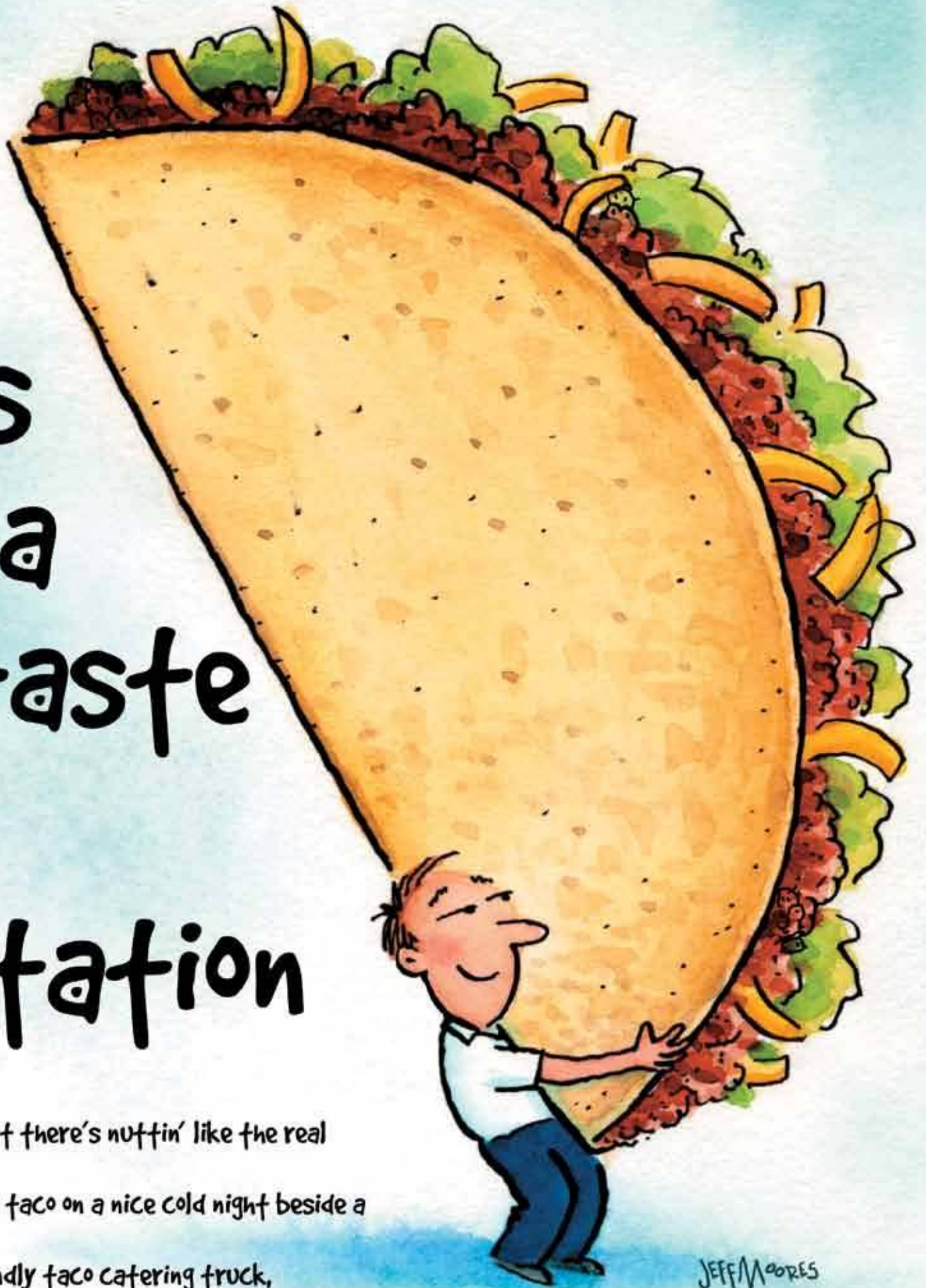


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temptation

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JEFF MOORES

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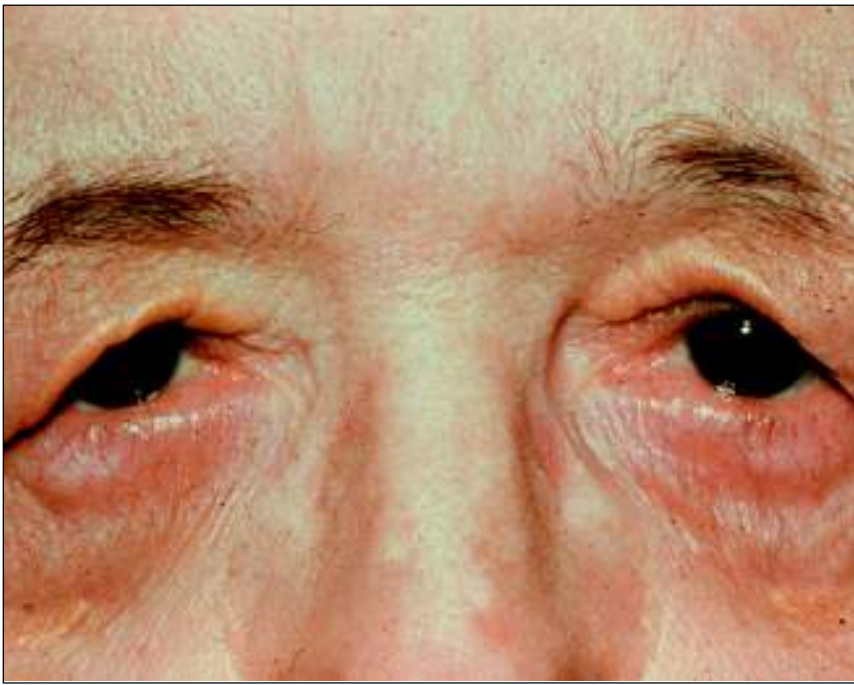
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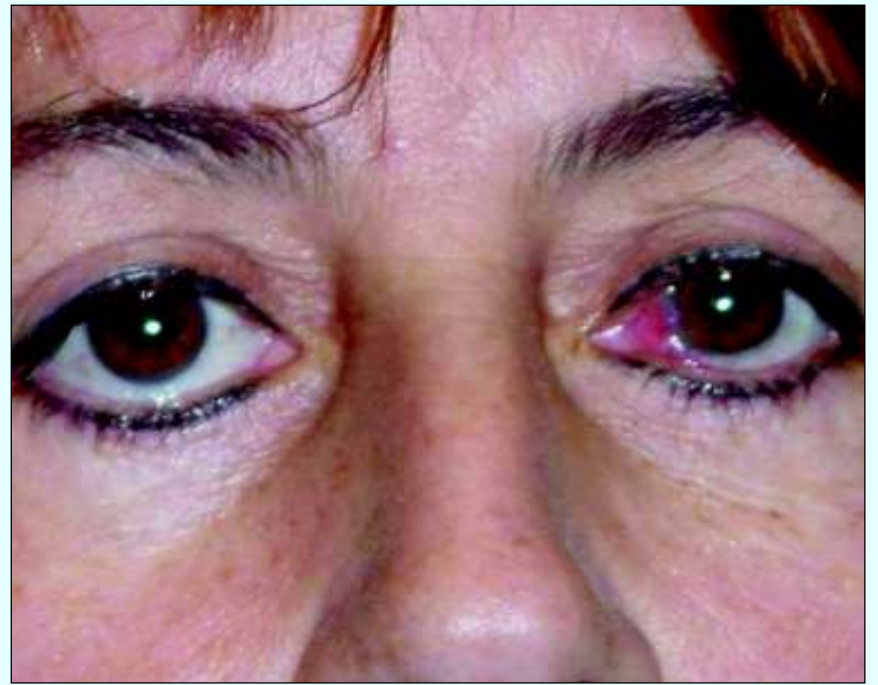
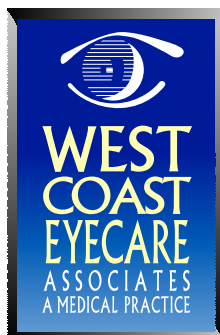
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BREAKING NEWS

Circle of friends A firm run by San Diego mayor **Jerry Sanders**'s key political advisor has



Tom Shepard

lobbied city hall during the run-up to Sanders's re-election bid, raising conflict-of-interest questions for a mayor who has repeatedly touted his ethical purity. **Tom Shepard**, who copped a criminal plea in the 1985 campaign money-laundering case against fallen mayor **Roger Hedgecock**, operates Public Policy Strategies, billed on its website as "the public policy division" of Tom Shepard and Associates. According to a lobbying disclosure statement filed on October 31 of last year, Public Policy Strategies has been lobbying San Diego City officials on behalf of six clients: San Diego State University, the Barona Band of Mission Indians, the San Diego Film Commission, San Diego Medical Services Enterprise, Redflex Traffic Systems, and Authorized City Towing. Each client is listed as paying the firm between zero and \$5,000 during the three-month reporting period ending September 30; the deadline for 2007's year-end filing is this January 31. (Under a new lobbying ordinance that went into effect the first of this year, contract lobbyists must file revised registration and disclosure forms if they meet the new ordinance's \$1 threshold for income from each client. 2007 registrations automatically ended January 5; an assistant clerk said this week that Public Policy Strategies had not yet filed under the new provisions.) The lobbying firm has handled such hot-button issues as the expansion of San Diego State into nearby neighborhoods, a move bitterly opposed by many local residents; Shepard's firm and another lobbying outfit, MNA Consulting, received a \$136,130 state-funded contract for that work last year.

Past corporate clients have included Sempra and Wal-Mart. Australian-based Redflex is a maker of the controversial red-light cameras popular among city officials desperate for new sources of cash. San Diego Medical Services Enterprise is a firm that operates the City's paramedic program. **Kimberly Hale**, listed as a Public Policy staffer, is an ex-"community relations" director of the film commission. She is married to **Darren Pudgil**, chief of staff to San Diego county supervisor **Ron Roberts**, who conveniently happens to be a big Sanders backer, so much so that Roberts appeared onstage with the mayor during his state-of-the-city message earlier this month to promote yet another attempt to reform firefighting efforts in the wake of the disastrous fall blazes.

Shepard, whose past political clients have included Roberts, city councilmen **Brian Maienschein** and **Scott Peters**, as well as ex-mayor **Susan Golding**, has been at the center of

the Sanders political operation ever since Sanders's first mayoral race three years ago. Unlike past mayors such as **Pete Wilson**, who relied heavily on the expertise of chief of staff **Bob White** and press secretary **Otto Bos**, Sanders has only press secretary **Fred Sainz**, a former GOP operative, to do his in-house political bidding, making the 60-year-old Shepard more crucial than ever to the incumbent mayor. Shepard is also closely aligned with Padres owner **John Moores**, for whom he was a consultant during the team's successful bid for a taxpayer-subsidized downtown stadium.

While Sanders is clearly an admirer, candidates who have lost at Shepard's hands are predictably not. "He is not a class act," city councilwoman **Donna Frye** proclaimed after her defeat by Sanders in November 2005. "He's prone to gutter-type politics.... There is no level so low that he will not sink to it."

House of sand and cash Those posh new digs for UCSD's chancellor will have to wait at least another month or so. In the face of protests from historical preservationists and Native Americans, the University of California Regents, meeting in Los Angeles last week, spurned determined efforts to rush through plans for the new \$8 million mansion. The crowning blow was a letter to the regents from state senator **Denise Ducheny**, protesting demolition of the historic house currently on the La Jolla Farms site. Indian remains have been discovered under the property.

"We have heard that a portion of the budget for the house will come from private donors and that those donors are opposed to the preservation and reuse of the existing house," Ducheny wrote. "When preservation is not included as a serious option, it gets lost in the process and suddenly the citizens of California (and particularly La Jolla and the San Diego region) are watching the demolition of a historic and valuable property."

Ducheny also attacked plans to include a "conference center" adjacent to the new mansion. "The home is located in a residential area, and its use should be primarily residential, with entertainment space for small or medium-sized gatherings. UC officials also appear to have cut short discussions with tribal entities and may not have completed consultations that could result in feasible project changes to satisfy both tribal and University needs." The university has answered critics of the project's escalating cost by saying that wealthy La Jollans' tax-exempt contributions will cover most expenses. But the university has repeatedly delayed releasing documents, requested three months ago under the California Public Records Act, that detail the fund-raising efforts.

— 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.

New Kind of Strippers

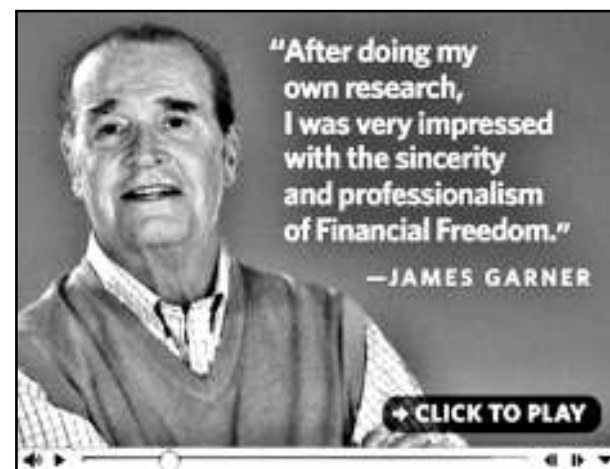
By Don Bauder

The fast-buck peddlers slinking out of the subprime mortgage morass are getting their sticky fingers into reverse mortgages,

a business that caters to the vulnerable elderly market. San Diego is no exception. As housing prices zoomed through 2005, older people built up a lot of equity in their homes. In many cases, it made sense to wring cash flow out of those artificially valued houses. But people who take out reverse mortgages pay inordinately high up-front fees that are very profitable to lenders. There are other pitfalls that greedy salespeople might mention only in passing when closing the deal.

Last month, the Senate Special Committee on Aging held a hearing on reverse mortgage abuse. San Diego attorney Ron Marron went to Washington to give information to the investigators. Marron represents a Chula

Vista widow who is suing companies that sold her a reverse mortgage and convinced her to put the proceeds in allegedly inappro-



propriate long-term annuities with high charges and penalties that kept her from having timely access to her funds. "It's called 'equity stripping,'" says Marron. "The people are supposedly getting the reverse mortgage to get liquidity and cash flow, but the broker talks them into putting the money into high-commission financial products, mostly annu-

ities." Marron will be filing a suit shortly on behalf of another woman allegedly taken by hyperaggressive reverse mortgage salespeople.

These mortgages aren't inherently bad. "In principle, [the reverse mortgage] is a very nice product," says Richard Green, professor of real estate and finance at George Washington University, in the nation's capital. "It enables old people to live off wealth they have accumulated at very little risk to them." A recent survey by

AARP (formerly the American Association of Retired Persons) indicated that more than 90 percent of people who took out reverse mortgages are satisfied.

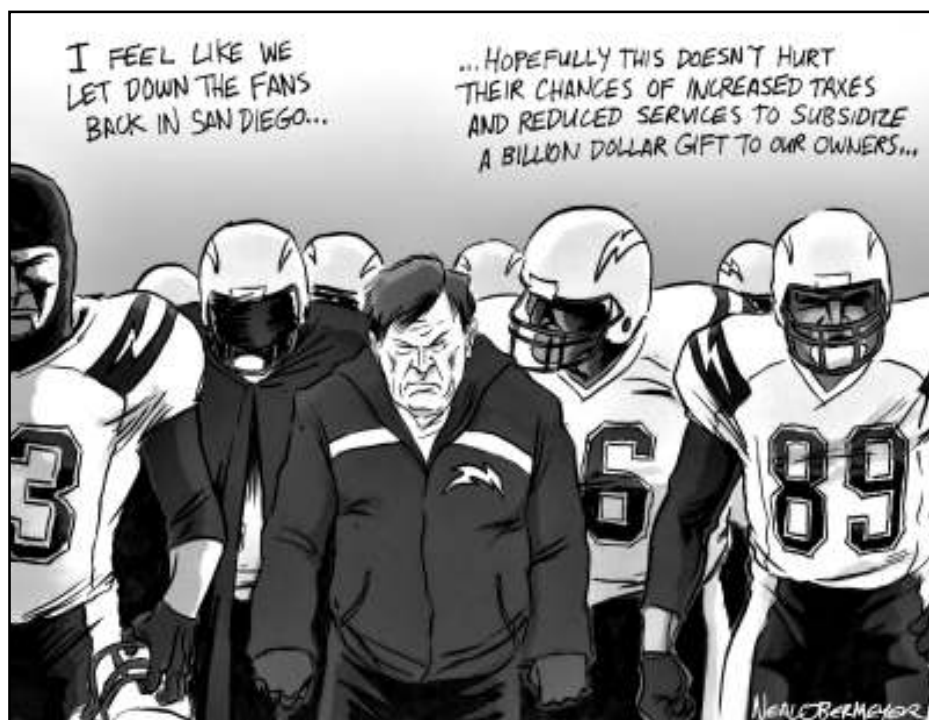
In a reverse mortgage, people 62 years of age or older are in essence putting up their homes as collateral and receiving regular cash payments

continued on page 8

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

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

Neal Obermeyer



The Principal's Principles

By Joe Deegan

Last summer, a *Gay and Lesbian Times* advertising salesman was calling on businesses in Hillcrest. Mike Rood often

visited two of his accounts on Fourth Avenue. Arrivederci Ristorante bought an occasional ad whenever he happened by. But across the street, at the Bambu Bistro, owner Alexandria Melchior thought of Rood as her advertising representative at the paper and had been meeting him regularly for at least a year. "Then he got a little flaky on me," Melchior says. "One day he didn't even show up for an appointment. When I complained, someone at the paper called back and said they had fired him. They said he was the principal of [Mark Twain High School in Linda Vista] and that they had informed the San Diego Unified School District about what he was doing on the side. I was horrified. He usually came during schooltime hours. Not long afterward, people from the district started calling and asking me questions about him."

This account suggests that staff at the paper were also taken aback by Rood's being a school principal. But almost a year earlier, on November 3, 2006, the *Gay and Lesbian Times* had reported that Rood and the paper's publisher, Michael Portantino, had adopted a baby girl. The story was accompanied by a photo of the new parents with the

baby and Portantino's teenage daughter. Is it conceivable that Rood never informed the publisher of his primary occupation?

about it anonymously. Yuhas said he then received additional evidence from other confidential sources. There were several emails about ads that the principal sent from his school district email address. And Yuhas said he found the principal's *Gay and Lesbian Times* business card tacked to a bulletin board in the paper's offices. The evidence showed, said Yuhas, that on school time the principal had been negotiating ad prices for an adult gay magazine, discussing editorial matters, and

he finds himself in trouble with the school district. I disagree with gay protections that are similar to racial ones," wrote Yuhas. "What happens when someone who is gay is really wronged? It is bad enough that the kids at this school are troubled anyway (they even have a day care center), but the man in charge stays in his office during an investigation about his work. Special treatment for a gay principal? Looks like it, because a straight one would be on administrative leave by now —

blaring in his ears."

Recently Yuhas has opined on his website that being gay and holding conservative principles are a natural combination. What if Mike Rood had sold *Gay and Lesbian Times* advertising as a second job on his own time? Perhaps a more permissive commentator might then support it as exercising rights of free speech. But not Yuhas. During his December 30 KOGO program, he argued that the free gay publication the principal worked for is pornographic.

has the power to reward teachers with overtime, they say. District principals are supposed to hand out overtime assignments only as a last resort. "But if the district looked into every principal's assignment of overtime," one source tells me, "that's all they would be doing."

Several sources acknowledge that in the last six months district officials have questioned a number of teachers at Mark Twain High about Rood. The use of overtime pay is one aspect of his behav-



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE KLEIN

In the meantime, KOGO radio talk show host Steve Yuhas reported on his December 28 and 30 programs that the school district was investigating the principal's activities. A teacher at the school, said Yuhas, had contacted him

representing himself as an "associate publisher" of the publication.

