykah Badu
with special guest **LeRoy Bell**
Friday, May 25 • 8:00

Generation Hawaii Tour featuring **Amy Hanaiali'i / Kaukahi & Keli'i Kaneali'i**
Saturday, May 26 • 7:00

Lisa Gerrard of Dead Can Dance
Wednesday, May 30 • 8:00

JUNE

Gregg Allman
with special guest **Bill Magee Blues Band**
Sunday, June 3 • 7:30

Indigo Girls
with special guest **Brandi Carlife**
Monday, June 4 • 7:30

Lucinda Williams
with special guest **Kelly Joe Phelps**
Tuesday, June 5 • 7:30

Mary Chapin Carpenter
Sunday, June 10 • 7:30

Lindsey Buckingham
Monday, June 11 • 7:30

George Benson / Al Jarreau
Thursday, June 14 • 7:00

Alan Parsons Live Project
Thursday, June 21 • 8:00

Don Rickles / Joan Rivers
Friday, June 22 • 7:30

Jonny Lang
with special guest **Jon McLaughlin**
Saturday, June 23 • 7:30

Michael McDonald
Sunday, June 24 • 7:30

Steve Winwood
Wednesday, June 27 • 8:00

JULY

Dana Carvey
Friday, July 6 • 8:00

Blues Traveler
Sunday, July 8 • 7:30

Queen Latifah: The Music of Dana Owens
Tuesday, July 10 • 8:00

Ani DiFranco
with special guest **Anais Mitchell**
Wednesday, July 11 • 7:30

Dennis DeYoung: The Music of Styx
Friday, July 13 • 7:30

Beach Boys
with special guest **Russ T. Nailz**
Sunday, July 15 • 7:30

Joan Osborne / Cowboy Junkies
Tuesday, July 17 • 7:00

Boz Scaggs
Wednesday, July 18 • 7:30

'70s Soul Jam
featuring **The Stylistics, Chi-Lites, Harold Melvin's Blue Notes, Delfonics** and **Three Degrees**
Hosted by **Jimmie "JJ" Walker**
Thursday, July 19 • 7:00

Paul Rodriguez
Friday, July 20 • 7:30

Dickey Betts
with special guest **Shooter Jennings**
Sunday, July 22 • 7:30

John Hiatt / Shawn Colvin
Tuesday, July 24 • 7:00

Lyle Lovett and his Large Band / k.d. lang
Wednesday, July 25 • 7:00

Bob Weir & RatDog / Keller Williams
Friday, July 27 • 6:00

Hootie & The Blowfish
with special guest **Cowboy Mouth**
Sunday, July 29 • 7:30

Tears For Fears

Monday, July 30 • 8:00

Larry Carlton & Robben Ford

with special guest **Muriel Anderson's All Star Guitar Night**
Tuesday, July 31 • 7:30

AUGUST

Musiq Soulchild
with special guests **Christette Michele & Estelle**
Friday, August 3 • 7:30

Huey Lewis & The News
Sunday, August 5 • 7:30

Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra
Sunday, August 12 • 7:30

Keb' Mo' / The Robert Cray Band
Tuesday & Wednesday
August 14 & 15 • 7:00

Jim Gaffigan
with special guest **Rich Brooks**
Thursday, August 16 • 7:30

Dave Koz & Friends: At The Movies Summer 2007 Tour
with special guests **David Benoit, Phil Perry & Kelly Sweet**
Friday, August 17 • 7:30

India.Arie
Sunday, August 19 • 7:30

Dave Brubeck Quartet
Monday, August 20 • 7:30

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Tuesday, August 21 • 6:30

UB40

Wednesday, August 22 • 7:30

Creedence Clearwater Revisited
Thursday, August 30 • 8:00

SEPT.

Cecilio & Kapono
Sunday, Sept. 2 • 7:30

B.B. King / Etta James & Her Roots Band
Tuesday, Sept. 4 • 7:00

Temptations / Four Tops
Thursday, Sept. 6 • 7:30

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
Friday, Sept. 7 • 8:00

Heart featuring **Ann & Nancy Wilson**
Sunday, Sept. 9 • 7:30

Doobie Brothers
with special guest **Johnny "V" Vernazza**
Monday, Sept. 10 • 7:30

Pink Martini
Monday & Tuesday,
Sept. 17 & 18 • 8:00

America
Wednesday, Sept. 19 • 7:30

Kenny G
Wednesday, Sept. 26 • 8:00

Trisha Yearwood
Thursday, Sept. 27 • 7:30

Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons
Friday & Saturday,
Sept. 28 & 29 • 8:00

OCTOBER

Air Supply / Christopher Cross
Friday, October 5 • 7:00

Steve Tyrell
Sunday, October 7 • 7:30

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Calendar CONCERTS

Norah Jones: Viejas Concerts at Bayside, Tuesday, June 19, Embarcadero Park South, 619-445-5400.

John Michael Montgomery: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Wednesday, June 20, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161.

The John Butler Trio: 4th & B, Wednesday, June 20, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Arturo Sandoval: Anthology, Wednesday, June 20, and Thursday, June 21, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

The Alan Parsons Live Project: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, June 21, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Adema: Canes, Thursday, June 21, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

Iris DeMent: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, June 21, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Jimmy LaFave: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Thursday, June 21, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Radio Birdman: The Casbah, Thursday, June 21, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

The B-52's: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Friday, June 22, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Joan Jett & the Blackhearts: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Friday, June 22, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161.

SHEDAISY: 4th & B, Friday, June 22, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Venice: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, June 22, and Saturday, June 23, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Long Beach Shortbus: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, June 22, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Chick Corea: Anthology, Friday, June 22, 1337 India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300.

Jonny Lang: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Saturday, June 23, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

The Samples: Canes, Saturday, June 23, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

Fred Hammond: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Saturday, June 23, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161.

The Goo Goo Dolls and Lifehouse: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Saturday, June 23, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Jesse Colin Young: Anthology, Saturday, June 23, 1337 India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300.

Michael McDonald: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Sunday, June 24, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

"Mariachi Festival": Del Mar Fairgrounds, Sunday, June 24, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161.

The Game: 4th & B, Sunday, June 24, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Hot Tuna: House of Blues, Monday, June 25, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Paulina Rubio: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Tuesday, June 26, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Earth, Wind, and Fire: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Tuesday, June 26, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161.

Les Claypool: 4th & B, Tuesday, June 26, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Xavier Rudd: House of Blues, Tuesday, June 26, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Cyndi Lauper, Erasure, and Debbie Harry: Open Air Theatre, Wednesday, June 27, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-6947.

LeAnn Rimes: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Wednesday, June 27, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161.

Steve Winwood: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Wednesday, June 27, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Leon Russell: Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, June 12, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Alejandro Sanz: Cox Arena, Wednesday, June 13, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-0429.

Susan Tedeschi and Derek Trucks: 4th & B, Wednesday, June 13, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

The Wailers: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Thursday, June 14, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161.

Al Jarreau and George Benson: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, June 14, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Umphey's McGee: House of Blues, Thursday, June 14, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Kenny Loggins: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Friday, June 15, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161.

Issac Delgado y Su Orquesta: 4th & B, Friday, June 15, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Elliott Yamin: House of Blues, Friday, June 15, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

O.A.R.: Open Air Theatre, Friday, June 15, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Jane Monheit: Anthology, Friday, June 15, and Saturday, June 16, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

REO Speedwagon: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Saturday, June 16, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161.

Tenacious D: House of Blues, Saturday, June 16, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Johnny Winter: Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, June 17, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Sage Francis: Soma, Sunday, June 17, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

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SAT. 06. 09 : ADAM SHERIDAN
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Calendar CONCERTS

The Deftones: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Wednesday, June 27, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

The All-American Rejects: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Thursday, June 28, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161.

Alison Krauss: San Diego Sports Arena, Thursday, June 28, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Acoustic Alchemy: House of Blues, Thursday, June 28, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Calendar CLUBS

Laurny Hill: Palomar Starlight Theater, Friday, June 29, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4580.

Brad Paisley: Coors Amphitheatre, Friday, June 29, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

Biz Markie: Canes, Friday, June 29, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

JULY

Fall Out Boy and +44: Coors Amphitheatre, Sunday, July 1, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

Widespread Panic: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Sunday, July 1, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

The Moody Blues: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Monday, July 2, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161.

Joan Armatrading: 4th & B, Monday, July 2, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Switchfoot: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Tuesday, July 3, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161.

Band of Horses: Canes, Friday, July 6, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

Blues Traveler: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Sunday, July 8, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

The Squirrel Nut Zippers: Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, July 8, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Brett Dennen: House of Blues, Monday, July 9, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Tuesday, July 10, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

The Royal Crown Revue: Anthology, Tuesday, July 10, and Wednesday, July 11, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Ani DiFranco: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Wednesday, July 11, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

The Disco Biscuits: House of Blues, Wednesday, July 11, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Rusted Root: House of Blues, Thursday, July 12, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Willie Nelson: Open Air Theatre, Thursday, July 12, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-6947.

The Psychedelic Furs: 4th & B, Saturday, July 14, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Stephen Stills: House of Blues, Saturday, July 14, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

The Beach Boys: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Sunday, July 15, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

No Use for a Name: The Casbah, Sunday, July 15, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

Willie Nelson: Palomar Starlight Theater, Sunday, July 15, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4580.

The Fray, Gomez, and Easley: Coors Amphitheatre, Tuesday, July 17, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

The Cowboy Junkies and Joan Osborne: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Tuesday, July 17, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Kenny Rankin: Anthology, Tuesday, July 17, and Wednesday, July 18, 1337 India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300.

Boz Scaggs: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Wednesday, July 18, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

"American Idols Live": San Diego Sports Arena, Thursday, July 19, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Polyphonic Spree: Canes, Friday, July 20, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

John Hiatt and Shawn Colvin: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Tuesday, July 24, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Dream Theater: Open Air Theatre, Tuesday, July 24, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Lyle Lovett and k.d. lang: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Wednesday, July 25, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Tower of Power: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Wednesday, July 25, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Lynyrd Skynyrd: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Thursday, July 26, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Bob Weir and Keller Williams: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Friday, July 27, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Maximo Park: The Casbah, Saturday, July 28, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

Hootie & the Blowfish: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Sunday, July 29, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Rush: Coors Amphitheatre, Monday, July 30, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

Tears for Fears: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Monday, July 30, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

AUGUST

Tim McGraw and Faith Hill: San Diego Sports Arena, Thursday, August 2, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

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JUNE 7



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Colin Quinn

JUNE 12

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Australian Pink Floyd Show

JUNE 19



Lauryn Hill

JUNE 29



Willie Nelson

JULY 15



Dennis Miller

AUGUST 2

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AUGUST 3



Ana Gabriel

AUGUST 5



UB40

AUGUST 19



Heart

AUGUST 31



Marco Antonio Solis

SEPTEMBER 27



Kenny G

SEPTEMBER 28

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SAT. MAY 26
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MON. MAY 28
FOR
THE AUDITION
MY AMERICAN HEART
NEW ATLANTIC / THE DECADE

THURS. MAY 31
LYSO
KNIGHTS OF THE ABYSS
CARNIFEX - THE HOEDOWN
ENDS WITH AN ENEMY

FRI. JUN 1
ACRISIA
STILETTO SILOUETTE
ENDLESS HALLWAY
VANGUARD
LORALYN ROOMS

SAT. JUN 2
THE BIG SHOW!
MURSI
DAREDEVIL JANE
THE STRANGERS SIX
THE ABSENS
INVICTUS
MISDELPHIA
DEMAIADO
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SUN. JUN 3
THE HANDSHAK
MURRI

MON. JUN 4
MORIA
THE FINAL BURDEN
BELAY MY LAST

WED. JUN 6
CATHERINE
ENDWELL

THURS. JUN 7
mewithoutYou
PIEBALD
MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA
THE SNAKE THE CROSS THE CROWN

FRI. JUN 8
the faint

SAT. JUN 9
PARKER THEORY
(CD Release)

FRI. JUN 15
THE SUMMER
SLAUGHTER
NECROPHAGIST
DECAPITATED
CEPHALIC CARNAGE
CATTLE DECAPITATION
AS BLOOD BURNS BLACK
ARMS - THE FACELESS
ION DISSONANCE
BENEATH THE MASSACRE
317 - 8PM - LUNATIKS.COM

SUN. JUN 17
SAGE
FRANCIS

FRI. JUN 22
PIERCE THE VEIL
100 RELEASE!

SUN. JUN 24
LOWER DEFINITION
FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND

FRI. JUN 29
HE IS LEGEND

WED. JUL 11
MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK

THURS. AUG 2
FEAR BEFORE THE
MARCH OF FLAMES

FRI. AUG 3
EVERGREEN TERRACE

Calendar

CLUBS

Clay Aiken: Palomar Starlight Theater, Friday, August 3, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4580.

Reel Big Fish and Less Than Jake: House of Blues, Friday, August 3, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Vanilla Ice: Canes, Friday, August 3, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

Huey Lewis & the News: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Sunday, August 5, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Ana Gabriel: Palomar Starlight Theater, Sunday, August 5, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4580.

SI*SE: House of Blues, Sunday, August 5, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Squeeze: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Saturday, August 11, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Sunday, August 12, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Keb' Mo' and the Robert Cray Band: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Tuesday, August 14, and Wednesday, August 15, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Poison: Coors Amphitheatre, Tuesday, August 14, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

Colin Hay: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, August 16, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Dramarama and A Flock of Seagulls: House of Blues, Thursday, August 16, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Los Lonely Boys: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Saturday, August 18, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

India.Arie: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Sunday, August 19, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

UB40: Palomar Starlight Theater, Sunday, August 19, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4580.

Dweezil Zappa: House of Blues, Tuesday, August 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

The Gipsy Kings: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Wednesday, August 22, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

UB40: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Wednesday, August 22, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Diana Krall: Viejas Concerts at Bayside, Wednesday, August 22, Embarcadero Park South, 619-445-5400.

Dr. John: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, August 23, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Crowded House: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Friday, August 24, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

"Warped Tour 2007": Coors Amphitheatre, Friday, August 24, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

Blue October: House of Blues, Friday, August 24, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Asia: 4th & B, Friday, August 24, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Lonestar: 4th & B, Wednesday, August 29, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Creedence Clearwater Revisited: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, August 30, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Randy Travis: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Thursday, August 30, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Heart: Palomar Starlight Theater, Friday, August 31, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4580.

Tuesday, September 4, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Daryl Hall & John Oates: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Wednesday, September 5, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

The Temptations and The Four Tops: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, September 6, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Friday, September 7, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Rise Against: Soma, Friday, September 7, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

Heart: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Sunday, September 9, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

The Doobie Brothers: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Monday, September 10, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Steve Vai: Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Monday, September 10, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

America: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Wednesday, September 19, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Clay Walker: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Thursday, September 20, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Kelly Clarkson: San Diego Sports Arena, Friday, September 21, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

"Street Scene": Del Mar Fairgrounds, Saturday, September 22, and Sunday, September 23, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161.

Eddie Money: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Sunday, September 23, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Michael Bolton: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Monday, September 24, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Kenny G: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Wednesday, September 26, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

SEPTEMBER

Cecilio & Kapono: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Sunday, September 2, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

B.B. King and Etta James: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay,

www.humphreysbythebay.com



Thursday, May 24
9:30 pm • Soul, R&B
Electric Soul



Friday • May 25
9:30 pm • Reggae
Vegetation



Saturday • May 26
9:30 pm • Disco & Dance
Rising Star



Sunday, May 27
Memorial Day Jazz Fest
Reggie Smith
Barbara Jamerson
Glen Fisher

Monday, May 28 • 7 pm • Blues
Chet Cannon's Blue Monday Blues Party

Tuesday, May 29
7 pm • Chicago Blues
Bill Magee

Wednesday, May 30
9:30 pm • Soul Music
The Soul Persuaders

UPCOMING SHOWS

Saturday, June 9
Cash'd Out



Saturday, June 30
Zac Harmon



Saturday, July 14
Johnny V



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Thurs. 5/31 Mighty Vibe Showcase
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6/16: **Cash'd Out**

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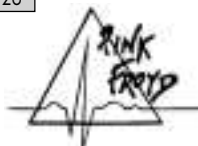
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Sat. 5/26 Pink Floyd Tribute



Sun. 5/27 5-9 PM: Open Mic

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Mon. 5/28 6-8 PM:
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6/8: **BANYAN**

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DJ 74
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HOSTILE COMBOVER
THEE CORSAIRS
EMBALMERS
DJ MIXMASTER TIM PYLES
Sat 5/26 • 9:00 PM

BOOGIE NIGHTS
Metal Snake
THE ULTIMATE '80s
GLAM ROCK EXPERIENCE!
Sun 5/27 • 9:00 PM

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BUCKY COVINGTON
THE KELLY BOWLIN BAND
Tue 5/29 • 9:00 PM

JOEY HARRIS & THE MENTALS
TAYLOR HARVEY BAND
SARA PETITE
Wed 5/30 • 8:00 PM

INDIGENOUS
SHURMAN
Thu 5/31 • 8:00 PM

DELTA NOVE
FEAT. **GREG GINN**
(BLACK FLAG FOUNDER & GUITARIST)
CUBENSIS • SYRUP
DJ BLACKKASS
Fri 6/1 • 9:00 PM

switchfoot
Bro-Am
AFTER-PARTY
RYAN FERGUSON
YEARS AROUND THE SUN & GUESTS
Sat 6/2 • 9:00 PM

JEDI MIND TRICKS
GRAYSKUL • DJ ARTISTIC
Sun 6/3 • 9:00 PM

JOHN CRUZ
TODD HANNIGAN
Mon 6/4 • 8:00 PM

GREGORY ISAACS
KUSH & BLOODFIYAH ANGELS
DJ CARLOS CULTURE
Tue 6/5 • 9:00 PM

VARIOUS & SUNDRY
W/GLEN PHILLIPS
THE WATKINS FAMILY (OF NICKEL CREEK)
GRANT LEE-PHILLIPS
LUKE BULLA
Wed 6/6 • 8:00 PM

LOS TOROS
LOBOS
DUSTY RHODES & THE RIVER BAND
Thu 6/7 • 8:00 PM

"HONKY TONK BY THE SEA"
HEATHER MYLES & THE CADILLAC COWBOYS
THE SLIDEWINDERS
THE GOLDEN HILL RAMBLERS
Fri 6/8 • 9:00 PM

BOB SCHNEIDER WITH BAND
JENNY OWEN YOUNGS BUSHWALLA
Sat 6/9 • 9:00 PM

SUE PALMER & HER MOTEL SWING ORCHESTRA
PATRICK BERROGAIN'S HOT CLUB COMBO AND MANY OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS
Sun 6/10 • 8:00 PM

JONATHA BROOKE
JOANIE MENDENHALL
Mon 6/11 • 8:00 PM

LEON RUSSELL
DIABLO DIMES
Tue 6/12 • 8:00 PM

THE ROSEBUDS
LAND OF TALK
Thu 6/14 • 9:00 PM

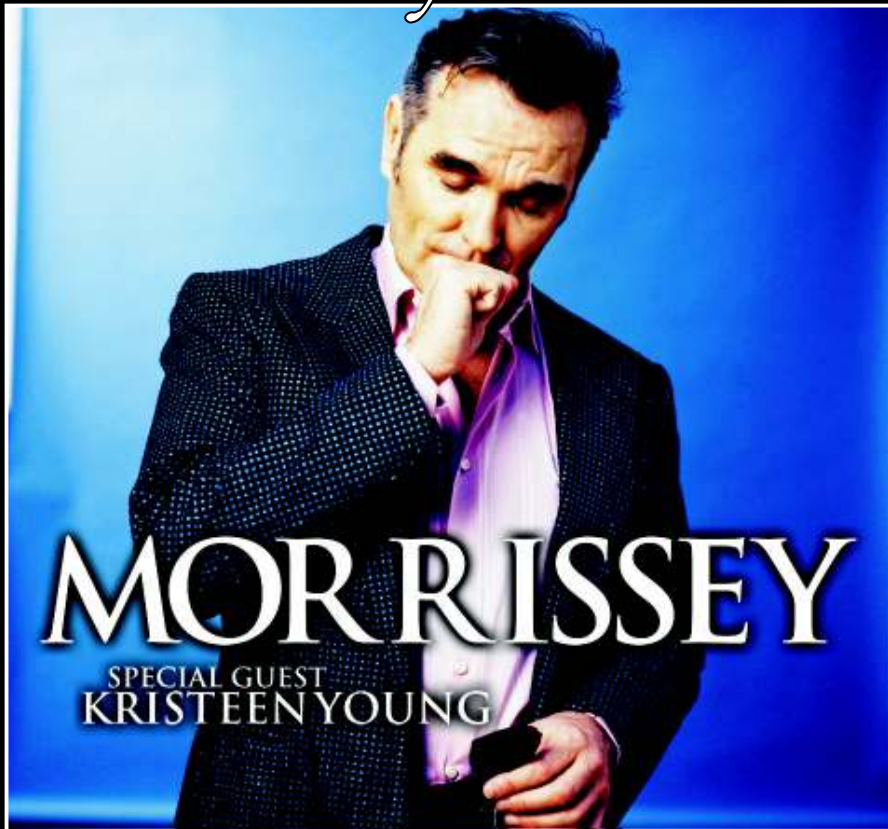
6/26 **Sugar Minott w/The Itals** • 6/30 **Roger Clyne & The Peacemakers**
8/5 **Old Crow Medicine Show** - On Sale Friday @ noon!
8/15 **Richie Furay & Chris Hillman** - On Sale Friday @ noon!
8/23 **Dr. John** - On Sale Friday @ noon! • 8/28 **The Saw Doctors**
10/10 & 10/11 **Dark Star Orchestra**

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6/15 & 6/16 Super Diamond - Two Nights!	7/3 80s Heat	8/2 Venice
6/17 Johnny Winter	7/5 & 7/6 The English Beat	8/3 Boogie Nights-Daredevil Jane
6/18 Reckless Kelly	7/7 Cash'd Out	8/7 The Abyssinians
6/21 Iris DeMent	7/8 The Squirrel Nut Zippers	8/14 The Twinkle Brothers
6/22 Long Beach Shortbus	7/14 Mommy's Little Monsters w/Clash City Rockers	8/16 Colin Hay
6/23 Atomic Punks	7/20 Boogie Nights-Metal Snake	8/21 Cary Brothers
6/24 David Bromberg & The Angel Band	7/21 Dead Man's Party	8/24 Boogie Nights-Diego Roots
6/25 Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars	7/22 "Oh Perilous World Tour" Rasputina	8/31 Boogie Nights-Metal Snake
	7/28 Young Dubliners	9/2 Pato Banton
	7/30 Guru's Jazzmattazz	9/12 The Cinematic Orchestra
	7/31 Midnite	9/16 The David Grisman Bluegrass Experience

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TUESDAY JUNE 26

WIDESPREAD PANIC



SUNDAY JULY 1

GOO GOO DOLLS

LIFEHOUSE

SATURDAY JUNE 23

LOS LONELY BOYS

TOOTS & THE MAYTALS

SATURDAY AUGUST 18

DEFTONES

DIRENGREY :: THE FALL OF TROY

WEDNESDAY JUNE 27

GIPSY KINGS

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 22

PAT BENATAR

NEIL GIRARDO

TUESDAY JULY 10

RANDY TRAVIS

THURSDAY AUGUST 30

BILL COSBY

FRIDAY AUGUST 31

TOWER OF POWER

DAVID SANBORN

WEDNESDAY JULY 25

CLAY WALKER

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 20

LYNYRD SKYNYRD

THURSDAY JULY 26

EDDIE MONEY

LOVERBOY

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 23

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SATURDAY AUGUST 11

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Calendar CLUBS

DOWNTOWN

(continued)

Club Montage, 2028 Hancock Street, Balboa Park. 619-294-9590.

Croce's Jazz Bar, 802 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-4355. All music is jazz unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Dave Patrone*. Friday, *Yavez*. Saturday, *Primo*. Sunday, *the Archtones*. Monday, *Dave Scott*. Tuesday, *the Shep Meyers Quartet*. Wednesday, *Fuzzy and the Bluesmen* or *Sue Palmer*.