Especially appalling, argued Yuhas, is that Mark Twain High, where the principal works, is a school for troubled kids. The school's website identifies Mark Twain as a "special counseling-oriented school" and shows that it offers a "GED [general education development] preparation class" as well as "pregnant minor" and "school-aged parent and infant development" programs.

Yuhas editorialized further on his show's website in the following days. Through an attorney, wrote Yuhas, the principal has the gall to insist "there is no investigation; but a source on the school board told me otherwise. Sources tell me that [the principal] plans to play 'the gay card' if

but not this guy and that is a problem for the parents and kids at Mark Twain school."

It is noteworthy that Yuhas, who on his show speaks openly about himself being gay, never mentioned the *Gay and Lesbian Times* or Mike Rood by name. Perhaps he wanted to steer clear of further controversy in that paper. On August 1, 2004, Yuhas wrote a *Union-Tribune* editorial critical of San Diego's gay pride parades. They are excessive displays of gay activism often sponsored by bathhouse owners, he wrote. Four days later, the *Gay and Lesbian Times* countered: "When this self-loathing, Ozzie-and-Harriet-wannabe gets his Fruit of the Looms in a wad over shirtless men gyrating on floats ... one has to wonder if Yuhas is falling asleep on the couch too many nights with Fox Network News

That's not because of its artwork or editorial content but because it sells pornographic advertising, according to Yuhas. And even though the high school principal may have sold ads only to restaurants, as "associate publisher" he should have known the kind of publication he was pushing.

Others are bound to disagree about whether the *Gay and Lesbian Times* is pornographic. Its parent company, Uptown Publications, Inc., does publish *Rocket Magazine*, a more sexually explicit free paper supported by local advertising. But no one has accused Rood of selling its ads.

What does the Mark Twain High School community think about Mike Rood's extracurricular work? He does have supporters. But critics suspect that that's because Rood

ior that the district wanted to know about. Two others are his work for the *Gay and Lesbian Times* and what some claim is retaliation by Rood in getting teachers transferred to other schools.

The *Gay and Lesbian Times* has not tipped its hand on any plans to take Yuhas to task again. But the paper did hint it might have something to say about the Mark Twain principal's investigation by the school district. After I called to ask about Rood's current employment status with the paper, Portantino wrote me the following in an email: "The *Gay and Lesbian Times*"

continued on page 10



GAY AND LESBIAN TIMES

Michael Portantino (center) with daughter Tatiana (left), partner Mike Rood, and new baby girl Samantha Nicole

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

New strippers

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from a lender. It's the opposite of a conventional mortgage, in which the borrower pays the lender each month. In a reverse mortgage, the lender is paying the borrower regularly, based on the value of the home. When the borrower dies or is forced to move out of the home for 12

months, the house is normally sold to pay off the balance of the mortgage. That's a disadvantage right there: older people often break their hips and suffer other health woes. "They have to go to a nursing home and may be out of the house for a year," says Lois Kelly, litigation attorney for Elder Law and Advocacy in San Diego. "The reverse mortgage comes due; you have to pay off the lender."

Ninety percent of reverse mortgages are issued through the federally insured Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Program of the Federal Housing Administration. These mortgages are burgeoning: they began in the 1960s but still hadn't gone anywhere three decades later. In 2005, there were 76,000 such mortgages offered. That grew to more than 100,000 last year. The growth is expected to

continue, even with home prices falling across the country and lenders in deep doo-doo. Last month, at the Senate special committee meeting, Senator Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) said that with the market growing, "We are aware of reports of unscrupulous and predatory activities at some of the companies that are marketing reverse mortgages as well as excessive fees to service the loan. It seems

obvious that one of the reasons for the unprecedented growth of this market is due to the fact that there is a lot of money to be made." Committee Chairman Herb Kohl (D-Wis.) noted that some salespeople are seducing seniors into swallowing "a double-dose of bad financial advice: take the cash from a reverse mortgage and use it to fund an unsuitable annuity.... [L]ong term

annuities are almost always inappropriate for seniors, as they can tie up retirement savings far beyond one's life expectancy." The committee was told of a 92-year-old who put \$650,000 in a deferred annuity that didn't mature until 2063. He died two years later. His family had to pay \$100,000 to break the contract and access the money. On behalf of Ernestine Boach, Marron is suing Orange County's Financial Freedom and its parent, Pasadena's Indymac Bank, along with several insurance companies. Financial Freedom talked her into getting a reverse mortgage and then putting the money into deferred annuities, in which payments from the insurance company are delayed too long for a senior citizen, who might die before getting them. All told, the machinations ate up 88 percent of the equity in her home, charges the suit. The defendants got fat on fees, commissions, points, charges, and penalties. Financial Freedom was working through the government's Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Program. Under that program, buyers of reverse mortgages must get the advice of independent consultants. It's a fraud-prevention measure. The counselors told Boach not to buy the annuities, but the defendants told her not to listen, says Marron. There are other suits against Financial Freedom, including a class-action one. The company says all the suits are meritless. Another Financial Freedom horror story was related at the Senate committee hearing. The company was asked to appear before the committee but declined. Taxpayers can get scammed by reverse mortgages too. With the federal government insuring the mortgages, "There are very real liabilities," said McCaskill at the hearing. "There are numerous scenarios where the loan balance will exceed the home value. In these instances, the collateral risk falls to [the Department of Housing and Urban Development] and the American taxpayer, because lenders can currently assign these loans to the federal government, thus leaving the taxpayer on the hook for the fees charged on the loan." She

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18+ *Charges may apply to certain features

New strippers

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pointed her finger at "the unpredictable and sometimes unrealistic expectation of always increasing home values and low interest rates."

Amen, says University of California, San Diego economist James Hamilton, reflecting on the subprime mess and current signs that reverse mortgages have problems. "What drove the recklessness in part was an assumption that the home price would continue to appreciate," says Hamilton. Both borrower and lender could thrive under such a scenario. "But housing prices are guaranteed to come down for the next couple of years. I am worried that we will see [reverse mortgages] unravel, just as we have seen the subprime loans unravel."

In fall of 2006, the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae), a government organization, announced with pride that it was going to securitize reverse mortgages — that is, sell them to investors. Uh-

oh. The securitization process in subprime mortgages is bringing the big Wall Street financial houses to their knees, begging for financial support from countries such as Singapore. The American institutions hold portfolios of smelly mortgages and have already written down tens of billions of dollars, and nobody knows how bad the losses will get.

The reverse mortgage market is much, much smaller than the subprime market, but it could hurt some investors. It's a shame that a bunch of avaricious peddlers have infiltrated reverse mortgages, which can be a very useful product for older people. ■

Principal's principles

continued from page 7

Times does not make public comment on potential news events that we have not yet published."

A significant news story now would be what the San Diego Unified School District plans to do about its investi-

gation of Rood. So far it isn't talking. Some teachers at Mark Twain High are not happy about that.

They believe that it is inappropriate for a high school principal to work for a gay and lesbian newspaper that sells sexually explicit ads. But has the district decided those teachers have been on a witch hunt? Or that Rood's behavior didn't rise to a level requiring disciplinary action?

I asked an experienced principal in another school district about the appropriateness of Rood's outside work. "Schools nowadays comply with laws that allow students to have gay clubs on campus," he told me. "Employees have to have corresponding protections. I don't see how a district could legally punish a working principal for affiliating with a gay magazine. Whether it's pornographic would raise another issue. But his doing the work on school time and using school computers would show a definite lack of good judgment. Principals have to use their judgment every day on both large and small issues." ■

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It's Good
 Good article on soccer moms!
 Karyl Miller
 via email

Neurotic Moms
 I came out of Vons and saw the Reader cover story ("Soccer Moms Are the Absolute Worst," Cover Story, January 10), and I just had to read it, having three boys who are gifted athletes and the things I've seen.
 When I lived in Chicago, it was bad. You'd see parents who would make their kids shoot 100 goals out on the ice before coming in for the night. I'm lucky, I guess, that my kids are fairly gifted athletes. But they play lacrosse, and it's not like

there's money in that. I've seen parents punch their kids for doing something wrong, parents telling their kids they suck, everything.
 But I had to call you and tell you about something I've witnessed here in Carmel Valley. And it was even covered in the newspaper here. They passed something called the "shhh rule." A woman ref who was in charge of things over in the Torrey Pines area was so tired of unruly and loud parents that when things would get out of hand, the refs would make all the kids stop playing. They get down on one knee and put their finger to their mouth. And they stay like that for five minutes. I'll be mowing my lawn, and I hear it get loud. Then it gets quiet, and I run to the fence and see them doing this. It's so bizarre. But it seems to work.
 They needed to do something for all these neurotic moms and competitive dads who think their kid will be the next Johnny Unitas or whoever. And some of those parents hire private trainers — it's ridiculous. These kids will get burned out physically and mentally. It should be

about the kids having fun.
 Michael Baruch
 Carmel Valley

Round Two
 I thought Jeff Smith and I had settled the matter of his bashing the Old Globe's 2007 production of Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*. Yet here he goes again, taking a "year in review" opportunity to bash it anew (Theater Review, January 10). So again I must come to its defense.

Those who, like Jeff Smith, believe that Shakespeare wrote "problem plays" refuse to accept the vision the playwright offers because it is not grist for their mill of moral confusion and psychic ambiguity. In fact, *Measure for Measure* is a great (non-problem) play about the universal human effort to harmonize the apparently antithetical values of justice and mercy — great because it offers a brilliant (and yes, crowd-pleasing) resolution of the conflict.

Paul Mullins did not "cookie-cut the script as a comedy." He bucked a hundred-year tradition of seeing problems where they aren't — a tradition in which Jeff Smith continues to be a true believer — and with his production achieved the reconciliation Shakespeare intended the play to

represent. The real enemy of Shakespeare is not the crowd but the critic's sarcastic implication that only what threatens comedy and tidy endings is real. That Shakespeare might have been offering some insight into how to transcend those threats continues to be inadmissible in Jeff Smith's critical universe.

In fact, the Globe's *Measure* was Shakespeare for people who love productions that serve Shakespeare's healing intentions. Jeff Smith's review of that play, by contrast, was Shakespeare criticism for people who want Shakespeare to be doing nothing but reinforcing their own lust for unsolved problems.

My dear Jeff: If you can't enjoy what Shakespeare meant, leave him and the people who love him alone. Go write your own damn problem play.

Gideon Rappaport
 via email

Jeff Smith responds: That hundred-year tradition looks for what's actually going on in Shakespeare's plays — not what rigid ideas about genre, or the Bard's alleged intentions, dictate should be there.

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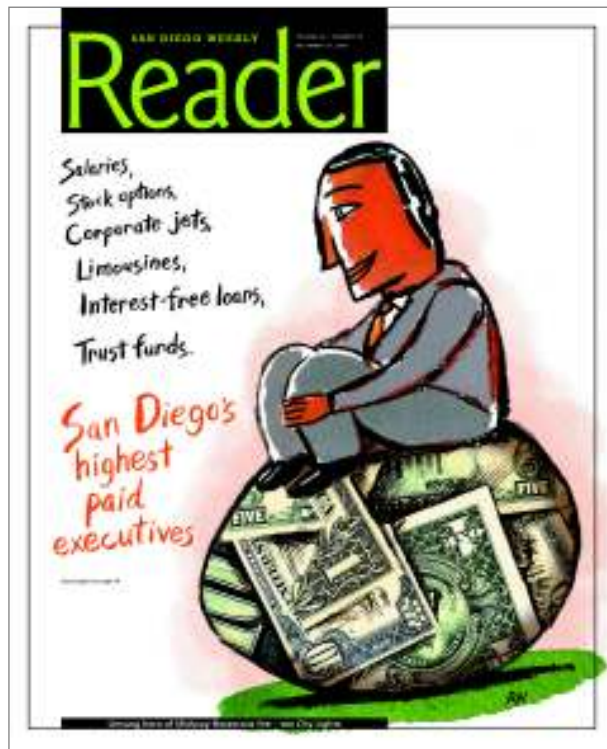
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Links to 6500 movie reviews by the inimitable Duncan Shepherd, plus movie show-times updated daily.

The screenshot shows the San Diego Reader website layout. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Job Giant, Useful Guides, Classifieds, Coupons, Tickets, Blogs, Log in or Sign Up, and Geek Tools. The main header features the 'Reader' logo and a search bar. Below the header, there are several content sections: 'RECENT STORIES' with articles like 'Rockin' Baby Boomers' and 'Cattery'; 'LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR' showing a calendar for January 2008; 'NEIGHBORHOODS' with maps for Leucadia and San Ysidro; 'MUSIC' and 'MOVIES' sections with featured items; 'BLOGS OF THE DAY' with entries like 'Give Bees a Chance'; 'CLASSIFIEDS', 'CITY LIGHTS', 'FOOD & DRINK', and 'CONTESTS'. A footer contains site information and copyright details.

www.SDReader.com

The screenshot shows the San Diego Reader website's 'Streaming Radio' section. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Job Giant', 'Useful Guides', 'Classifieds', 'Coupons', 'Tickets', 'Blogs', 'Log In or Sign Up', and 'Geek Tools'. The main header features the 'Reader' logo and a search bar. Below the header, there are navigation tabs for 'HOME', 'STORIES', 'NEIGHBORHOODS', 'EVENTS', 'MUSIC', 'MOVIES', 'ARTS', and 'FOOD & DRINK'. The 'MUSIC' tab is selected, leading to the 'BLUES / SOUL' section. The main content area is titled 'Local Blues / Soul Bands Streaming Radio'. It features a 'SanDiegoReader.com' streaming player with controls for volume (100%) and playback. Below the player, there are links for 'More radio stations' and 'Open player in new window'. To the right of the player, there is a 'CALENDAR' for January 2008, with the 18th highlighted. Below the calendar, there are 'Today's Highlights' including Pat Green, Dilated Peoples, Tiger Army, and Social Distortion, along with a 'SUBMIT AN EVENT' button. At the bottom, there is a 'FEATURED LOCAL ALBUMS' section with a photo of Melissa Vaughan and the album 'Songs for Feeling Strong' by Holiday & the Adventure Pop Collective (2007).

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The screenshot shows the San Diego Reader website's 'LOCAL BANDS/PERFORMERS' page for Steve Poltz. The navigation bar and header are identical to the previous screenshot. The 'MUSIC' tab is selected, leading to the 'LOCAL BANDS/PERFORMERS' section. The main content area is titled 'LOCAL BANDS/PERFORMERS' and features a profile for 'Steve Poltz'. On the left, there is a photo of Steve Poltz wearing a red t-shirt with 'Miller' written on it. To the right of the photo, there is a 'Discography' section with a table listing his releases:

Name	Year	Label
One Left Shoe	1998	Mercury Records
Chinese Vacation	2003	98 Pounder Records

Below the discography, there is a 'Band Members' section listing 'Steve Poltz: Guitar, Acoustic, Guitar, Electric, Vocals'. There is also an 'Upcoming shows' section listing 'Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, January 24'. At the bottom, there is a 'Notify me when shows are added for this artist:' section with a text input field and a 'Go' button. To the right of the main content, there is a 'CALENDAR' for January 2008, with the 18th highlighted. Below the calendar, there are 'Today's Highlights' including Pat Green, Dilated Peoples, Tiger Army, and Social Distortion, along with a 'SUBMIT AN EVENT' button. At the bottom, there is a 'CONTESTS' section.

Each local band has its own **exclusive page**, including photos, profile, and related links.

The screenshot shows the San Diego Reader website's 'EVENTS' page for Steve Poltz. The navigation bar and header are identical to the previous screenshots. The 'EVENTS' tab is selected, leading to the 'EVENTS' section. The main content area is titled 'EVENTS' and features a profile for 'Steve Poltz'. On the left, there is a photo of Steve Poltz. To the right of the photo, there is a 'Discography' section with a table listing his releases:

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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE



Illustration by Rick Geary

Heymatt:

I was wondering if propane is harmful to inhale. I've used spray-on contact cement for my work, and the propellant is propane. If I am working in an enclosed area, the propane gets so thick in the room that it feels like the air is being ripped out of my lungs and it gets hard to breathe. So I am wondering if this is dangerous and if I should take precautions while spraying propane-propelled products.

— KH, via email

Hey, man...hey...wake up! Hey, KH! Open your eyes, man. Put down that cement can. Hey, you're drooling all over the place. Wake up, KH! Dang. You scared us silly. Let's get out here on the patio. So, KH, when you feel like the air is being ripped out of your lungs, you begin to suspect something's not right, eh? Yes, something is very, very not right! Breathing in a room full of stuff you use to broil a steak — does this sound like a good plan? Once your little room is full of propane gas, you inhale that, not oxygen, and the propane replaces oxygen in your lungs and blood. Nothing in your body can run on propane. Stay in that room long enough and you're a dead man. By any chance, did you read the label on the can? Betcha somewhere it says to use the product in a well-ventilated area and to wear a breathing apparatus of some type. Do it! Immediately! Well, you still have enough brain cells left to send an email, so maybe there's not too much damage done. Good luck, KH.

Dear Matthew Alice:

Why do we measure dates from B.C. to A.D.? Where did this system come from? I know it's measured from the time of Jesus' birth, but who decided that? And what did people do before then to measure time, or didn't they care?

— Mike, via email

Of course they cared. We've been run ragged by clocks and calendars pretty much forever — at least ever since we started growing crops and living under grand rulers. The A.D.-B.C. system dates from about 525 A.D., invented by a monk who was charged with figuring out a neat way of predicting the date of Easter. Since he was a man of the church, he took as the starting point for his calendar the birth of Jesus, the most significant event in the ecclesiastical year. This is pretty typical of the many other calendars devised before and since the monk's. They all begin with a watershed event. The Mayans developed a calendar that went back through thousands of years of mythology, so the cornerstone event wasn't necessarily an actual occurrence. Egyptians measured years by giving them a number and the name of the pharaoh who was in power at the time. Babylonians used a similar system. The Jewish calendar is measured from a calculation of the Era of Creation. The Muslim calendar begins with the Era of the Hijra, the time Mohammed and his followers migrated from Mecca to Medina. Rome measured time from the founding of the city. So, if you want to develop a Mike calendar — Before Mike-After Mike — go right ahead.

Heymatt:

Why is there an expiration date on a container of sour cream? It's already sour. How much more sour can it get? More sour sour cream doesn't seem like a big problem. So, why the expiration date? I can eat no more nachos until you tell me.

— Rachel S., via email

Dig in, Rachel. The answer is right here on your plate. Commercial sour cream is made from pasteurized milk, which is relatively bacteria free. The manufacturer adds his own special bacteria to the milk to thicken it and turn it just the right degree of sour. Chilling it slows down the bacterial action, but the bugs are still alive. They're still excreting bacterial juice, which is what gives the milk the sour taste. Left to their own devices, eventually the bacteria will overwhelm the milk and begin to be visible and make the sour cream taste pretty rancid. The expiration date gives you a rule-of-thumb guideline as to when this bad turn of events will begin. Extreme sour cream is not a pretty sight.

Matt:

Since everybody's all hopped up on football these days, here's a question for you. Why is a football called a pigskin? Is it/was it ever made of pigskin? What's the story?

— Wes, San Diego

Well, the word nerds have a tale to tell about this. But I'm not sure I completely buy it. Some word-origin experts avoid the subject completely. The story goes, American football came from British games, specifically rugby, in which a ball (or ball substitute) was forced across the opponents' goal line by whatever means available. But in those days, the early 1800s, what substituted for a ball was an inflated pig's bladder. But by the time American football began in the 1850s, bladders weren't used anymore. So it's kind of a stretch to think people were still referring to them as pigskins. But that's the kind of answer we get when we ask the word wizards.