Dick's Last Resort, 345 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-231-9100. Music is rock and roll. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, live bands. Sunday, *the Disco Pimps*. Tuesday, *Dregs of Sada*. Wednesday, *Private Domain*, unplugged.

Dizzy's, 344 Seventh Avenue, downtown. 858-270-7467. Wednesday, *the East West Quintet*, jazz.

Dublin Square, 554 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-239-5818. Traditional Irish music.

4th & B, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343. Saturday, *Queensryche*, metal.

G5-Georges on Fifth, 835 Fifth Avenue (between E and F Streets), downtown. 619-702-0444. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, *Tom Barabas*, pianist.

Henry's Pub, 618 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-238-2389. Thursday, *the Brat Pack*. Friday, *Good Times*. Saturday, *Groove Sessions*. Tuesday, *the Stilettoes*, rockabilly. Wednesday, *Lady Dottie and the Diamonds*, blues.

House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-299-2583. Thursday, 6 p.m., *Modern Day Moonshine*, soul/rock/reggae/funk. Friday, *Young Love*. Saturday, *Rock Steady*, ska/reggae, and *Badfish*, tribute to Sublime.

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., *the M-80's*, '80s dance. Saturday, 9:45 p.m., '80s dance. Monday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Insight*, jazz. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Mystique*, jazz/R&B. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *the Soul Revue*, dance/Top 40.

Martini Ranch, 528 F Street, downtown. 619-235-6100. Tuesday, 9 p.m., *Modern Day Moonshine*, soul/rock/reggae/funk.

Patrick's II, 428 F Street, downtown. 619-233-3077. Music is blues/soul unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *the 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band*. Friday, *Bryan Lee*. Saturday, 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., *Blue Largo*, 9 p.m., *Michele Lundden and Blues Streak*. Sunday and Monday, *the Texas Twisters*. Tuesday, *Shelle Blue*. Wednesday, *the Blues Invaders*.

Rock Bottom, 401 G Street, Gaslamp. 619-231-7000. Friday and Saturday night, live pop/rock/disco/dance. Also, Saturday, 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., *Keith Jacobsen*, smooth jazz saxophone.

Sevilla, 555 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-5979. Club Salsa: Thursday, *Primo*. Tuesday, *Ritmo Caliente*.

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: Happy hour, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday and Monday, *Peter Prince of Piano*. Tuesday and Wednesday, *Kevin McCully*, piano.

Evening entertainment: Thursday and Friday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Fran Loskota*, pop/jazz. Saturday, 7 p.m. to midnight, *Karen Giorgio*, cabaret. Sunday and Monday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Julio De La Huerta*, Latin. Tuesday and Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Faith Page*, international/standards.

SAN DIEGO

AcousticMusicSanDiego, 4650 Mansfield Street, San Diego. 619-303-8176. Friday, *Tish Hinojosa*, folk.

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.

American Legion Post 310, 465 47th Street, San Diego. 619-264-1919. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., *Willovealot*, smooth jazz/funk.

Blarney Stone Pub, 5617 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont. 858-279-2033. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, *Dannicus*, Irish folk. Monday, *Pat and Joe* and *Allison Gill*, folk. Tuesday, Irish jam session.

Borders Books and Music (Mission Valley), 1072 Camino del Rio North, Mission Valley. 619-295-2201. Friday, 8 p.m., *Amy Hanaiali'i*.

Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue, Bay Park. 619-275-LIVE. Music is rock/metal/alternative/punk. Thursday, *the New Daze*, *Edub Poet*, and *Jason Lee and the R.I.P. Tides*. Saturday, *Clutch*, *Backyard Tire Fire*, and *Year Long Disaster*. Sunday, *the Blevies*, *Blurred Vision*, *Beta Lion*, and *Briegade*. Tuesday, *High Tide*, *Six Inch Man*, and *Sundaze*. Wednesday, *Lost Haven*, *Strong Arm Down*, and *Hellhound*.

Cafe on the Park, 11611 Bernardo Plaza Court, San Diego. 858-613-2000. Friday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Sandy Devito Trio*, jazz/Latin.

Claire de Lune, 2905 University Avenue, North Park. 619-688-9845. Live acoustic/folk/jazz.

Epicentre, 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa. 858-271-4000. Thursday, *Casey McSocial*, *Every Thirteen Days*, *My Social Life*, and *Jesse Alexander*. Saturday, *Joy Electric* and *White Apple Tree*.

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. Live blues/rock.

Harry's Bar and American Grill, 4370 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego. 858-373-1252. Friday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Jaime Valle-Bob Magnusson Jazz Duo*.

Hot Monkey Love Cafe, 6875 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego. 619-469-4113. Thursday, jazz. Friday and Saturday, live bands. Sunday, salsa. Monday, tango. Tuesday, hip-hop. Wednesday, swing.

Humphrey's, Half Moon Inn, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-224-3577. Backstage Lounge:

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

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MAY 27, 2007

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Thursday, May 24 • No Cover

FRANKIE-DEE & THE FUNK-NATRA BAND

Friday, May 25 • No Cover

ROCKKANDY

Saturday, May 26 • No Cover

STEVI LYNN & TRIPLE THREAT

Sunday, May 27 • No Cover

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Thursday, May 31

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music • food & spirits

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THURSDAY, MAY 24

Rockin' Johnny White presents
TERRA INCOGNITA
FUZZ HUZZI
BLACK MARKET HEARTS
MAYWEATHER

FRIDAY, MAY 25

Diego Roots

DIRTY HEADS • IRATION

SATURDAY, MAY 26

Split Finger
Rebellion
ARM THE ANGELS
THE PHEROMONES

SUNDAY, MAY 27

ATOMIC PUNKS
(Tribute to Early Van Halen)
MONSTERS OF ROCK (Metal Tribute)

THURSDAY, MAY 31

THE PERILS OF BEING BORN TONIGHT
INNOCENT NOISE
THE CATHEDRALS

FRIDAY, JUNE 1

THE HOLD STEADY
ILLINOIS
BLITZEN TRAPPER

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

DAZED & CONFUSED
(Led Zeppelin Tribute)
JUMPING JACK FLASH
(Rolling Stones Tribute)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

don McCLOSKEY
MIKE PINTO • BRYAN MASTER

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

New Orleans Brass Artists
REBIRTH BRASS BAND
THOSE DANG ROBINSONS

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

B-SIDE PLAYERS
CASA DE CALACAS
DJ MUSIK MAN

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

ALICE UNCHAINED
(Alice In Chains Tribute)
40 OUNCES TO FREEDOM
(Sublime Tribute)

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

nowor
PHUNK JUNKIEZ

TUESDAY, JUNE 19

AMERICAN HEAD CHARGE
GODHEAD • ANKLE OBLIGE
CANOBLISS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

Sean Healy
SEAN KINGSTON

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

ADEMA
GLASS PIÑATA • DECOMPRESSION

FRIDAY, JUNE 29

BIZ MARKIE

UPCOMING

6/15: BEAUTIFUL TROUBLE, THE STRANGERS SIX, GRIN'S EDGE
6/23: THE SAMPLES, JUSTIN JAMES • 7/3: STRANGER, SAMMY DREAD, ROOTS COVENANT
7/6: BAND OF HORSES • 7/7: IRON MAIDENS (All-female tribute to Iron Maiden)
7/13: STEPPING FEET (Dave Matthews Band Experience) • 7/18: THE BEATNUTS
7/20: THE POLYPHONIC SPREE • 7/27: RICHARD CHEESE & LOUNGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

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LIQUID FOUNDATION &
PILAR'S BEACHWEAR

FEATURING
DJ RAGE FROM Z90 & DJ NIKKI Z

WWW.KAYELLA.COM

SATURDAY, MAY 26

CLIMAXSD PRESENTS

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

JOIN US MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AS WE MIX FRESH BEATS WITH BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE AND BRING IT TO YOU LIVE AT THE SEXIEST SATURDAY SPOT IN DOWNTOWN

SPECIAL HOSTS DJ VIRMAN,
NIKITA ESCO, ALEXIA LEI

HIP-HOP, TOP 40,
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FOR ONE MESMERIZING NIGHT

DJ'S FRANTIK, FRANK FRESH,
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to 11 p.m., *the Hank Show*, vintage country.

Cheers, 2475 Main Street, Ramona. 760-789-0270. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock. Tuesday, 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., *Billy Watson*, harmonica blues. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Roots to Rockets*, rock/reggae. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Robin Henkel*, funk/blues/rock. Sunday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., *the Steamers*, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Reggie Smith and Pressed for Time*, jazz. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Michele Lundeen*, blues.

Cuvee Restaurant, 2334 Carmel Valley Road, Del Mar. 858-259-5878. Monday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Sambajazz*, Brazilian and American jazz.

Del Dios Bar and Grill, 20154 Lake Drive, Escondido. 760-489-4800. Friday, *Peter Sprague*, jazz. Saturday, *Unknown Legend*, acoustic roots rock.

Finnegan's Pub and Grill, 1814 Marron Road, Carlsbad. 760-720-5311. Thursday, 9 p.m., *the Leperkhanz*, Irish rock.

The Flying Bridge, 1105 North Coast Highway, Oceanside. 760-722-1151. Sunday, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Z-Bop*, jazz.

Game Time Tavern, 12735 Poway Road, Poway. 858-748-0015. Friday, 5 *Miles High*, rock. Saturday, *Shockwave Four*, classic rock.

Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad), 2777 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad. 760-729-6951. Friday, rock. Saturday, *Lizard Fish*, 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. 760-741-7778. Music is rock/metal/alternative/punk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Walter Alias, a Scribe Amidst the Lions, Machine Romance*, and *the Michetons*. Friday, *Cage, Agent Steel, Aghori*, and *Audkik*. Saturday, *Raw Power, the Pubes, Jakked Rabbits, Vietnam Hardcore*, and *the Resentments*. Sunday, *Those Rockin'*

Bones, the Coffin Draggers, the Formaldehydes, Bamboula, the Strikers, the Frenzy, and Henchmen. Monday, *Hangface, Nihilist, Axxys, and Rise to Mourrn*. Wednesday, *the Heart Attacks, Poison Cuts*, and *Society's Parasites*.

Mas Fina Cantina, 2780 State Street, Carlsbad. 760-434-3497. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Mike Gardner*, acoustic rock/folk.

McCabe's Beach Club, 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside. 760-439-6646. Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the California Rangers*, country.

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 and Saturday, live music. Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Credit Union*, swing.

The Pine Hills Lodge, 2960 La Posada Way, Julian. 760-765-1100. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., *Cowboy Jack*, country.

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 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, *the Bigfellas*, rock. Saturday, *the High Rolling Loners*, alternative.

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. Thursday, 9 p.m. to midnight, *Stage 4*, jazz/R&B/funk. Friday, 9 p.m., *Jesse Davis*, variety. Saturday, *Stage 4* or *Mikan and Friends*, 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 Sunday, 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Tony Lasley*, Latin jazz. Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m., *Ray Briz*, pianist. Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., *Jim Gibson*, guitarist. Monday, 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Gonzo Gonzales*, guitarist.

1500 Ocean: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 9 p.m. to midnight, *Tony Lasley*, jazz guitar. Crown Room: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., *Ray Briz*, pianist, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., *Ping Hu*, harpist. Sun Deck: Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., *Ron's Garage*, classic rock.

Island Sports and Spirits, 104 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-3456. Friday, *Ron's Garage*, classic rock. Saturday, *Jumpstart*, blues/classic rock.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill, 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-5280. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise stated. Thursday, *the Justin Brothers*. Friday, *Big City Shaman*. Saturday, *the Offbeats*. Sunday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., *Joey Harris*, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Steve Brewer*. Monday, *Jim Moore*. Tuesday, *Taylor Harvey*. Wednesday, *Laguna*, classic rock.

EAST COUNTY

Borders Books and Music (El Cajon), 159 Parkway Plaza, El Cajon. 619-593-5119. Friday, 7 p.m., *Joey Pearson*, folk.

Caddy Shack, 351 West Main Street, El Cajon. 619-447-8400. Tuesday, 10 p.m., *Truffle Copote's Shameless Dance Band*.

Dirk's Niteclub, 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove. 619-469-6344. Friday and Saturday, *Full Xposure*, classic rock.

Don's Cocktail Lounge, 13321 Business Highway 8, El Cajon. 619-443-2444. Friday and Saturday, *Benchmark*, country.

Downtown Cafe, 182 East Main Street, El Cajon. 619-440-5687. Friday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Joey and the Stingrays*, classic rock/oldies/country.

Fannie's Nightclub, 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley. 619-698-2204. Friday, *Meat Wagon, Hung Over Tomorrow, Blood Stained Reality*, and *Solis*, punk. Saturday, *Fuzz Huzzi*, rock. Sunday, hip-hop.

Mulvaney's Wagon Wheel, 8861 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-448-8550. Friday and Saturday, *the Honky Tonk Kings*, country.

Renegade Inn, 14335 Old Highway 80 (half mile east from Lake Jennings turnoff), Flynn Springs. 619-561-8105. Friday and Saturday, *Whiskey Ridge*, 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., *From K to Z* or *the Wise Guys*, swing/standards.

Calendar BANDS

ALTERNATIVE

Agent Steel: The Jumping Turtle

Aghori: The Jumping Turtle

Alexandria: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Another Rising: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Arm the Angels: Canes

The Atoms: Ché Café

The Audition: Soma

Audkik: The Jumping Turtle

Axxys: The Jumping Turtle

Bad Crazyiness: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Bamboula: The Jumping Turtle

Barfer: Ché Café

CITIZEN COPE

with special guests **RACHAEL YAMAGATA & alicia smith**

SUNDAY JUNE 3 8PM

TICKETS: Available through your Camel Field Agent. Track down your Agent by going to Camel Events at **CAMELSMOKES.COM** or by calling 1-866-988-8600. There are limited tickets available for purchase from the venue.

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Thursday, May 26 **CLUTCH**
BACKYARD TIRE FIRE
YEAR LONG DISASTER

Thursday, May 24
THE NEW DAZE
EDUB POET
JASON LEE & THE R.I.P. TIDES

Sunday, May 27
THE BLEVIES
BLURRED VISION
BETA LION
BRIEGADE

Tuesday, May 29
HIGH TIDE
SIX INCH MAN
SUNDAZE

Wednesday, May 30
LOST HAVEN
STRONG ARM DOWN
HELLHOUND

Thursday, May 31
FING
THIS YEAR ZERO
WAHBAH

Friday, June 1
MEDIA LAB
BRICK BATH
ONE THEORY
AUDKIK
ETCHED IN RED

Saturday, June 2
KAVINA
FM REVOLVER
KEMISTRY
SIX REASONS

Wednesday, June 6 **JOHNNY CASH'S LEGENDARY TENNESSEE THREE HANDSOME DEVILS ROAD NOISE**

6/8 **Mad Sin** • **Koffin Kats** • 6/22 **Jumping Jack Flash** (Rolling Stones tribute) • 6/23 **Gary Hoey**
6/25 **Michael Schenker** • **Doug Doppler** • 6/27 **Bad Manners** • **Monkey** • 7/14 **Unset**
• **The Dreaming** • 7/17 **Threat Signal** • 7/28 **Comic-Con after-party** hosted by Troma

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Serving lunch & dinner **Bookings: 1130 Buena Vista Ave. 619-275-6881 619-276-3993 (off Morena Blvd.)**

Calendar BANDS

ALTERNATIVE

(continued)

- Bedlam's Edge:** Dreamstreet
Beta Lion: Brick By Brick
The Big Provider: Belly Up Tavern
The Blevies: Brick By Brick
Blurred Vision: Brick By Brick
Brave Monsters: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
Briegade: Brick By Brick
Cage: The Jumping Turtle
Carina Round: The Casbah
Casey McSocial: Epicentre
The Chariot: Soma
Clutch: Brick By Brick
The Coffin Draggers: The Jumping Turtle
Crimson Knight: Dreamstreet
Dave the Butcher: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
The Dirty Sweet: The Casbah
Disaster Magnet: Dreamstreet
The Diskettes: Ché Café
Every Thirteen Days: Epicentre
The Expendables: Belly Up Tavern
Flight to Athena: 710 Beach Club
The Formaldehydes: The Jumping Turtle
Four Minutes Til Midnight: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
The Frenzy: The Jumping Turtle
Get Back Loretta: The Casbah
Get Your Death On: Belly Up Tavern
Good Riddance: Soma
The Graduate: Soma
Hangface: The Jumping Turtle

- The Heart Attacks:** The Jumping Turtle
Hellhound: Brick By Brick
Henchmen: The Jumping Turtle
Her Duchess the Grace: Tower Bar
The High Rolling Loners: Surf N'Saddle
The History of Premature Burial: Ché Café
Hostile Combover: Belly Up Tavern
Huge Rooster: 710 Beach Club
The Human Abstract: Soma
I Hate Sally: Soma
The Intelligence: Tower Bar
Jakked Rabbits: The Jumping Turtle
Jehova's Fitness: Ché Café
John Johnson: Tower Bar
Joy Electric: Epicentre
The Lamps: Tower Bar
Lizard Fish: Hennessy's Tavern (Carlsbad)
Lost Haven: Brick By Brick
Love Is Envy: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
Lovedrug: Soma
Machine Romance: The Jumping Turtle
Matt and Kim: Ché Café
The Michetons: The Jumping Turtle
Mika Miko: Ché Café
Misdirection: 710 Beach Club
Misery Signals: Soma
Mr. Tube and the Flying Objects: The Casbah
My American Heart: Soma
My Social Life: Epicentre
New Atlantic: Soma
The New Daze: Brick By Brick
No Sign of Weakness: Dreamstreet, O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
No Trigger: Soma
One in the Chamber: Dreamstreet
Poison Cuts: The Jumping Turtle



>hometown CDs BY OLLIE

Album: *Is This What We Wanted?* (2006)
Artist: Pillbox Remedy
Label: self-released
Where available/price: www.pillboxremedy.com for \$8.
Songs: 1) Won't Sell My Soul 2) Miss Me? 3) Tonight 4) I'm Dead 5) Trouble Breathing 6) Giving Up and Giving In
Band: Carlos Paras
Website: www.pillboxremedy.com

Ugh. Some days, I'd like to snatch the disc out of the player and toss it into the yard for the gardener to chop with his lawnmower. Other days, a delightful and inspiring sound rings out from the speakers and the disc goes

into high rotation.

Is This What We Wanted? by Pillbox Remedy prompted neither action; the music is not much of anything at all. The sound can be characterized as emo-by-numbers: a sad chord progression on an acoustic guitar, a longing and whin-



Pillbox Remedy

edy's lyrics are an intimate narrative of a love lost, and they're fine for what they are: a carbon copy of chart-topping originals.

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

- The Powerchords:** Ché Café
Psychotic Nerve: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
The Pubes: The Jumping Turtle
The Resentments: The Jumping Turtle
Rise to Mourn: The Jumping Turtle
Sess: Ché Café
Sight Unseen: Dreamstreet
Silver Sunshine: The Casbah
Six Inch Man: Brick By Brick
Smoke or Fire: Soma
Society's Parasites: The Jumping Turtle
Sparta: Soma
Straylight Run: Soma
The Strikers: The Jumping Turtle
Strong Arm Down: Brick By Brick
Those Corsairs: Belly Up Tavern
Those Rockin' Bones: The Jumping Turtle
Mary Timony: The Casbah
Tussle: Ché Café
U.S. Drag: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
Vietnam Hardcore: The Jumping Turtle
Walter Alias: The Jumping Turtle
White Apple Tree: Epicentre
Year Long Disaster: Brick By Brick
Yesterday's Papers: 710 Beach Club
Young Love: House of Blues

- Agave:** Tiki House
Jesse Alexander: Epicentre
The Ancient Sunrise: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
The Atomic Punks: 'Canes
Backyard Tire Fire: Brick By Brick
Behind the Wagon: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
The Bigfellas: Surf N'Saddle
Blood Stained Reality: Fannie's Nightclub
The Bloody Hollies: The Casbah
The Brat Pack: Henry's Pub
Brax: The Old Sod
Buckley's Ghost: Dreamstreet
Captain Kirk and the Beam Me Up Scotties: The Calypso Cafe
The Citizen Band: Lestat's Coffee House
Bobby Conn: Scolari's Office
The Credit Union: Ocean House
Dazed and Confused: Dick's Last Resort
Diablo Dimes: The Casbah
Dirty Heads: Belly Up Tavern, 'Canes
The Disco Pimps: Dick's Last Resort
Dregs of Sada: Dick's Last Resort
The Electric Waste Band: Winstons
Fishbone: Belly Up Tavern
5 Miles High: Game Time Tavern

Saturday, May 26
JAZZ FEST
 featuring
NOVAMENCO
 2 shows: at 2:30 & 4 pm

TUESWEDTHURS Salsa
 Free Dance Lessons with Cover by Valerie @ 8:30 pm
 5/24 PRIMO • 5/29 RITMO CALIENTE • 5/31 ASI SON

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WORKING COWBOY BAND

Saturday • May 26
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GREAT DRINK SPECIALS

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 6/2: LADY DOTTIE & THE DIAMONDS

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Fridays
KARAOKE

Saturday • May 26
BAYOU BROTHERS

Sundays
KARAOKE

Wednesday • May 30
ROBIN HENKEL BAND

Thursday • May 31
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MAY 27

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Total Combat
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TWO GREAT ARTISTS ONE AMAZING BAND
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JUNE 20

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FRIDAY JUNE 22

THE GAME
JUNE 24

LES CLAYPOOL'S FANCY TOUR
TWO GALLANTS
FRIDAY JUNE 26

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7/2 JOAN ARMATRADING
7/14 PSYCHEDELIC FURS
THE ALARM
THE FIXX
7/26 BJORN AGAIN (A TRIBUTE TO ABBA)
8/24 ASIA

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MAY 28

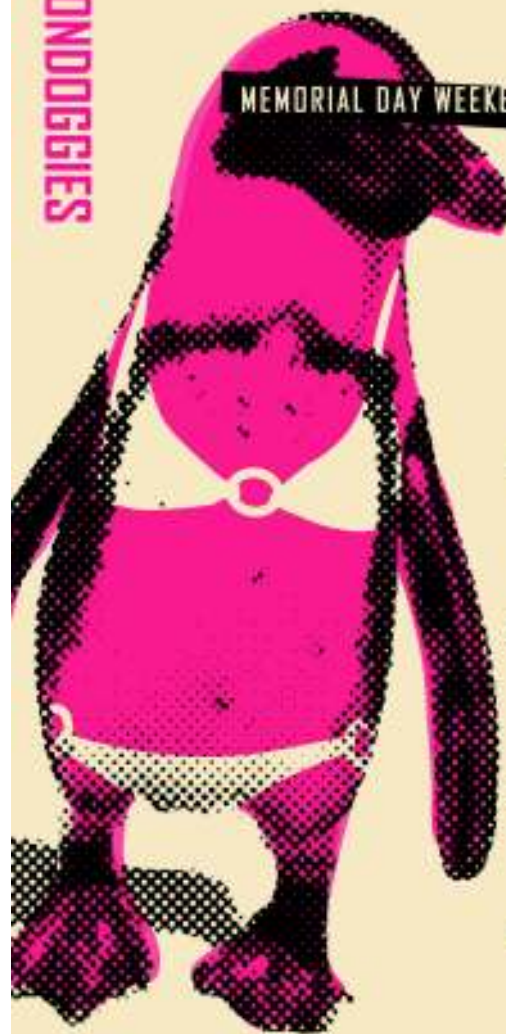
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All dates, acts and ticket prices subject to change without notice. A service charge is added to each ticket.

MONDODOGGIES

MAY
25-28

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND



FRI:
HAPPY HOUR 3-10PM
NATTY SCATZ STEEL DRUM BAND 5-8PM
DISCO PIMPS + \$5 COVER 10PM-CLOSE

SAT:
HAPPY HOUR 4-7PM
\$3 JAGER SHOTS + \$4.50 BLASTERS 8PM-CLOSE
D.J.S + DANCING

SUN:
HAPPY HOUR PATIO PARTY
D.J.S + DANCING FROM 4PM-CLOSE

MON:
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DJ MIKEY BEATS 4-7PM
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Calendar BANDS

Frankie-Dee and the Funk-Natra Band: The Kraken
Full Xposure: Dirk's Niteclub
Fuzz Huzzi: Fannie's Nightclub
Giant Bear: Winstons
Joey Harris and the Mentals: Belly Up Tavern
Hung Over Tomorrow: Fannie's Nightclub
Joey and the Stingrays: Downtown Cafe
Kings Only: 710 Beach Club
Laguna: McP's Irish Pub and Grill
The Leperkhantz: Finnegan's Pub and Grill
Mad for Mary: Second Wind (San Carlos)
Meat Wagon: Fannie's Nightclub
Meltone: Winstons
Metalsnake: Belly Up Tavern
Modern Day Moonshine: Martini Ranch (Gaslamp), House of Blues
The Monsters of Rock: 'Canes
Moondance: Pal Joey's
The Motel Blackouts: 710 Beach Club
Night Shift: Carvers
The Offbeats: McP's Irish Pub and Grill
The Pheromones: Porter's Pub, 'Canes
Pink Floyd: Winstons
Pistolita: The Casbah
Queensryche: 4th & B
Rawpower: The Jumping Turtle
Rebellion: 'Canes
Rockandy: The Kraken
Ron's Garage: Hotel del Coronado, Island Sports and Spirits

Roots to Rockets: Coyote Bar and Grill
Seismic: Winstons
Serious Guise: Second Wind (Santee)
Shockwave Four: Game Time Tavern
Silverbird: The Casbah
Solis: Fannie's Nightclub
Stevi Lynn and Triple Threat: The Kraken
The Stiletos: Henry's Pub
Sundaze: Brick By Brick
Trophy Wife: Tiki House
Warner Drive: Winstons
Wendy Darling: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
The Whiskey Dicks: Winstons

POP / TOP 40

PTrak Armenta: Pasquale on Prospect
Gil Barron: Pasquale on Prospect
Truffle Capote's Shameless Dance Band: Caddy Shack
Jesse Davis: Buon Giorno Restaurant
James East: Pasquale on Prospect
Mark Fulton: Pasquale on Prospect
The Good Times: Henry's Pub
The Love Rangers: The Alley
Rick Lyon: The Imperial House
The M-80's: Jimmy Love's
Pop Rocks: Jimmy Love's
Rising Star: Humphrey's
The Soul Revue: Jimmy Love's

JAZZ / BIG BAND

Agua Dulce: 710 Beach Club
Burnett Anderson: Cafe LaMaze
The Archtones: Croce's Jazz Bar
Tom Bishop: Rancho Bernardo Inn
Blue Largo: Patrick's II
Ray Briz: Hotel del Coronado
Amelia Browning: South Park Bar and Grill

as i hear it

BY BRIAN CARVER

Artist: **John Pedersen**
 Song: "Groovidi" (From the CD *Groovidi*)
 Heard By: **Cab Broskoski**, New York City



Cab

When it first started, there was a little hip-hop beat — I wasn't sure what it was going to be like — but then the fake keyboard and fake guitar came in. It's pretty much like Muzak mixed with Enigma or something like that. The thing that killed it was the acoustic guitar over the synthesizers; that's the mark of immature Muzak, I guess. Out of ten, in terms of just their skills, I'd give them an eight; I appreciate the technical skill. It was instrumental. Eating at a horrible, cheesy restaurant would be the ideal activity [for that song]. I really liked the design on the cover — the sparkles and stuff.

Artist: **The Coyote Problem**
 Song: "Long Way Home" (From the CD *California*)
 Heard By: **Eli Bock**, New York City



Eli

I would compare them to Blues Traveler, Counting Crows. It was rockin'. I would describe it as country-rock. It reminded me of the climax of a romantic comedy — like when somebody gets dumped and they're all depressed and walking around town but there are good things to come; it's not the end. The lyrics were talking about riding a horse, but the horse was really riding them. I think it was something about getting tricked or fooled, perhaps. I feel like I've heard that sort of song before.

Artist: **Sci-Development**
 Song: "Sci-Wars" (From the CD *Sci-Wars*)
 Heard By: **Abi Bock**, New York City



Abi

I don't know much about hip-hop, to tell the truth, but they have a little bit of Linkin Park in them, in that they use electronics in the background. It had a little darker side, I would say. I like the electronic beats that they have in it and [they're] not just rapping the whole time — it kind of has a flow to it. It's pretty repetitive. It's not hip-hop you can dance to — it's like cruisin'-along hip-hop that you can nod your head to. Lyrics-wise, they kept repeating something I couldn't really understand. Like I said, it's dark music... a little scary.

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John Guilino: Pasquale on Prospect

The Janet Hammer and Jay Berman Duo: Roppongi
Cynthia Hammond: Pasquale on Prospect
The High Society Jazz Band: Tio Leo's Lounge
Insight: Jimmy Love's
Keith Jacobsen: Rock Bottom (Gaslamp), La Valencia Hotel
The Jazz 101 Band: Pasquale on Prospect
The John Kopecky Trio: South Park Bar and Grill
Fran Laskota: The Westgate Hotel
Tony Lasley: Hotel del Coronado
Barry Levich: La Valencia Hotel
J.J. Lim's Jazz Jam: South Park Bar and Grill
Maldonado: The Calypso Cafe
Masterpiece: Jimmy Love's
Kevin McCully: The Westgate Hotel
Jerry Melnick: The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, Rancho Bernardo Inn
The Shep Meyers Quartet: Croce's Jazz Bar
Mikan and Friends: Buon Giorno Restaurant
Mystique: Jimmy Love's
Mike Nelson: Sogno Di Vino, The Lodge at Torrey Pines
Mario Oliveras and Latin Spice: Pasquale on Prospect
Sue Palmer: Croce's Jazz Bar
Sue Palmer and Her Metal Swing Orchestra: Tio Leo's Lounge
Dan Papaila: The Lodge at Torrey Pines
Greg Pardue: Leana Bistro and French Pastry Cafe
Dave Patrone: Croce's Jazz Bar
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Mare

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Jazz Duo:** Harry's Bar and American
Grill

Scott Wallingford: Cafe LaMaze

JAZZ / BIG BAND

(continued)

Willovealot: American Legion Post
310

The Wize Guys: Tommy's Italian
Restaurant

Yavez: Croce's Jazz Bar

Z-Bop: The Flying Bridge

REGGAE / SKA

Badfish: House of Blues

Common Sense: Belly Up Tavern

Diego Roots: 'Canes

Gadfly: 710 Beach Club

High Tide: Brick By Brick

Iration: 'Canes

Lexington: 710 Beach Club

Psydecar: Winstons

Rock Steady: House of Blues

Vegitation: Humphrey's

Whiskey Avengers: 710 Beach Club

COUNTRY

Benchmark: Don's Cocktail Lounge

The Kelly Bowlin Band: Belly Up
Tavern

The California Rangers: McCabe's
Beach Club

Bucky Covington: Belly Up Tavern

Cowboy Jack: The Pine Hills Lodge

The Hank Show: The Cask and
Cleaver Restaurant

The Honky Tonk Kings: Mulvaney's
Wagon Wheel

Whiskey Ridge: Renegade Inn

The Working Cowboy Band: Tio
Leo's Lounge

ACOUSTIC / FOLK

Joseph Angelastro: E Street Cafe

Heather Baker: Borders Books and
Music (Carmel Mountain)

Ryan Bentley: E Street Cafe

Evan Bethany: Lestat's Coffee House

Aaron Bowen: Lestat's Coffee House

Steve Brewer: Blarney Stone Pub,
McP's Irish Pub and Grill

Lindsey Cook: Lestat's Coffee House

Dannicus: Blarney Stone Pub

Kim Divine: 710 Beach Club

Derek Evans: Lestat's Coffee House

Will Faeber: Leana Bistro and French
Pastry Cafe

Chad Farran: Lestat's Coffee House

Mike Gardner: Cheers, North Bar
Sports and Spirits, Mas Fina Cantina

Allison Gill: Blarney Stone Pub

Gonzo Gonzales: Hotel del
Coronado

Tommy Graff: E Street Cafe

Peter Hall: E Street Cafe

Amy Hanaial'i: Borders Books and
Music (Mission Valley)

Joey Harris: McP's Irish Pub and Grill

Taylor Harvey: McP's Irish Pub and
Grill, Belly Up Tavern

Tish Hinojosa:
AcousticMusicSanDiego

Steph Johnson: Whistle Stop Bar

The Justin Brothers: McP's Irish Pub
and Grill

Jim Moore: McP's Irish Pub and Grill

**Adrienne Nims and Raggle
Taggle:** Tom Giblin's Irish Pub and
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Calendar

BANDS

ACOUSTIC / FOLK

(continued)

Pajama Time!: Rebecca's Coffeehouse

Joey Pearson: Borders Books and Music (El Cajon)

Gary Peck: Leana Bistro and French Pastry Cafe

Sara Petite: Belly Up Tavern

Primasi: The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe

Skibbreen: Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad)

Gayle Skidmore and the Eskimos: Lestat's Coffee House

Jack Tempchin: The Calypso Cafe

Unknown Legends: Del Dios Bar and Grill



Queensryche, May 26, 4th & B

Steven Ybarra: Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad)

BLUES / SOUL

The Bayou Brothers: Tio Leo's (Mira Mesa)

Big City Shaman: McP's Irish Pub and Grill

The Blues Brokers: The Kraken

The Blues Invaders: Patrick's II

Chet Cannon: Humphrey's

The Continental Kings: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Electric Soul: Humphrey's

The Fairfield Fats Band: Tiki House

Fuzzy and the Bluesmen: Croce's Jazz Bar

Hugh Gaskins: Turquoise Cafe

Robin Henkel: Terra, Coyote Bar and Grill, Lestat's Coffee House

Mia Jones and the Ko Trifecta: South Park Bar and Grill

Jumpstart: Island Sports and Spirits

Lady Dottie and the Diamonds: Henry's Pub

Bryan Lee: Patrick's II

Michele Lundeen: Coyote Bar and Grill

Michele Lundeen and Blues Streak: Patrick's II

The Bill Magee Blues Band: Humphrey's

Jeff Moore: The Calypso Cafe

The 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band: Patrick's II

Shelle Blue: Patrick's II

The Soul Persuaders: Humphrey's

The Texas Twisters: Patrick's II

3 EZ Pieces: The Kraken

Triple Shot: The Calypso Cafe

Billy Watson: Coyote Bar and Grill

EVERYTHING ELSE

Tom Barabas: G5-Georges on Fifth

Ray Correa: The Butcher Shop

Julio De La Huerta: The Westgate Hotel

Edub Poet: Brick By Brick

Karen Giorgio: The Westgate Hotel

Orquesta Rico Tumbao: Lucky Star Nightclub and Ballroom

Faith Page: The Westgate Hotel

The Ed Repisi Duo: Redfox Steakhouse

Ritmo Caliente: Sevilla

Shawline Expression: Redfox Steakhouse

John Tafolla: Blue Parrot

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Friday, May 25
LOST COMPANIONS SAYVINYL

Saturday, May 26
QU'EST-CE QUE C'EST REPEATER SWIM PARTY

Wednesday, May 30
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Crasher

LOWRIDERS AND LOWLIFES

by Josh Board

Tony turned 40 over a year ago. I was cleaning out my car and found the notes from Tony's party under the seat. I went to my computer and discovered that I still had the photos from that rainy day in Allied Gardens.

The rain didn't ruin Tony's BBQ bash because the patio was covered. They had tacos and other Mexican food. I grabbed a margarita and met some of Tony's family. His daughter was named Bailey, and I asked him where that came from. "We named her over a bottle of Bailey's." He laughed and said, "No. She was conceived on St. Patrick's Day. And I'm Irish..." I could tell by his grin that he was still pulling my leg.

I overheard a woman talking about making jewelry with birthstones. When she mentioned "inexpensive" stones, I said, "If you could only convince women that those stones are nicer than diamonds, it would save us men a lot of money." Another guy added, "No. Women will always be



Top left: Tony; Top right: Tony (left) with his lowrider

gold diggers." A woman replied, "Hey! You guys should give us diamonds. We give you something in return."

I talked to a lady who said she had moved to Seattle. I asked her why she'd moved there. "To make a bad marriage good," she said, "and it

room. I heard someone talking about a vacation in Costa Rica. They said the potholes were so big that you had to swerve

motorcycle engine. I laughed, but someone said, "They weren't joking. It really is."

I heard talk about a car club in TJ called the Radicals. I said I noticed a few lowriders out front. Tony explained: "I grew up in Chula Vista. Bikes and lowriders were always around." I said it looked like an expensive hobby. "It is," he told me, "even little things you need are always \$100."

I asked him if cops hassled him because of his car.

"It rained so much, I almost ended up with webbed feet."

didn't." I nervously sipped my drink as she continued, "It rained so much, I almost ended up with webbed feet."

Out back I found tables and chairs you'd see in a living

around them while driving.

When more margaritas were made, it drowned out the conversation. I asked why it was so loud and was told the machine was hooked up to a

"Well, I once had a cop follow me. He pulled up and looked at me suspiciously. I smiled and said 'What's up?' He just shook his head and drove off. They can tell if you're just into the cars and not a gang member."

Tony took me into the garage to look at his car, and I asked him if all the hydraulics for bouncing were in the trunk. "Yeah. Everything goes in there."

As I was leaving, someone asked me if I get to Mexico much. I told them that I didn't because the *federales* down there make me nervous. One guy said, "You don't have to [be nervous]. I only had a problem once. We were coming back and I forgot I had a few joints in my tackle box. They found them and then searched the entire van. I was surprised when they said, 'Okay, you guys can go.' When we drove back over the border, I remembered I had \$160 in my pants pocket on the floor back there. Of course, it was gone when I checked."

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"That's what I'm afraid of," I said.

"Well, as long as you don't have drugs, you don't have anything to worry about, amigo."

* * *

I went to a party last weekend that sort of involves an incident from my childhood.

When I arrived, a woman introduced herself and said, "I remember the story you wrote about that girl that broke your arm and lived on your street. I

lived around the corner from you."

We talked about the old neighborhood, and she asked, "Did you know that Filipino family on your street?" I said, "It was Mira Mesa. You'll have to narrow it down better than that."

She said, "They had a daughter that was our age and I used to play with her. Since the mom was always at work and the father at home, he would call me into his room. He sat me on his lap and put

his hands under my shirt. He would rub my chest, and when I asked him why, he said, 'This will make your boobs grow.' I was glad because I wanted them to be big like my sisters. I didn't know any better. I was only ten."

"How many times did he do that?" I asked.

"Twice — while his daughter was in the other room."

"Did you ever tell your parents?"

"No. It never really

bothered me. It never affected me or anything. And I'm sure he wasn't molesting his own kids."

"Well, you don't know how it may have affected you," I suggested. "You were a kid. And who knows what he may have done to his kids. In my class, his son once stood up and took off all his clothes. Everyone laughed. I have no idea why he did that. Why don't you report this guy now?"

"He moved away when I was 12," she said. "I don't even know where he is."

"Do you remember his name? If you do, hell, I'll call the cops for ya. Who knows what this guy is doing."

She said, "Sure, why not. Let's put the jerk in jail if you can track him down."

The next day, I did track him down. Here in

San Diego. I called the police, and after being on hold for 20 minutes, they told me there wasn't anything they could do. They gave me the number of Child Protective Services. I called C.P.S. and was transferred a few times before leaving a detailed message. I got a call back the following day. We talked for a while and then the lady told me there was no file on this guy and that there probably isn't much they could do. She asked me to contact them and pretend I wanted to reconnect with my old classmate. I was to find out if he or his sister had any kids. If they had children, they could pursue something for the safety of those kids. I made the call, and the family remembered me. We talked for a while. One

child had no kids. The other had children but lived out of state.

I called C.P.S. back. They thanked me for my help but said there wasn't anything they could do. I said, "Couldn't you question the neighbors? Or his own kids...nieces and nephews?"

They told me there were privacy issues and laws involved that prevent them from doing that.

This guy got away with it. They told me they had his name on file now, which means nothing.... If he does it again, it will be too late. ■

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Grasshoppers and Goats

The grasshoppers lie in a golden pile. Their little barbed legs point every which way. Their torsos look like mini accordions stretched back on one side, their bellies greeny-pale with dark red stripes.

"You don't want to eat them?" says María. Oh man. This is too much. The whole market is too much. I'm sitting in the restaurant part of a Oaxaqueño store in the middle of Mercado Miguel Hidalgo (named after Father Miguel Hidalgo, the Paul Revere of Mexican independence), the market that's a little piece of central Mexico right here in Tijuana. We have nothing like this in San Diego. It's like being in a 1950s' movie with Ricardo Montalban. It's the tropics brought north.

I first got here in the morning, off the "Otay" bus from the border. I walked up Federico Javier Mina street from *Las Tijeras* — "the Scissors," as *tijuanaenses* jokingly call their twin-spiked Independence Monument, to Guadalupe Victoria street, and there — wow. Sensory overload! Crowds milling in a market square. Sacks of strange seeds, beans, peas, dried fruits, medicinal woods, minerals, herbs, fruit, vegetables, all opened for customers' inspection, either in the blaring sunlight off the backs of trucks or along the deep-shaded alleyways under the perimeter buildings. Music played from speakers in the middle of the square. I got lost among the crowds, the barrows, the music, the aromas of herbs, fruits, and the occasional waft of smoke bearing the irresistible smell of *carne asada*.

Then I saw, rising up in the middle of the market, a blue-and-white glass dome. A market chapel! Except the speakers attached to its walls don't broadcast calls to the Christian faithful, but the ranchero music that gives the whole place its jaunty feel. Plus, right then, a light plane flew in and started circling low overhead, with a guy holding a megaphone through the window, yelling out something about a *liquidación* sale. How can you beat that?

Where to begin? I was hot, sweaty, and thirsty and needed something to drink. I followed the ruckus among the produce trucks angle-parked in the middle of the plaza. One well-worn green-and-cream monster had nothing but tomatoes on board. It had just made the 24-hour trip up from Sinaloa. Next to it, guys stripped down eight-foot stalks of sugar cane. Others scraped spines off cactus paddles.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

Comedor la Oaxaqueña

"Cocos! Twenty pesos! From Colima!" called this guy, Margarito. He was standing at the back of a dusty green veteran truck, an ancient Dina 800, in the middle of a pile of green coconuts. I made a beeline. He held one by its umbilical cord, a shiny-bladed machete in his other hand. I needed that coconut. Coconuts don't short you before you have quenched your thirst.

Margarito wielded the machete like a juggler. Sweat glistened on his red forehead and up into his blue bandanna as he cut a big slice down one side, another down the second. And fast. *Chop chop chop*. I sweated bullets for his fingers. Finally, he held the coconut up, flicked his machete horizontally one more time. It nicked off the remaining bobble at the top. You could see the milk glistening inside.

"*Dos dólares*," he said as he jammed a straw down the hole.

Ah, the relief. Not chilled, but surprisingly cool. Margarito said his boss, the elderly guy chatting on the far side of the coconut pile, brings 10,000 coconuts up from Colima ("Domain of the Gods" in Náhuatl/Olmec language) every month.

That's a three-day drive.

So now, for a serious meal, I headed for a goat-meat place. I'd been hearing about El Rincón del Oso from the taco-stall owners around this end of town. Problem was, by the time I navigated and sampled my way through stalls selling papayas, a dozen different kinds of bananas, *zapotes* (types of persimmon), *tunas* and *pitayas* (both cactus fruits), *guamuchel* (sweet fruit of the bread and cheese tree, also called the manila tamarind), dragonfruit, and on and on — fruit you won't find in Vons — I had to take a break at Comedor La Oaxaqueña, deep in the shadowy northeast alleys of the market. Oaxaca, I'd heard, has the richest cuisine in the country. Dozens of different *mole*s. I figured this would be an interesting little food safari right here. I sat down.

Except nobody mentioned grasshoppers. Now, here I am, freeze-framed, having ordered *chapulines* without really thinking, and looking down at the beady little black eyes of a zillion grasshoppers, then up to the big questioning brown eyes of María.

REVIEW

ED BEDFORD

Mercado Miguel Hidalgo is located in the Rio District of Tijuana and occupies the block bordered by Independencia, Sánchez Taboada, Federico Javier Mina avenues and Guadalupe Victoria Street.

Comedor la Oaxaqueña

★★★ (Very good)

Location 32, Mercado Miguel Hidalgo, Calle Guadalupe Victoria, Zona Rio; 011-52-664-200-2804.

HOURS: 7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Monday–Saturday; 7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Sundays.

PRICES (approximate, depending on daily exchange rate): Starters, \$2–\$4; entrées, \$4–\$6; sampler plates (for four), about \$25.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Oaxacan specialties featuring the Oaxaca Valley's famous *mole*s and *clayudas* (Mexican pizzas), and cooked grasshoppers. Beverages mainly traditional chocolate, *champurrado*, horchata drinks, plus natural fruit drinks, and mescal, tequila-type liquor.

PICK HITS: *Chapulines* (grasshopper plate); *clayuda* (pizza) with *tasajo* beef; *mole negro con pollo* (black mole with chicken).

Rincón del Oso

★★★ (Very good)

Location 47, Mercado Miguel Hidalgo, Calle Guadalupe Victoria, Zona Rio, Tijuana.

HOURS: 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday–Saturday; 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Sundays.

PRICES (approximate, depending on daily exchange rate): Starters, \$2–\$4; entrées, \$4–\$10.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Specializing in goat dishes, including ribs and Jalisco-style *birria* (stew); beers, liquor available, as well as traditional rice- and fruit-based drinks.

PICK HITS: *Birria de chivo* (goat stew); goat ribs. **NEED TO KNOW:** Staff and customers at both restaurants are mainly Spanish-speaking, friendly. Tijuana lunch crowds tend to be later — around 3:00 p.m. See GETTING THERE AND BACK at the end of this article for routing and border-crossing information.

Ratings reflect the reviewer's reaction to food, ambience, and service, with price taken into consideration. Menu listings and prices are subject to change.

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San Diego Reader May 24, 2007 119

María's dressed in traditional Oaxacan garb, wide white pants with flowery decorations down the sides, and a white top with a protective smock over it.

"Perhaps a shot of mescal would help?" she says.

Yes. Good idea. Dutch courage for Mexican food. I nod. She fills a shot glass with Oro de Oaxaca, places it on a saucer next to a little pile of brown powder under a wedge of lime, and brings it over.

"That's *sal de gusano*," she says about the brown stuff. "Traditional with every glass of mescal." It's a combo of salt, dried red chiles, and roasted agave worms — the caterpillars that live in the agave plant. In Mexican food, nature, in-your-face life, always seems that much closer.

I sip a lipful of the mescal, taste its smoky agaveness, spend a moment considering how it's by far the oldest liquor anywhere in North America, then lift up my first beady-eyed grasshopper by its left back leg...

Grasshopper-eating's a very Oaxacan thing. And smart: when those locust swarms happen, you're looking at hundreds of tons of free protein on the wing. Why not stick up the net and eat them before they eat your crops?

Somehow though, that thought isn't comforting now. Ho-kay...crunch. Wow. Salty. Fried-tasting, crackly, squishy, like peanuts with soft centers. But more tasty than that sounds. I keep going. Trying to look casual. It's easier if I just grab and crunch, rather than look each victim in the eyes.

I worry for a moment about reports that some grasshoppers caught in Oaxaca have been found to have excessive lead in them and that others can pass on parasites if they're not washed properly and cooked thoroughly. But María says they wash and cook theirs meticulously, so I put those worries away. Once I get going, and as the mescal effect rises, the pile goes down pretty easily. I start to admire the French-blue

rafters, the mustard-colored ceiling, the huge woven baskets from Oaxaca selling for about \$12, and the poster for the annual *Guelaguetza* down in Oaxaca, a sort of "passion play" of the Zapotec people.