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

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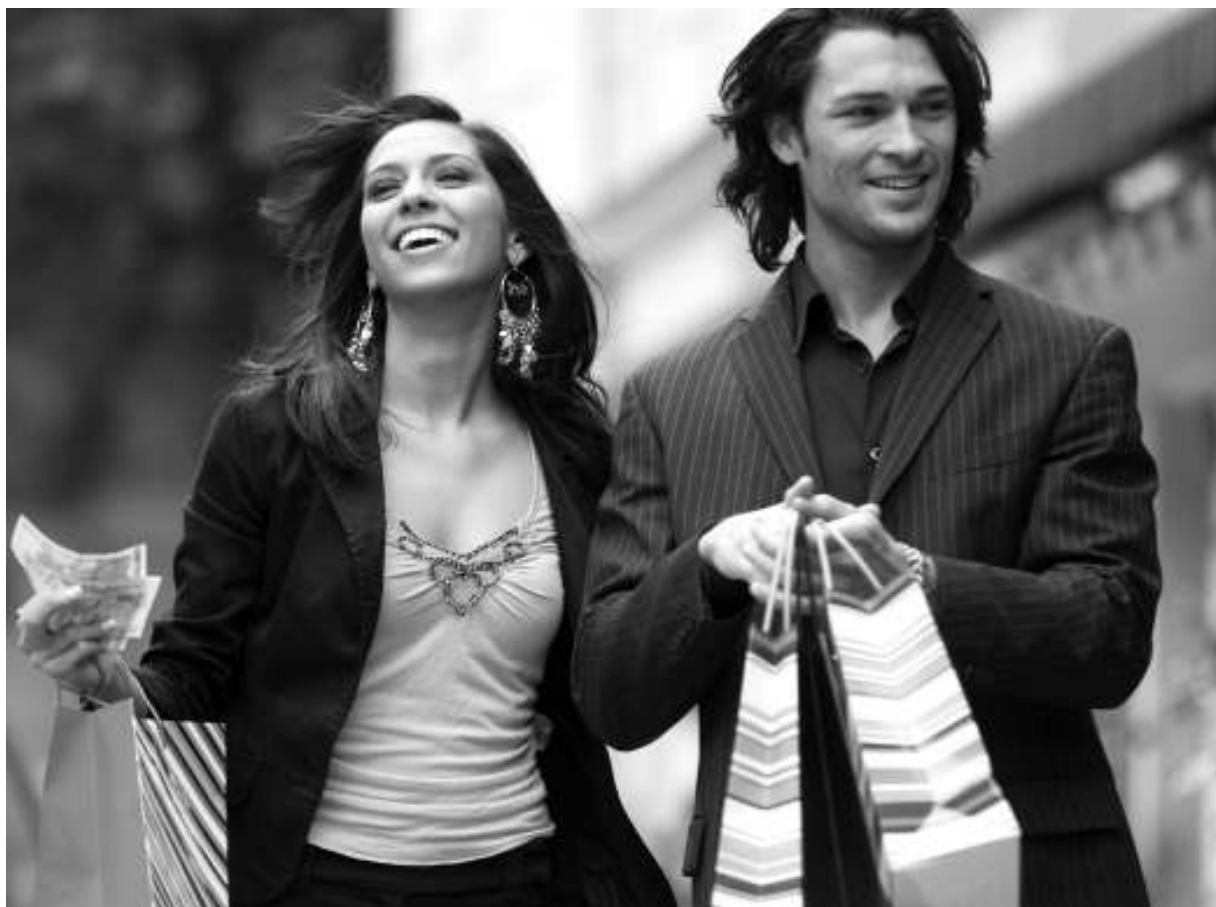
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PROOF THAT SOLID GOLD CONTINUES TO PRODUCE THE BEST AND SAFEST DOG FOOD IN THE WORLD.

In 1975, Solid Gold changed the face of the pet food industry. We introduced the first natural, organic dog food in the U.S. It was the Solid Gold Hund-n-Flocken. The FDA said there was no such thing as a natural dog food. Also, they had no idea what organic meant. We told the FDA that Hund-n-Flocken (which means dog food flakes in German) had been a top seller in Germany for 20 years. They said, "Oh!"

In 1985, we introduced the first holistic dog/cat food into the U.S. It is called Holistique Blendz. They had no idea what holistic meant. It doesn't mean natural and it doesn't mean organic. It is a philosophy of life. It means the whole body works together—mind, body and spirit. It saddens us that other dog food companies incorrectly throw around the word holistic just because Solid Gold uses it. It saddens us that they try to fool the public by trying to copy our philosophy.

I asked one dog food company what holistic meant, since he now uses it as part of the name of his product. He said it means they put apples in their food!

Solid Gold has always produced dry food in the U.S. In the spring of 2007, 137 dry dog/cat foods were recalled by the FDA for killing 6,000 animals and injuring 300,000 others. All contained melamine and cyanuric acid made in China. By the fall of 2007, 179 dry dog/cat foods were recalled.

Solid Gold was one of seven pet foods that were not recalled. Then, another dog food company admitted that their dog food was made in China but said it was not on the recall list. However they said they are checking for cyanuric acid/melamine poisoning just in case!

A large canned pet food company had its whole line of canned foods recalled for botulism poisoning. It was made in the U.S. The same time, another canned dog food line was recalled for salmonella poisoning. Twenty one people died of salmonella poisoning after handling the canned food. It was also made in the U.S. Solid Gold has not been involved with any of these tragedies.

In July 2007, a newspaper article read, "Lawsuit Alleges Pet Food Industry Fraud." A law firm in Miami, Florida accuses seven very big and well-known dog food companies of using "waste products, including euthanized dogs and cats, restaurant grease, hair, hooves, road kill and toxic chemicals and additives."

Solid Gold was not involved with any of this mess!

Finally a well-known dog food company agreed to compensate owners of 436 dogs that died from eating his dog food. The public may not be aware of the dangerous back room insidious plans against pets. But Solid Gold is and we will report them to you.

Most dog food companies make a variety of products. Dog food is at the bottom of the barrel and gets the scraps and leftovers that they can't use elsewhere. Example: we don't use avocados, which are hard on the pancreas. If you have a diabetic, pre-diabetic or older dog, avocados may make the situation worse. We don't use sunflower oil, which the Swedish National Cancer Society warns increases the risk of cancer by 69%. So if you want to be sure that you are feeding the best possible dog/cat food to your pets, feed Solid Gold. It is clean and safe. We make sure of that. Solid Gold does its homework.

To receive our catalogue and documentation of our research, write to our new (Feb. 08) address at 1331 N. Cuyamaca, El Cajon, California 92020. To find a store near you that carries Solid Gold, call us Monday, Wednesday, or Friday Pacific Standard Time from 11 am-5 pm: 619-258-7356. It's free.

To get a list of recalled pet foods, look up the FDA recall list at www.fda.gov/oc/opa.com/hottopicspetfood.html and/or www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/petfood/recall. Check monthly, since the list changes monthly. It drops compliance names and adds others. One dog company has been dropped and recalled three times.

Once upon a time, an old man and his dog had died. He was on a road leading to Heaven. He came to a beautiful large home that had written across the front, "This is Heaven." He approached the gate, only to be stopped by a guard. As he tried to enter, the guard stopped him, "No dogs are allowed in here." So the old man turned around and left. Soon, he came to another large house. The sign said, "HEAVEN." The old man and Teddy, his dog, walked up to the guard at the gate. "I want to come in. But I want Teddy to be welcome too." The guard smiled. "Dogs are always welcome in Heaven." The old man looked confused. "I don't understand. Your place is marked, "HEAVEN." So what is that other building down the road?" The guard frowned. "That is HELL," he said.

Retold by Sissy Harrington-McGill

Solid Gold is the only dog food company that is a member of the Organic Trade Association, the American Nutraceutical Association, the Medicinal Food Association, Nutraceutical Foods Association and the Life Extension Association.



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Super Bowl Preview Edition

Time to get your seat on the bandwagon, and I would claim mine, except I don't see why this New England/New York Giants Super Bowl game should be any different than the December 29th New England/New York Giants game, the one the Patriots won 38-35. In other words, the outcome is likely to be close and the game could go either way.

For players, the Super Bowl is a good Giants bet. New England has covered the spread *once* in their last eight games. The Giants have covered five games straight. The Super Bowl draws citizens to the betting window like no other athletic event; most of that once-a-year money will be on New England.

The happiest man playing in Super Bowl XLII has got to be New England's wide receiver Randy Moss. Born in Rand, West Virginia, he was All-Everything in high school. As befits an All-Everything, he signed a letter of intent with Notre Dame. Probably a bad time to get into a fight (some participants were hurt). Moss pleaded guilty to battery, which caused Notre Dame to release him. Still a gold-plated prospect, Florida called, he enrolled, but had to red-shirt for one year. Not a good time to be busted for marijuana, particularly since he's still on probation from the aforementioned fight. Farewell, Florida.

He turns up in Marshall University, a Division I-AA football school near his hometown. And that's the profile; everywhere Moss goes coaches say he's the best athlete they've ever seen, and everywhere he goes he's busted for a low-rent, no jail-time crime.

Marshall goes undefeated his first year there and wins the national 1-AA title. Moss sets an obscene amount of Division 1-AA records. The next year, Marshall moves up to 1-A and wins the Mid-American Conference. Moss catches 25 touchdown passes and is a finalist for the Heisman Trophy. He's back.

Minnesota acquired him in the first round of the 1998 draft, but he's still working the same dance. He's a great player — made the Pro Bowl five times in seven years with Minnesota, but attitude and mouth eventually made him unwelcome, and in 2005 he was traded to the Attitude and Mouth franchise (aka the Oakland Raiders). Unfortunately for Moss, by then Al Davis had lashed himself to the team's helm.

The Raiders went 6-26 while Moss was in residence.

He was kicked out of Oakland in 2007, traded for a *fourth round* pick... basically the first hitchhiker you happen across, in this case the 110th man selected in the 2007 draft. Moss was not only judged worthless by the Raiders but was publicly bad-mouthed by the organization on his way out the door. Moss was old, lost his speed, was selfish and unreliable, they said.

Happily, and incredibly for Moss, he wound up playing for New England. Since that glorious day, the Pats have been undefeated, Moss set the single-season record for touchdown passes (23) and is on his way to the Super Bowl with an 18-0 team going for what passes as NFL immortality. Al Davis sits alone in an unlighted hotel room watching his fingernails grow.

The second-happiest man in the NFL must be Junior Seau. There were years when he was the only player worth watching on the Chargers roster (the forgoing is an exaggeration, but not by much). Seau has intelligence, Hall of Fame athleticism, and the heart of a samurai. He played for the Chargers 13 years, voted into 12 consecutive Pro Bowls. Seau made it to the Super Bowl one time (1995). San Diego was thrashed by San Francisco, 49-26. A great, great player.

And a local boy, born in San Diego, attended Oceanside High School, college at USC. Seau is a gentleman off the field, keeps his private life private, and his public life without controversy. He still lives in San Diego, owns a restaurant in Mission Valley, oversees his charitable foundation and more.

The Chargers, thinking he was done, traded him to the Miami Dolphins for chump change in 2003. Seemed like they were right, Seau never saw a December in three years playing for Miami. He was always on injured reserve in November.

He signed, as a free agent, with New England in August 2006 and sure enough, was on injured reserve before November closed. That makes four years in a row.

Belichick is a pig and also a great football coach. He saw something and signed Seau for 2007. And here we are ten days from Super Bowl XLII. It does feel like the gods are determined to do justice this time and allow Seau his Super Bowl ring. If I could help, I would.

The Vegas Line

Super Bowl XLII • February 3, 2008 • Glendale, Arizona
(AFC team wears home jerseys this year)

Favorite	Spread	Over/Under	Underdog
NEW ENGLAND	12	54	N.Y. Giants
1st Half			
NEW ENGLAND	7	27	N.Y. Giants
Money Line			
NEW ENGLAND	-450	N.Y. Giants	+350
Super Bowl XLII - MVP			
Player	Odds	Player	Odds
Tom Brady (NE)	1 to 2	Eli Manning (NYG)	7 to 2
Gibril Wilson (NYG)	4 to 1	Laurence Maroney (NE)	5 to 1
Randy Moss (NE)	7 to 1	Wes Welker (NE)	7 to 1
Plaxico Burress (NYG)	8 to 1	Brandon Jacobs (NYG)	10 to 1

The Sporting Box can be found at SanDiegoReader.com



**This is my uncle Byron.
He just got his credit card statement.**

Wow. Scary. He is now realizing that he will probably have to be paying his debt for the next 20 years. There goes Emery's college. He hasn't told Aunt Vesta that they will not be going to Florida on vacation... forget about the new car. Should we even talk about retirement? Heck! He might even lose the house!

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Read it.

Kim dropped to her knees and a hush fell over the room. She placed her splayed hands on the rug, and situated her head equidistant between them. Then she rocked forward until she gained enough momentum to hoist her legs above her. The feat of upside-down balance was dazzling enough, but Cirque du Kimberly wasn't over yet. Slowly, she spread her legs apart until she was nearly doing the mid-air splits, and then she dexterously scissored her legs forward and back. The room erupted into applause as everyone marveled at the demonstration, save for Shawn, who was familiar with his wife's offbeat ability.

—Excerpt from "Party Tricks" by Barbarella, published January 17, 2008

See it.

Diary of a Diva - Party Tricks



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SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: Roman Catholic
Address: 29 North 32nd Street, Logan Heights, 619-231-8906
Founded locally: 1938
Senior pastor: Tommie Jennings
Congregation size: 750
Staff size: 4
Sunday school enrollment: n/a
Annual budget: about \$225,000
Weekly giving: about \$3450
Singles program: no
Dress: casual to formal
Diversity: Hispanic, African American, some Pacific Islanders and Caucasians
Sunday worship: Gospel Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Spanish-language Mass, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Length of reviewed service: 1 hour, 45 minutes
Website: none

"I have no hands but yours," read the plaque below the statue of Christ outside the church. *No tengo mas manos que las tuyas.* And it was literally true — Jesus' outstretched arms ended at the sleeve.

Inside, images of Caucasian saints (Stanislaus, Ignatius, Charles Borromeo) looked down from the stained-glass windows on darker-skinned renderings of Christ, Mary, and the Holy Family in the church below. A portrait of Martin Luther King Jr. stood in an alcove. The nave was filled with chairs for the choir; the altar rose up in the midst of the congregation.

Before the formal beginning of Mass, a lector announced, "As is our custom, if any of you have prayers you would like to share with the community, please stand. Let's begin by praying for the sick of our community..."

"I'd like to pray in thanksgiving," said one woman. "The last time I was here, my son and I were about to go into surgery, for me to donate my kidney to him. A lot of people here prayed for us. Everything went really great — he's doing wonderfully — so we thank you." The church burst into applause as the lector said, "For this, let us pray to the Lord."

Other prayers: for a friend having knee surgery. For the repose of souls. For those struggling with addiction to alcohol and drugs. For "the sick — especially the mentally ill, who have no sense of life." The band's bassist stood and prayed: "on this anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade*...I pray that somebody in the community takes a stand, to answer the call of our pastor to be the culture-of-life coordinator. And when she does, may we as a community support her."

Choir members took their places — black robes with a white satin stripe down the center, each adorned with the emblem of a crown above a cross. "Stand up and give God the glory, stand up!" they sang, while the congregation stood and clapped and swayed to the beat of the drum and the peppy riffs of the saxophone.

Father Jennings processed in, took a place with the people, and, after the music had subsided, led them in singing: "We shall overcome/ We shall overcome... Deep in my heart/ I do believe/ That we shall overcome...some day."

"Lest we forget the dream," he said, his voice rolling forth. "Lest we forget...to prepare ourselves to celebrate these mysteries, let us call to mind the times that perhaps we have forgotten the dream and the vision, not just of Martin Luther King, but of Christ our Lord and Savior."

The Gloria got back to the rollicking mood of the opening — trumpet and saxophone and piano under the choir shouting out "Glory to God in the highest!" then going quiet as Jennings intoned the prayer like a poem: "You alone are the holy one/ You alone are the Lord/ You alone are the most high, Jesus Christ..."

The sermon was inspired by the second reading, which covered the opening of Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Jennings noted that

they had strayed into "what they called 'sacred prostitution.' Paul is saying to proclaim the real Good News in a very difficult time." This put Jennings in mind of King, "because tomorrow we celebrate Martin Luther King Day." Like King, like Paul, "we've got a lot of work to do."

Jennings read from King's "I have a dream" speech and told stories of injustices he had witnessed growing up in Alabama. Then he moved to the present, saying that the trouble was "still out there. It didn't go away — it went underground." But, he added, "The biggest dream-killers that I'm concerned about are the ones that we do to ourselves. We have met the enemy, and many times, he is us. How about the young black males who can't seem to stay out of trouble?... How about being faithful to a relationship with a wife,

and not beating your spouse? How about the drinking, and the drugs?... What are you doing about the dream?... The dream-killer, for us, is being apathetic and blasé, and just sitting down and doing nothing, not even caring about it! We are comfortable! We've got to feel a bit of discomfort in our ranks before we really start to do something. Otherwise, it's going to creep and creep and creep and get worse and worse and worse."

During the prayers of the faithful, Jennings asked "that the sacredness of human life be upheld for all, especially the unborn, the terminally ill, and those who sit on death row." And also, "that our community recognize Jesus in poor people, immigrants, and disabled people. Let us pray to the Lord."

What happens when we die?

"If you're living right and praying right — if you pray it up and you're good to go — you'll go straight to heaven," said Jennings.

— Matthew Lickona



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Christ the King Catholic Church Logan Heights

★★½

Sermon

content.....★★½
 delivery.....★★½

Liturgy.....★★★

Music

congregational.....★★
 band.....★★★

Snacks.....★★½

Architecture.....★★½

Friendliness.....★★★

Poor to satisfactory.....(none)

Good.....★

Very good.....★★

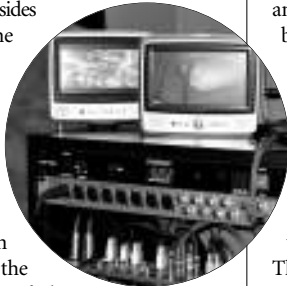
Excellent.....★★★

Extraordinary.....★★★★

BestBuys

—EVE KELLY

The emotional traumas of life have permanent or long-lasting effects unless you do something to intervene," said Dr. Lawrence Stowe, the Stowe Foundation's managing director and health and science advisor to the Biotherapy Research Institute. Stowe believes that biotherapy, which assesses the "bioterrain" of cells and the energy fields that surround those cells, can help in that intervention. "Besides paying attention to the body, we consider the mind, the spirit, and the emotions," he said. "Emotions reside deep within the subconscious long after a traumatic event has happened. There is an energy disturbance at the cellular level. What you feel, see, and hear during an emotional trauma imprints itself on the subconscious. This becomes an energy field stored in whatever cells the brain makes available through the sensory integration pathways."



That energy field, said Stowe, affects brain activity, which in turn affects a person's physical state by stimulating the production of adrenaline and insulin. "The interaction between them makes it so that people who have suffered from severe emotional trauma are stuck in the sympathetic state — fight or flee — as opposed to the parasympathetic state, which is rest and relax. The subconscious controls too much of their lives. You have to be able to reach in and reset. That's what the Genie experience can do — what no other machine can do — by using sound, light, and vibrational characteristics to reset energy disturbances."

The use of San Diego's Genie experience is overseen by Jim Felt, executive director of Stowe Biotherapy Medical Oasis in La Mesa (619-697-5614; thestowefoundation.org). When I visited, Felt offered an explanatory image. "The Genie machine helps to reintegrate the mind-body connections. It's like defragmenting your hard drive — reorganizing information and cleaning up 'loose ends' that muddle the efficient processing needed to complete a task. It's a highly individual experience. Some say it helps them work on their priority list. Some people say that they felt like they were in a fog and that the Genie gave them a tremendous sense of clarity and confidence. Others, that they have a greater sense of well-being."

I was curious enough to take the Genie for a test drive, so Felt began by taking an electronic sample of my voice. "Your voice characteristics depend a lot upon what is going on in your life right now." He then sent the sample to a computer, which,



"through many calculations and comparisons to thousands of previous samples [sought to] interpret what might be your ideal voice pattern." That ideal, he said, was the voice of my "ideal self — if you had more self-actualization. It takes into consideration your mind, your body, everything. Then your voice gets digitized and particularized, rearranged into that perfect pattern, and put into a continuous loop. Also, you wear goggles that show a light pattern that is based on your voice pattern. The theory is that, in seeing and hearing your ideal voice pattern, the subconscious recognizes its own perfected patterns and is drawn

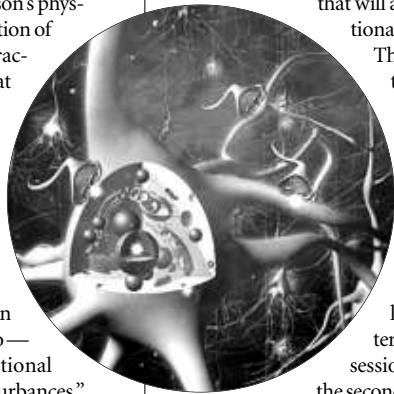
"Shapes have a crispness to their edges, like when a camera snaps an image into focus."

with interest toward them."

Felt escorted me to a soundproof room. "The session lasts around an hour and 15 minutes. You lie on this heated gel bed containing liquid crystal. Underneath the bed is a speaker cabinet containing two 15-inch JBL subwoofers. In addition to the sound and light, you're going to feel vibrations with the wave-form, pulse rate, and frequency determined by the computer and based on your voice pattern. It'll be similar to the vibration you experience from a pipe organ — you know how you can sometimes feel it in your chest? This vibration will be up your backbone."

In addition to the idealized voice pattern sample, the headphones Felt provided would play music. "And, if a person wants it, we can play delightful positive affirmations. Things like, 'At the core of the universe, there is only divine love.' That's a general affirmation — if a person has suffered a particular sort of trauma, we can play affirmations appropriate to that trauma."

I lay down on the bed and put on my headphones, and Felt placed a stuffed toy dolphin on my solar plexus. "It contains a speaker that will act as a counter-vibrational point," he explained.



Then I donned my virtual-reality goggles. "Halfway through the session, I'll have you switch to these lighter goggles; at that point, you'll close your eyes and experience a flashing light pattern tailored to your voice pattern. The first part of the session gets you ready for the second part, when you'll feel

much more vibration. If you need to stop for something, just let me know. I can hear you, and I can see what you're seeing through your goggles. People find the experience very relaxing, and yet, they say it seems to stimulate their intellect."

A warm hum of vibration from the bed ran up my legs and back while kaleidoscopic visions danced within my goggles. The vibration seemed to blend with the humming tones in my headphones. After a haze of time had passed, I switched to the second set of goggles. Blue light effects crackled over my closed eyes like reverse lightning — black bolts on a blue sky. The vibration intensified; I felt a kneading sensation through my body. Light and vibration dominated my senses, with sound in the background. Then everything tapered off, and I came to a quiet stillness — like a perfectly landed airplane.

Felt came back into the room, helped me up, and asked how I felt. I sipped some water. "It tastes wetter," I replied. "And colors look brighter. Shapes have a crispness to their edges, like when a camera snaps an image into focus."

"You may have greater mind-body connections," Felt concluded. "I think it works as if the nerve connections throughout your body are giving more input to your brain. People report that the effects last a week, sometimes a month. Some people come every two weeks or every month. The first time you come in, it costs \$200 — \$80 of that is for the voice patterning. We save the voice pattern, so subsequent sessions are \$120."

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com

1. The Genie
2. Brain synapse
3. Jim Felt



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by Barbarella

It is impossible to overdo luxury.

— French Proverb

The orange light reflecting off the water's surface slowly transformed to red. "You should have put some music on," I said, gesturing at the iPod dock on the nightstand.

"I still can," said David. He rose to a sitting position.

"No, don't." I placed my hand on his thigh.

"You'll get the floor all wet.

And anyway, the silence is kind of nice, now that I think about it." As David sank back up to his neck, his face took on a blue and then purple cast as the limo-esque mood lighting above us continued its slow chromatic cycle. "Pass me a strawberry?" David lifted an arm from the water, plucked my desired piece of fruit from the tray sitting on the ledge beside him, and dipped it in the pot of melted chocolate that was set atop a small flame to

keep the good stuff warm and gooey. He handed me the strawberry, twirling it to keep the chocolate from dripping into the tub, and then selected a slice of banana and a miniature Rice Krispie treat for himself.

"How does this one compare?" David asked.

"You mean with our other favorites in the States?"

"I mean with all of our favorites everywhere," he said. "Even Tokyo."

While I considered my answer, I looked over David's shoulder and stared at the fire, if you can call it that. In the "cyclone" fireplace, a yellow-white flame spiraled directly up the center of a three-foot-tall glass cylinder. I surveyed the room, taking in the espresso maker, blender, cocktail shaker, fine wine glasses sit-

ting on the granite above the minibar, and the down comforter on the king-sized Tempur-Pedic bed; I fingered the edge of the shoji screen we'd slid aside so we could see the entire room from where we sat, naked and submerged in hot, fragrant water. The room service had been fast and friendly, and the turn-down had included complimentary bottles of Fiji water and both milk and dark chocolates. I returned my gaze to David, who was watching me close enough to recognize the moment my thoughts aligned with his. "Oh, my," I said, voicing what he'd already gathered I would say. "This is our favorite hotel room...in the world." David nodded solemnly. As if to commemorate the occasion, he spun another strawberry in the chocolate for me and then hit the button that activated the jets in the giant, two-person tub.

My man and I have always been discerning, even picky, about where we lay our heads at night. But it recently occurred to me that what was once a preference for artsy has become a fetish for avant-garde. Whereas unique, luxurious boarding experiences used to be added perks, such pampering now features prominently in our travels. Our lodgings are as much of a destination as the cities we visit. After days of research before each trip, David often settles on a hotel that, having been worked on by talented designers and architects, makes its guests feel like they're temporarily living

inside a work of art.

It was while planning our Christmas getaway to Ensenada that we realized our little predilection threatened to become a dysfunctional demon. Because he's familiar with the place and speaks Spanish, it made sense that our friend Josue would arrange for our accommodations in the Mexican town. But when he told me he'd found a "cheap little motel," I said I'd need to discuss the matter with David before we could commit to the plan.

When it comes to roughing it, I'm not the only diva in the penthouse. Once, during a momentary lapse of sanity, I suggested to David that we go camping. A few days later, he said he'd found the perfect location: a resort in Santa Barbara where the "tents" are set atop wooden floors and boast plush beds on raised frames and, of course, interior halogen lighting. It looked nice enough, but we nixed the idea when we figured out the restrooms were communal.

When I relayed Josue's words to David, he squinted in trepidation. We agreed the idea of a "cheap motel" in Mexico was scarier than the blue-green fuzz growing on the mystery fruit in the bottom drawer of our refrigerator. The inn didn't need to be fancy, but it *had* to be clean. I'd seen those ultraviolet scans on those forensic drama shows. Any hotel with those ubiquitous, filth-hiding floral print comforters was out of the question. It would be easier for me to

As if to commemorate the occasion, he spun another strawberry in the chocolate for me and then hit the button that activated the jets in the giant, two-person tub.



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fall asleep to the looping soundtrack of a wailing baby than to catch any z's while under the slightest impression that microscopic insects and nasty, invisible substances are touching my skin.

Neither David nor I wanted to share our concerns with our friend, for fear of sounding like a couple of supercilious morons. "It's not that I think a cheap motel is beneath me or anything," I said to David while rationalizing my tentative decision to back out of the trip. "It's just that, as fun as it all sounds, if I can't sleep, it's not going to be worth it. I don't want to remember this trip as the one that traumatized me forever." I cringed as I recalled one of my father's hotel horror stories. He was staying at a place in St. Robert, Missouri, when, in the middle of the night, he discovered the room was

crawling with multilegged pests. Dad went to the front desk and asked for bug spray. "I sprayed a moat around my bed and left all the lights on," he later told me. "I nearly asphyxiated from the freakin' fumes." I couldn't believe he actually stayed through the night. I would have slept in the rental car.

While I was busy rationalizing, David was researching. He typed the name of the Mexican motel into tripadvisor.com

to see what other people had to say about it. Of nearly 20 reviews, the inn got at least four out of five stars for cleanliness. Relieved, I called Josue and said, "This place looks great, count us in!" To be on the safe side, David brought his pillow and some extra high-thread-count cases. The "cheap motel" turned out to be a charming hotel I'd happily visit again.

Though we can survive most anywhere (as

long as it is clean and insect-free), David and I continue to seek out temporary abodes that offer us a unique experience. For some, a hotel is just a place to crash between one place and the next while on the road, and spending any more than necessary is foolhardy. For David and me, a hotel is more than a bed and a shower; staying at a great hotel is like stepping into the pages of *Interior Design* magazine or taking an E-ticket ride

at Disneyland.

After spending a day at "photo l.a." in Santa Monica last week, there was no need for us to stay the night in Manhattan Beach. If we had continued driving down the 405, we would have been home before dinner. But if we'd done that, we would have missed luxuriating in a Sanijet spa together, bathed in the crimson hues of "chromatherapy" lighting, hypnotized by the swirling flame, and men-

tally raising the bar for our next hotel one notch higher. ■



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Tacos are a tiny taste of temptation

(continued from front page)

With that marinated pork swimming with cilantro and spices and slimy sautéed onions. And a dollar bottle of Sangria Señorial, of course. Sigh. Is it just me, this wacko taco love affair? I don't think so. Scratch any San Diegan and they have their secret taco joint, where they go and get their fix from the only taco guy in town who understands how to put together a taco, who appreciates the relationship between meat, salsas, beans, and tortilla.

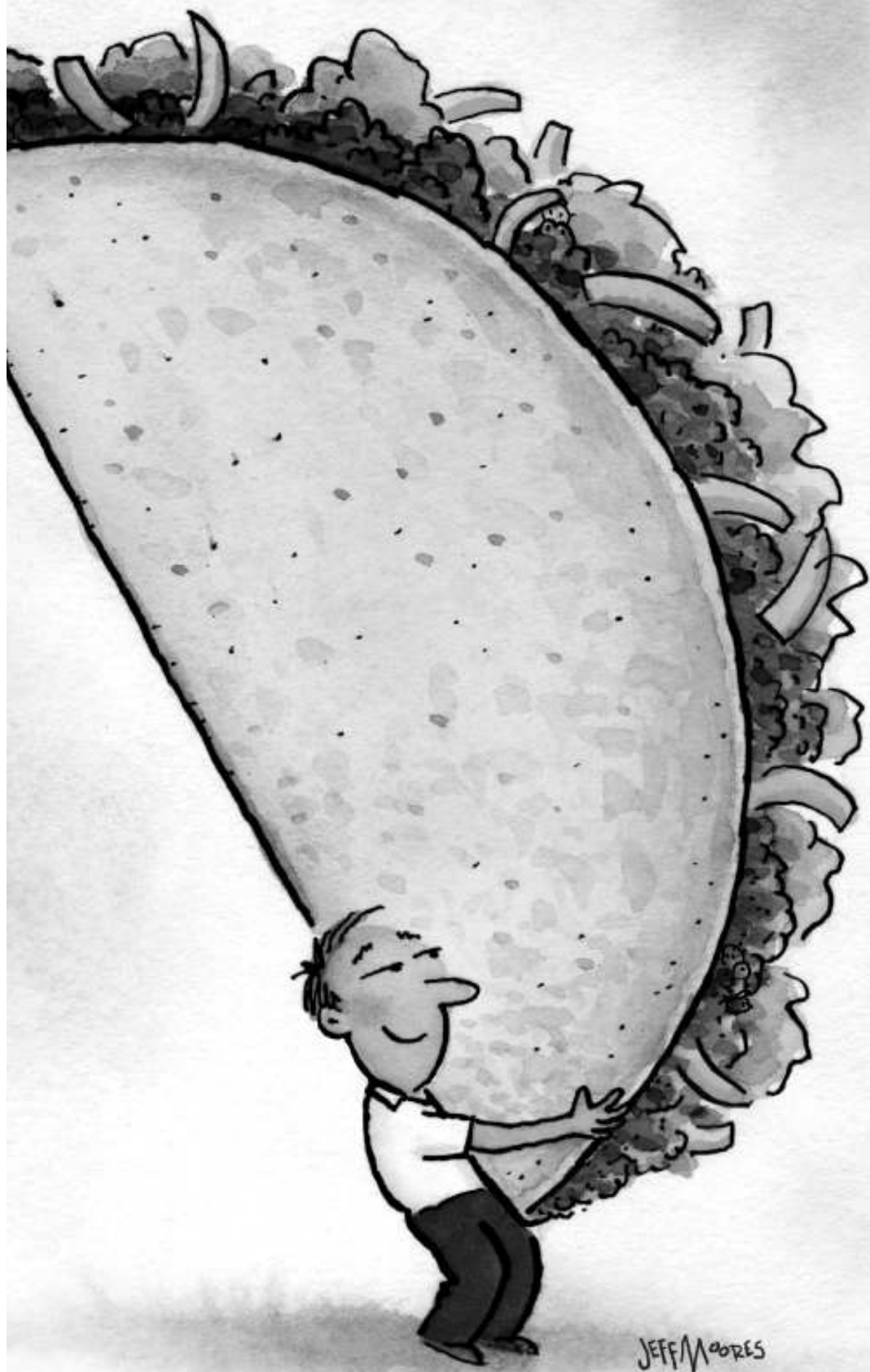
The real thing is, tacos are right for our

town. We're not about dressing up, formal surroundings, nit-picking over some tiny nouvelle cuisine pile in the middle of a drizzled plate that sets you back 30 buckaroos. Tacos are about good, affordable times for everyone.

This list of faves is in no way anyone's final word. It's just a few places that warm ye old cockles of the heart when I think of them or where I drag buddies if I'm in the area. I know you have your list too. In fact, let me know! Then we might get to a top 400.

Actually, am I the only guy in town who hasn't switched from tacos to burritos, because they stuff more into burritos? Even taco joints now push burritos as their numero uno item. Fat City! That's what we're becoming, and I

La Posta, Hillcrest: This may be the funnest s



blame burritos, which means “little donkeys,” right? That’s what we’re all starting to look like. No. For me burrito equals boring, most of the time, while “taco,” aah! Taco means tiny taste of temptation. Satisfaction by a thousand different cuts of meat and veggies.

What is it about taco joints? Guys joke about them, about Aliberto’s and Aiberto’s and Taco Bell and the truck that pulls up around six every evening. But when you get the munchies, there is no alternative to a little mess of pork or beef or fish or even tofu tucked cozy and warm inside a couple of those little flying saucers.

t spot on the planet to end the workweek.

La Posta

Come Friday night, about midnight, when all of Hillcrest has got the munchies at the same time, it's a zoo here, in the liquor-store parking lot, with sideshows galore. The competition's hot too. Down the street, the Cuervo taco shop (110 West Washington, 619-295-9713) has a reputation for carnitas (slow boiled then braised or roasted pork). But for carne asada tacos and atmosphere in spades, these guys are it. The building's painted orange and white, with green canopies. It must have been a drive-through in its first life, but now where cars pulled up it has tables in an L-shape around the enclosed kitchen. You still order at the little hole in the wall. Also kinda famous because here is where the Taco Shop Poets held their first meeting. (You haven't heard of them? Shame! Go find Adrián

Arancibia's Atacama Poems

without delay.) Added bonus: breakfasts start at 2:00 a.m. and go till 11:00 a.m. Include eggy breakfast tacos and burritos. And what's great is the speed. The tacos come through that hole floppy and steaming, spilling shredded lettuce and dripping salsa and beans. And even though traffic-crazy Washington is but a bean-flick away, it seems like another world from here. As long as nobody does anything crazy — no guarantees on some Friday late nights — this may be the funnest spot on the planet to end the workweek. **La Posta de Acapulco's Taco Shop, 3980 Third Avenue (at Washington), Hillcrest, 619-295-8982.**

Cantina Mayahuel

Larry Auman, the kid from New Jersey, has nailed Mexico here. He's an artist-turned-bar-tender-turned-chef who

traveled a lot down there and wanted to re-create it up here. He named this place after the Aztec goddess of the agave plant, Mayahuel, and he's painted his cantina's long room wild yellow and dotted the walls with paintings, skulls, small skeletons, and devils riding donkeys. He also cooks some of the most delicious tacos anywhere this side of the border. Ask for any of four — mahimahi, shrimp, chicken, or *tasajo*-style, which is jerked beef cut in thin strips, marinated in lime juice and salt, and then seared. I've had the shrimp and the beef. It's a trip sitting at the counter, catching savory whiffs as Larry puts the shrimp and shredded beef on the griddle. He juices them with pineapple and chipotle sauce, prepares double tortillas for each taco, adds shredded white cabbage, carrots, cilantro, salsa, then squiggles sweet and salty Mexican cream

and ancho mayonnaise on top, along with a hot sauce he makes himself and calls "à la diablo." So-o-o delish, and you feel cool eating them here, for some reason. That tangy combo, with the mild jack cheese and the Mexican cream, is just great. The shrimp have a seductive, smoky flavor and look good on the rough brown clay plates. He makes everything here. So the only no-no is asking for a bottle of Frank's Hot Sauce. **Cantina Mayahuel, 2934 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-283-6292.**

Effin's

Yes, you've been kicked out of better joints than this, but where else can you yell out, "Gimme an Effin beer and a plate of Effin tacos!" without anyone tut-tutting? You get students from State here, working stiffs who've made this their local, and George, an IT guy from nearby Platt College

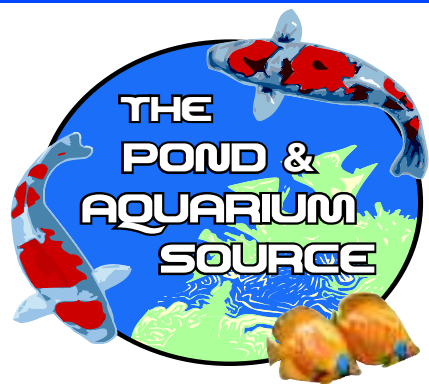
who's "been here since day one," 12 years ago, holding up the bar and flirting with the baristas. "Taco Tuesday" tacos are \$1.50. Try to have Agnes on as the cook because she brings in her own "secret spices" to scatter in the tacos. Yes, they're basic: flour tortilla tacos with ground beef, cheese, shredded lettuce, and tomatoes inside, but (1) the beef has a good, savory taste to it, (2) they go great with Guinness, and (3) you'll be able to yell, "These Effin tacos are on me!" if largesse is your thing. **Taco Tuesdays at Effin's Pub & Grill, 6164 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-229-9800.**

Cilantro Live

Raw tacos? Sure, but there's a whole package that comes with the idea. These are the folks who brought you raw flaxseed burgers and raw walnut mushroom meat loafs. The tacos look like tacos,

but they taste of smoky chipotle, a little molasses-like. Their main filling is a nut "meat" made out of almonds and walnuts and sun-dried tomato, chipotle, and avocado. And yes, there is a Mexican connection. A dynamic little lady named Cristina Guzmán from Mexico City pioneered the raw thing in Chula Vista four years ago and now has three restaurants that serve raw-only food. Her message: "Enzymes!" Seems enzymes help your body turn food into energy. But cooking food over 105 degrees Fahrenheit starts destroying them. The staff makes everything here, even their own salsa fresca. "We make the 'sour cream' out of almonds and lemon juice," says Angie, one of the place's vegan missionaries. So you sit up to the green mosaic counter in a cheery, airy space with dangling lights and walls of live plants filter-