Now I've passed that test of manhood, I'm feeling bold, wondering what other dishes to try. Something with Oaxaca's famous *moles*. (That's *mol-ay*, not the garden-destroying burrowers.) María suggests the *mole negro con pollo*. It's around six dollars, and, when it comes, that *mole* is thick, warm, and black and covers the chicken thigh like a chocolatey but not really sweet lava. The pile of rice and green peas tempers the richness, and a cinnamon-enhanced Oaxacan coffee helps.

But the Oaxacan dish I enjoy the most comes a few days later, when I'm down again and drawn back to the Oaxaqueña store by the prospect of a *tlayuda*, or *clayuda*. This is about as Oaxacan a dish as you'll find, they say. So this time, along with a Coke, I ask the waitress Esther (she's from Chiapas, Oaxaca's southern neighbor) for a *clayuda* with *tasajo*, which is a kind of sun-dried beef. It takes about 15 minutes to cook and involves a foot-wide baked-till-it's-crispy flour tortilla loaded with *asiento* (unrefined pork lard), black *mole*, beans, avocado, cabbage, a big clump of *tasajo* in the middle (I could have had *cecina*, thin strips of chili powder-encrusted pork, or chorizo or chicken instead), and all over it, *quesillo*, the Oaxacan signature cheese. This is a sweet, soft, white, unripened cow's-milk cheese that's so stringy they wind it into balls. It's mild like a mozzarella, though a shade more tangy, hard to find outside Oaxaca, and it's what turns *tlayuda* or *clayuda* into a virtual "Mexican pizza." Down in Oaxaca, they have street vendors cooking it on every corner. It's the thing to do, when you're wending your way home after a night out, to stop for a mid-night *tlayuda* snack.

For me, a few splots of salsa, and this baby is crunchy delicious. The *tasajo* is deeply marinated and not too tough, but really, the pleasure is in all the other bits and pieces you

clack off with each break. And for sure, the wicked pork lard is what makes it all happen, sets up the richness. I just wish they had *cerveza* to go with it.

I finish up with a dessert of *tejocote*, the fruit — who knew? — of the Mexican hawthorn, golden in their syrup, slightly richer than cherries. They're what goes into the Mexican *ponche*, the hot fruit punch they make at Christmas and New Year's.

I'll have to come back, if only to try the other *moles*, yellow ones, red ones, and dishes like *memelitas* — Oaxacan *sopes*, corn patties fried with black-bean frijoles and salty cheeses and salad and meat — and *chapulines*, those grasshoppers again, but *a la Mexicana*, meaning in a sauce. And Oaxaca's eggy breads, with names like *yema*, *resobado*, and *amarillo*.

But my next time down, I get hijacked by the first food cart at the entrance, *Tacos Fitos*, mainly because I've noticed there always seems to be a crowd around it. "*Birria*," it says. "*Tripa de res*," I look around. What everybody's buying is a *birria* — stew — of "*buche*," stomach lining cooked in lard. Rich gravy flavors waft through the crowd of truck drivers, barrow boys, school kids, so that's what I order.

It's squishy, but the flavors are *rico suave*, with juices running onto the ground as I walk along chewing.

This time, I'm determined to get goat. I head up the passage filled with herb and mineral rocks, medicinal-wood vendors and shops. Bins filled with herbs like *gordolobo*, which the Aztecs used for curing ulcers, rocks of *tequesquite* — a mineral salt, a kind of natural baking soda used since ancient times as leavening for, say, tamales — unheard of herbs like *timbiriches*, *cocohistles*...the only one I recognize is *diente de león* — dandelion.

But I'm looking for goat horns, and two doors up, near the northeastern corner, there it is: a trophy head of a black goat with twirling long horns is nailed to the wall right over the entrance. Beside it a sign says "El Rincón del Oso." "Jalisco style," says another sign.

Peculiar, to call a goat restaurant "the Corner of the Bear," but it turns out the original

owner, back when this was a fruit shop, was a bear of a man. The name honors him. Of course they have *carne asada*, and other dishes, but goat's their claim to fame, and *birria* — goat stew — is their main goat dish, though they also do goat ribs.

You sit down at a red trestle table set against salmon pink walls hung with photos of showbiz stars, from Marilyn Monroe to Germán "Tin Tan" Valdéz, a late, lamented Mexican comic. "Yes, we are a little expensive," says Verónica the waitress. "*Chivo* — goat — costs twice as much to buy as beef, but it is a stronger meat. Makes a stronger man."

All right. I accept the challenge. I get the stew. It costs around \$8. As Verónica said, not cheap, but understandable. And strong — tasting, that is.

The added benefit is that in the liquidy stew, you'd swear you can taste not just goat, but wild goat. The ones who have been free to roam and nibble everything. Tree bark and leaves and grass. This doesn't taste like food-pellet, farm-fed *chivatos*. There's a richness you associate with venison, bison, wild boar. You are what you eat, even when you're a goat. My street-stall taco guys tell me Tijuana has about four restaurants serving goat meat. This, they say, has the tastiest.

The *birria* comes in a white china bowl with blue stripes that make the reddish soup and dark chunks of meat look serious. For me, that stronger taste, which also has a slightly woolly thing to it too, like mutton, is saved by the extras in the bowls that Verónica places in front of you: the onions, cilantro, rich red salsa, and juice from the limes. With a hot pile of tortillas, which the ladies in the open kitchen keep rolling and cooking, you could go on forever, stuffing them with chunks of meat that almost fall apart when you pick them up. The rich, tart, burgundy-red *birria* liquids sluice it down and sharpen your mouth so it's ready for the next wave. I chose a *tamarindo* drink to go with it, but next time, no question: it'll be a Negra Modelo *cerveza*, or a glass of *vino tinto*.

And music can be part of the deal. I'm just leaving when these

two elderly gents come up. They have guitars. The music from the chapel is far enough away that it won't interfere. I ask if they'd sing "La Malagueña." They do, and even though age has shot their voices to ragged, cardboard remnants of what they once were, they put such feeling into it, I can almost feel ye old tear ducts starting to spout. A dangerous sign. Must be getting attached to this place.

How much more food is there to try in Mercado Hidalgo? I walk across the plaza, past the chapel (and up close you see that the chapel is built upstairs, above spotlessly clean public restrooms) toward that endless line of coconut customers watching Margarito's machete mastery. And guess what? Near the back of the line is Dr. Solorio, my Tijuana dentist. "You want the best food in the market?" he says. "It's El Jerezano. They're from Jerez, in Zacatecas. They've been open 33 years. What *buches*, my friend, what *buches*."

Sigh. I get up to El Jerezano. It faces Carnitas Kiko's Jr. Café, which claims it's "100 percent Estiloso Veracruzano. Pruéballo!" Veracruz style. And they want the chance to "Prove it!" Hmm. Veracruz. That's Caribbean, right? African influences? If I had the stomach space, I'd go take them on right now. Instead I call in on El Jerezano and order up a *buche* taco from the manager, Samuel — to go. Veracruz will have to wait.

GETTING THERE AND BACK

First off, driving down and back can be difficult. I say don't. Not unless you're happy to sit in fumes, fuming as you wait an hour or so while heading home. By the time you get to the actual customs guy, you'll be loaded down with giant crucifixes, rubber jigsaw maps of California, and blankets with Arnold's or Pancho Villa's face on them, which you bought from the window-knockers just to relieve the boredom. Then there's the special insurance you need, the parking, dealing with local cops who may see you and your Volvo as an easy mark. Hundreds do drive down and back every day, of course, and have no problems. But even then, you've got that wait. This

is the world's — maybe even the galaxy's — busiest border crossing, and post-9/11 it's usually just not worth it, especially when you have adequate taxi (and communal taxi) service, and buses to get you there and back. California DOT's 2005 figures put the average north-bound wait at 45 minutes. But yours will be longer, because you're not coming through at four in the morning.

Certainly, you don't escape the problem as a pedestrian. That can also take an hour, if, say, you're crossing back north at five on a Friday evening. But overall, it's easier, and a more pleasant interaction with the people of Tijuana, if you park the car in San Ysidro and hoof it. (The Gateway Inn, 701 East San Ysidro Boulevard, by the trolley's final stop, 619-428-2251, has good all-day parking for around \$5.)

So here's my advice for getting there and back: Take trolley, car, or bus to San Ysidro crossing; climb torturous ramped pedestrian bridge that crosses the final inches of I-5 alongside the customs building. Pass through border to Tijuana taxis (Taxi Libres are best deal, \$4-\$5); for return, ask them to come pick you up at the market at an agreed time and place. To catch bus (60 cents), walk down Avenida de la Amistad, past Plaza Viva Tijuana to roundabout. Turn right up Avenida Frontera. Ask for "Otay" bus. Tell the driver you want "Mercado Hidalgo," near "Las Tijeras" (Independence Monument). Get off at Avenida Mina, one block before monument (just keep your eyes skinned for soaring "scissors" Independence Monument in the middle of a roundabout on Paseo de los Héroes); turn right up Avenida Mina, walk two short blocks to Calle Guadalupe Victoria, which lines one side of the red-and-yellow market. To return to border, leave market by opposite end, turn left onto Avenida Independencia; walk two blocks to Independence Monument, cross over Paseo de los Héroes; at continuation of Avenida Independencia, wait for bus (or flag down regular cab or \$1.00-per-person communal taxi). Ask for "*la línea*" ("the border"). Ride is 5-10 minutes. ■

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French Pizza?

"Don't have a cow, have a croque, dude," I say. "That'll crank you up."

A funny thing happened on the way to the opera.

Hank and I had headed downtown for some lunch. But he couldn't find a parking spot. Dropped me off by the Sandford Hotel at Fifth and A. That's when I spot this place. New! French! Ôpera, Patisseries Fines. Can't be too much beyond my budget, up here. I step right across Fifth into a, wow, pistachio-green room. Pistachio-green walls and ceiling, and a black marble floor. That new-with-old thing is everywhere. Track lighting surrounds a great antique chandelier, and cute modernish metal tables and chairs border red velvet furniture that looks as if, maybe, Louis XV could have sat here. Louis Cans, as we said in French class.

Classy is what it is, with all sorts and shapes of breads on display, bottles of olive oil, food art on the walls, and, in the one big glass-and-steel display cabinet that runs half the length of the room, the most exquisite pastries and chocolate and Lord knows what other kinds of cookies you've ever seen, in this life, anyway. They're talking directly to me. *Help us! Get us out of here!*

I force myself to look at the markerboard menus above. French pizzas — small square ones — ciabatta, that rough-bread sandwich deal, quiches, and oh yes: *croques*, melted-cheese sandwiches with ham and eggs.

But I've decided I've got to start with the breakfast thing. Because — oh yeah — there in the display case, they have their home-baked croissant stuffed with chocolate. I ask this real-life Parisian gal Gabrielle for that (\$2.25) and a medium coffee (\$1.75, no refills). Keep me going while I watch out for Hank. Man. You can tell they make their own croissants. Soft, buttery. The chocolate is

strong. No better way to start the day.

So I'm sitting here, watching crazy-coiffed babes stream up from the Paul Mitchell hair school when hey! Talk of beauties and the beast: Here's Hank.



"Walked miles. I'm pooped," he croaks.

"Don't have a cow, have a croque, dude," I say. "That'll crank you up."

I want both: to check out these French pizzas, but also the *croque monsieurs* and *croque madames*, which I love. And to my

surprise, Hank doesn't fight me on this. "Fine," he says. "Gimme a *croque*, m'sieur." He looks up at the board. "I'll take the ham." Except it's not just ham. He's pointing to the Black Forest ham and Gruyère and smoked Gouda cheese and peppered turkey *croque* (\$5.50). Charlotte, a second cute Parisienne, who's behind the counter, sets that *croque a-cookin'*, while Romi, the third gal, puts my square *fromage blanc*, onion, and bacon pizza into the Blodgett oven. It's on special today at \$6.

It comes out sizzling and dripping with cheeses. Romi rushes it over to the counter. She adds an arugula-type salad, then a dressing, and brings it all out.

I want to not like it. I mean, French pizza? On the other hand, the simple combo of that rich white cheese and the onion and bacon is pretty delicious. Goes with the coffee too.

Thierry, the owner and chef, comes around, seeing how everybody's doing. Turns out he was executive chef at the Ritz-Carlton in San Francisco, L'Orangerie in L.A., and Paradise Point here in San Diego. It was after 9/11, when the business and tourist travel dropped to almost zero, that he had to let go his pastry staff and outsource for desserts.

Then he let himself go.

"I found there was a real gap in the market. What was out there wasn't that good." So Thierry, who had also specialized as a pastry chef, started up a wholesale business, based in Kearny Mesa, that now makes pastries for high-end places as far away as Mandalay Bay and the Venetian in Vegas. Wow. Ôpera is almost an afterthought.

Andrea, the office-worker gal at the next table, says her six-buck prosciutto ciabatta is pretty good stuff. "But I knew it would be good when I first saw this place," she says. "It looked European. I am European, from Romania."

"Here, man, take this." Hank hands me half of his *croque*. The Gouda covering it is still hot. "Not Gouda-nuff for you?" I ask.

"No, man. Nothin' wrong with it. And cheese ain't the problem. I'm just watching my carbs is all."

Me, on the other hand, I lose control, big time. In addition to my own food, I eat Hank's extra stuff, and then, well, they have all those beautifully sculpted pastries, tea cakes, cheesecakes, chocolate truffles... Gimme some credit: I resist all except, uh, five of the French macaroons. Not the big heavy tooth-cracking coconut macaroons I remember from my childhood. These are delicate, golf-ball-size, almond-based cookies sandwiched around cappuccino, chocolate ganache, pecan-caramel, cinnamon, and raspberry marmalade fillings. Thierry says these exact cookies have been around since 1533, when Italian Catherine de Medici married King Francis II and brought her recipe and chefs with her to France.

They're 65 cents each, so we're talking \$3.25.

I bite into the cappuccino flavor. Oh yes. The lightest crunch-through, the slurp of coffee, the moment of mental miasma — then the guilt.



Thierry

"Well, the way I look at it," says Thierry, "is it's bad ingredients that damage you. I see myself as a missionary of life. We need to enjoy the moment! Escoffier said, 'Good eating is the real foundation of true happiness.' Uh, try the pecan-caramel. With coffee, perfection."

Sigh. I take a deep breath. Hank shakes his head. I bite in.

I tell you, it's a conspiracy. The French are taking over the world, one sweet tooth at a time. On the other hand, what a way to go. ■

The Place: Brothers Ôpera, Patisseries Fines, 1354 Fifth Avenue, downtown, 619-234-0425

Type of Food: French

Prices: Chocolate breakfast croissant, \$2.25; quiche lorraine, with smoked bacon, \$5.50; Black Forest ham, Gruyère, smoked Gouda, peppered-turkey croque, \$5.50; fromage blanc, onion, and bacon pizza, with arugula salad, \$6; French macaroons, 65 cents each

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"We ended up making an illegal amount of wine in my garage — something like ten barrels."

Michael Brill had a wine problem. It started out innocently enough. "I fell into it just like most people. I was working for a management consulting firm, and clients started buying dinner and paying for great wine. I recognized that there was a lot of cool stuff out there." The early '90s saw him delve into collecting, and that's when things got ugly. "At some point, you sort of hit this plateau. You're trying lots of wines from different regions, but when the *Spectator* or the *Wine Advocate* comes, you open it up and you just jump to the scores. It becomes as much about acquisition and finding scarce wines as it is about enjoyment. I think I hit an all-time low when I went to a wine store, and I was so happy to find three or four difficult-to-find wines. I was putting them in the car, and I realized, 'That was the fun part of it for me. It's over. What am I going to do with more wine?'"

Other fortunate souls who had just sold software companies might have taken up yachting, or maybe looked into starting up a wine venture in Paso Robles. But Brill looked into the backyard of his San Francisco home and imagined it without the avocado, pine, and fig trees, without the roses, fountains, and walkways. He imagined it as a vineyard. "I razed it — went in and pulled everything out. I built half a dozen trellises and put in 24 Pinot Noir vines. I'm totally not into

gardening, but I looked at that and thought, 'This is the coolest thing I've ever done.'"

That was in 2002. The following year, he got the itch to actually make wine — a logical next step — but his own vineyard was still years

away from production. Happily, wine country was only an hour away, and the industry was dealing with a bit of a surplus. "I read everything there was about winemaking. Then I went online and found some friends. We sourced fruit from a couple of vineyards well before harvest — there was a

fair amount available at the time, and we got really nice Syrah and Pinot Noir. We ended up making an illegal amount of wine in my garage — something like ten barrels."

Of course, a guy who trellises out his backyard for the sake of 24 Pinot vines doesn't just pick up some glass carboys and a fiberglass tank. "I basically turned my 1000-square-foot garage into a nice little functioning winery — gleaming stainless-steel tanks, pumps, all this high-end equipment. Overkill." But very attractive overkill, as he soon discovered. "There we were on a Saturday morning, destemming and crushing and cleaning. People who were wandering by my house started sticking their heads in, asking what we were doing. It just sucked them in; they spent all day there, cleaning and crushing. I gave them pizza and beer, and they left super, super happy,

saying, 'When can we do this again?' By the end of harvest, I had 140 people on my volunteer list who wanted to come and crush grapes. I realized there were a whole lot of people who shared my desire to take my hobby to the next level, move beyond collecting and actually start creating wine."

By 2004, he had "raised some money, found a winemaker and a space," and transitioned out of his day job into his position as founder/president of Crushpad. The idea behind it: you want to make a barrel (or more) of wine — really good wine. But you don't have the time/winery/access to good grapes, etc. Crushpad — now in its fourth year and based out of a 34,000-square-foot facility in San Francisco — has all of those. So, you get Brill & Co. to make it for you. You tell them what you want in terms of varietal and style. You dictate your preferences for harvesting, for winemaking, for aging, and for bottling. You determine length of skin contact, type of yeast, barrel aging, fining/filtering — even closures. "The one thing you don't have control over is pick date. But based on the style of wine you want to make, we try to get you into the right vineyard. And if we do multiple picks, and you wanted to go with a leaner, less-ripe style, then you would go for the earlier pick."

The list is just about exhaustive — not to say exhausting — and not without reason. Crushpad is aiming more for interactive partnerships than for oenophiles indulging a whim. "Our clients need to understand the causes and effects in winemaking. It's complicated, but people kind of absorb stuff at their own pace." And why do they need to understand? Because, says Brill, "We're really trying to make winemaking part of



Crushpad facility

somebody's life experience — that's what they do. Otherwise, they'll do it once and say, 'That was fun; next, I'll go skydiving.'" So far, the company is succeeding. "We see a common characteristic in our customer base. They all want to make great wine, but what they want is the experience. It's a means of self-expression. Some people paint, some people play guitars, some people make wine. I mean, we do have customers that call us up and say, 'Make me a barrel of your best cult Cabernet. Here's a check; you fill in the amount.' But that's not our core market."

Once Crushpad knows what you want, they set about making it happen and keep you updated every step of the way. "Every day during fermentation, you've got a chart in your inbox when you show up at work in the morning, with sugars and temperatures and any specific events and measurements. Clients need to be notified if we need to make midcourse corrections and be given the opportunity to approve those changes. This year, we're going to make 600–650 different wines, with each wine driven by the style dictated



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by individual clients. To deal with that, we basically have 9 people working in the winery and 11 people developing software."

They've also made some technological innovations that are fairly specific to a company managing 650 separate fermentations. "Say you have 300 going on simultaneously," says Brill. Traditional small-lot fermentation would require punch downs — forcible submerging of the must into the juice to aid the fermenting wine in extracting color and flavor from the grape skins. "Imagine five punch downs a day, with four or five minutes a punch down." It's impossible. "So we've created these hybrid pump-over/submerged-cap mechanisms that fit into small fermenters." The caps hold the must under the surface while the pumps circulate the juice around the suspended must... "so that we can really dial in extraction. Also, let's say you're making a barrel of Pinot Noir and you want some new oak in your aging process — but not 100 percent new oak. We've trialed these things we call 'zebra barrels,' where we'll take an old barrel and a new barrel, break them down, and rebuild them with, say, 50 percent new oak and 50 percent used oak. Just a bunch of stuff like that. We're trying to keep the soul and the intent of the winemaking but aid in the customer's control and involvement."

"Aid in the customer's control and involvement" is as good a mantra for Crushpad as any — in Brill's view, it's what sets him apart from much of the industry. "I was at this conference in Napa last week, along with a couple hundred movers and shakers in the wine industry, and I mean, there's just not a whole lot of exciting stuff happening. I don't even know where to start — there was such a lack of focus on consumers and experiences. It's such a producer-centric industry: 'The customer is responsible for their own experience.' Even the whole direct-to-consumer model... I think the only difference is that, instead of a distributor or retailer getting 50 percent of the value, it all goes to the winery. The winery isn't giving a better experience; it isn't giving the consumer a price break. They're not really doing anything more than they used to." That leaves the playing field wide open for companies like Crushpad, companies that will, as he puts it, "shift the industry power from the producer to the consumer." ■

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

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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

Americana 1454 Camino Del Mar (southwest corner at 15th Street), Del Mar, 858-794-6838. Housed in a historic building, this casual breakfast/lunch joint turns into a serious dinner house at nightfall. The cooking represents the American melting pot, featuring world-wide flavors. Mornings, along with flawless eggs Benedict and utopian waffles, you can get a "Roman breakfast" of prosciutto, mozzarella, and fried egg on English muffin. At dinner, don't miss the lamb chop and eggplant appetizer or the duck breast with fig sauce. During summer, some of the veggies come from chef-owner Randy Gruber's home garden; the French fries (which don't come from his garden) are world class. To finish, a banana *tarte tatin* shouldn't be resisted. Thoughtful, reasonable wine list. Breakfast (until 3 p.m.) and lunch daily, dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Kids' menu available. Breakfast and lunch inexpensive to moderate; dinner moderate to expensive. — *A.M.*

The Bird House Grill 250 North Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-944-2882. A great place to check out real Turkish cuisine. The inside has a fine collection of blue-and-white wall plates and blue glass eyes to ward off evil spirits. Try the house specialty, Iskender Kebab (ground meat kebab, rice, tomato sauce, and house-grown yogurt) — "Iskender" means "Alexander." Or the Kofte plate (ground meat kebab, rice, salad, pita, and *tzatziki* sauce). The shepherd's salad is a traditional dish brimming with fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, parsley, oil, and lemon. Good healthy Mediterranean diet. Even the baklavas are less gloopy. Open Monday to Saturday, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Calypso Cafe 576 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-632-8252. This "Calypso" has nothing to do with Caribbean music (or food), despite its tropical tiki-hut decor. The cuisine is French, ranging from old warhorses like onion soup and *coq au vin* to new-fangled Gallo-Cal-Italian-Pacific Rim hyphenates. The traditional dishes are generally the most successful. Mussels are the house specialty, and their rapid turnover here ensures freshness. Although there's nothing revolutionary coming from this kitchen, the cooking is generally agreeable. Dinner nightly, reservations advised. Upper moderate. — *N.W.*

Cuvee 2334 Carmel Valley Road, Del Mar, 858-259-5878. Seasonal California-Mediterranean cuisine, bolder and more complex than at the original, now-closed La Jolla branch. Cuisine is designed to accompany an interesting, affordable wine list. A reserve list includes fancier choices, still at minimal markups. Corkage fee for BYO is \$15, but waived on Tuesdays. Reservations urged. Lunch weekdays, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — *N.W.*

El Callejon Restaurant Moonlight Plaza, 345 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-634-2793. This is a Mexican restaurant with a difference: Instead of the standard boring border foods and combo plates, it offers a long menu of genuine, zesty mainland

dishes, some with original spins on traditional themes. Shrimp *zarandeados* with a rich sauce of chilies and beef in cilantro sauce are some of the delights. There's even a *parrillada* (mixed grill) to serve two. The atmosphere offers more pleasures. At lunchtime, the dining room seems like a serene hacienda. Evenings the restaurant may turn into a rollicking community center, where multi-generational families and groups of friends fill the dining rooms and spill onto the sizable patio hidden in back. Mariachi band on Fridays and Saturdays. — *N.W.*

Jamroc 101 101 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-436-3162. At this former site of D.B. Hacker's, you can still get great fish 'n' chips, mon. The shack by the tracks now sports bright tropical designs on its back-patio walls, and the fare is casual Jamaican (plus a couple of Cajun dishes). Check out the bargain-priced samplers, which include luscious soft-fried plantains and splendid patties (empanadas to you and me) with a choice of beef, curry chicken, or veggies. The spicing of the jerks and curry entrées are down-tuned to suit tourist tastes, but the table bottle of Walkerswood Scotch Bonnet Hot Sauce can kick that right up. Don't miss the fresh coconut water, served out of a young Thai coconut. Soca, ska, and (clean) reggae set the mood, and there's live steel pan weekend evenings. Beer, wine, Bigga soft drinks. Open weekday nights until 9 p.m. and weekend nights until 10 p.m. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Knockout Pizza 2959 Carlsbad Boulevard, Carlsbad, 760-434-4468. It's New York pizza only here. They make the pies with traditional thin, crisp crusts and toppings like pepperoni, meatball, garlic, and "whitestone" (mozzarella, Parmesan, ricotta, garlic, and spinach). Maybe their best is the "Bronx Special," an assortment of pepperoni, sausage, onions, olives, mushrooms, pepper and garlic. Open daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Paul's Place 3671 Mission Avenue (at El Camino Real), Oceanside, 760-721-0124. This restaurant looks like a McDonald's or Wendy's (the building used to be a franchise) and the food comes fast, but it's no chain. The menu strikes a balance between American and Greek fare. The baked Greek half-chicken, the spiced grilled chicken sliced up on a salad with pita bread, and the gyros (all at earthy prices) mix with all-American three-egg breakfast specials with home fries. Lunch offers include meaty hamburgers, gyros with fries, or a surprisingly tasty turkey-burger. Open seven days for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Santa Fe BBQ Company 1505 Encinitas Boulevard, Encinitas, 760-632-5227. Santa Fe's exterior may look like a chain restaurant (the site used to be a Pat and Oscar's), but there's original food here — Texas-style barbecue, slowly smoked over green oak in a giant enclosed pit-smoker. It's not the North County's smokiest "Q" (nor the moistest, either), but it's good, especially the tender beef brisket and beef ribs with a pleasing red Texas-style sweet sauce. (Remember, Texans love cattle — not pigs so much — so the pork items are lesser lights.) Side dishes include good, clean coleslaw (not too sugary) and thick, meaty beans. Order at the counter, and they'll bring your food to you to eat inside, outside, or to take home. Child friendly, with video games and a kiddie menu. Sports fans can watch the game on large plasma both indoors and on the dining patio. Beer and wine available. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Easy parking. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Tip Top Meats 6118 Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad, 760-438-2620. This geranium-splashed blue-and-white Bavarian chalet is more than a butcher's shop. It's a combination butcher-deli-diner. Enter through the bulging deli and listen for the shouts and clatter of serving ladies. Look for the "Es ist Wunderbar!" sign over the counter. Try German and American dishes like Big John's all-you-can-eat bacon, pork-link sausage, bratwurst, or ham breakfast with three eggs, home fries, and toast. Or the sausage plate: bratwurst, knackwurst, and smoked Polish with German potato salad and traditional stuffed cabbage. Owner Big John is a heavyweight Olympic boxer from the former East Germany with an M.A. in meat sciences. Generous por-

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Dumpling Inn 4619 Convo 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.

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 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.

IKEA Restaurant & Cafe 1419 Fenton Parkway, Mission Valley, 619-283-6166, ext.1200. Central shrine for San Diego's 10,000 Swedes, so they say. They come to taste open-faced sandwiches, salmon, shrimp, and meatballs again. This restaurant inside Sweden's wildly successful "home interiors" chain is a great intro to Swedish tastes. The food's more sensible than exciting, of course. But healthy — beef and pork for the meatballs are guaranteed hormone-free. You eat the meatballs with Swedish lingonberry (not cranberry) sauce. Seafood is big: the shrimp open-faced sandwich, the salmon plate with potatoes and broccoli, and the Gravad Lox Plate (cured salmon) are always on. And if you want to be disgustingly healthy, chew on their fresh vegetable plate (raw carrot sticks, cauliflower, garbanzo beans, and mushrooms). All for a song. The only health hazard: hordes of babies and kids romping in the restaurant's mother-friendly play area. Inexpensive. — E.B.

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 beware 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.

Seoul B.B.Q. 4344 Convo Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-505-8700. This Korean restaurant means sitting before a sizzling cast-iron grill, sipping hot sake, the smell of grilled beef, grilled onions, and fresh garlic in the air. Try the "Korean B.B.Q." marinated short ribs (*tong galbi*) or thick marbled slices of sirloin (beef *gui*). You'll enjoy all the accompanying dishes that make the meal, like crunchy seaweed salads, radishes in garlicky tomato sauce, slow-cooked potatoes with soy sauce and jalapeño pepper. Feeling adventurous? Go for the goat meat hot pot or Korean steak tartare. This is sensual, elemental, hairy-chested food. Lunch and dinner six days, closed Sunday. — M.N.

Tropical Star 6163 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont, 858-874-7827. A modest café and grocery offers Puerto Rican and Latin American food and groceries. Very modest surroundings; good authentic inexpensive food. Same menu all day Monday through Saturday; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.W.

Sunrise Buffet 3860 Convo #121, Kearny Mesa, 858-715-1608. "Oysters are here!" It's what everyone here waits for. Apart from the usual array of meats, fish, shellfish, and novelties like stuffed mushrooms, stuffed clams, dragon rolls (cucumber, avocado, asparagus), and *mochi* (sticky rice cake), these plates of raw oysters in their big shells are one of the big draws. This buffet restaurant is smaller than many, but it still looks like a mega-McDonald's eating barn inside, except for a sky-blue-lit ceiling recess "heaven." Like McDonald's, it attracts lots of families, maybe because it's not just all-you-can-eat, but all-you-can-drink, too — included in the price. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

THE BEACHES

The Australian Pub 1014 Grand Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-9921. A great place to take your kids after a morning at the beach. This relaxing pub, owned by a true-blue Aussie, offers heaps of good Aussie food. Try the Road Kill (grilled chicken breast with pico de gallo sauce and cheese "run over" between 2 pieces of sourdough) or the Aussie Burger (1/2-pound patty, with a fried egg, cheese, bacon, grilled onions, beets, pineapple, and a side of steak fries). And for an "outback experience," order up Vegemite (a beefy kinda paste) and four slices of bread — it's the Aussie national food, mate. Open Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.; Friday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.; weekends 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Bare Back Grill 4640 Mission Boulevard (at Emerald), Pacific Beach, 858-274-7117. This may be the first New Zealand food place in town, but that's not what keeps the customers coming in. It's BBG's claim that most of their meat is certified organic. The owners guarantee hormone-free beef and lamb, both from from New Zealand. So, what to eat? Burgers, burgers, burgers — all kinds — from prime NZ Angus to "Bare Li'l Lamb" burgers with wasabi dip. They also offer chicken. Decor inside is strictly Kiwi-land, from the all-black rugby shirt on the wall to the declaration of food prin-

ciples. People who had given up on hormone-treated meat are coming here for their first burger in years. Open seven days, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Broken Yolk Cafe 1851 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-9655. Breakfasting PBers love this place for three reasons: its sundeck, its 26 different four-egg omelets (which you can split with your partner, no extra charge), and the challenge of omelet #27. This dozen-egg "Broken Yolk Café Special" comes stuffed with a mountain of mushrooms, onion, cheese, chili, plus home fries and biscuits. If you can do it in an hour, pay nothing — you've got huevos. If you can't, the yolk's on you — \$19.99. My advice: split a 4-egger. Open 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

C-Level 880 Harbor Island Drive, Harbor Island, 619-298-6802. California-Mediterranean comfort food with a Southern "Low Country" accent from Chef Deborah Scott; same menu lunch and dinner. Alas, the restaurant's name also gives away its grade — the food's okay but not spectacular, although the gorgeous heated patio at the edge of the bay does plenty to sweeten the pot. Your visiting aunt will swoon over the view and enjoy the food. Vast wine list with plenty by the glass, wide range of prices but some steep markups; good beer list. Full bar with creative cocktails. Ample free parking. No reservations except for large parties. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Fairouz Cafe And Gallery 3166 Midway Drive, Loma Portal, 619-225-0308. Seek out this family-owned-and-operated restaurant for wonderful Lebanese and Greek food. The owner, a noted artist, displays his paintings on the dining room walls. The extensive menu offers excellent lamb, stuffed grape leaves, and a wide selection of exotic vegetarian meals. Copious all-you-can-eat buffet available at lunch or dinner in addition to the regular menu. Given 24 hours, this café will prepare an astonishing Lebanese feast at low cost. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — E.W.

Great Moon Buffet 1840 Garnet Avenue (Pacific Plaza 2 shopping center), Pacific Beach, 858-273-6868. This is one of the classier Chinese all-you-can-eat buffets in town. They boast a glittering chandelier hanging in the octagonal entrance, plus "over 150 items daily." Certainly they have great surf-turf, like prime rib and jumbo shrimp or mayonnaise mussels. Or Japanese charcoal-grilled eel with sesame seeds on rice (*unagi-zushi*). It tastes salty yet caramel-y too. Eelicious. Or Chinese baked crab meat on crab shell. Add crab legs, and maybe some roast duck. Cramming? Feast today, fast tomorrow. Dessert fruits include loquats, pineapple, peach, longan. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Hancock St. Cafe 3354 Hancock Street, Loma Portal, 619-296-2060. If you spot Marilyn, Elvis, and Lady Liberty waving at you from the sidewalk, you're here. They are life-size fiberglass lookalikes, but Mario is real, and his restaurant is a living shrine to jazz pianist Herbie Hancock. Mario has pianos, guitars, and drums inside — even a little stage where you're often welcome to perform. The food? Italian home cooking. Mario is from New York and knows his pasta. You can usually expect a good-value special, like spaghetti and meatballs. Sometimes



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sauced potatoes, what can you do? Do as half of San Diego State does: just say yes. Open daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Chef Taka 7520 El Cajon Boulevard (at Parks), Mesa Plaza, La Mesa, 619-463-0231. This is indeed the same chef Satate Taka who co-founded Taka in the Gaslamp, and then Octopus Garden. In July 2003 he moved his kitchen to La Mesa where he now cooks his inventive Japanese-based fusion cuisine with French, Mexican, and Chinese touches. Try the dreamy soft-shell crab with "salsa cream aioli," the tender tempura, or the traditional Teishoku dinner. Taka generally presides at the sushi bar. The staff is small so for the best cooking and service, dine on a weeknight and make an evening of it—weekends can be hectic. For a bubbly treat try chilled Nigori (unfiltered) sake, served in the traditional manner in an overflowing square wooden cup. Open six days for dinner; closed Monday. Happy hour bargains nightly; regular prices moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Downtown Cafe 182 East Main Street, El Cajon, 619-440-5687. Surprise! Not far from Magnolia and Main, a French-style sidewalk café. The successful "Por Favor" eateries' owner launched this as a kind of Mexican patio restaurant, but serving gringo food. And it works, maybe because of reasonable prices for baby-back pork ribs, giant burritos, or Louisiana Chicken strips. Or even the veggie burger. But it's partly where you dine: out on the patio. The place has lots of ancient doors and wrought iron-and-wood window frames, laced with creepers. Inside is a beautiful long bar with a counter on the street and chess sets so you can play and watch the world go by. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Tyler's Taste of Texas 576 North Second Street, El Cajon, 619-444-9295. Unfussy home cooking. Some dishes outshine others. The slab of smoky ham steak that comes with the first-rate breakfast is in itself enough to rouse the sleepiest appetite. Expertly sautéed onions and mushrooms lend flavor to fried potatoes and omelets, respectively, while pebbly-smooth hash and gingery sweet potato pancakes give the lineup character. For lunch and dinner, the Texas menu features Texas-style barbecue (chicken, beef, pork, and sausage) that's sufficiently smoky, but a little uneven in texture. The barbecue beef is reliable and the sweetish sauce shows well on the chicken. Pleasant surprises: a substantial, peppery cornmeal crust on the tender catfish and the fried green tomatoes, and the rich stock in the vegetable soup. All-you-can-eat catfish Wednesdays and Fridays. Open 24 hours. Inexpensive to low moderate. — A.M.

FAR EAST

Alpine Inn 2225 Alpine Boulevard, Alpine, 619-445-5172. Beef lover's heaven. Also, try the house special, the Texas burger, ground in-house and served on a Kaiser roll with steak fries. Dark interior with large booths. Very crowded for dinner on Sunday. Lunch and dinner (with inexpensive early-bird dinner) Monday through Saturday; brunch and dinner Sunday. Moderate to expensive. — E.W.

Pablito's of the Desert 590 Palm Canyon Drive (in The Center, #8), Borrego Springs, 760-767-5753. Pablito's claims "Authentic Mexican Cuisine, patio dining, and great tequila margaritas." Well, the gorgeous patio is open when the weather is favorable, and the cuisine runs to gringo favorites in the Mexican mode (lots of combo platters), but the flavors are honest and pleasing. The most authentic dishes come from the "Specialties" section of the menu, including a good *chile verde* (pork in green chile sauce), numerous varieties of enchiladas, and several flavors of *chilaquiles*. Full bar, including sangria, margaritas, Mexican beers. Closed in the summer; other seasons, open for lunch and dinner (with a break between), Wednesday through Sunday. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

Ramon's Smokehouse BBQ 1730 Alpine Boulevard, Suite 110, Alpine, 619-445-1008. The smell of mesquite wood burning under fresh-cut beef rib

is beyond resistance. The secret Texas recipe draws crowds. Go Sunday morning, especially, when chefs in maroon aprons dance around the fat-spitting fire, disappearing into the clouds of fragrant smoke to flip the racks of beef and pork ribs. In good weather you can eat out back next to an authentic chuck wagon. Inexpensive. — E.B.

UPTOWN & OLD TOWN

Bambu Bistro 3882 Fourth Avenue (at University), Hillcrest, 619-299-9727. How many American chefs do you know who actually went to Asia and learned by working in traditional restaurant kitchens of Vietnam, Indonesia, India? Chef Alexandria did. The result is her Asian Fusion Cuisine. The Bistro is huddled in the corner of a strip mall, but you can still eat under exotic umbrella lampshades (inside) or tropical palapas (outside). The food is fresh, original, and often tasty. Dishes to try include Chinese Chopstick salad (shredded chicken, fried rice noodles, mandarin oranges, toasted almonds), Indo-Chinese burrito with steak (beef, rice noodles covered with a sesame and lime sauce), Drunken Noodles (chicken, steak, shrimp, salmon, or tofu), and Sea Salad (glass noodles, wild salmon, greens). Lunch and dinner six days, closed Sundays. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Bertrand at Mister A's 2550 Fifth Avenue (at Laurel), 12th floor, Banker's Hill, 619-239-1377. Bertrand Hug's airy, open renovation of this formerly "ancient regime" eatery offers a fabled panoramic city view with a casual-chic, highly romantic ambience. Chef Stephane Voitzwinkler's modern French cuisine is a fine fit for the setting, including bistro classics and fresh inventions, emphasizing top-grade seasonal ingredients. A huge, intelligent wine list covers a full range of prices, ages and origins, including "ripe" first-growth Bordeaux. Smoking and fair-weather dining on wraparound terrace/observation deck. Note: parking entrance on Fourth Avenue; wheelchair access via ramp to left of reception desk. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Expensive. — N.W.

Blue Water Seafood Market and Grill 3667 India Street (at Chalmers), midtown, 619-497-0914. This bright, clean charmer a half-block south of El Indio has a double identity: First, it's a retail fish market; aside from Whole Foods, this is the only restaurant-quality fresh raw seafood south of I-8 and west of City Heights. If you love oysters, don't miss the big, buttery bivalves here. Second, it serves simple, terrific seafood to eat in or out. Plates are plastic, but don't look for greasy fried stuff. Entrées are grilled gently until perfectly done, topped with your pick of flavors (the lemon-garlic butter is especially tasty) and come with rice and a huge salad with your choice of terrific house-made dressings. If indecisive, ask what's best that day. The overstuffed grilled fish tacos are messy and perfect, with just the right proportions of ingredients. Reachable only by driving north on India. Metered street parking by day. Good choice of beers; a few affordable wines; \$5 corkage for BYOW. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

Bombay Exotic Cuisine Of India 3975 Fifth Avenue (between University and Washington), Hillcrest, 619-298-3155. We're talking northern India here, right? That means lots of lamb, potatoes, creamy sauces, tandoor-baked breads, chicken, and less of the south's mouth-scalding heat. At least in its daily buffet, Bombay's a lot less spicy, (though their *sag paneer*—creamy, cheesy spinach—delivered a surprising punch). The buffet includes tandoori chicken, assorted *pakorras* (lentil-batter fritters), mock duck, chicken *tikka*, and, if you hit the right day, an addictive mango soup. If you want meat or spicy food, best to order from the menu—say, a creamy *tikka masala* with lamb, or long kebabs of minced lamb (kebab curry), or the rich Bombay Coconut Malai. Tell them whether you want it mild, spicy or, for leather-mouths, *tikki*. For a cheap, light meal, try a couple of lamb *samosas*. And be sure they bring the chutneys, India's real unexplored treasure. Lunch and dinner; buffet at lunch and Monday

evenings only. Sister restaurant, Moonsoon, 729 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-234-5555. Moderate. — E.B.

Brazil by the Hill 142 University Avenue (at Third), Hillcrest, 619-692-1919. (Also Brazil by the Bay, 3770 Hancock Street, Point Loma, 619-692-1410.) The pleasures of the Brazilian table go beyond the orgies of skewered meats served at *rodizios* (e.g. Rei Do Gado and Samba Grill). Here you can eat like a real *carrioca*, sampling typical dishes of Bahia, Rio, and Sao Paulo. You can happily make a grazing meal of "stuffed things" appetizers such as *coxinhas*, *pasteles*, *croquetas*, and *kube* (the Brazilian version of Lebanon's *kibbe*); don't miss the luxuriant fried bananas "Milanese." Ask for the house's Brazilian hot sauce, hotter and livelier than the Mexican bottled sauces on the tables. The main course masterpiece is *moqueca de peixe*, fish in a curry-like coconut milk stew. Other good choices include *prato feito* (beef, fish, or chicken, sprinkled with lemon juice and served over a sea of red beans) or filet mignon with Catupiry, a stroganoff-like concoction made with a rich Brazilian cheese of the same name. Weekends, there's *feijoada*, the Brazilian national dish, but it's a rather thin and soupy version. Beer or wine are better choices than the cloying-sweet sake-based *Caipirinhas*. For dessert, try the passion fruit mousse—light, creamy, intense. Noisy room. Lunch and dinner daily. Reservations accepted, but not needed. Moderate. — N.W.

Brians' American Eatery 1451 Washington Street (near Lincoln), Hillcrest, 619-296-8268. Also at 828 Sixth Avenue, Gaslamp. Note the apostrophe: Not one but two Brians have taken over what had been Topsy's, a venerable coffeehouse/eatery for 40 years. They've done a good job of cleaning it up without gutting the fifties roadhouse character. It's open all night on weekends, and late night is quite a scene. But for a lot of people, breakfast is the thing. The Brians' eight-ounce charbroiled top sirloin steak with eggs and country potatoes is a great Saturday morning treat. Or the "Hey Ricky!!!" an omelet with chorizo, avocado, green chilies, onions, and cheeses. Or ask for their off-menu breakfast special—it's always cheaper. Another good thing: coffee comes by the thermos-full. Three meals until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; open 24 hours from early Friday morning until Sunday evening. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Celadon Royalty Thai Restaurant 540 University Avenue (near Sixth), Hillcrest, 619-297-8424. The menu was originally devised by a chef who cooked for the Siamese royal family. Some dishes taste luxurious, and all the dishes taste authentic—and carefully prepared. The regular entrées offer a choice of sauces (red curry, green curry, etc.) with your choice of protein, but go straight to the Chef's Specialty items on the menu to find the best and rarest. Stuffed chicken wings are extraordinary, seafood soup *talay* is fabulous, and among the entrées, don't miss *choo chee duck* or the Queen of Thailand's favorite, pineapple fried rice. Lunch Monday through Friday, dinner nightly. — N.W.

City Delicatessen 535 University Avenue (at Sixth), Hillcrest, 619-295-2747. Some folk come for the Jewish food (chicken-in-the-pot, brisket of beef, chopped liver), others to soak in the art-deco colors—the cornucopia of fruit above the entrance, the mustard yellow walls, the black-and-white checker tile, or the flower bunches of red, blue, green, and yellow lamps. And then some come for both: the stuffed cabbage roll (with ground beef and rice inside) is a glowering red ball with maroon, oniony, sweet-and-sour raisin sauce to die for, set off by green parsley and bright orange slices. Scandalously delicious. Downsides? Our pastrami sandwich tasted dry and chewy by comparison. But City Deli is less strictly Jewish (they have bacon on their breakfast menu) and more of an everyday New York-style eatery. Wait staff are good-humored and the Seeburg Wall-o-Matic tableside jukeboxes actually work. Bring plenty of quarters. Breakfast all day; early-bird dinner specials; late-night dining. Open from 7 a.m. till midnight; until 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.



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Dakota Grill and Spirits 901 Fifth Avenue (at E Street), Gaslamp, 619-234-5554. The name may hint at cowboy cooking, but look for simple mid-American comfort food at one of the many local eateries under the Cohn Restaurant Group aegis. A typical entrée includes a hunk of red (or "the other white") meat cooked on a wood-fired grill, smeared with a precooked sauce that, for better or worse, first meets its mate on the plate. Meat-avoiders will find fish and poultry dishes, too. Tasty taters but dull veggies come with most entrées. Desserts run to fruity favorites like cobblers, crisps, and upside-down cake. Treats from the wide-ranging beverage list include three-glass wine flights in four styles of wine, and a pleasant house brew, Dakota Pale Ale, that suits the food. The two-floor restaurant offers big plush booths, tall windowed walls, and a piano player gliding from rinky-dink 1950s pop to Fats Waller stylings and Ellingtonian riffs. Valet parking. Full bar. Lunch weekdays; dinner nightly. High moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Darband Fifth Avenue Grill 1556 Fifth Avenue, downtown, 619-230-1001. Darband is named after an exotic mountain resort north of Tehran. Quite a contrast to this sloping office-and-car-park strip of Fifth. Lunchtimes, office workers fill the tables. Evenings feel more, well, Persian. It's mostly men, some playing backgammon, talking, arguing, laughing. With all the Farsi flying round, it feels like a local café back in Tehran. Food is good, fresh, regular Persian. "Khoresh Bademjan" is a tasty baby eggplant and beef stew. "Barg" is a safe bet, too — marinated beef tenderloin with rice. So is the vegetarian plate, though the veggie wrap's cheaper. Of course, kabobs star, as do yogurt-y, cucumber-y, minty flavors. Open lunch and dinner; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

DeMedici 815 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-702-7228. This lovely, cream-and-sepia dining room evokes an Italian Renaissance villa, while its sidewalk patio offers a prime pageant of Gaslamp follies. Either way, you'll enjoy exceptional service — attentive but utterly unobtrusive — and a menu centered on succulent pastas and refined seafood dishes. The nightly specials and the waiter's recommendations for the freshest catch will lead you to the evening's best entrées. Fish dishes are exquisite, and anything with calamari (fresh local catch) is worth ordering; Atlantic shellfish, though, tend to be a tad overcooked. Reserve, and dress on the spiffier side — some Hollywood celebs hang their Borsalinis here, upping the clothing curve. Dinner 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. weekdays, 5 p.m. to midnight weekends. Valet parking available. Moderate (simpler pastas) to very expensive. — N.W.