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ing that city air for you. Chomp in, guilt-free, knowing no animal has been sacrificed at the altar of your appetite. (Course plants, like the dehydrated tomatillos, corn, and the nopale cactus that go into the tortillas themselves, have been.) Angie says she gets other benefits, aside from the new taste. "Since I switched to the vegan lifestyle," she says, "my energy levels have been through the roof, and specially with raw foods, it's like electricity through your veins." **Cilantro Live, 3807 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-325-1949. Also in Lemon Grove and Carlsbad.**

Tacos Salceados Sweet tacos? Imagine. First bite: corn tortilla, shrimp, pineapple, raspberry, walnuts, orange slices — this may be the most original taqueria in the galaxy. Either side of the border, anyway. Javier Campos Gutiérrez started up in business in this faded but respectable

Tijuana neighborhood of Santa Cruz La Mesa off Agua Caliente as a hole-in-the-wall taco joint. Now Tacos Salceados — though everybody calls it by the street it's on, Tacos la Ermita — has grown to a large curbside café, packed every night plus lines outside. Why? Two big reasons: *quesatacos* and *taco dulce*. For his *quesatacos*, he throws a handful of shredded cheese onto the hot plate, then glues a corn tortilla to it and adds shrimp, then slices of avocado, and creams a pinkish dressing over it. Sloppy and delicious. The cheese is grilled till it's almost crackly against the tortilla. The pink dressing, *salsa de camarón*, gives it richness. The avocado gives it squelch. Oh man, it works. But don't leave yet. The *taco dulce* looks like a kind of crepe. Inside, it has shrimp with

pineapple, and raspberry sauce oozes all over the top. Chopped walnuts are

scattered everywhere. Mint and garnishes of orange slices make it look fit for a king. Twice when I've gone, I've met people who came all the way

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down from L.A. for this. What, you're still here? **Tacos Salceados, 30-A Avenida Ermita-Norte, Fraccionamiento Santa Cruz La Mesa, near Calle Barburias del Mar, off Agua Caliente Boulevard, Tijuana. No phone.**

El Carrito
Charming ex-San Diego streetcar is now a restaurant in Barrio Logan. This is not smart, and it's not in a smart part of

town. That's partly why it's so great. Go for the fish tacos, or if you've got bread, the breaded shrimp or fried tilapia. Mainly, go to catch the atmosphere of San Diego, circa 1890. This wagon has been off its wheels and serving food since 1948, when Detroit's campaign to destroy light rail in San Diego won out. El Carrito is currently closed for redecorating. It will reopen on February 15. **El Carrito,**

2154 Logan Avenue, Barrio Logan.

El Indio
Some folks say El Indio sucks and that it survives on its reputation as just about the oldest taco place in town (it started in 1940) and as the inventor of taquitos. They say it's on the tourist circuit so it's always full of know-no-better *turistas* from Kansas or the cruise liners docked for the day. Or else it's great-aunts bringing great-nephews and nieces to show them

where they hung out when they were kids. Or else, politicians coming to press flesh and be seen in Latino settings. I dunno. Maybe I'm a sucker for history and atmosphere, but I kinda like the place. Actually, I kinda love the place. It's your grandpa's San Diego, alive and well, and not pandering to the more sophisticated, "contemporary Mexican" tastes of our smarter age. Just think. This is an original tortilla factory. One of the first. And the guy, Ralph Pesqueira Sr., the present owner's dad,

invented the damned tortilla-making machine that still cranks 'em out every morning. Not only that, Ralph invented taquitos. Maybe San Diego's greatest culinary invention ever!

So when I find myself up at the top of India Street, I at least get a bag of El Indio's homemade tortilla chips and three or four salsas. Dammit, these much-hyped chips *are* good. No, great. Rough, salty. You see tables full of people sounding like firecrackers, eating nothing but, with a couple of the salsas, which also don't suck. The taquito, of course, is a must. Tight-rolled, deep-fried, with shredded lettuce and beef or chicken inside. Or how about those *mordiditas*, bite-sized, chopped-up taquitos covered with nacho cheese and slices of jalapeños? Wicked. Cholesterol City, probably, but go-o-od. Also, their fish tacos are at least as

tasty as fish tacos at Rubio's, and their shredded beef tacos are fine. 'Course, you need time. It's always been crowded. The only difference between eating now and eating 50 years ago is they have plenty of inside eating space and a new fountain courtyard outside. But stuffing your face under the trees on the breezy traffic island can't be much changed, apart from that river called I-5 whisking between you and the bay. **El Indio Mexican Restaurant, 3695 India Street (at Winder), Midtown, 619-299-0333.**

Tacos El Gordo
There might not be a better place than here to explore the outer reaches of tacodom. El Gordo ("the Fat Guy") is bright and clean, with direct connections to Tijuana, where Gordo's has been famous for 30 years. So you can always get *adobada* (pork) and carne asada, but hey, at some point we gotta break out of the kid's pen, right? And here's the perfect spot. Wall menu's nice and simple. And tacos are good and cheap. This is where you learn that everybody else in the Americas uses far more parts of cows and pigs than we do. For one good reason: these parts are good and make you smarter. (That's the theory.) So start at the front end, with a *taco de cabeza* (slivers of flesh off the

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cow's head), *lengua* (tongue), uh, *sesos* (brains), *buche* (pig's stomach), *tripa* (intestines), and *suadero* (a kind of steakette of meat from the breastbone). Yes, they (and tacos such as the Azteca, with cactus and grilled beef) are an acquired taste, but I found things I, uh, liked, after a bit. For instance, the *cabeza* tastes a little nutty, the *sesos* have a sweet edge, and the Azteca's cactus gives the grilled beef a prickly-yet-mellow taste. But it's also good here because the atmosphere is bubbling and happy. Lots of customers, families with giggling kids, old guys, workers on their way home. It feels homey, even if you're not at home with what you're eating yet.

Hey, we live on the border. This is the upside. It's adapt or die of burger boredom. **Tacos El Gordo, 1351 Third Avenue (at Third and Palomar), Chula Vista, 619-424-7465.**

El Francés

If you go by the crowds who seem to turn up hungry every night, the Frenchman has to make some of the better tacos in Playas de Tijuana. He's been famous here for 25 years. But what he's most admired for is his tongue tacos. *Tacos de lengua*. It's a way-big deck-fronted place on a street not far from the ocean, with a ceiling of brick arches rippling back like waves and a bent Eiffel Tower as the A in the El Francés sign.

It's always crowded, specially later, around nine at night. So swing your buns aboard a stool at the red counter amid the chop-chop-chop of the cooks' cleavers and the smells of pork and cilantro. The menu lists asada, *adobada*, *cabeza* (cow's head), *suadero*, *tripitas* (tripe), and *lengua* (tongue). Order *taco de lengua*. Come on now, you've got to try it sometime. Maybe you shouldn't fix your eyes on the foot-long lumps under a red-and-white checkered cloth. Cow tongues. They go through ten every night. As soon as you order it, one of the half-dozen cooks will flap the cloth open and plunk a tongue on the chopping block. *Chop-chop-chop*. He passes a plate of

RESEARCH STUDIES

Now Enrolling:

Clinical Research Study for Adults with

Type 2 Diabetes

If you are...

- Between 18 and 77 years of age • Currently taking Metformin or Glucophage®

You may be eligible to participate in a global clinical research study.

Participants may receive study-related medical care, study medication, laboratory work, and evaluations, at no cost.

**To learn more about this study, please call
Ritchken & First M.D.'s Donna Perez at: 858-292-0108 x207**
All calls are confidential.

MBI02014

PartnersSM Diabetes

CL-DD4178 09/07

Diabetes Research



Research Opportunities

Are you overweight?
Do you have
elevated blood pressure?

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

You may qualify if you are:

- Male or female between the ages of 18-75
- Overweight
- Currently have mildly elevated to high blood pressure and are being treated with at most one high blood pressure medication
- Non-diabetic with impaired fasting glucose (blood sugar)

Participants will receive a medical screening at no cost by board-certified physicians and have the option to enroll in a research study after screening. Compensation up to \$800 will be provided to participants who qualify for the research study.

If you are interested please call:
(858) 552-8585 ext. 6740



Do you have psoriasis?



If you are age 18 or older and have moderate to severe psoriasis, you may be eligible to participate in a new research study testing an experimental drug for psoriasis.

Please call or e-mail MedDerm Associates to see if you qualify.

Do you want clear skin?

You may be qualified to participate in a research study at MedDerm Associates.

For more information, call MedDerm at: (619) 542-0013 or visit our website at: www.medderm.net



Depression

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

Are you between the ages of 18 and 55 and finding life hard to tolerate? Has your energy and motivation to enjoy your life decreased? Do you find even simple pleasures empty? If so, you may qualify to try an investigational medication being studied for depression.

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

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

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



858-571-1188
Toll-free 800-571-1188
www.cctstudy.com



We're looking for volunteers with

Migraine Headaches

If you are between the ages of 18 and 65, in good health and suffer from an average of 2 or more migraines monthly, you may qualify to try an investigational medication being studied for the treatment of migraine headaches.

Every research 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 \$250 for three study visits.
- You receive no-cost study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.



858-571-1188
Toll-free 800-571-1188
www.cctstudy.com



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.



858-571-1188
Toll-free 800-571-1188
www.cctstudy.com



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

**Who me? Yes, you, the one who is up most of the night.
Have trouble getting up early in the morning?**

Feel like you could sleep all day and should say, "who, who" all night?

If you are healthy but have chronic problems falling asleep before midnight, you may qualify for a research study in our state-of-the-art sleep clinic and receive an investigational medication for poor sleep.

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

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

- You may receive up to \$2600 for time and travel.
- Receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.



858-571-1188
Toll-free 800-571-1188
www.cctstudy.com



Do you have eczema?

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

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

ADV N

Atopic Dermatitis Vaccinia Network

Please contact for more details, and spread the word.

858-657-8390

ucsddermstudies@gmail.com

slightly vinegary cucumber slices along with your steaming, seasoned corn tortilla tongue taco. Seriously, the squishiness takes a bit of getting used to, but it's good for you, and you'll see a great improvement next time you have to make a speech (kidding). Reward yourself with a truly delicious *adobada* taco from the huge spit of flaked, red-skinned pork that rotates in front of roaring gas flames. But maybe what you'll remember most is the atmosphere: cooks chopping, girls peeling onions, waiters yelling orders, and neighbors you can't help chatting with. Either language. This is Playas. It's a trip, and it's worth the trip. **Tacos El Francés, Paseo Playas de Tijuana #2553, Costa de Oro, Playas de Tijuana (and two newer branches elsewhere in Tijuana).**

Kentucky Fried Buches
While you're across the line, check out Kentucky Fried Buches, an interesting, modest place that sells deep-fried chicken necks — yes, necks — and corn tortillas and cilantro and salsa, so you can make up your own chicken-neck tacos. (*Buche* usually refers to the stomach lining, but in chickens it refers to the neck.) Till recently, these guys bought necks by the thousands from El Norte and cooked them up here, 'cause it seems the U.S. doesn't eat chicken necks. Now they get them from Monterrey, Mexico. Quality's improved. They're surprisingly scrumptious. You can eat them like corn on the cob or haul off the flesh and make up tacos from it. For three generations the Escoto family has been running the eatery, since the grandparents José and María came up with the

idea in 1963. They say they're the only chicken-neck joint either side of the line. Juan Manuel says they get plenty of customers from San Diego (maybe because it's in the Zona Norte — which is peppered with ladies of the night and nightclubs). But hey, Juan Manuel says Tijuana's new mayor, Jorge Ramos, finished his campaign here, César Chávez once ate here. So did Charles Bronson and Cheech Marin, while they were filming in TJ. And if you can't make it this time, try and make it necks time. **Kentucky Fried Buches, 670 Avenida Constitución, Zona Norte, Tijuana. No phone.**

El Porvenir

If there's one tortilla factory older than El Indio, this is it. This place has been serving tacos and burritos nonstop since... (drum roll,

RESEARCH STUDIES

ATTENTION HEAVY DRINKERS

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



Stop Drinking!

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

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



Do You Suffer From Recurrent Genital Herpes?

We are conducting a research study with an investigational medication to see if it helps reduce the healing time for genital herpes outbreaks.

To qualify, you must be at least 18 years of age, medically diagnosed with genital herpes, and be in good general health.

Qualified participants will receive:

- Study medication • Laboratory tests
- Study-related physical exams
- Compensation for time and travel

For more information, call:

619-521-2841

Medical Center for Clinical Research

please)...1918! That's, what, 90 years? Four generations? Whole lotta tacos goin' on. They must have been doing something right. And they sure got the right name (El Porvenir, "the Future," named after El Rancho Porvenir, a spread down Guadalajara way). It's a little one-story shoebox of a building that has been freshened up but still looks as if it has been going 90 years straight. The old wide-board timber siding is intact, the window grilles must have been keeping out the bad guys for decades, and the open kitchen sports a "new" tortilla machine they say is 60 years old. (Before that, tortillas were made *a mano*.) One thing you know: they're fresh. The morning ladies turn out 30 to 60 dozen of the little Frisbees every day, according to Rudi Garcia, who runs the place. "People have come from as far as Oceanside, Arizona, Tacoma for regular sup-

plies of our tortillas," he says. They make only one kind of taco, the \$2 carnitas. And basically you get tortilla and carnitas (pork cooked in its own juices and fats). They're rich and satisfying. Two will fill you plenty. Get a bottle of Sangria Señorial grape juice to go with it. Gives a winey taste to the whole experience. Only \$1.25. You sit on orange Formica benches or at green plastic tables. Four tables in all. Art on the gray brick and cream walls is pretty much one large faded picture of the



Is your current Anxiety medication not working?

Are you:

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

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

For more information about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

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



Tired of the weight? A Type II diabetic?

Are you:

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

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

For more information about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

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



Too Shy?

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

Confidential help is available. You may be eligible to

Receive Free Treatment

with computerized therapy as part of a research program.

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

CENTER FOR UNDERSTANDING AND TREATING ANXIETY

6386 Alvarado Court, Suite 301, San Diego



Is your Schizophrenia medication making you heavy?

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

You may qualify if you are:

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

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

For more information about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

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



Anxiety?

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

Anxious/Worried?

Difficulty Sleeping?

Restless/Tense?

Difficulty Concentrating?

free treatment

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

Center for Understanding and Treating Anxiety

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



Not sleeping?

Are you:

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

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

For more information about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

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



Virgin of Guadalupe. Morning and lunchtime crowds don't notice. They're here for the carnitas; admittedly, mainly for the burrito version. But better grab that taco while you can. 'Cause guess what could be the undoing of El Porvenir? Progress. East Village is creeping south. The winds of change are coming, and property is being snapped up. "They're starting a bunch of condos next door," says Mr. Garcia. "Right where the school ice cream vans were stored." Would he sell? Mr. Garcia runs the place. He doesn't own the property. But he says he doesn't doubt the owners would, "if the price is right." Has the Future's time passed? Say it's not

so. **El Porvenir Tortilla Factory, 1786 National Avenue (at Beardsley), Barrio Logan, 619-702-2445.**

Pokéz

There must be other downtown places where sproutsies (that's vegetarians, to you carnivores) can pick up meat-free tacos, but none that are more into it than Pokéz. These guys are serious vegetarian/vegans, Mexican style. Rafael founded Pokéz 14 years ago, when he was 18. A wooden Aztec-looking dude on a skateboard stands right inside holding the menus, telling you to wait to be seated. No one seems to bother. The food is mostly vegetarian, according to the menu,

with no lard used, and beans and rice are low in sodium and also 100 percent vegetarian, and the place says it uses organic as much as it can. They also do meat dishes, but their three main veggie/vegan tacos (the difference is cheese or no cheese) fill you plenty and taste fine, with lots of salsa. The one most full of stuff is the tofu potato mushroom taco, but the Veggie, mainly beans and salad, is delish because it comes in a bubbly crispy tortilla. And the potato taco is flat-out yummy, stuffed with mash. They all come with salad, chunks of red cabbage, lettuce, carrot, tomato. Good atmosphere too: lots of black T-shirts, leather, tattoos, heavy

piercing, Dr. Marten boots, red hair, blue hair, hoods. And on the green walls, everybody from Ché to César Chávez, and juke box music going from Diamond Dogs to hip-hop to Johnny Cash, wailing "Sunday Morning Coming Down." **Pokéz Mexican Restaurant and Vegetarian Cuisine, 947 E Street (at Tenth), downtown, 619-702-7160.**

Ker Little India

Indian tacos? Why not? I mean Indian Indian. This big warehouse that's half grocery, half eatery delivers exotic food in a wrap that's not so different from the tortilla. Head for the buffet. Grab a couple of naans, the round Indian unleavened bread, then have at the amazing selection of fillers, from *aloo curry* — that's potato — dal (lentils), *chholle* (garbanzo beans), "*baingan ka burta*," a delicious, smoky-tasting roasted

eggplant dish, mixed vegetable curry and, heck, three or four more. Just stuff them in the bread, and — presto! Instant tacos! And the amazing thing is, they are all vegetables. Some smoky and roasted, others yogurty, others nutty. Just how you'll feel when you stagger out. **Ker Little India, 9520 Black Mountain Road, Mira Mesa, 858-566-5522.**

La Taquiza de Tijuana

What salsas are you supposed to put on what tacos? A catering truck down at the bus and trolley stop on Iris Avenue in Otay Mesa has been a sort of salsa school for me. Taquiza de Tijuana is also an expansion of a Tijuana-based food truck "chain." One of my all-time favorite street places. It's open nights. Only nights. And the number of times I have just missed a bus or trolley here, I get almost pleased, because that gives me the

opportunity to cross Iris and head for the lights under the white canopy. It's strung up beside a big catering wagon in what's a recycling yard by day. When I first used to go there, clouds of smoke and incredible smells would billow out from under the canopy. A girl would be tossing flaps of meat on a charcoal grill set up beside the truck, and the fire would crackle and sear the beef and warm a traditional *olla*, a decorated, brown ceramic pot sitting on top of the grill, with a mess of beans — *frijoles de la olla* — simmering inside. And beside that, a plate piled high with sautéed onions and jalapeño peppers.

Then good ol' health department authorities came by and ordered Taquiza to cease and desist from cooking outside, because, uh, duh, well, it could harm someone. Even though it's okay for permanent bar-

RESEARCH STUDIES

SCHIZOPHRENIA SCHIZOAFFECTIVE BIPOLAR DISORDER MAJOR DEPRESSION

We may currently or in the future have inpatient and outpatient research studies involving investigational medications for the conditions listed above.

Qualified candidates will be reimbursed for time and transportation (\$50 for each inpatient hospital day and up to \$100 for each outpatient visit).

For more information, call: **858-566-8222**

The California Neuropsychopharmacology Clinical Research Institute, LLC
"CNRI, LLC"



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



Pediatric Research Study

Does your child have "Pinkeye"?

UCSD is conducting a clinical study using an antibiotic eyedrop for "Pinkeye" (bacterial conjunctivitis).

Your child may be eligible to participate if he or she:

- Is between the age of birth to 31 days old
- Has "Pinkeye" (bacterial conjunctivitis)
- Is in good general health

Study participation offers the following at no cost:

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

Contact information: If you are interested in obtaining more information about this research study, please contact:
UCSD Pediatric Pharmacology Research Unit (PPRU)
Rosalinda Cruz, CMA, CCRC
619-497-2100 (office)
858-735-5732 (pager)

Multiple Sclerosis Patients

Paid \$150 for 1 hour

Plaza Research is conducting a research to learn more about the treatment and management of patients with MS. For a 1-hour interview at our office, you will be compensated \$150.