Dublin Square 554 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-239-5818. The entire pub was hand-crafted in Waterford, shipped over, and installed (by Irish craftsmen) in the Gaslamp. The exterior indeed resembles a real (but very new) Dublin pub; the interior has authentically dim lighting and spirited Irish music, including live bands (acoustic but loud) during happy hours and some evenings. If you're looking for food, too, there's a fine corned beef and cabbage, resembling the corned beef of Katz's Deli on the Lower East Side — it's that wee touch o' the garlic that does the trick. Other choices include Guinness beef stew, shepherd's pie (made with ground beef), steaks, lamb medallion, fish and chips, and grilled fish, plus standard pub grub. Lunch and dinner (including Irish breakfast anytime) daily. Moderate. — N.W.

Kansas City Barbecue 610 West Market Street (at Harbor Drive), downtown, 619-231-9680. Scrumptious smells waft across the tracks at the Seaport Village trolley stop — barbecued pork and beef. And yeah, this is the joint where Tom Cruise and Kelly McGillis did their "sleazy bar scene" in *Top Gun*. And it is kinda sleazy, especially in the shadowy horseshoe bar, with memorabilia like hanging bras, Czech license plates, and stickers ("Grow Your Own Dope: Plant A Man"). The beef and pork ribs (or rib tips or chicken breast)

are worth it. They're cooked over an oak-fueled fire. Nice long happy hour (3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at bar only) has great food/grub deals. Open daily, lunch until late, serving until 1 a.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Max New York Steakhouse and Seafood 827 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-235-8500. As steakhouses go, Max is a good value, offering huge portions of fine, gently raised near-organic meat, cooked to order and offered at relatively gentle prices. You don't even have to pay extra for your veggies. For beef, there's full-flavored naturally raised Angus or butter-tender Kobe-style Wagyu beef. Or you can choose a giant rack of lamb, so tender it should be called Certified *agnus*. Sauces tend to be pedestrian; request them on the side. The classic steakhouse appetizers are done with some smart twists. Superb international wine list at below-average markups, including plenty by the glass. Full bar. Valet parking, or inexpensive lot via alley two doors north. Open nightly, until midnight on weekends. Upper moderate to very expensive. — N.W.

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Sidebar Deli California Western School of Law, corner of Second and Cedar, downtown, 619-525-1444. The motto of this place is "Every day's a good day, but some days are better than others." It certainly applies to the Sidebar, just because the daily specials can be gone in a flash. Students have fought class actions to secure lunch specials like spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread. Of course there are always breakfast burritos, breakfast sandwiches like bacon or sausage and cheese, French Dip sandwiches, or California wraps. Open to the public, breakfast and lunch, weekdays. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Stingaree 454 Sixth Avenue (between J and K), Gaslamp, 619-544-0867. This huge restaurant has a nightclub on the mezzanine and an outdoor lounge on the roof. The Mediterranean food by chef Antonio Friscia comes in three plate sizes — little, medium, and large. It's a built-in invitation to graze and share if you want to keep it light before you go dancing. The fare features premium, naturally raised meats, wild fish, and local organic vegetables. The rich international wine list is steep, but there's plenty by the glass; full bar. Friday and Saturday nights, dinner is a three- or four-course prix fixe only (your choices from the à la carte menu), but that gets you free entry into the club. Reservations advisable, urged for weekends. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday; rooftop noshing on Sunday afternoons. Diners very expensive. — N.W.

Strip Club 340 Fifth Avenue (at J Street), Gaslamp, 619-231-3140. This grill-your-own steak joint is a homage to Golden Hill's Turf Supper Club — but if Turf is a low-budget indie cult film, Strip Club is the Gaslamp's big, brassy, high-budget Hollywood remake (even though prices, like those of movie tickets, are roughly the same). It's loud and handsome, and if the USDA Choice steaks (available in numerous cuts) are not quite as flavorful as Turf's, they're still good enough for the price — and you can take them up a notch with numerous spice blends and sauces on hand at each gas grill. Other choices include burgers, chicken breast, ahi tuna steak, and meat or seafood kabobs (the shrimp is particularly good, with peppers, onions, and meaty hunks of portobello mushroom). Entrées come with salad and puffy, cook-it-yourself garlic bread, resembling hamburger buns with gigantiasis. Six veg and starch side dishes (including two types of gluey mashed potatoes) are available at extra cost; desserts are commercial ice cream novelties. Casual, no reservations, street-patio dining available. Over 21 only, no minors even with adult accompaniment. Dinners nightly, open until midnight Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

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Lovelorn

Powerful unseen forces work just as doggedly to keep them apart.

John Carney's sadly beautiful *Once* is a musical for people who only *think* they hate musicals, and not just because it boasts virtues seldom associated with the genre, such as realism, intimacy, and low-key verisimilitude.

Musical-bashers often complain about the suspension of disbelief required for spectacles

in which characters spontaneously break out into song-and-dance routines, but *Once's* songs are integrated into the story so organically that it'd be unrealistic if the characters *weren't* largely immersed in them. They are musicians, after all, and the songs they sing say more about their characters than any monologue possibly could.

In a stunning lead performance, Glen Hansard of the Irish pop group the Frames stars as a lovelorn street musician who bares his heart and soul in every wildly emotive song but keeps people at a wary distance in his personal life. While busking one day, Hansard encounters Markéta Irglová, a lonely immigrant, mother, and gifted singer-pianist. Irglová and Hansard have an instant musical chemistry, but they're too shy and conflicted to let

their creative connection lead to bigger things. When Hansard recruits Irglová to work on a demo he's recording, long, productive nights spent realizing Hansard's musical vision and a joyous shared creative alchemy push them together, while equally powerful unseen forces work just as doggedly to keep them apart.

REVIEWS
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Once's songs are delicate yet shatteringly powerful, and they gain a whole new resonance from the way they express emotions that the film's tragically repressed characters keep bottled up. In a genre full of dreamy escapism and madcap flights of fancy, this ingratiatingly scruffy, slice-of-working-class-life treasure is brave enough to be quiet and restrained, yet littered with moments of transcendence, musical and otherwise. In its own subdued, mellow way, *Once* is just about perfect. Imagine Belle and Sebastian remaking *In the Mood for Love* as a heartbreaking low-fi musical, and you have a fair approximation of the film's melancholy, unexpected genius.

— By Nathan Rabin
A.V. Club Rating: A



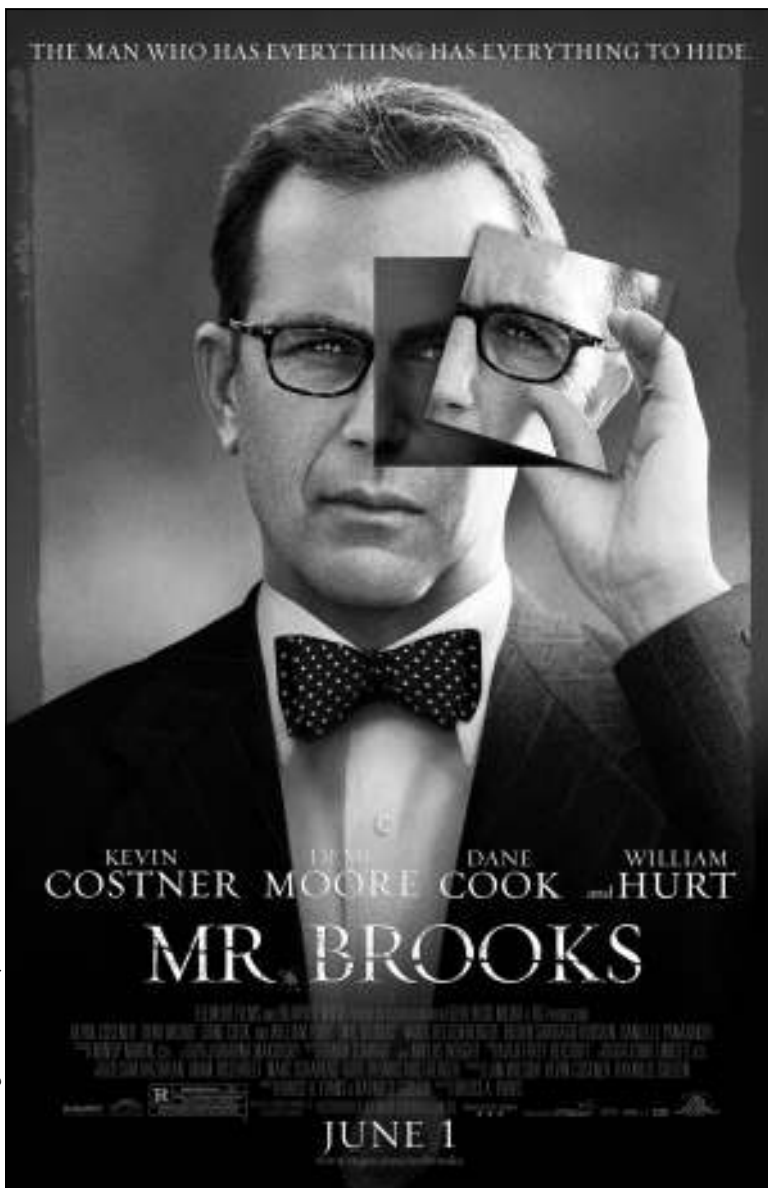
Once

From Wong Kar-wai to Quentin Tarantino, Jean-Luc Godard has inspired many major filmmakers, but few of his acolytes are as eager to devote their careers to an endless series of Godardian left turns, dead ends, detours, arty experiments, and weird inside jokes with the audience as Hal Hartley is. Hartley's latest, *Fay Grim*,

piles creative perversities atop one another like Russian nesting dolls. The idiosyncrasies begin with Hartley's choice to make a sequel to *Henry Fool* in which Thomas Jay Ryan's larger-than-life title character — a charismatic amalgamation of Falstaff and *Confederacy Of Dunces'* Ignatius J. Reilly — barely turns in a cameo. Ryan

is such a spectral yet pervasive presence in *Fay Grim* that alerting audiences to his appearance would qualify as a spoiler if not for that pesky opening credit, "Thomas Jay Ryan as Henry Fool."

On paper, at least, *Fay Grim* looks like a relatively commercial proposition. It's a sequel to one of



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Hartley's most successful films in a popular genre (spy thriller), with movie stars like Jeff Goldblum and Saffron Burrows augmenting the Hartley regulars. But leave it to Hartley to steer in the least commercial direction imaginable. *Fay Grim* picks up long after the events of *Henry Fool*: Ryan's big-talker has disappeared, leaving wife Parker Posey with a 14-year-old son who's all too eager to follow in dad's footsteps. Ryan's handwritten "confessions" turn out to be the crucial linchpin in an international game of espionage that sends Posey rocketing across the globe in search of answers.

Fay Grim initially mines ample laughs from the strange juxtaposition of Hartley's deadpan quirks and the high-stakes world of the international thriller. Sadly, there's a thin line between goofing irreverently on the maddeningly convoluted nature of spy thrillers and actually being a muddled mess, and *Fay Grim* crosses it constantly during its deadly second hour. Ryan's reappearance gives the film a much-needed boost of garrulous energy, but it's too little, too late. As with Godard, there comes a point where the playfulness stops being fun and becomes faintly punishing. Let's just hope Hartley never embraces Marx. Then all will truly be lost.

— Nathan Rabin
A.V. Club Rating: C+

There are two possible explanations for the sleepy, lazy, uncommitted tone of *Shrek the Third*, the latest outing in DreamWorks' hit franchise about a cranky CGI ogre. One is that everyone involved knew it would make money no matter what, so there was no reason to expend more effort than necessary. The other is that the writers secretly assumed that at some point between the first *Shrek* sequel and this one, their titular ogre accidentally castrated himself in a far-fetched comic mishap.

The former explanation makes more real-world sense, but the latter one might explain why such a previously dynamic, aggressive character spends the entirety of *Shrek the Third* sheepishly responding to the usual cartoon mayhem with docile chuckles and weak, distracted temper. But his lack of drive is typical of the entire movie. This time around, Shrek and his wife Fiona (Cameron Diaz) are subbing for her father the king (John Cleese), with zany results that provide the film's best gags, and much of its trailer. When the king dies, Shrek avoids succeeding him by seeking out another heir, Arthur Pendragon (Justin Timberlake). Meanwhile, Prince Charming (Rupert Everett) is out to take over the kingdom yet again, and Fiona is pregnant, which gives Shrek a mild case of the twitches over how a baby might change his life. There's a vague message here about living up to responsibility, but there's no resonance to the halfhearted execution, which trots out all the old characters with a shrug and a few lame Ye Olde Fairy-Tale Worlde gags, like a high school where bullies pin "I suck-eth" signs on their victims' backs and the anti-drug slogan of the day is "Just Say Nay."

Sequels usually follow the rubric "same thing as last time, but more." *Shrek the Third* instead goes for less: fewer jokes, less energy, and toned-down characters reiterating old banter,

as if from a half-finished outline of a script that never got its planned punch-up. If the film were a little better, the sketchy sexual politics — self-empowered women who still can't run a kingdom, emasculated men cringing in the shadows of their wives and mommies — might be offensive. But it's hard to meet this film with anything but a yawn, even when returning comic duo Eddie Murphy and Antonio Banderas follow the film's climactic burp, fart, and barf-fest with a cheerful rendition of "Thank You (Falletinme Be Mice Elf Agin)" that sounds like bald mockery of the audience: "Thanks for paying to watch us coast, guys." ■

— By Tasha Robinson
A.V. Club Rating: D

MOVIE LISTINGS

Duncan Shepherd is on summer leave; he returns in the fall. Capsule reviews are by J.R. Jones, Jonathan Rosenbaum, and Andrea Gronvall, reprinted by permission from the Chicago Reader.

Away from Her — However great Julie Christie might be, she's not generally regarded as a tragedienne. Yet after seeing this wonderful adaptation of Alice Munro's story "The Bear Came Over the Mountain," I began to think of Christie's roles in *Petulia* (1968) and *McCabe and Mrs. Miller* (1971) as way stations toward this career-defining

performance. She plays a stylish woman in a successful 44-year marriage who struggles to keep her dignity after finding herself afflicted with Alzheimer's. The other leads (Michael Murphy, Olympia Dukakis, and Gordon Pinsent as Christie's husband) are fine as well, but it's Christie who places this powerful love story about the cruelties of aging within hailing distance of Leo McCarey's sublime *Make Way for Tomorrow*. This is a film I expect to be carrying around with me for quite some time. Canadian actress Sarah Polley wrote and directed, in her feature debut. — J.R.

Black Book — Paul Verhoeven's triumphant 2006 return to Dutch

cinema after 20 years of Hollywood releases (*Total Recall*, *Basic Instinct*, *Starship Troopers*) is commercial moviemaking of the highest order, superbly mounted and paced. Its story of a sexy Jewish singer (Carice Van Houten) who poses as a Nazi for the Dutch resistance during World War II is based on 40 years of research and 20 years of script development with cowriter Gerard Soeteman (*Soldier of Orange*). Like much of Verhoeven's best work, it's shamelessly melodramatic, but in its dark moral complexities it puts *Schindler's List* to shame. Van Houten and Sebastian Koch (*The Lives of Others*) are only two of the standouts in an exceptional cast. In English and subtitled Dutch, Ger-

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man, and Hebrew. — J.R.

Blades of Glory — Will Ferrell and Jon Heder are rival figure skaters whose public brawl gets them banned from competition for life; after learning that they're still eligible for the pairs category, they decide to team up on the ice. "As if figure skating wasn't gay enough already," remarks one character, precisely locating the movie's comic nerve ending — you just know these guys are going to wind up with their balls in each other's faces. Ben Stiller produced, and the movie is so reminiscent of *Zoolander* (2001) that I wish he had rounded up Owen Wilson and starred in it himself. Ferrell and Heder are pretty funny, but they're consistently upstaged by supporting players William Fichtner, Will Arnett, and Amy Poehler. The first-time directors are Will Speck and Josh Gordon. — J.R.J.



Fay Grim

Bug — Psychological thriller starring Ashley Judd and Michael Shannon; directed by William Friedkin.

Delta Force — Larry the Cable

Guy, Bill Engvall, and D.J. Qualls are national guardsmen who ship out for Fallujah but mistakenly wind up in Mexico, where they defend a village from bandits. C.B. Harding directed this unfunny comedy. — J.R.J.

Disturbia — The pitch must have sounded like a no-brainer: a teenage, suburban remake of *Rear Window*, updated with digital technology. This time the bored voyeuristic hero (Shia LaBeouf) who's spying on his suspicious neighbor (David Morse) is under

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monitored house arrest for slugging his Spanish teacher. And this did keep me alert for a while, thanks partly to Sarah Roemer (who has some of Cybill Shepherd's insolence) in the Grace Kelly part and Carrie-Anne Moss as the hero's hot mother. If you're happy to watch a thriller about a tenth as good as Alfred Hitchcock's, director D.J. Caruso and screenwriters Christopher B. Landon and Carl Ellsworth hold up their end of the deal, at least until the proceedings devolve into standard horror-movie effects and minimal motivations. But of course Hitchcock's original never had to resort to thunder and lightning to goose up the suspense. — J.R.

The Ex — Even likable star Zach Braff can't salvage this clunker, a sour comedy about a fired Manhattan chef who moves his wife (Amanda Peet) and new baby to Ohio and takes a job there at his father-in-law's ad agency. As in *The Last Kiss*, Braff plays a man-child forced to grow up, but here his big obstacle is Jason Bateman, an alpha-male creative in a wheelchair who dated Peet in high school (and still has her panties). Artificial situations and feeble dialogue limit the laughs, despite the ad business setting — a missed opportunity for parody. Instead screenwriters David Guion and Michael Handelman play coy, pretending to make fun of the handicapped when the running joke is really that old saw about which guy's is bigger. With Charles Grodin and Mia Farrow, who deserve a better director than Jesse Peretz. — A.G.

Fay Grim — Reviewed this issue. With Parker Posey, Jeff Goldblum, and James Urbaniak; directed by Hal Hartley.

Fracture — An engineer (Anthony Hopkins) goes on trial in Los Angeles for trying to murder his wife (Embeth Davidtz), and the prosecutor (Ryan Gosling) attempts to push through what appears to be an open-and-shut case but isn't. With its lavish architecture and Spielbergian lighting, this absorbing thriller has a high-toned look, but director Gregory Hoblit and writers Daniel Pyne and Glenn Gers got much of their training in TV cop shows, which shows in the adroit way they semaphorically abbreviate certain characters and plot developments to slide us past various incongruities. The main interest here is the juxtaposing of Gosling's Method acting with Hopkins's more classical style, a spectacle even more mesmerizing than the settings. With David Strathairn and Rosamund Pike. — J.R.

Georgia Rule — Lindsay Lohan's absenteeism on the set of this family drama prompted an angry letter from the CEO of Morgan Creek Productions calling her "discourteous, irresponsible, and unprofessional," but if she'd had any sense she'd never have shown up at all. Another flabby big-screen sitcom from *Happy Days* creator Garry Marshall, it stars Lohan as a California wild child whose fed-up mother (Felicity Huffman) parks her in Idaho with her rigid, God-fearing grandmother (Jane Fonda). The confused script trades in such heavy topics as alcoholism and child sex-

ual abuse, but every dramatic scene plays like one of those schmaltzy *Happy Days* moments that inevitably drew a big "Awwwww!" from the studio audience. With Dermot Mulroney and Cary Elwes. — J.R.J.

Grindhouse — Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez's celebration of '70s-style sleaze, 191 minutes long including a short intermission, seems ideally suited for gleeful, mean-spirited 11-year-old boys who can sneak into this double bill despite the R rating. I enjoyed the invented trailers the directors fold into the mix, but despite the jokey "missing reels," these two full-length features are each 20 minutes longer than they need to be, and neither one makes much sense as narrative. Rodriguez's "Planet Terror" is virtually nothing but gross-out gags involving castration, dismemberment, mass murder, zombies, and Osama bin Laden. Tarantino's "Death Proof" starts off as a meandering look at Austin's Tex-Mex joints — there's more gab here than in any of his work since the start of *Reservoir Dogs* — then gravitates into a blend of *Faster*, *Pussycat! Kill! Kill!*, *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls*, and stunt-driving movies, culminating in some well-filmed action and more celebratory killing. With Rose McGowan, Freddy Rodriguez, Josh Brolin, Kurt

Russell, Rosario Dawson, and Zoe Bell. — J.R.

Hot Fuzz — After scoring with the horror spoof *Shaun of the Dead*, British comedy writers Edgar Wright and Simon Pegg take on American cop thrillers, and as in their earlier movie the good humor bubbles up from a deep reservoir of affection for Hollywood schlock. Pegg, who played the underachieving Shaun of the earlier movie, plays it ramrod straight this time as an overachieving London patrolman assigned to a sleepy country village. Roly-poly Nick Frost also returns, as Pegg's partner, an incompetent bobby with a head full of melodrama derived from blockbusters like *Point Break* and *Bad Boys II*. The transplanted action clichés mix easily with the eccentric English characters, and as a director Wright is adept at framing and cutting for excitement as well as laughs. — J.R.J.

The Invisible — A troubled teenage punk (Margarita Levieva) believes she's killed a classmate (Justin Chatwin) and hides his body in the woods, but he's still breathing, and while he's unconscious his spirit roams around, visible only to animals. Adapted from a 2002 Swedish film that was based in turn on a novel by Mats Wahl, this feature by David S. Goyer wasn't

SEEN ON DVD

OPEN OPTICS

DJ/producer, Genius of Soul

My first pick would have to be the bootleg copy of *Blades of Glory* — the skating comedy that stars Will Ferrell and Jon Heder — that my homie hooked me up with. You can't even tell it was shot in the theater until you see someone walk in and sit down in front of the camera. Apparently, bootleggers have stepped it up recently.

Man with a Movie Camera, Dziga Vertov's 1929 silent film, would have to be my second pick. On this Ninja Tune DVD, the Cinematic Orchestra supplies a breathtaking soundtrack that extraordinarily accompanies Vertov's visuals of a day in the life of the Soviet Union. I couldn't recommend this more. If you can't find the DVD, buy the soundtrack as well as Cinematic's new album that dropped last month. It's stellar!

BLADES OF GLORY (USA) 2007, Paramount

List price: Not available yet

MAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA (Soviet Union) 1929, Ninja Tune

List price: \$29.99

ID

Vocals/percussion, Genius of Soul, www.geniusofsoul.com

My pick is the Bob Dylan documentary *No Direction Home*, just 'cause there's a lot of rare footage of Dylan performing back in the day. With Scorsese's human touch, it really conveys the feeling of the times. It also gives multiple and conflicting perspectives of history, effectively letting viewers decide for themselves what to think. Great for both musicians and non-musicians.

The Search for Animal Chin is the best skateboard movie ever. It stars the Bones Brigade: Tony Hawk, Lance Mountain, Tommy Guerrero, Steve Caballero, and Mike McGill. The legendary skateboard crew searches the globe for the soul of skateboarding: Animal Chin. It blows *Gleaming the Cube* out of the water especially because these guys do all their own skating. (Rodney Mullen was Christian Slater's stunt double in *GTC*.) The plot is about discovering the soul of skateboarding, so they just skate in bitchin' skate spots the whole time.

NO DIRECTION HOME (England/USA/Japan) 2005, Paramount

List price: \$19.99

THE SEARCH FOR ANIMAL CHIN (Canada/USA) 1987, Powell Skateboards

List price: \$34.99

TIM FELTEN

Rhodes/sampler, Genius of Soul

Team America: World Police, from *South Park* creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone, has the best soundtrack of any movie on earth. Timeless tracks like the "Montage" song and Kim Jung-il's monologue/song "I'm So Ronery" make this my favorite pick on DVD. This movie is ingenious and funny on so many different levels. It is brilliant. Oh, and did I mention — it's all done with marionettes, like the old *Thunderbirds*.

I also like *Little Miss Sunshine*, which stars Toni Collette, Greg Kinnear, and Steve Carell. This movie is hands down the best one I've seen on DVD this year. It is absolutely hilarious. And, like *Team America*, it is brilliant and funny on so many levels. It won an Oscar for best screenplay.