For more information and to see if you qualify for our research on **February 1**, please call us today as space is limited.



(858) 200-3000

becue places to barbecue outside. Whatever. Now they have to do all that in the truck, and it has taken away a big chunk of character and a bit of the Mexican soul, though the tacos are just as good.

So always, I go for an *adobada* (or *al pastor*, same thing, marinated pork) or carne asada. Then head for the salsas and other add-ons on the rack set in the side of the truck. For months I freelanced, trying one salsa, then the other. Finally, I asked María, the lady who takes the orders at the cash register (set up on a shaky stand under the cook's sliding window). María more or less took me by the hand to where the salsas sat for Salsas 101.

"This *salsa de árbol* is for your *adobada*," she said, pointing to a bright red salsa. She said the *árbol* ("treelike") woody-stemmed chile starts

bright green, matures to bright red, and will make you the same color if you glop too much on.

She pointed to a brown salsa. "And this *salsa de chile chipotle* is good with beef. The *salsa verde* [green salsa, made with green tomatillos and serrano chiles] is good for *lengua* [tongue] and *cabeza* [cow's head] tacos. It doesn't overpower their more subtle flavors."

Such a feast for the price. You sit at any space at the three tables, huddling together with strangers, eating out in this little puddle of light in the darkness. It makes for good conversation. **La Taquiza de Tijuana, 3171 Iris, at 30th, by Iris bus and trolley station, Otay Mesa. No phone.**

Mariscos los Paisas
Of course, right across the recycling lot from Taquiza is my other favorite place, another

canvas canopy beside another catering truck. This is different in two ways, and similar in one. It operates only through the day, and it serves *mariscos* (seafood). It's a big resource for Saturday-morning hangover cures. If you don't go to a *menudo* place, you come here for *siete mares* (seven seas) or *tres rios* (three rivers) soups. But most of the time you come for tacos. Their shrimp tacos are to die for. First one I had — with a few drops of habanero hot sauce I'd splotted on the shrimp — had to be the most beautiful taco of my life. Lush shrimp, onions, garlic, lettuce shreds, tomato, Mexican cream. Here, on some parking lot, in some secondhand catering van, a Wolfgang Puck was alive and well.

Next thing that happened was this guy next to me called out "¡Paisan!" to the owner.

Do you have small, red, rough spots on your face or scalp?

You may be suffering from Actinic Keratoses or precancerous lesions. If you are at least 18 years of age, you may be eligible for a clinical research study.

You may qualify if you have: 4 or more red, rough and/or scaly spots or lesions on your face or scalp.

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

Qualified participants will receive study related medical exams, and investigational medications at no cost. Compensation for time and travel may be provided.

Medical insurance is not required for study participation.

RESEARCH STUDIES



ARE YOU AT LEAST 65 AND NOT GETTING RESTFUL SLEEP?


If so, you or a loved one may be interested in a research study of an investigational medication for insomnia in the elderly.

Qualified Participants Must:

- Have trouble either going to sleep or staying asleep
- Be at least 65 years of age

Study-related exams, laboratory tests, and study medication are provided at no cost. Qualified participants may receive up to \$2,450 in compensation for time and effort.

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

 **PACIFIC SLEEP MEDICINE SERVICES**
1.866.410.6767



ARE YOU A NIGHT OWL?

Do you go to bed at a late hour?

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

Qualified Participants Must:

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

Qualified Participants Will Receive:

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

Don't be in a Holidaze.

Are you smoking too much pot?



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

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

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



Are YOU Postmenopausal?

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

Covance San Diego is looking for women who are:

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

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

COVANCE

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

Please Reference Study 207547

TestWithTheBest.com or 866-818-3253



“Taco de ancas de rana, por favor.” He was talking about frog legs. I signaled for one too. Great, with slightly squishy meat inside the corn tortilla, but no match for shrimp. Also good, the fish tacos and ceviche tostadas. Having a little Spanish helps. **Mariscos los Paisas, 3267 Iris Avenue (at trolley crossroads), Otay Mesa. No phone.**

El Borrego

You don't usually think of lamb and tacos together. But they do down in the state of Hidalgo, just north of Mexico City. And now they do in City Heights too. The lamb tacos at El Borrego (“the Lamb”), on El Cajon near Fairmount, give you the concentrated flavor of beautifully moist lamb meat that doesn't need a whole bunch of add-ons. It's already been cooked

barbacoa-style, wrapped in maguey leaves and steamed slowly for ten or more hours. The main thing you taste, apart from the lamb itself, which is subtle but a bit like goat, is the tequila-like flavor of the maguey (agave) plant. And Rodnia Navarro and her mother also make a nice play on the flavors with their rolled tacos filled with lamb *barbacoa* plus Mexican sour cream, cotija cheese, and rice. Plus, you're eating it all in this bright orange and yellow-washed place with sarapes and art on the walls and large Mexican dolls in niches. El Borrego seems to be part of a new wave of places that don't give in to the clichés of your average Mexican eatery. **El Borrego, 4280 El Cajon Boulevard (not far west of Fairmount), City Heights, 619-281-1355.**

El Comal

The El Comal phenomenon was started by Luz Herrera Ibarra, a determined ex-biology teacher from Acapulco. What she was determined about was not ever to cook the watered-down “border” version of Mexican food she believed most of us were getting here in Diego. So about ten years ago, she opened a “little whims” place. That's the translation of *antojitos*. Okay, appetizers. They're all kinda tacolike: different ways of wrapping food with tortillas. *Mulitas*, *huaraches*, *gorditas*. That's “little mules,” “sandals,” and “little fatties.”

Mulitas are a Tijuana specialty, two tortillas, with carne asada or pork or chicken inside and melted cheese and guacamole, like a mule carrying a big load on his back. *Huaraches* are long, oval, sandal-shaped tor-

RESEARCH STUDIES

SCHIZOPHRENIA

Is your current medication working?

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

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

Seroquel® is a registered trademark of Astra-Zeneca.

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

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

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

Please call: 1-888-619-7272



SYNERGY CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTERS



Are you a night owl?

Do you go to bed at a late hour? If so, you should know about a research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of Delayed Sleep Phase Syndrome (DSPS).

Qualified participants must be 18 and older and go to bed later than you would like.

Qualified participants will receive all study-related care, exams and study drug at no charge. Compensation for time and travel up to \$3,200.

For more information on this clinical study, please contact Pacific Research Network: 619-294-4302 or www.prnsc.com

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Here's a small sample to get you inspired!

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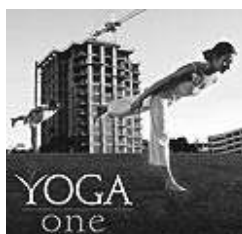
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1 month for just \$50 (save \$80). Offer is valid 1 month from the 1st class attended. Non-transferable. Not valid with other offers. Must present coupon at time of 1st class. First-time students only. Offer expires January 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

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Choose from: massage with salts and oils, facial, body bronzing, or clay or seaweed body wraps, in our outdoor/indoor tropical paradise. Includes use of sauna, steam room and spa. (20% gratuity not included.) Offer expires January 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

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Bee Tan Salon **Free Magic Tan**
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Body Wise Yoga Studio **\$10 off yoga class**
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Actual tacos are pretty darned good too. You can have the *suave* (soft) or *dorado* (hard). The soft and hard both come with steak, pork, shredded beef, or chicken. But if you're feeling gringo today, go for the dee-lish potato taco. **El Comal, 3946 Illinois Street, North Park, 619-294-8292. Also 262 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, 619-420-3811.**

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every week. "We're the only ones who do it properly," they say. Fact is, there are two extremely good things about this place: the cooked-in-its-own-juices pork and the frijoles. They slow-cook the pork in lard for three hours. Its own juices give it flavor, so you don't need to add anything except maybe cilantro and a bit of onion. Then, guess what? They cook the frijoles in the same lard. Porky, salty, garlicky, squelchy, melt-in-the-mouth. The dish looks almost Vietnamese when it arrives at your table, with a big green pile of fresh cilantro and sliced onions and tomato on one side and a pile of pork chunks on the other and a plate of frijoles. Now all you have to do is wrap everything in a hot corn tortilla and make your own little taco. You can't overdo this and live, but as Grandma always

said, a little of what you fancy does you good. **Car-nitas Uruapan, 8035 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-462-0704.**

Comedor La Oaxaqueña

Grasshopper-chomping's a Oaxacan thing. And smart? For sure. 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? So Oaxacans have made a virtue out of necessity and created a dish we should all love. Okay, it takes a couple of leaps of faith. The first is when the spiky back legs get stuck between your teeth. Don't panic. You could rip your lip. The second is to learn not to look into their beady little eyes as you head them into your mouth.

Because, unlike with a carne asada taco, you're

handling the en-tire creature here. Which is why it's kinder to both sides to hide them all in a tortilla and make a taco of them.

You won't find this dish at Taco Bell. You've got to search it out, and the nearest place I've found is deep in the shadowy northeast alleys of the Miguel Hidalgo Market in Tijuana's Rio district. Comedor y Venta de Productos Auténticos Oaxaqueños is a delicious little bit of Oaxaca with everything from dresses to *ollas* to moles to *clayudas* (Mexican pizzas) to roasted *chapulines* — grasshoppers. The ladies are dressed in traditional Oaxacan garb, wide white pants with flowery decorations down the sides and a white top. The first time I crunched into a little grasshopper (after a shot of mezcal to kill the cowardice), it was a nice surprise, as long as I kept looking straight ahead.

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They're crunchy. Salty. A little like shrimp shell, but taste-wise, a lot is covered by the lime. Fried-tasting, crackly, squishy, like peanuts with soft centers. I followed everybody else and folded a bunch of them in a corn tortilla to make a taco. That way they become tasty crunch inside the corn. 'Course, I've read scary stuff, that some grasshoppers caught in Oaxaca had lead and pesticide residue in them and others can pass on parasites if they're not washed and cooked properly. But María says no. They select and wash and cook these little blighters thoroughly. **Comedor La Oaxaqueña, Mercado Miguel Hidalgo, Local No. 32 Planta Baja, Avenida Independencia a corner with Boulevard Sánchez Taboada, Zona Rio, Tijuana, 011-52-664-200-2804.**

El Sol
Eat here, and you mix with presidents. Well, mix with the guy who cooked for a president. Miguel Madera used to cook "slamburgers" at Danny's, the sailors' bar on Coronado's Orange Avenue. That's where a bunch of guys everyone just knew were Secret Service came in to pick up an order of Miguel's slamburgers for — who else could it have been except for President Bill Clinton and his party at the Hotel Del? Fast-forward ten years, and Miguel has his own modest, often crowded little place on University, still flying the black U.S. Navy Seal flag from Coronado days, still making those burgers fit for the most burger-crazy president in history. But the unheralded secret is his tacos. They are generous, tasty, and cheap. At least here on University, they're bet-

ter appreciated. His carne asada and grilled fish tacos both make a fine mess of your face, and the shrimp one comes loaded. In fact, all of his seafood rocks. **El Sol Mexican Restaurant, 2037 University Avenue, North Park, 619-298-0874.**

El Parque
El Parque sits in a clearing off Reche Road, south of Fallbrook. Been here for 30 years. And the irony is, this inland restaurant turns out the best fish tacos you ever tasted. The guys say they have no secret to the sauce: just sweet pickles, mayo, and salsa. Maybe it's the forest effect, but it comes out tasting great. The lunches are crowded oftentimes. That's when the avocado workers come in for food. Or Sunday morning, when the El Parque guys make 150 pounds of *menudo*

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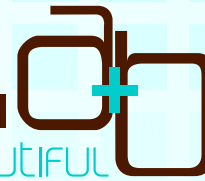
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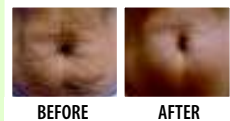
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for locals with a hangover problem. They reckon this is the real social moment of the week. But not for me: nothing beats the end of the day, any day, when you can sit on the porch, tip back your Stetson, and watch the sun get gobbled by the trees. The world seems far away. With a Negra Modelo, couple of buddies, some ranchero music, say, "Ay, Papacita!" and a couple of those country fish tacos, life don't get much better. **El Parque, 2659 Reche Road, Fallbrook, 760-731-2775.**

Alambres

If the Gaslamp has a Latino social center, it has to be Alambres. You can tell because of the soccer TV booming out of it and the late-late hours of the kitchen. Catch it midnight Friday and things are just beginning. This is a fun place. It's run like a

Mexico City café-bar, and it's unique because it specializes in Mexico City-style tacos.

Alambres means "wire," or, I'm thinking, the "sword" of the vertical rotisserie spit they cook the meat on. Which tells you the idea had to have come across the ocean from the Middle East, from the lamb-twisting spits of Beirut. But immigrants swapped lamb for pork — probably Mexico's favorite meat — to create *taco al pastor* — probably Mexico's favorite taco.

It turns out *alambre* is also a Mexico City style of taco. Basically roasted pork — or beef, chicken, or fish — on corn tortillas loaded with bacon, bell pepper, and onions. With grilled green onions flopping on the side. Absolutely scrumby. Here you can have them *al pastor*, carne asada, fish *à la diablo*, or even with

rib eye. If you don't insist on rib eye, you can get one here for pretty much *una canción*. **Alambres Mexican Grill, 756 Fifth Avenue, in the Gaslamp, 619-233-2838.**

Johnny Mañana's

This place has been chugging along for years in its light, cheery way on the basis of Costa Rican laid-backness and healthy cooking. They get lots of support from the surfing and teaching communities of Oceanside. So yes, healthy eating is important to their customers. "We do not use any animal fat," says a notice. "Our deep frying oils have no cholesterol...our chicken is skinless and boneless, with all fat trimmed off...no additives, preservatives, artificial flavors." Everything inside here has a kind of Caribbean flavor. And colors. What attracts me is the fish taco. It's grilled,

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not deep-fried, and there are two corn tortillas per taco and plenty of fish. **Johnny Mañana's, 308 Mission Avenue, Ocean-side, 760-721-9999.**

Tacos el Cubano

This is one of the nicest surprises down in the "Naughty Zone" (Zona Norte). A couple of taco carts and lots of shouting and toutin' for business. Come here at night, when this part actually looks more glamorous than seedy. Of course, you have to share the sidewalk with ladies of the night, half-drunk gringos, lots of really good street musicians, and a few unsavory types. I even saw a drunk vaquero up here one night asleep on his horse. But the tacos are totally savory. ¡Sabroso! El Cubano is the last taco cart on Constitución before Coahuila, the heart of the area, where most gringos head on their way to the famous Adelita Bar. El Cubano's *adobada* spit glistens and turns, lit up in the night, the drippings lit red by its gas fire flames. The guys touting for your business will practically lift you onto one of their stools. But they deliver with rich pickin's, specially that gyrating pork. The tacos are juicy. The guys will help you with the best salsas, fresh radishes, sautéed onions, and bubbling beans, and they'll chat between shouts for business. So who's el Cubano? The guys jokingly point the finger to the cook. We'll never know. Hey, and you might even end up with a bacon hot dog from the cart they say started *that* whole phenomenon, about a half century ago, right out on the street corner from your stool. But that's another story. **Tacos el Cubano, Corner Constitución and Coahuila, Zona Norte, Tijuana. No phone.**

Las Cuatro Milpas
It's an incredible thing,

but seems like every time you cruise down Logan Avenue in the 932 bus, there's a line of people outside that little ol' restaurant Las Cuatro Milpas ("the Four Corn-

fields") and the place next door, La Victoria. I'd always thought they were two restaurants. Turned out they're the same. This little clump of cream stucco buildings stands

behind one long green canvas awning. And they serve incredibly cheap, old-fashioned, simple, and greasy-delicious food. Tamales, burritos, bowls of chorizo, thick

brick-colored salsa, and carnitas, tacos with pork meat steeped in its own lard and sinfully full of flavor. As much as the food, I love the history of it. "Our grandfather

Nati — Natividad — and Grandma Petra started this as a tortilla factory back in the early 1930s," Margarita told me the first time I went in. "Then they started simple

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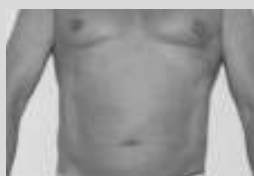
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lunches. They ground their own corn. We still do, right here. We used to have to cook it out on the sidewalk. Grandfather bought this little building for \$500. He had to work for years with the Santa Fe, 18 hours a day laying rail for 5 cents an hour to pay it off. We haven't changed a thing." She said La Victoria was the store her grandparents opened next door. Now it's a dining room, a part of the rabbit warren of eating spaces that the family has put together over the years. Margarita runs the place with her sisters Sofia and Dora. Half the pleasure is in the steaming cauldrons, the hand-made tortillas, the way

people lining up look more like pilgrims than customers. What keeps me coming back here time and again are the carnitas, of course. Those luscious pork tacos. And also the feeling that you're eating in what's probably the most famous and unspoiled taco joint in the whole county. **Las Cuatro Milpas, 1857 Logan Avenue, Barrio Logan, 619-234-4460.**

Tacos Varios

This is what we'll never get in downtown San Diego. In TJ, every night, they wheel a taco stand out to the corner of Constitución and Third Street, right by the Tres

Hermanos ("Three Brothers") shoe store, and they won't pack up till the sun rises. And don't you know it, almost straightaway, they're crowded. Folks getting off work, climbing out of taxi buses, they all seem to stop by for a snack, or, often, dinner. You see them leaning in under the blue canopy, faces lit up by the little gas light clamped to the counter, chomping and chattering away. Students, bureaucrats, cab drivers. The guys behind the cart work like caffeinated jugglers, opening pots, grabbing tortillas, meats, salsas, pouring *horchata* drink, reaching for money, handing back

change. This, you can't resist. And the choice is quite simple. They only do tacos, so you've just gotta decide what flavor. For each customer, the guy starts clacking open steaming lids one after the other. "We've got tongue, we've got chicken mole, we've got milanesa, we've got steak ranchero, we've got carne asada, we've got chile relleno, we've got *pescado*, fish." They hand you your choice on a plastic plate with a plastic bag slid over it. That way, no plate washing. But what you get is one oversized meal for about a couple of bucks that is the real Mexican thing. Real *casera* (home style) food.

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And funny thing about standing around on the sidewalk, chowing down together. Language problems or not, you'll get to talking. Half an hour will pass, no matter how cold and crowded it is. A good taco can do that to you. **Tacos Varios y Aguas Frescas, on Third Street (Calle Carrillo Puerto), at corner with Constitución, Tijuana. No phone.**

Tony's Jacal
Touristy? Check. Old-

fashioned border-Mex fare? Check. Facing competition from trendier Solana Beach joints? Check, check.

Guess that's what I like about Tony's. This place is a little creaky on its joints, reeks history, like, Hollywood-Del Mar history, where the surf meets the turf, Bing, Bob, *The Road to Singapore*, all that. Of course this, or Fidel's next door, is where fat cats bring out-of-towners for their safe "Mexico" experience.

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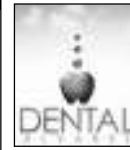
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Model

They both play the Mexican card well, without being gastronomically challenging. But still, there's something genuine here. Tony's gives off a vibe that only a place where the family has lived without a break for 100 years can. Plus, it's the only place I know that specializes in turkey breast tacos.

Sit at the bar while you wait for a table, which you will, 'cause it's always crowded. You're probably sitting on the

bar stool Elizabeth Taylor used, along with Eddie Fisher, Richard Burton, Desi Arnaz, Lucille Ball, Jimmy Durante, Ronald Reagan — and that great hanger-on whom everybody liked because it was dangerous not to, J. Edgar Hoover.

But the garden patio, with its vast chinaberry tree, is really why you come. *Jacal* means "shack." "And that's what it was here," Teresa, one of the family who runs the place, told me once.

"When Grandpa planted that chinaberry tree in the patio 100 years ago, he never could have guessed that one day we'd have Hollywood movie stars coming to sit under it." She was born right here in this building. "In what's now the kitchen," she says. "This used to be our house. The people in Rancho Santa Fe leased what's now Eden Gardens for us. 'La Colonia.' They wanted their Mexican workers nearby, but not too near. We had to have our own school, because they wouldn't let us go to the white kids' school. My dad had to ride in the back of the bus. That's how it was."

This is what makes food interesting for me. Like, the turkey tacos are the result of economy too. "It's easier to prepare one big turkey than a whole bunch of chickens," Teresa said. "And it's healthier." The tacos taste like turkey, with lettuce and salsa and beans and a

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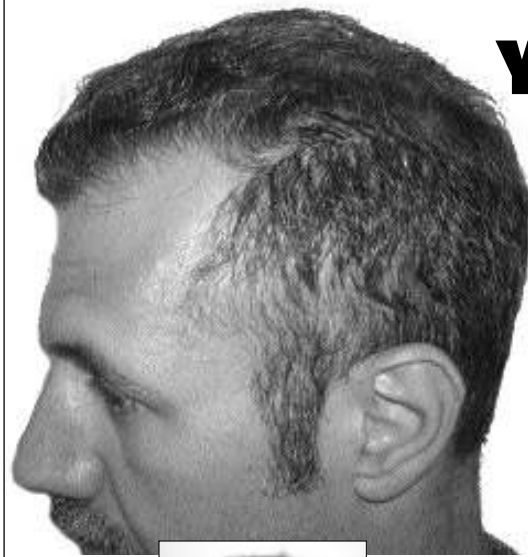


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pretty interesting rice, flavored with the turkeys' cooking liquids. At the end: a mean deep-fried ice cream and *buñuelos* (fritters) with sugar and cinnamon. **Tony's Jacal, 621 Valley Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-755-2274.**

Señor Frog's

Taquiza Tuesday at Señor Frog's is dangerously cheap. Like, free, after you pay the entrance of about \$15. The food is free, the drink is free, including liquor, from three to nine at night. Plus lots of music. But here's the thing. The food comes up from downstairs, Señor Frog's restaurant, and they make pretty great chow down there. It's served as a buffet, and a whole lot of that is tacos and fillings. The food is laid out on a long table with a stack of paper plates up front. A cook takes each plate and ladles anything you want onto tortillas to make tacos of them. Typical choices are fish tacos, *birria* (stew), pork, *chicharrón* (pork rinds), carne asada, frijoles, and ceviche. As many refills as you want, no questions asked. Same with the booze. The only problem? Eating them if you haven't got a table. In the milling crowd, one jog to the elbow and you're likely to lose it all. **Señor Frog's, Via Oriente 60, Zona Rio, Tijuana, 011-52-664-682-4962.**

Ranchos Cocina

Atmosphere of plants, clunky honest woodiness, and, like as not, idealists at the next table talking global warming make you want to eat right, healthy, vegetarian even, when you're here. The menu emphasizes the vegetable kingdom even though they sell plenty of steaks and *pollos rancheros*. Half the tacos they have are vegetarian or vegan, like tofu, nopales, shiitake mushroom (which comes with cabbage), spuds, soy

chorizo, and tempeh (fermented soybeans). But you feel they get it here. This ain't no toss-everything-in-the-fryer joint. They say they try to use organic fruit and veggies

as much as possible, that their rice and beans are vegetarian, or vegan, meaning cooked in canola oil. Even with the meats, they have the right attitude. Like, rather than

deep-fry it, they will happily grill your fish-taco fish, as they do the lobster and salmon tacos. Simple and delicious. **Ranchos Cocina, 1830 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, Ocean**

Beach, 619-226-7619; also at 3910 30th Street, North Park, 619-574-1288.

La Fachada "The Façade" is another

place where you go when you have the late-night munchies. It's open till three every morning and has a great choice of standard tacos. The thing to do is to sit out under the

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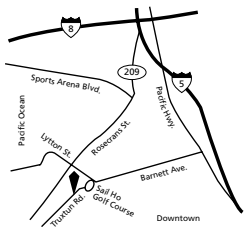
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lights of the tent where the catering truck is. Munch on tacos and chew the fat (between trolleys, which are kinda close by). And hey, hey! They still do grill the asada and onions and beans outside over glowing coals in billowing smoke. I'd always have the carne asada or the shrimp when I ate late in the main building, but now, if I make it to the tent area (and it's open only till midnight), gotta have either the carne

asada smoking in front of you or *al pastor*, from the spit in the truck. And about every half hour or so, the guys turning the meat at the grill announce that the newest batch of sautéed onions and beans is ready, and they hand you a cup and plate to put them in. Beautiful. Plus, it has this garden atmosphere. You get the feeling of being in Little Tijuana. If this is at the end of a night, and ye old pockets are light, they have a nice cheap little

plate of three rolled tacos that'll at least keep you going till sunup. **La Fachada, 20 25th Street, Logan Heights, 619-236-8566.**

El Mexicano

This was called Antojitos del País for the longest time. But nothing else has changed. The counter area is stacked with big, steaming pots and bubbling clay tureens. Stews from every part of Mexico fume away in them. This is an ideal do-it-yourself taco joint. Ask for beef or goat and grab a pile of corn tortillas, hand-slapped in front of you. You're in taco heaven. And that's official. Why? Half the officials of Tijuana come here to eat. I once caught an ex-mayor (now senator) making his own tacos here one lunchtime, Mexican hours — about 4:00 in the afternoon. That's the best time to catch the scene. Or 4:00 in the morning. It's open

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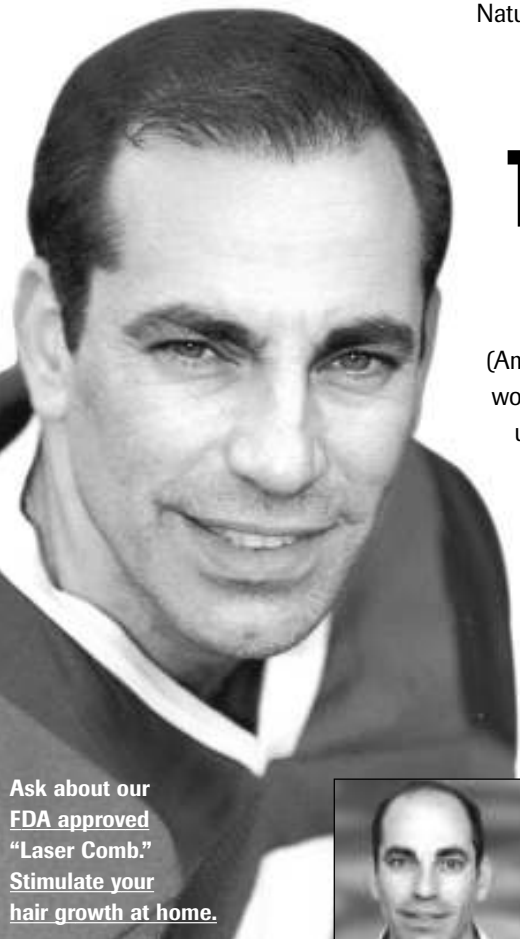
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great-great-grandchildren, a lot of them getting folks up and dancing anything from line dancing to merengue, ranchero, *quebradita*, and salsa in the evenings. ¡Que noche! The menu's traditional Mexican with some original twists, like the *botanas* (beans, pork, melted cheese over corn chips) that everyone says is Lydia's invention. But stick with the tacos: the *cabeza's* good, the *carnitas* are great, and the *carne asada* ain't half bad.

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restaurant down the stairs. Best eat: taco-tamale-enchilada combo (with beans, and guacamole or rice). **Café la Especial, Avenida Revolución 718 (down market steps), Tijuana, 011-52-664-685-6654.**

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Actual patient before



Actual patient after

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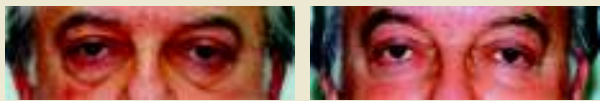
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Coronado has been quietly dishing out tacos and burritos for years. It's kind of famous for the generous size of its carne asada burritos. The decor? Basic. Floor is concrete slabs exactly like the sidewalk outside. A little red tile "roof" overhangs the order counter. A fan and two Spanish-style lamps — yellow glass, black wrought iron — hang from the ceiling. But that's it. The tacos they put out are stuffed. What's more, people admire their homemade salsa. One of the cooks, Gilberto, makes it from his mom's recipe. I heard folks from Mexico City in here saying it's the best darned salsa in El Norte. Carne asada is at the heart of the business, and the tacos are great, but the shredded beef crisp taco is the most delicious. Prices are delicious too, for Coronado.

At these prices, except for the kids driving by in Daddy's Lincoln SUVs, you could be in IB. **Clayton's Mexican Take-Out, 1107 Tenth Street (at the back of Clayton's Coffee Shop, 979 Orange Avenue), Coronado, 619-437-8811.**

Bull & Bear

You sort of don't expect it on Prospect, but the Bull & Bear, this trendy pub for the accountants and land barons of La Jolla, does great fish tacos. They're stuffed with cabbage and ooze with creamy sauce and dark salsa. You get salad and red-colored corn chips, so it looks good too, and so do you, sitting out on Prospect, chowing down, and watching the fashionable world go by — watching you. **Bull & Bear Bar and Grill, 1271 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-551-0077.**

Taco la Linea

Nine years ago, María Antonia Garcia had this Australian lamb idea. Like, to make tacos out of them. And guess where she does it? Just five yards into Latin America, at her taco stand directly outside the west channel of the pedestrian entrance to Tijuana. And *sin duda*, she turns out some of the most scrumptious lamb tacos anywhere. Just check out the permanent cluster of customers voting with their feet. The lamb (Aussie, "because it has the best flavor") comes in mayo-spread tortillas with cilantro and spices and all the fixings you want. They also do standard tacos like carnitas, and unusual ones — think one is ears — but most people will tell you they come for the lamb. What better way could you have to step into Old México? Watch out, they're closed on Thurs-

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days. **Taco la Linea, Corner Avenida Amistad and Calle José María Larroque, at western pedestrian entrance gate into Tijuana. No phone.**

Azteca

This used to be down at 12th and Imperial, another place where missing the bus had its consolations. Azteca filled you up and felt genuine. Then the building boom came and condos were slated, so Azteca was forced out and razed. "We came up here to Market Street, higher

rent, decorating, and guess what?" says one of the guys. "The building boom fell through, and our old place is a parking lot." Whatever. They still serve the same generous tacos that hooked a generation of trolley drivers and Father Joe's clients (at the beginning of the month, anyway). Lot of the same customers have migrated up here, although condoistas walking their dogs are starting to appear. I always go for the carnitas and the fish tacos. What I like: you get two tortillas per taco. That makes sure

you don't get a mid-chomp collapse. Also, this is right at the Park and Market trolley stop and ye olde Palms Hotel, where an urban legend has it that Wyatt Earp lived for months. So you can hop off one trolley, chow down, check out Wyatt's room (second floor, corner), and be ready when the next trolley comes along. **Azteca Taco Shop, 555 Park Boulevard, East Village, 619-955-5494.**

Limónz Rostizados

And this is the new Mexico, what's happening in

places like Mexico City. Trendy design, like transparent plastic bubble stools and wavy frosted plastic tables, echoey lime-and-white walls, and at the heart, a bunch of chafing dishes loaded with everything from carnitas to angel-hair spaghetti. Go for the marinated crispy-skin roast chicken. That's what this place is all about. It's juicy, spicy, and full of flavor. And you can really pig out. Either with the traditional-sized "street tacos" in corn tortillas or their idea of the Big Mac,

"Mexican Soft Tacos," way-big floppy flour tortillas that are great stuffed with the citrus-spice marinated chicken (or pork carnitas, or steak asada) plus an assembly line of condiments and garnishes. This is the fun part. The condiments could be anything from black beans to *fideos secos* (chipotle-spicy angel-hair pasta that's delicious covered in grilled cheese) to *poblano chili rajás*, which is roasted poblano and bell peppers sautéed with onions, then cooked with Mexican cream and

cheese. Yum, yum. Then you come to garnishes like the house-made, fresh-tasting guacamole and salsa fresca with cactus and (whew!) finally to a bunch of really cool salsas, "flavor sauces" like mango-habanero, spicy peanut chipotle, achiote, and jicama with Japanese red peppers. We're talking *sofisticado* here but without the La Jolla prices. You can go on experimenting forever. And ask the counter guys. They can lead you into new worlds of taco combos. And yes, it's all fresh. This place doesn't

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Actual patient



Actual patient



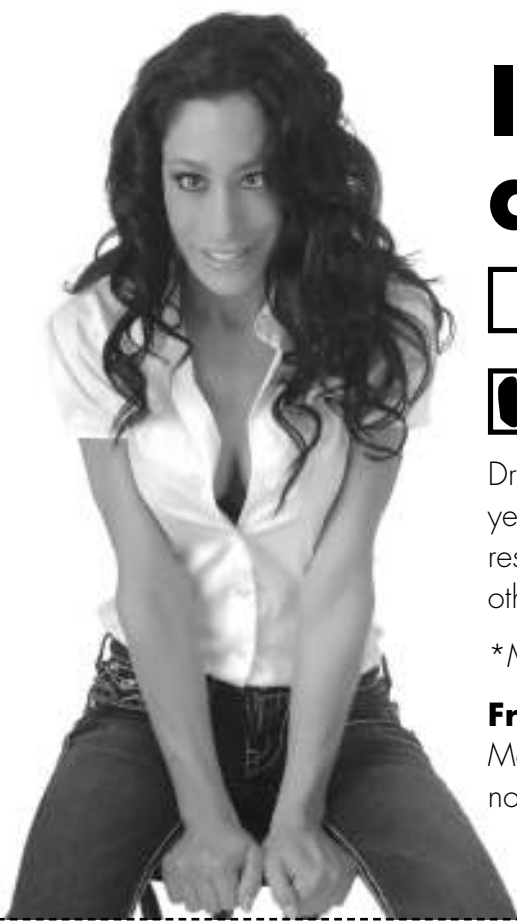
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Actual Patient/Model



If I had a choice



Bald man



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draw the raving crowds that the shacklike Cabo Cantina does just up the road on a Friday night, but it is a “cool Diego,” border-city, two-cultures-for-the-price-of-one joint if there was ever one. If you’re interested in truly creative taco food, you’re here! Mexican Moderne doesn’t always take in this town. Someone else tried a place down in Chula Vista, the Baja Taco

Shack. Hear it didn’t make it. But these guys are doing great. They oughta nail up a sign: Taco Future Is Here. **Limónz Rostizados, 978 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-605-0093.**

Oh, Lord. Then there’s that place on India Street. The tiny little box next to the Burnham skyscraper. The taco guys there have been under threat of

eviction for five years. Another high-rise is supposed to go up. But hey, they’re still here. Oh, and Las Ahumaderas, scrumptious bunch of all-night taco joints in TJ (at Guillermo Prieto and Gobernador Balarezo, where you pick up some of the town’s best musicians for your party). They say El Paisa, the first booth, is the best. ■

— Ed Bedford

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



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1:30 pm • 1/30, 2/6, 2/13
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The Native

Perhaps the development will finally come to a halt when there is no longer any open space on which to build, when the sewers all back up, when there is no more water.

It was a little over a year and a half ago. I left my old, faithful, beat-up Karmann Ghia stowed in a garage in La Mesa and left for Antarctica. Why Antarctica? The adventure, I suppose. The money. The travel. Why not? I wasn't leaving forever. Barring nuclear holocaust, San Diego would be here when I got back.

Of course, I thought about San Diego a lot while I was gone. It was hard not to, especially during the austral winter, those long, lonely, sunless months with temperatures low enough to quick-freeze fish steaks. I thought about the beaches in particular: the P.B. boardwalk, La Jolla Shores, Black's. I sat in my room listening to the wind howl outside and imagined myself in Seagrove Park at 15th Street in Del Mar, spooning up a frozen yogurt and watching the surfers while the sun warmed my face. I missed it all, missed being able to jump in the ocean and lie in the sun afterwards, missed Bal-



boa Park, Mission Bay, Diego's, Alfonso's, margaritas, chips and salsa.

San Diego is more than just a unique place, I remember thinking. It's a state of mind, a lifestyle, all those clichéd terms that are constantly thrown at us. It's an entity unto itself, an oasis on the North American continent, separated by the grace of God and Camp Pendleton from the bloated, foul-breathed goliath to the north.

San Diego, I realized, is a city-beach-ocean complex. Take San Diego and transplant it, all the buildings, parks, and roads, to Illinois or Oklahoma. It becomes

just another city in the heartland. Nothing to distinguish it, no special ambience to call its own. But here, nestled in the southwest corner of the nation, hips next to Mexico, shoulders reclining on the Cuyamaca Mountains, feet lolling in the waves, here is San Diego. Here is the wide-open feeling, the easy mood, the small-town atmosphere.

Of all of it, I became convinced that the beaches are what give San Diego this mood. The ocean calms the mind, puts things into perspective. Standing at sunset and watching the colors develop over that vast wilder-

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Even the roads feel open, less clogged, the drivers more courteous, the pace slower. Who wants to rush when spring paints the rolling hills a lush golden yellow? Only in San Diego, I remember thinking, growing more homesick by the day.

I left Antarctica in the middle of October and headed north. I'll admit I didn't pine for home sweet San Diego nearly as much while I was lying on the beach in Australia or while I was traveling through the South Pacific. But the feeling hit me again hard when I boarded the plane in Fiji, bound for L.A. Home at last. There's no place like

*I thought my
speedometer
had gone rusty
from disuse.*

*Grannies were
passing me!*

Winnebagos!

home, says Dorothy, and the omniscient "they" repeat it constantly.

They also say you can never go back.

* * *

Reentering society after a year of isolation is not easy. The masses of people can be overwhelming, and the pace seems absurdly frantic. The trick is to take it slow. A little at a time. I broke the old Karmann Ghia out of mothballs and went for leisurely drives. Or tried to, at least. I found it was no longer possible to take a leisurely drive in San Diego. Something had happened. Something had changed.

Before I left, it had been my practice to cruise an even 60 mph on the freeways. It may have been pushing CHP tolerance a bit, but as long as I wasn't passing too many cars, I figured I was safe. The rearview mirror was my best friend. I hit I-8 west and fell into the old mold. Big joke. I was the



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slowest guy on the road. I thought my speedometer had gone rusty from disuse. Grannies were passing me! Winnebagos! I tried to keep pace, but the old Ghia wasn't up to it. I gave up at 70, and I was still being left in the dust.

That was only the first shock. I fought my way to I-5 and headed north to live my Seagrove Park winter fantasy. Just past Gilman Drive I almost drove off the road into the bushes. Where once lay an ocean of scrub and wildflowers, there was now a sea of rooftops in escrow. The sign said La Jolla Colony, but I couldn't decide whether they were houses or mushrooms. How did they get there so fast?

I found no solace in Del Mar, just a parking lot. The whole quaint little ocean-front village was a mass of Detroit's finest. La Jolla was worse, perpetual automotive gridlock.

The list goes on. I've been home for a little over four months now, and I still haven't gotten used to it. Everyone drives faster, but it still takes twice as long to get anywhere as it did a year and a half ago. For the first couple of months, I couldn't understand why I was always late for appointments. Rush "hour" now lasts from 3:00 to 6:30, and people are on the roads at 5:30 in the morning racing to work. 5:30! I used to see rabbits on the road at 5:30.

If I don't see them now, perhaps it's because they've been sent packing. The Developer Demon is loose and hungry. Vast stretches of the tablelands in Mira Mesa are turning white under the bulldozer's blade. The road to Poway is being attacked on both sides. Everywhere a seemingly endless plain of condominiums stings the eye. It is as though every major developer in the nation has descended on San Diego County. Everything is up for grabs. No stopping until every square inch in the area is covered. Scrubland is out, condominiums are in. Wildlife is passé, shopping centers are the wave of the future. The San Diego "lifestyle" revamped and set in concrete. The "broad interpretation" of land use. I still can't believe what I'm seeing.