TEAM AMERICA: WORLD POLICE (USA) 2004, Paramount

List price: \$12.98

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE (USA) 2006, Twentieth Century Fox

List price: \$29.99

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There's Something About

Mary — Farrelly Brothers comedy starring Ben Stiller, Matt Dillon, and Cameron Diaz.

300 — Frank Miller's graphic novel about the Battle of Thermopylae,

where 300 Spartans battled the entire Persian army in 480 B.C., has been adapted into a CG sword-and-sandal epic. The disconnect between the human actors and the digital backgrounds is more pronounced here than in a futuristic adventure like *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*, and because classic Hollywood cinema is so rich with epic images of antiquity, this can't help but seem chintzy. Still there are some striking ones — a dead tree

studded with soldiers' bodies, hundreds of arrows swarming through the air like flies — though the palette leans mostly toward bluish backgrounds and dark crimson blood spray. Zack Snyder (the *Dawn of the Dead* remake) directed; intoning dramatically against green screens are Gerard Butler, Lena Headey, and Dominic West. — J.R.J.

28 Weeks Later — Director Danny Boyle and the original cast have all bailed out, but this sequel to the apocalyptic splatter flick *28 Days Later* (2002) is still well equipped to rip your face off. By now the highly contagious "rage virus" has swept the entire British mainland, its psychotic victims have all died of starvation, and a U.S.-led multinational force has established a sort of Green Zone whose shell-shocked residents are supposed to repopulate the island. But after the quarantined population is infected, snipers are ordered to shoot the healthy and the crazed alike. Juan Carlos Fresnadillo directed; with Rose Byrne, Robert Carlyle, Jeremy Renner, and Catherine McCormack. — J.R.J.



Shrek the Third

The Valet — After a tabloid publishes a photo of a corporate titan (Daniel Auteuil) with his supermodel mistress (Alice Taglioni), his attorney tries to spin the situation by locating the homely parking valet (Gad Elmaleh) who happened into the frame and paying him to pose as the model's lover. Writer-director

Francis Veber (*The Dinner Game*) has been compared to everyone from Molière to Blake Edwards, but this sublime French farce reminded me most of Billy Wilder (whose last feature, *Buddy Buddy*, was adapted from a Veber play). As in Wilder's signature comedies, a hard shell of cynicism cracks with the swelling of a sincere and respectful friendship — in this case, between the valet and the model as they compare notes on their unhappy love lives and the value of physical beauty. In French with subtitles. — J.R.J.

Waitress — The late Adrienne Shelly, best known for her roles in *Sleep With Me* and Hal Hartley's *Trust* and *The Unbelievable Truth*, wrote and directed half a dozen films, three of them features, but this tangy, resourceful comedy-drama is the first I've seen. Keri Russell plays a gifted pie baker and abused housewife who waits tables at a diner along with two romantically frustrated coworkers (Cheryl Hines and Shelly) and unexpectedly finds herself pregnant. The film isn't averse to reaching for Hollywood fantasies, but there's a lot of what seems to be hard-earned wisdom here about women in bad marriages. The men tend to be either idealized (hunky Nathan Fillion, patriarchal Andy Griffith) or monstrosously geeky (Jeremy Sisto and Eddie Jemison), and Shelly clearly had fun with all of these caricatures. — J.R.

Year of the Dog — After scripting two relatively mainstream comedies, *School of Rock* and *Nacho Libre*, Mike White makes his debut as writer-director with a story that harks back to his creepy *Chuck and Buck* (2000). Like the emotionally retarded Buck, the main character here is sweet and innocent but also disturbed, a giving, middle-aged secretary (strikingly played by Molly Shannon) whose grief over the accidental poisoning of her beloved beagle curdles into an increasingly belligerent defense of animal rights. Manohla Dargis has called this a movie about "empathy as a state of grace," but a more unpleasant countertheme emerges in the single woman's unspoken anger toward men. Despite the gimmicky direction and a disappointing climax, this is a distinctive and unsettling comedy. With Regina King, John C. Reilly, Peter Sarsgaard, Josh Pais, and Laura Dern. — J.R.J.

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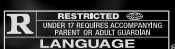
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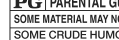
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Propuesta a favor

América Barceló

Diario San Diego

Con el anuncio de la propuesta de iniciativa de ley migratoria que emitió el Senado del país crecen las perspectivas e ilusiones para migrantes indocumentados.

El compás de espera para millones de inmigrantes se redujo cuando se dio a conocer el acuerdo preliminar entre senadores republicanos y demócratas.

Los negociadores del Senado para la reforma migratoria alcanzaron un

plan tentativo que abre la puerta a la legalización de indocumentados, quienes deberán pagar una multa de cinco mil dólares además de pasar por un proceso de puntos para alcanzar la legalización.

De acuerdo a los senadores, esta medida se ve como la mejor opción que pueda ser debatida en el Congreso este verano, no obstante la propuesta levantó innumerables reacciones encontradas entre activistas hispanos y líderes comunitarios.

general



Sufre México

Servicios Diario San Diego

Más de 23 personas perdieron su vida en México en acciones relacionadas con el crimen organizado, que también tiene a varias personas secuestradas, según los reportes de ese país.

José Nemesio Lugo Félix, coordinador general de Información contra la Delincuencia del Centro Nacional de Análisis y Planeación contra la Delincuencia de la PGR, fue asesina-

do en Coyoacán, Distrito Federal, por al menos dos sicarios durante la semana pasada.

En Tijuana, el comandante operativo de la Agencia Federal de Investigación (AFI), Jorge Alatríste Mendoza, fue encontrado sin vida el 14 de mayo.

Cananea, Sonora, quedó sorprendida al tener un saldo de 22 personas muertas (15 sicarios, cinco policías y dos civiles) el pasado 16 de mayo.

cine



Buena cinta

Eleazar López

Diario San Diego

En plena promoción se encuentra el director mexicano Salvador Carrasco con su película épica 'La otra conquista', cinta de buen corte y con una gran historia desde otro punto de vista del arribo de los españoles a tierras aztecas, centrada en esa lucha de culturas, espiritual y psicológica durante la colonización.

A pesar de que la cinta se estrenó en 1999 rompiendo todos los récords de taqui-

lla como película mexicana, hasta ahora le dan un segundo aire y promocionan la salida del DVD de esta magnífica cinta.

'La otra conquista', situada en el año 1520, cuenta una vieja historia como lo es la conquista española de México de 1521 desde la perspectiva azteca. La película muestra la lucha de Topiltizín, un hijo del emperador Moctezuma, por preservar la identidad religiosa y cultural de su pueblo ante la invasión de los españoles.

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América Barceló

Diario San Diego

A pesar de que la semana pasada se dio a conocer una propuesta tentativa de ley para la reforma migratoria a ser debatida en el Congreso, la aprobación de leyes locales contra indocumentados sigue en aumento.

Hace tan sólo pocas semanas que en tres estados se aprobaron leyes anti-inmigrantes, y en Arizona, desde hace más de 21 días, se prohíbe la contratación de jornaleros en las calles, además de otras propuestas establecidas localmente.

Una ordenanza de la ley local que fue aprobada por votantes en Texas prohíbe rentar viviendas a inmigrantes indocumentados.

Además, la semana pasada el Gobernador de Oklahoma firmó una ley que prohíbe dar trabajo a indocumentados.

Este tipo de ordenanzas aprobadas por gobiernos locales se siguen expandiendo en el país, de los cuales el Condado de San Diego no es la excepción.

Varias han sido las propuestas de ley municipales contra migrantes indocumentados que han salido a la luz y que han sido aprobadas, sobre todo en el Norte del Condado.

Durante el verano pasado la ciudad de Vista aprobó una ley municipal que ordena a los empleadores registrarse ante el Ayuntamiento antes de contratar servicios de jornaleros.



Ogro millonario

Servicios Diario San Diego

La cinta de dibujos animados Shrek the Third, encabezó la taquilla del fin de semana en las salas de cine de Estados Unidos y Canadá, y rompió el récord que había marcado con la segunda parte de la serie, de acuerdo con estadísticas difundidas el pasado domingo.

La película debutó con una recaudación de 122 millones de dólares y se convirtió así en el film de dibujos animados que más ha embolsado en su estreno. En el 2004, Shrek 2 obtuvo esa marca, con ingresos de 108 millones de dólares.

Producida por DreamWorks Animation y distribuida por Paramount, Shrek the Third fue el tercer debut más importante de los que se hayan regis-

trado hasta ahora, después de los 151.1 millones de dólares embolsados este mes por Spider Man 3 y los 135.6 millones de la película Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest, del 2006.

Los ejecutivos de DreamWorks Animation y Paramount esperaban que el estreno fuera similar al de la versión anterior.

"El estreno excedió bastante nuestras expectativas", expresó Anne Globe, directora de mercadotecnia de DreamWorks Animation.

Si se suman los 900 mil dólares que embolsó durante el preestreno, Shrek the Third recaudó 122.9 millones de dólares.

La película cuenta con las voces de Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Antonio Banderas y Justin Timberlake.



Una gran final

Servicios Diario San Diego

Águilas del América se medirán este viernes ante Tuzos de Pachuca en la final del Torneo de Clausura 2007, luego de eliminar a Chivas de Guadalajara al derrotarlos 2-0 en el marcador global de la semifinal.

Ismael Rodríguez, fue el héroe para Águilas al llegar al minuto 76 y convertir por América, en el juego de vuelta al hacer el 1-0 en Jalisco, antes, a media semana las acciones del Estadio Azteca favorecieron a los del Distrito Federal con un gol, obra de Ismael Rodríguez.

En el 27, del partido de vuelta, Gonzalo Pineda quedó expulsado de la cancha por juego brusco.

Y con un hombre me-

nos en la cancha, Guadalajara dominó, pero con el consentimiento del América, despreocupado por tener la pelota y con una apuesta a su especialidad, el contragolpe; los visitantes llegaron en par de oportunidades con Cuauhtémoc Blanco en el 38 y Salvador Cabañas, al 43, carentes de puntería.

Blanco disparó a segundo palo y estuvo cerca del gol; en el 76 América sí lo logró. Cabañas puso un servicio a Blanco, el balón quedó rebotado y con un cabezazo de Ismael Rodríguez, marcó el 0-1 que puso la semifinal 2-0.

Chivas dominaron en los finales ante un América bien plantado, con el portero Ochoa en una jornada iluminada.

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JOB FAIR

Wednesday, May 30, 2007
9:00 am-12:00 pm

- Located off I-5, exit Genesee West, left at Science Park Rd./Hilton Driveway
- Please self-park - validation available
- Or visit us during our application hours
Tuesday 9 am-12 pm or Wednesdays
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COME JOIN A GREAT TEAM

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| • Guest Service Agent | • Restaurant Server |
| • Night Auditor | • Host |
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| • Security Officer | • Mini Bar Attendant |
| • Banquet Houseperson | • Barista |
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| | • Food Runner |

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GENERAL LABOR: Event Production company seeking Set/Strike Personnel to set up, tear down, load and unload props. Flexible hours. Own transportation and valid driver's license required. Apply 10am-1pm Monday/Tuesday: 7140 Engineer Road, 92111, 858-623-8115.

GENERAL OFFICE. San Diego and North County. Busy office requires multitasking, good communication, organization and planning skills. Computer literate. Background/drug test required. Benefits. Fax resume 888-369-9229 or e-mail wmaplicants@aol.com.

GRAPHIC ARTIST. Part-time, immediate opening for monthly publication. Check web: www.chirocom.com. Call Dr. Winter, 858-273-5113.

GRAPHIC ARTIST/WEB DESIGNER Manager. Skilled in Corel Draw, Illustrator, Photoshop. Typesetting with good typing/spelling skills, detail oriented, multitasking and dependable. Experience with skill-screening process a plus. Miramar. Call Steve: 1-800-566-9677 or fax resume: 619-209-6510.

GROCERY. Whole Foods Market, La Jolla is now hiring: Bakery Associate Team Leader, Customer Service Team Member, Chefs/Cooks, Dishwashers, Prepared Food Team Members and Meat Team Member. All shifts. Medical, dental, vision, 401(k). Apply online: www.wholefoods.com or at 8825 Villa La Jolla Drive, La Jolla 92037. 858-642-6700.

GROCERY/NATURAL FOODS. Now hiring! Grocery Clerks (Carlsbad), Vitamin Clerk and Cashiers (Del Mar). \$9.00-\$16.50 per hour. Great environment, competitive pay, bonus and benefits. Jimbo's Naturally! 12853 El Camino real, Del Mar. Fax: 858-793-7732. hr@jimbos.com, www.jimbos.com.

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All shifts: mornings, afternoons, evenings and overnight. Medical, dental, vision, 401(k) and stock purchase.

Apply online at: www.wholefoods.com
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Sales experience preferred but not required. Base plus commission, plus bonuses, great benefits, medical, dental, company matching 401(k), great hours. Sorrento Valley. Top five Sales Reps all made over \$100K last year. Real advancement opportunities! Call Lucas Stokes for interview at 858-362-6125 or email stokesl@Homes.com.

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INSTALLERS/HVAC. 5 years minimum experience, up-to-date on current codes, motivated. ARS offers great benefits and a drug-free work environment. CSL#791820. To apply, please Kevin: 858-677-5455, x113; or apply online: www.jobswithars.com.

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JOB COACH/COMMUNITY Training Specialist. \$9.18/hour to start. Assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits. EOE. Apply Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax: 619-281-0453. www.vistahill.org.

JOB COACHES. Community-oriented. Center for Independent Achievement is seeking dependable individuals in East County; 1:4 group ratio maximum. \$8.50-\$9.50/hour. Annual raises. Bonuses for exceptional performance. Benefits with full-time. pficareer@yahoo.com. Call 619-440-6802, or fax 619-440-6864.

JOB FAIR. Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines, Wednesday, 5/30/07, 9am-12pm. Come join a great team! Guest Service Agent, Night Auditor, Group Rooms Coordinator, Catering Coordinator, Security Officer, Banquet Houseperson, Line Cook, Housekeeping Room Attendant, Restaurant Server, Host, Bussperson, Room Service Order Taker, Mini Bar Attendant, Barista, Dishwasher, Food Runner. Also hiring, part time: Guest Service Agent, Bellperson, and Restaurant Server. Located off I-5, exit Genesee West, left at Science Park Road/Hilton Driveway. Apply in person: Tuesdays, 9am-12pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1pm-4pm. Jobline: 858-450-4543. EOE/AA.

LAUNDRY LEAD. Performs operations of procedure, equipment, machines to ensure efficient operation. Apply: Raphael's Party Rentals, 8606 Miramar Road. E-mail: hr@raphaels.com; Fax: 858-689-8040. Drug-free workplace/EOE.



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MUSIC SURVEY. No selling. Need telephone interviewers for consumer surveys for radio station. Sunday-Friday, 2:00pm-8:00pm. Up to \$10/hour. Be dependable, have basic computer/telephone skills. 619-442-5325; www.callout.com.

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NURSING: DSD. Full time, benefits. 7760 Parkway Drive, La Mesa. Call 619-469-0124 x19.

NURSING: Licensed Nurses and CNAs. Full/part time. Benefits, sign-on bonus. 7760 Parkway Drive, La Mesa. Call 619-469-0124 x11.

OB-GYN CLINIC needs Nurse Practitioner, Physician's Assistant, and Ultrasound Technician. Willing to train in Cosmetic procedures. Part-time/Full-time. Fax resume to 858-578-9065.

OFFICE PERSONAL ASSISTANT. Immediate full-time, \$10/hour, benefits. Answer phones, file/distribute mail/faxes, maintain/order office supplies. MS Word/Outlook. Punctual. For interview, e-mail: todd@midpointfinancial.com.

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OUTCOMES DATA SPECIALIST: We are seeking qualified candidates to work in our aftercare department which is located at our downtown alcohol and drug services center. You would collect data from past clients and enter data into database to determine the effectiveness of program services and to provide documentation for contract compliance. If you have an AA degree and proven experience working with data collection and data entry, then we want to talk to you. Excellent customer service and communication skills required. Attention to detail essential. (\$9.00-\$9.90/hr). Please call HR at 619-228-2047, e-mail us at hr@voa-swalc.org or mail your resume to Volunteers of America Southwest California, 3350 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 300, San Diego, CA 92128. EEO/Affirmative Action Employer.

PACKAGE HANDLERS. UPS is hiring for permanent, part-time positions in Chula Vista, San Diego and San Marcos. Great opportunities—we promote from within! Excellent pay starting at \$8.50/hour, \$9/hour after 90 days. Excellent benefits: Medical, dental, vision, paid holidays/vacation. Excellent hours: 3-9am or 5-10pm, 3.5-5 hours average per day. Come to our information session every Tuesday at 6am, Thursday at 2pm, or Friday at 9am: 7925 Ronson Road, San Diego, CA 92111. Apply online at www.upsjobs.com.

PAID VOLUNTEERS needed for Hydration Status Study. PhiloMetron is conducting a research study to test a device to monitor hydration status. Male or female participants must: Be Caucasian or African American, be 18 to 35 years of age, be able to do moderate exercise at warm temperatures for 3 hours, be willing to have blood samples taken, not have chronic medical illnesses, not be pregnant. If eligible, participants will receive: Payment for completion of study. This study will take about 8 hours on 1 day. Study will take place at: Athletes Edge Sports Conditioning Facility, 1211 Liberty Way, Vista, CA 92081. For additional information, please contact PhiloMetron: 858-755-9165.

PART-TIME DEMONSTRATORS. Gourmet foods in warehouse stores. Friday-Sunday. \$12/hour plus commission. Lift 40 pounds, reliable transportation, stand long periods. Background check required. roadshowpros@msn.com, 800-546-6775x401. EOE.

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SECURITY OFFICERS. Part and full time, 2nd and 3rd shifts. Genuine career opportunities at a competitive hourly wage—also includes: free health insurance, free life insurance, free uniforms, free guard card training, college tuition reimbursement, matching 401(k), cash incentives, paid vacation. Guardsmark, 5353 Mission Center Road, Suite 300, San Diego CA, 92108. Call 619-278-0734. Visit: www.guardsmark.com.

SECURITY. Bald Eagle Security hiring licensed Security Officers. Full/part time. Downtown San Diego locations only. No car or cell phone required. Guard Card required. Must be able to work flexible hours, mostly swing and graveyard plus every weekend. Background check. EEO/Drug free. 619-230-0022. baldeaglesec@sbcglobal.net.

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SECURITY. Openings throughout San Diego County. Guard card required. Call De Caprio Security, 619-948-9008.

SERVICE TECHS / PLUMBERS with experience needed now! Rescue Rooter offers: Medical/dental, 401(k), vans/tools, paid vacations/overtime, high income, drug-free workplace. To apply, e-mail: lmking@ars.com or call: 858-457-6506. License #765155, AA/EOE.

SILK SCREENER. Will train the right person in the silk screening process and printing of promotional products: bumper stickers, key tags, t-shirts, pens, etc. Miramar. Call Bruce: 1-800-566-9677 or fax resume: 619-209-6510.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Behavioral SED classroom aide, full time, Monday-Friday. Takes initiative and has excellent communication skills. Experience with adolescents a must. BA/BS preferred. 619-397-6970 or fax resume, 619-421-9299.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Company is hiring for various positions. We work with adult developmental disabilities population. Must have clean criminal record. Positions starting at \$8-\$10 depending on positions. Medical benefits are offered. Fax resume to 619-390-1888 or call 619-390-1800.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Instructors/Instructor Aides, Lakeside—day program for adults with developmental disabilities. Excellent benefits, no nights/weekends, start \$9.25-\$10.50/hour. Entry-level, \$8.75/hour. Unyeway, Inc. 619-562-6330. Fax resume: 619-562-6547.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Promising Futures, Inc., is hiring reliable, caring individuals to work with the developmentally disabled in East County and Ramona. Part-and full-time positions. \$8-\$10/hour plus benefits. Overtime opportunities available. pficareer@yahoo.com. Fax resume: 619-440-6864. Call 619-440-6802.

STAFF ACCOUNTANT: Do you have proven experience in accounting and strong skills in financial analysis? You will assist with budget development, financial report preparation, monitor financial activity and assist with audit preparation for assigned programs. Other accounting

duties include: A/P, A/R and processing claims. Position requires a BA in accounting or related field, 3 to 5 years of related experience and proven computer skills using excel. Prefer experience with Great Plains. (\$45,000-\$50,000 based on experience). Please call HR at 619-228-2047, e-mail us at hr@voa-swcal.org or mail your resume to Volunteers of America Southwest California, 3350 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 300, San Diego, CA 92128. EEO/Affirmative Action Employer.

SUMMER HELP: CUSTOMER SERVICE. \$17.25 base/appointment. Part time, flexible schedule, scholarships/internships available. No experience necessary. North County/La Jolla: 760-942-1223; San Diego: 858-571-6148.

SUMMER JOBS. Action Sport Rentals is hiring for the summer! Training starts ASAP. Weekends and summer holidays are a must! Job is outdoors on the dock, beach and water. Sailing and boating experience is a plus. Apply in person at any of our locations: Paradise Point Resort, 858-581-5939; Hilton Mission Bay Resort, 619-275-8945; Loews Coronado Bay Resort, 619-424-4466.

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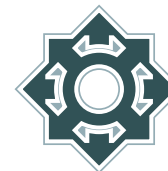
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NAME This Place



Last week's place: (clue: Prow'd since 1952) The Hawaiian canoe-prow entrance to Humphrey's 55-year-old Half Moon Inn & Suites, 2303 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. The hotel was one of many in San Diego that caught the '50s wave of Polynesian design mania. (Last week's winners: Barry Prost, Nicholas Prost, Joe Ashton, Andrea Pedro, Jeri Leitstein)

Clue: Preserving the Maine attractions

Describe this location, name the nearest cross-streets, and win a Reader T-shirt. E-mail to NameThisPlace@SanDiegoReader.com; fax to 619-231-0489; or mail to Reader, Name This Place, Box 85803, San Diego 92186 — include your name and address. (Deadline, Tuesday, 9 a.m. In case of ties, lottery will determine top five winners.)



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Germany. Bavaria. I like the beer gardens; the historical aspects. I'm not big on Oktoberfest, but you have to go to that. I go and make all the stops on the train, which are cheap. I've been twice. I don't really speak German. I know enough to get by. I'd live there if I could. I do belong to the German club in El Cajon.



Alex Sanchez
Engineer
Tijuana

My vacation would be to France. I can speak a little French. I'd like to make a stop in Cancún, although I've been there before; just once. It was good. It was wild. That was a couple years ago. I'd like to go again. My Spanish is a lot better than my French is.



Claudia Fuentes
Human Resources
Tijuana

Cancún would be nice. I've never been there. I'd love to go to Las Vegas again. I've been there twice. I'd like to see shows. I didn't see any previously. I'd love to go to Paris, Germany, or Switzerland. I would pick all those places on a dream vacation if I could see them all. I'm not sure which one, if I was forced to just pick one.



Amanda Duarte
Student
El Cajon

I would like a tour of Europe with my cycling friends. I'd ride in Spain, France, the Tuscany region of Italy. I usually ride 150 miles a week, but doing that in Europe on vacation would be fun. I would like to ride in Croatia and Poland. I know the Polish national team. It would be fun to ride with them.



Chris Colthurst
Systems Analyst
Tierrasanta

I have been to a lot of great places. I'd never turn down a trip to Maui or the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. But, since I've been there, I'd probably say India. I'm interested in religion and how long it's existed. It's not a major religion in the U.S., per se. And, I like how it bridges the Western and Eastern with the spice trades. Oh, and I hear the Taj Mahal is beautiful.



Heather Williams
Assists Mentally Disabled
Allied Gardens

India. There's so much culture there. I'm not as interested in the tourist India, but the different caste systems and religions. It's incredibly diverse and overwhelming to all the senses. There are major differences between the north and south. There is color, vibrance in people of all castes, from Paklin up. I would like to experience that passion in everyday life.

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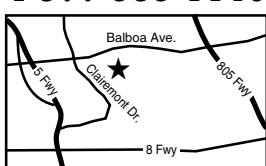
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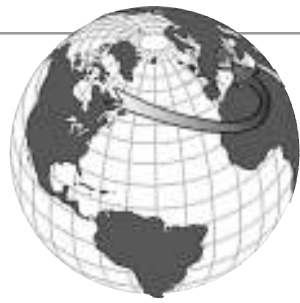
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San Diego Reader May 24, 2007 179



DIMITRIOS KYRANAS

Athens, Greece

FLASHBACK

Yesterday afternoon I looked at photos of my high school graduation. After going through them, I could not help proceeding to the album's following chapter — my first days as an undergraduate student. The memories associated with each picture kick-started a mental slide show, which eventually covered my entire studies.

I remembered my first morning as an innocent freshman, when the bus left me at the door of the...cemetery, which happens to be situated right next to the Physics Department building of the University of Athens. From that day forward I had been welcomed every morning by the shining marble of graves and elderly widows with their hair tied in a bun. Who needs "Skull and Bones" when you have that?

I recalled my first lecture of linear algebra when a girl of questionable scientific merit exclaimed, "Look at all these symbols! There is not a single number among them!" I reminisced of my first encounter with the lovable — albeit sometimes exhibiting a frustrating lack of manners — nerds who would become great friends and who today are scattered among the top research institutions in Europe. I remembered the primitive lab experiments designed to determine rolling friction by means of a heavy metallic orb that was rolling down a duct, culminating at a wall. That wall seemed to have come from the set of a gangster film, bearing marks similar to the ones left by hundreds of bullets.

When the experiments were over, I would dart to the lecture hall to catch the thermodynamics lecture where the professor advised us to "Lay back, take a sip of whiskey, and listen to jazz," and all our difficulties with multiple integrals and Maxwell distributions would be resolved. I still wonder whether the audience, which consisted of students of almost every conceivable age and background, who were busy smok-

ing, drinking the infamous frappé coffee, and sending text messages to each other, was responsive to this kind of approach to problem-solving. I guess I'll never know.

Freshman year was by far the toughest — impossible hours and tons of homework assignments after each lab session. Things eased in the coming years, aided by the *esprit de la révolution*, which thrives inside faculty and students alike. The main séances where the aforementioned *esprit* was summoned were the infamous "student assembly sessions." Delegates from various student parties — whose main purpose was to cover every square centimeter of wall with their posters, organize excursions, and pretend to fight for the rights of the students — engaged in endless rigmaroles, ornate with Marxist buzzwords and devoid of meaning. At the end of the session, they had the power to order the university to close down if the majority voted for them. Their henchmen (aka party members) would padlock all entry points to the building, effectively inhibiting courses, exams, lab sessions, and everything a student needs to perform. And all this because the police are legally forbid-

den from accessing the campus, save after the commitment of a very serious crime — e.g., homicide.

On every occasion, there was a new enemy to be fought by the brave party orators. One time, it was unemployment, another, the war in Iraq, but most often, it was the "privatization of universities and unfair intensification of studies to the



detriment of the lower social classes." One may ask, "Why didn't the students vote against them and keep the university functioning?" The answer is simple: Few people can say no to a deus ex machina who relieves them from their tasks, giving them ample time to laze around, drink cappuccino, and absorb precious sunlight — an ample commodity in Athens. And when the students decided to unblock access to the university, it

was the turn of the equally intrepid professors to strike — without their pay being suspended!

The result of the consecutive strikes and sit-ins (which plagued my studies almost every year) was the accumulation of monstrous exam periods at the end of each summer, which made you wish you had never been born. Or that you had been

sent to Vietnam and become best friends with Agent Orange. Yes, it was that bad. Frustrated by this situation, I teamed up with a friend of mine during the fourth term and we built a legendary website — which is still out there, somewhere —

mocking all that dysfunction. It was full of hilarious photo retouches of professors' pictures, humor laden with sophisticated cultural references, and advice for how to retain one's mental sanity as an undergrad at University of Athens. Despite the website's popularity, we never revealed our identity, fearing serious repercussions for our academic future. Perhaps the time has come.

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BLOG DIEGO

POST DATE: May 8, 2007

POST TITLE: The Mama Mafia

If there's one thing I've learned from the Mafia and the Super-nanny, you gotta demand respect. It's the key to effective parenting.

So when my three-year-old spit on me, I had to take action. Here's how it went down.

Elizabeth has a lot of good ideas. Asking me to carry her on my shoulders after a long day of work was not one of them. She doesn't take "no" very easily, and when I insisted that I would not be carrying her on my shoulders, she spit on my shirt. She thought it was cute. I didn't.

No doubt about it, I'd been dissed, and this needed immediate correction. I briskly took her to the car, put her in her car seat, and said in a calm voice, "I do not like that. You will not spit on my shirt. That was not nice."

She giggled at the frothy spittle on my shoulder. Once again, my attempt at a cool, icy demeanor had failed. But, something told me that threatening a time-out wouldn't work either. We wouldn't be home for nearly an hour, and I wanted to fix the problem now.

Then a light bulb clicked on. "Fine," I said coolly. "I'm going to wipe it off on your dress."

This was a gamble. There was a 50/50 chance she wouldn't care

and would just laugh at me again. But to my delight, there was genuine concern in her eyes. I knelt down and pulled out my shirt to wipe it onto her dress. She struggled in her seat and started to cry, "No! Don't get my dress dirty!"

The closer I got, the more she struggled. Tears welled in her eyes. Her expression turned into genuine terror. I started to falter.

God, what kind of mother am I, wiping spit on my little girl?

No! I shook myself out of it. Mobsters can't afford self-doubt. I'm sure the Super-nanny knows that small children smell self-doubt on a parent a mile away. I persisted despite her shrieks and, shielding myself from her kicks, wiped the dreaded spittle onto her dress.

Then I calmly closed the car door and sat in the front seat. She continued to cry. I continued to console myself. My husband and our other daughter waited.

When the wailing died down, I

explained why I did what I did: "I didn't like it when you spit on me. You didn't like it when I wiped it on you. But, I did that to show you what it was like."

"I didn't like that, Mommy!"
"I know. But here's the deal. I



promise I won't wipe spit on you again. But you will not spit on me ever again, either. Do you understand?"

She wiped her tears. "Yes."
"I love you, sweetie."

Within minutes, she and her sister were singing songs, making up stories, and talking about going back to Disneyland. Most

importantly, respect was restored — respect for Mommy and respect for self. Just call me "Icy Mama."

POST DATE: May 7, 2007

POST TITLE: There Is No Karma for Parents

I hate it when I do something mean as a parent.

The other night, as I put the girls to bed, my oldest resisted. I told her she couldn't keep playing this game (this is a nightly ritual) and that she had to stay in bed. Of course, she started to

follow me out, so I raced to the door. She was right on my heels as I got to the door. My thoughts were focused, *you stay...mommy free.* I weaseled out the door and slammed it behind me. Right in her little face. There was no contact, but the look of pain on her face will be imprinted on my brain forever.

It didn't take long for me to feel like shit, and in case I didn't feel like shit, she came out to remind me. Sobbing, she looked

right into my eyes and told me how I'd hurt her feelings. Again and again, she told me. "You hurt my feelings! You hurt my feelings!" I picked her up and rocked her in the rocking chair, and I told her I was really, really sorry.

"I'm really tired tonight, sweetie, and I read to you for 30 minutes before bedtime. It's already really late, and my throat is sore." She didn't look convinced, so I tried some honesty.

"Sometimes you guys wear me out. You've been very demanding tonight...asking me to get things for you constantly, and I just needed a break." She still wasn't convinced, and I still felt horrible.

Finally, with tears and snot running down her face, she looked at the nice black Gap Perfect T I was wearing and wiped her entire face on the front of it. Then she started to giggle, and I knew that her pain was almost over.

After laughing and kissing and making up, I finally put her to bed an hour past her normal bedtime. I still felt bad, though. I was still sad when I went to bed, so it's no surprise that I didn't sleep well and had nightmares. When I awoke the next morning, I thought, "Okay, this is the karma for being so mean. I had really horrible nightmares, and this is my punishment." But then I realized that I didn't feel any better — I got my karmic slap, but I still felt bad.

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IF THERE IS AN OPPOSITE OF "HIP," I AM THE EMBODIMENT OF IT. All people have an amount of hipness in them, even if it's the tiniest drop. A staid soccer mom may enjoy the newest releases of industrial music, a hat-tip to her younger days. Your accountant might have a Vespa scooter, skinny black jeans, and a leather jacket. You wouldn't know it to look at his thick glasses and chocolate necktie during tax season.

My DNA rejects hipness like a child's immune system rejects a baboon's heart. I am 31, but when I cross the threshold to a record store, I am a chubby 13-year-old in denim shorts and pink socks. The college student behind the counter can smell my lack of cool. It clings to me.

What's worse is that I try to fit in with the DJ-ing, teased-hair vamps of the night. Bartenders tolerate my presence because I overtip. Lead singers with leather wristbands and torn shirts will look at me from the stage, their Mount Olympus of cool, and will want to forbid me from being in their crowd. I dork up their fan base, and they don't want their art associated with my baggy clothes and receding hairline. So I clap along to be accepted, but I am arrhythmic and out of sync with the beat.

I also go to bed at 8 p.m. on weeknights. Yawning and eye-rubbing has never taken the attention of a flashy blonde from her Saturday-night dance partner.

Dancing. Mugh. My last attempt at dance resulted in emergency services being deployed.

So I sit. I feed my iguana, Thor, who will never reject me because his brain is the size of a donut sprinkle, and I am his provider of lettuce and crickets. I watch TV.

Most people despise commercials. Anyone halfway cool must think advertisements are two minutes between their birth and death that were not enriching to a short life. I like commercials.

I've heard pharmaceutical commercials are the most irritating. To me, they are a moment of hope.

With pills to cure everything from allergies to social anxiety, there must be a drug company out there willing to commit money to the disease of awkwardness.

"Albutamol!" I wait for an announcer to say. "No longer will you settle for smelling the perfume of beautiful women, alcohol, and sweat from afar. No longer will you be seen as something to throw trash at by the athletic and outgoing. With Albutamol, you'll have all these things for yourself!"

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, MAY 24

SUPERNATURAL

CW 9:00 P.M.

My goal this year is to invert my head. I want to push it into my body inside out, as you'd roll up a pair of tube socks. When I lose motivation, I watch this show and slap another five-pound weight on the helmet. I am certain my chest cavity is far more interesting than the CW's Thursday-night primetime lineup.

LIVE WITH REGIS AND KELLY

KUSI 9:00 A.M.

Kelly Ripa and I worked our way through college as raccoon washers in Yosemite. We spent the summer shellacking varmints for catalogue photo shoots. It's fun to see how people grow. I came to San Diego to start a life as a cat burglar, and she went on to be a decorative twit. I'll bet she can still shampoo an underbelly with the best of them, though.

FRIDAY, MAY 25

LAURA CROFT: TOMB RAIDER

FOX 8:00 P.M.

Indiana Jones gets a butt lift and a lip plump.

SATURDAY, MAY 26

IN WINE COUNTRY

NBC 5:00 P.M.

Wine is to this decade as cocaine and pink shirts were to the '80s. For all of you who look back at your wide-eyed, nosebleed prom photo and lament your decision for the extra-large shoulder pads, imagine how you'll feel in 25 years when you find the slideshow of your trip to Napa and those khaki pants.

THE LAWRENCE WELK SHOW

PBS 7:00 P.M.

I imagine Lawrence Welk as the most successful surrealist satirist in American culture, proferring horrid pabulum to the masses and snickering as it was consumed. Somewhere a storage unit holds in its contents a note detailing Mr. Welk's whole bizarre hoax, and at the bottom it reads, "It was probably my days shooting heroin with Coltrane that made me want to do it. Signed, L. Welk, Duke of Cool."

SUNDAY, MAY 27

AMERICAN IDOL REWIND

CW 4:00 P.M.

I'd rather light my hair on fire and put it out with a cheese grater. A stubbed toe. Armpit smell on public transportation. My mouth being fitted for a homeless man's second-hand dentures. All of these things are more desirable than a Sunday afternoon with Kelly and Justin.

MONDAY, MAY 28

MISS UNIVERSE 2007

NBC 9:00 P.M.

I'm really excited about the talent competition this year, and I can't wait to hear how these upstanding citizens plan to better society. Now if only the promoters would do away with that demeaning bikini competition so we can focus our attention not on prurient matters of sexual attraction, but on the cultured minds of every nation's finest... Wait. I couldn't



Supernatural

keep that up. BRING ON THE T&A! WOO!

TUESDAY, MAY 29

MAYOR'S BUDGET TOWN HALL

TWCNSD 10:00 P.M.

Well, bite my thighs and tell me to write bad checks. Is it that time of year again? Honey, get my stuffed animals greased up and the bandages ready. We're going to need more ecstasy, body paint, and that tarp from last year is ruined. Yeah! The Mayor's Budget Town Hall!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

THE NEXT BEST THING: WHO IS THE GREATEST CELEBRITY IMPERSONATOR

ABC 8:00 P.M.

When a celebrity impersonator is alone — I mean, *really* alone — does his index finger hover over the speed-dial button labeled "Suicide Hotline" the whole time? At some point he has to either call and blubber into the receiver or swipe the bottle of painkillers off the counter and pull the vodka out of the freezer. For a few hours, it's touch-and-go. *Touch-and-go*.

THURSDAY, MAY 31

STARTER WIFE

USA 9:00 P.M.

My friend Matt can open a beer bottle with his wedding ring. That's about the only reason I can think of to get married. You know, if you're camping or something, that'd be pretty handy.

compressor, fan, rear engine adapter \$200 cash, 858-578-8968.

MERCEDES BENZ, 1992, 190E, smogged. White, 4 door. Runs good. \$3000. Call Michael, 619-204-8647, 858-454-1226.

MERCEDES ROASTER, 1983, 380SL. Hard/soft top convertible, 2 tops. 121,000 miles, no accidents. Excellent condition, \$12,000, 858-243-1460.

MERCEDES-BENZ 300 SDL, 1987, 6-cylinder diesel, great fuel economy, automatic, sunroof, white exterior, gray interior, runs well, smooth ride, AM/FM radio, \$3495/best. 619-281-3662.

MERCEDES-BENZ 240D, 1978, 4 door, 4-speed manual, 4-cylinder diesel, Panasonic radio/cassette player, air conditioning needs charging, cream exterior fair condition, needs tires, \$1495/best. 619-281-3662.

PONTIAC TRANS-AM, 1984. Black and Silver. Excellent condition inside and out.

Needs mechanical work. \$1500 or best offer. Ask for Norm 760-252-5078.

TOYOTA CELICA, 1996. Loaded convertible, 97,000 miles. Auto, red/black leather. Looks/runs like new. Premium wheels, 6 speaker stereo. New timing belt/water pump, \$6450, 858-658-0998.

TOYOTA MR2 SPYDER, 2000, 124K miles, dealership warranty transfer, great fuel economy, alloys, runs great, low emissions, DOHC 16 valve, 4 cylinder, \$9000, 619-994-9724.

VOLVO 960, 1995, 148K miles, great condition, luxury vehicle, Kelley Blue Book \$4100, asking \$3500. Great car. 619-791-3259.

VOLVO S40, 2005, 33K miles, excellent condition, red. Warranty until 9/30, 2008. \$1000 under Kelley Blue Book. automatic, cruise, power, tilt, asking \$18,500. 619-925-7007.

VW JETTA, 1997. 4-door, 5 speed, power steering, air conditioning, 141K, well-maintained, beautiful black color, inside and out. \$3950. 619-607-7079.

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GMC SAVANNAH CUTAWAY, 2000. 1 ton utility truck, with custom "Supreme" box. New tires, AM/FM/CD, air. Great work truck. Runs great! \$8900, 760-295-7006.

GMC SUBURBAN, 1994, nicest in South Bay, fully loaded, 76,300 original miles, no body rust, excellent shape, runs like new, \$5000. 619-207-9005; 619-207-8992; or 619-422-8892.

JEEP WRANGLER, 1994, 4x4, 6 cylinder, excellent condition, great shape, original owner, engine only 17K miles, gold, convertible, windows clear, carpet like new, \$6000. 858-395-4121.

MAZDA MPV MINI-VAN, 1993, 30-32mpg, V6, automatic, A/C, heater,

defroster, radials, all power, tinted, seats 7, 195K miles, smogged and registered May 2007, \$1850. 760-602-9211.

NISSAN QUEST, Minivan, 2004. 3.5L. Metallic blue, 63,000 miles. A/C, 18" wheels. Front brakes done 8k miles ago, rear brakes done yesterday, \$15,500, motivated. 619-309-8637.

PLYMOUTH GRAND VOYAGER, 1990, runs great, smogs fine, good gas mileage, dependable V-6, 3.3L engine, comfortable transportation, mechanically sound, \$950. Tom, 619-579-0078.

TOW TRUCK, Diesel, superduty, one ton, sling, wheel lifts 1989 possible trade classic car \$4950. 1953 MGTD Roadster, 1967 Cadillac El Dorado, like new. 858-663-3399.x[2].[z:]

TOYOTA 4RUNNER, 1990, 4 wheel. New V6 motor. Big tires/rims, lift, sunroof, towpackage, sideboards, amp CD, more! Runs/looks good! \$4150. Need pickup. 619-466-2403.

TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5, 2001, 2WD, V-6, automatic with overdrive, air conditioning, cruise, alarm with remote, air bags, CD, tinted, cargo area cover, \$10,000 firm. 760-492-7741.

TOYOTA RAV 4, 2003. Gold, 68,000 miles. One owner. Automatic, A/C, 4 door, large back storage area with door, \$14,400. No flakes please! Kimberly 619-261-1909.

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T.G.I.F.

He pulls the bottle from the bag, replaces it, and lowers his head on two upraised thumbs.

By John Brizzolara

Sitting in William Heath Davis Park, diagonally across from the Horton Grand. It is, I imagine, like a patch of old, un-drowned New Orleans here in San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter. You can't pass it without hearing some tourist use the word "quaint." "Cute" and "adorable" are runner-up bets. It is Friday afternoon, a little after five. I have been here nearly an hour and so far, alone.

I am writing longhand on yellow legal sheets a scene where a man returns home from a memorial service for his wife and unborn child, and he is drunk. He lets himself into his little bungalow cottage by kicking the door in, since his landlord has changed the locks. This is about as far as I get when I see a man who looks to be a survivor of some unguessable catastrophe. Though he is clean-shaven, his trenchcoat clean enough, his hair straight back from his forehead, ruffling at the back collar, which I notice is one of those old tab-collar shirts from the 1960s, with the small button to snap beneath a tie and lift it to the Adam's apple. He wears no tie, though the tab is buttoned. His face is scarred from acne and something else, possibly the work of a windshield in a car accident. He becomes my character, at least in physical description, though I've already given my character a beard and the name Tiller.

The real-time, beardless Tiller seats himself on a bench and reaches into his coat pocket for a paper bag. Inside is a half pint of Ten High bourbon. He pulls the bottle from the bag, replaces it, and lowers his head on two upraised thumbs. His elbows rest on his splayed

knees. He wears engineer boots. I give my Tiller engineer boots.

My Tiller, or Tiller I, brings a 12-pack of Lucky Lager into his — formerly his and his wife's — small cottage and sets it on the kitchen table. He sets a bottle next to it. It is Ten High bourbon, a fifth. In the bag with the bourbon is a roll of duct tape. Tiller I, holding the duct tape, turns on the stereo, selecting a Bob Dylan CD. (I thought Bob Dylan because of the tab collar on Tiller II. Dylan was pictured wearing this kind of shirt long ago.) The small house is filled with the song "You've Got to Serve Somebody," while Tiller I dances around the house duct-taping the windows and doors where they join the floor and walls.

Tiller II removes the whiskey from the bag once more and stares at it. He replaces it after nearly a full minute and reaches into his other pocket for a pack of Marlboro 100s. Tiller I takes a break. Surveys his duct-tape work and lights a Camel 100. He listens to Dylan sing a different song, "Ring them bells with an iron hand so the people will know. Ring them bells, ring them bells. Breakin' down the distance between right and wrong." I think those are the words. Both Tillers seem satisfied smoking. I smoke.

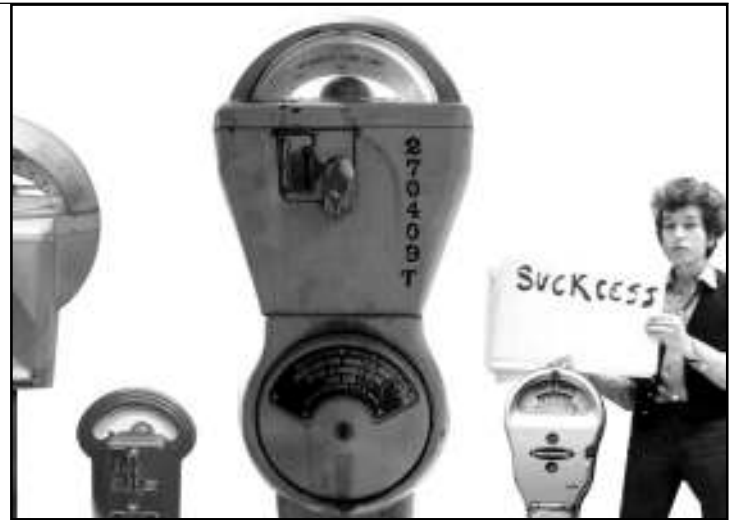
Tiller II produces a kind of small hunting knife from the rear of his waistband. It is probably just barely a legal size, I don't know. He starts whittling at his thick black leather watchband with a diver's watch at its center. He cuts away thin strips that curl away and fall between his boots. From a distance, this distance, it appears he is stripping black strips of flesh from his wrist.

Tiller I puts out his cigarette, checks the windows and doors. Dylan starts up with "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" and laughs. He drinks, alternating the Ten High with cans of Lucky Lager. He does this with a kind of grim determination through three cans and half the bottle.

Tiller II removes the bottle from the bag yet again, unscrews the top and smells it. He replaces the cap, puts the bottle back into the bag slowly and returns it to his coat pocket. He begins cutting at his watchband again. A small pile of coiled black leather forms at his feet on the bricks with philanthropists' names carved onto them. The coils look like shed pubic hairs from some beast.

Tiller I goes to the oven, opens it and blows out the pilot light. He is singing along with Dylan, badly. He is swaying without rhythm and turns up the dial on the oven knob to Broil, then backs it off a fraction of an inch. He seats himself on the kitchen floor and continues to drink. After a time he is no longer listening to Dylan; he is re-living the car crash in Mexico where his wife and whoever their child was to be died. After a time, Tiller I falls asleep, or passes out, really.

Tiller II now gets up and paces. He has replaced the knife into a place for it at the back of his belt. He paces the small park in an accustomed way — pacing the yard. I now put together two things about this man: the way he paces, head down, as if with eyes at the crown of his scalp, and the way he cups his cigarette. I am betting he was both in combat and in prison; but this isn't nec-



essarily true, because I know nothing about him.

Tiller I sits up on the kitchen floor. The CD plays that song by Dylan about how something is happening but Mr. Jones doesn't know what it is. Tiller I looks around, confused. He reaches onto the kitchen table for a cigarette.

Tiller II sits back down and lights another Marlboro.

Tiller I reaches into his shirt pocket for a Bic lighter.

Tiller II draws heavily, coughs and immediately puts out the smoke.

Tiller I feels the skin of his thumb abrading the serrated wheel at the top of the cigarette lighter and begins to rotate the wheel as he looks around, still confused.

The Tiller here, with me, in the park, gets up and walks out of the enclosure. As he leaves, the sun has nudged its way past the corner of a building on Fifth Avenue and just over the top of a clump of leaves on a row of jacarandas. The park is flooded with lemon-white light.

My Tiller, Tiller I's world turns the color of cobalt and cerulean. He sees tiny, toothlike blue-white flames along the ceiling studs as he is blown into the roof in a cloud of powdered drywall and ceiling tile.

The Tiller in the real world walks past the Horton Grand, pauses and places a paper bag into a trash container on the street. His pace increases.

I flip the yellow pages closed, reach for another smoke, and think again. I feel as if I've smoked 50 of them today.

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