I wondered for a while if it were all my imagination, if perhaps I had invented an

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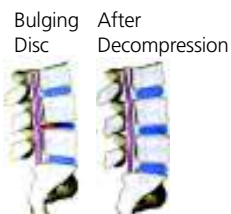
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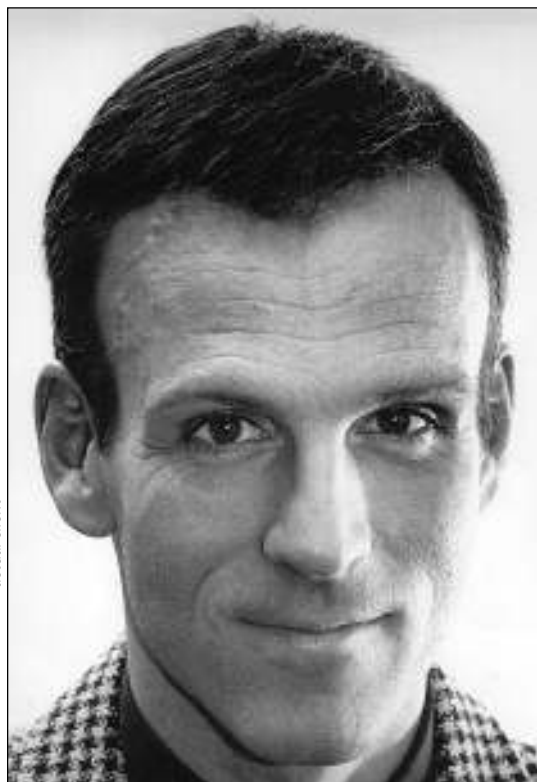
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idealized fantasy concept of San Diego in the icy darkness. So I made a few calls. According to the County Department of Planning and Land Use and the San Diego Association of Governments, 63,667 people moved to San Diego County in 1985. There were even more in 1986, but those exact figures aren't out yet. The year 1985 also saw a net gain of 34,222 housing units. That is 15 percent more than 1984, and *three times* more than 1983.

Statistics publishers R.L. Polk & Co. gave me the skinny on cars. In 1985 there were 86,211 new car registrations in San Diego County. In 1986, 90,365. So between the time I left, in August of '85, and the time I returned, in December of '86, roughly 100,000 people, 55,000 homes, and 135,000 cars were added to San Diego.

To say it's not the same place is to exaggerate understatement. But the thing that confounds me most is the

speed with which these changes occurred. A mere 16 months has completely transformed the town in which I was born and in which I have spent most of my adult life. Where did it go, our "unique San Diego lifestyle," that elusive commodity so enthusiastically touted by all the TV news anchors? Methinks it is in somebody's pocket, on its way to a Swiss bank.

* * *

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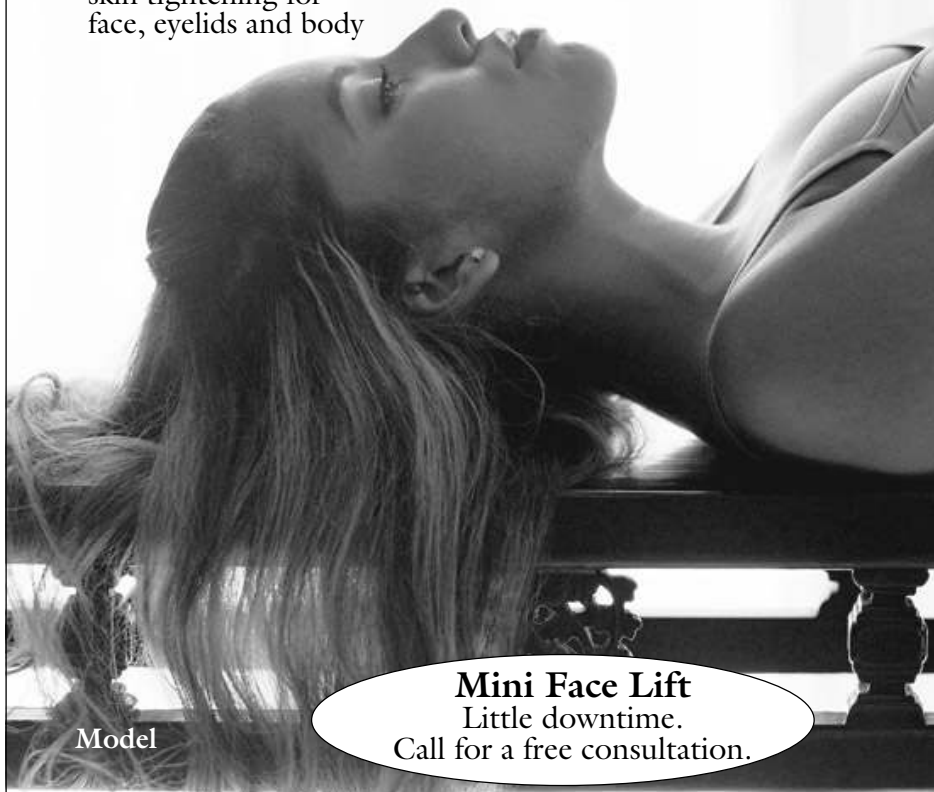
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Trying to make some sense of it all, weighing the rush of impressions and emotions, I've realized something very disturbing. There's been another change in San Diego during the months I was away. A sea change. A change more fundamental than even the glut of cars or the amber waves of condos. It's a change in mood. I believe our coveted small-town atmosphere is finally gone.

I see this mood change most clearly reflected in the way people drive. It's been said that you can tell the mood of a city by its drivers. L.A. drivers have either a keyed-up, too-much-caffeine-and-sugar wildness in their eyes, or else a look of depressed resignation, aware that they are confined to automotive purgatory. New York-New Jersey drivers have an intense stare, a dog-eat-dog predatory grimace. The old "I'm getting where I'm going and nothing's going to stop me from getting there faster than anyone else and if you get in my way you're dead meat" kind of look.

I used to consider San

Diego roads relatively sane, compared to L.A. Now the freeway is full of lunatics. Everyone's trying to go faster than the next guy. People used to glance at the scenery now and again, take in the pleasure of 163 through Balboa Park, or enjoy the spring wildflower bloom along I-5 through La Jolla. Now they stare intently straight ahead, glaring at the road, which is their enemy. They seem greedier, more competitive. They drive more aggressively. They're less friendly, less courteous. The lifestyle is different. San Diego seems to have finally entered the rat race.

Perhaps there are advantages to all this growth and change. The economy seems to be booming. And even though the symphony just died, the arts in general seem to be getting more attention. Maybe it takes a certain level of population and hustle and bustle for a city to get "culture."

Is it worth it? Four months I've been back, and I'm still disoriented. Almost every day I run into some

new construction, road, or stop light. I've been reluctant to drive into North County for fear of what I'd see. Did it take leaving and coming back to notice these changes? Like planting an acorn and coming back to a huge oak 20 years later. Only this tree's been fed growth hormones.

I know San Diego is still orders of magnitude better than anywhere else, in terms of what it offers. But where will it end? Perhaps the explosive, unbridled, unregulated head-over-heels development will finally come to a halt when there is no longer any open space on which to build, when the sewers all back up, when there is no more water.

Do I sound upset? I feel as though I've gone away on vacation and returned to find that my home has been burgled. Worse, the burglar is still here, stuffing his bag of loot and thumbing his nose at me. ■

— Jim Mastro

Originally published in the Reader on May 21, 1987

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To the Editor:

North County Times' Best Letters

The *North County Times* has a unique policy of printing virtually any letter they get, as long as it is 200 words or less and has no profanity or slander," says Dick Eiden. "After a number of years of reading the *North County Times*, I realized there was a sort of community of letter writers — some always wrote about taxes, or creationism, or schools. It went back and forth, with liberals and conservatives and everything else."

In 1997 Eiden founded the North County Forum, which he calls a "liberal-to-progressive organization" whose original members were other letter writers. "We're pacifists and activists," explains Eiden. "We're very active in opposing this war, going to rallies, and having educational events. The main thing is educating ourselves and our community, and our letters try to do that."

On Saturday, January 26, the North County Forum will present the 11th annual Letters to the Editor Awards Night. Awards are given in several categories of best and worst of the nearly 7000 letters printed in 2007 in the *North County Times*. Letters that make it into the "worst" category, Eiden explains, must have "entertainment value, even if it's the most horribly written, with the worst politics in the world or so unbelievable it makes you sick." Winners in the "worst" categories are not invited to the awards ceremony.

In the "best" categories, judges look for letters that are "well written, informative, and fact filled." An award is presented to the



"most distinctive letter writer," the "person whose whole body of work for the year" yielded a number of exceptional letters. Other bests include best youth letter, best letter on immigration, best letter on separation of church and state, and best letter on religion.

Each year the ceremony begins with an "overture," a dramatic reading of around 125 "sound bites" from various letters. For the 2005 awards the overture included sentiments from all sides. One person wrote, "There are 641 [criminals] on death row in California. Give them one appeal and that's it. Fry them, hang them, inject them or whatever to get rid of them." The same author penned, "Affirmative action in this day is rather like Rosa Parks not only refusing to move to the back of the bus, but now she wants the bus company to give her the bus." One citizen opined, "Evolution is evil, along with false gods. Only ignorant or deceived people believe this fairy tale," which prompted this response from another reader: "Evolution is no more evil than gravity or the speed of light. What is evil is the manipulation of the truth to force one's beliefs on another."

Eiden has learned to limit the number of vitriolic letters that are read aloud. "One

year we read three bad letters in a row, and it was, like, 'Oh, my, we might as well have sprayed some skunk into the audience.'" This kind of letter, Eiden explains, expresses "really hateful opinions — not just stuff we don't agree with, but things expressed in a hateful way with complete disregard and the opposite of compassion."

Some of the most appalling letters Eiden has seen were written by Tom Metzger, founder of the White Aryan Resistance. "He's a leading white supremacist, and he lived in Fallbrook and subscribed to the *North County Times*," says Eiden. In July 2000 Metzger wrote a letter about immigration that began, "I know how it tears you up to print my racist, bigoted letters, but here we go again." He went on to recount an incident in the news: "It seems some little darlings from south of the so-called border were chased, roughed up, and shot with BB guns." The letter incited several weeks' worth of indignant responses. In January 2003 Metzger wrote, "After over 20 years, millions of people have crossed the border...I am living in a cuckoo's nest. Stop the world and let me off." Doug Woelke of Temecula rejoined, "Well, Tom is welcome

to leave anytime he wants. Good riddance, and don't let the door hit you on the backside on your way out." According to Eiden, Metzger won the "worst letter" award so many times that he was made ineligible.

"When I was a young person living in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara," remembers Eiden, "I looked at the letters-to-the-editor section to help me make up my own mind about what was right or wrong and where I stood politically. The letters helped me because I could see one point of view presented and the opposite point of view and figure out where I stood. I think letters do influence people. It's a good public forum, and it's one of the most popular sections of the paper."

— Barbarella

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

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

DANCE

"Tango Fire" Estampas Porteñas from Buenos Aires performs to music by Astor Piazzolla for La Jolla Music Society. Reservations: 858-459-3728. Friday, 8 p.m., \$25-\$65. Stephen & Mary Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Avenue. 619-239-8836. (NORTH PARK)

All Things Swing Dance Party Live swing music by Uptown Rhythm Makers, workshops, dancing, performances, games. Intermediate "fancy spins" workshop (7:15 p.m.); beginners' class (8:30 p.m.), open dancing 8:30-midnight. Additional fee for lessons. 619-291-3775. Saturday, 7:15 p.m., \$13. Dance North County, 535 Encinitas Boulevard, suite 100. (ENCINITAS)

Contradance Hey Wire makes music, Martha Wild calls. Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Saturday, 7 p.m., \$7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. 619-238-8550. (NORTH PARK)

Day of Dance Academy of Performing Arts plans re-opening with classes all day in various styles: ballet, jazz, tap, modern, hip hop, and flamenco. ay will conclude with performance by teachers, students, scholarship students. 619-282-1884. Saturday, 10 a.m., \$5. Academy of Performing Arts, 4580-B Alvarado Canyon Road. (GRANTVILLE)

English Country Dancing Janet Arnold calls for English country dancing. Beginners' instruction at 6 p.m. 858-676-9731. Sunday, 7 p.m., \$6. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. 858-676-9731. (POWAY)

National Audition Tour Pacific Northwest Ballet School brings annual national audition tour in an effort to audition an estimated 1600 classical ballet students; of those who audition, approximately 300 will be chosen to attend an intensive training session in Seattle. Students 12 to 18 invited to audition. No advance registration needed. 206-441-2435. Sunday, 4:30 p.m., \$25. San Elijo Dance and Music Academy, 1635 S Rancho Santa Fe Road. (SAN MARCOS)

USA Dance Ballroom Party Ballroom, Latin, swing, salsa, more. All ages, ability levels, singles, couples. Casual dress. Fourth Saturday, each month. Lessons at 7 p.m., dancing from 8-11 p.m. 760-525-5124. Saturday, 7 p.m., \$7. Synergy Dance Zone, 7480 Miramar Road. (MIRA MESA)

OUT & ABOUT

"TANGO FIRE," Estampas Porteñas, Birch North Park Theatre, Friday, January 25.

(SEE DANCE)



858-459-4650. Saturday, 7 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front Street. 619-298-9978. (HILLCREST)

"New Releases" See *Wild Hogs*, starring Tim Allen, John Travolta, Martin Lawrence, and William H. Macy during ongoing Carlsbad Library film series. 760-602-2026. Wednesday, 6 p.m., Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

"Robert Irwin: The Beauty of

Questions" Director Leonard Feinstein's 1997 documentary follows artist from Paris to New York to Los Angeles. Filmed over a five-year period, it spans the artist's aesthetic journey — from his beginnings in the 1940s, through his years as a painter, and then out of traditional art spaces into the world at large. Additionally, see premiere of new short documentary by Feinstein chronicling installation of exhibition "Robert Irwin: Primaries and

Secondaries." Feinstein will be on hand for a post-screening discussion. Friday, 7 p.m., \$7. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, 1001 Kettner Boulevard. 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

"Smiley Face" Director Gregg Araki's "hazy odyssey" starring Anna Faris screens for Film Forum. 619-236-5800. Monday, 6:30 p.m., San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

Hi/Lo Film Festival Cinema Lounge Series hosted by Sushi Performance and Visual Art promises "high-concept, low-budget films for the adventurous and disenchanting." Pay what you can. 619-235-8466. Tuesday, 7 p.m., Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar, 410 Tenth Avenue. 619-531-8869. (DOWNTOWN)

Korean Film Festival Festival dedicated to contemporary films from both Republic of Korea (ROK) and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Program boasts five ROK and five DPRK feature films plus a documentary film about Korean immigrants in the former Soviet Union (all with English subtitles). Lectures, panel discussions by film directors, film producers, scholars from Korean National University of Arts, Princeton University, University of Michigan, USC, UC Irvine, UCSD. Events take place in UCSD's Calit2 Auditorium and Theater in Atkinson Hall. 858-534-1413. Saturday, 9 a.m., Friday, 9 a.m., Sunday, 9 a.m., UCSD: University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. 858-534-2230. (UCSD)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center Currently screening in the IMAX theater: *Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure*, *Dinosaurs Alive!*, *The Living Sea*. "Fridays

FILM

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at the Fleet" showcases *Ring of Fire* (6 p.m.) and *Forces of Nature* (7 p.m.) on January 25. Ticket prices and showtimes: 619-238-1233. Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Monday, 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., Thursday, 9:30 a.m., Sunday, 9:30 a.m., Friday, 9:30 a.m., Saturday, 9:30 a.m., \$12.5. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

World on a String Film series offering a "look into the world of beading that take you around the world and to many cultures" continues with *The Treasured Bead*. Tuesday, January 29th, 7:30 p.m., \$5. Xpressive Arts Center, 12257 B Old Pomerado Road. 858-679-2787. (POWAY)

FOR KIDS

"Symphony Sleuths" Classics for Kids and Classics Philharmonic family concert. "It's 1772, the scene is Prince Nicholas of Esterhazy's summer castle and composer Joseph Haydn's musicians have disappeared. Using clues from the music and key witness interviews...can the sleuths find the musicians in time?" Reservations: 619-291-3111. Sunday, 2 p.m., \$11-\$22. Salvation Army Kroc Community Center Performing Arts Theatre, 6611 University Avenue. (COLLEGE AREA)

"The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley" Musical follows flat-as-a-pancake Stanley Lambchop as he scours globe to find a way to become three-dimensional again; along the way he meets new friends and learns about different people, cultures through song and dance. 800-

OUT & ABOUT

"FOOD AND WATER BOWL XVI," Saturday and Sunday, January 26 and 27, Del Mar Fairgrounds.

(SEE SPECIAL)



988-4253. Sunday, 4 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m., \$10-\$20. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard, 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)

"The Rabbit on the Moon" Gaston Morineau performs *Rabbit* and *The Little Red Hen* in Spanish and English, through Sunday, January 27. Next up: *Classic Chinese Fairy Tale*, by Millie Patterson's Weaver's Tales, January 30 through February 3. 619-544-9203. Thursdays, 10 a.m., Thursdays, 11:30 a.m., Fridays, 10 a.m., Fridays, 11:30 a.m.,

Saturdays, 11 a.m., Saturdays, 1 p.m., Saturdays, 2:30 p.m., Sundays, 11 a.m., Sundays, 1 p.m., Sundays, 2:30 p.m., Wednesdays, 10 a.m., Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m., \$3-\$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. 619-544-9203. (BALBOA PARK)

"Trucktown: Smash! Crash!" Award-winning children's book author Jon Scieszka (*The Stinky Cheese Man* and *Other Fairly Stupid Tales*) and award-winning illustrator David Shannon (*No, David!*) read from and sign their new collaboration. Event

includes visit by San Diego Fire Department. 858-454-0347. Thursday, 3:30 p.m., Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

Groundhog Day Celebration Miss Patricia reads Judy Cox's *Go to Sleep, Groundhog* during storytime. "Simple" groundhog craft follows. 858-513-2900. Tuesday, 3:30 p.m., Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. 858-513-2900. (POWAY)

To the Highest Pond in the Land? Author and illustrator duo Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin dis-

cuss and sign their newest collaboration, *Duck for President*. 858-454-0347. Wednesday, 4 p.m., Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

IN PERSON

"The Blessing of a Broken Heart" "Transforming a Story Into a Theatrical Play" — Todd Salovey (associate artistic director of San Diego Rep) and actress Lisa Robbins break down San Diego Rep's latest production during oration. In community room across courtyard from library. 858-513-2900. Sunday, 4 p.m., Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. 858-513-2900. (POWAY)

An Evening with David Oliver Relin Journalist, co-author of *Three Cups of Tea* reads from, discusses book as part of "One Book, One San Diego" events. 619-594-2782 Monday, 6 p.m., The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way. 619-234-5623. (BALBOA PARK)

Another Evening with David Oliver Relin Journalist, co-author of *Three Cups of Tea* reads from, discusses book as part of "One Book, One San Diego" events. 858-538-8158. Tuesday, 7 p.m., Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

Corteo: Cirque du Soleil "Corteo" is "a joyous procession, a festive parade imagined by a clown," presented by Cirque du Soleil under the grand chapiteau. Corteo cast includes 61 artists from 16 countries. 800-678-5440. Thursdays, 8 p.m., Fridays, 4 p.m., Fridays, 8 p.m., Saturdays, 4 p.m., Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 1 p.m., Sundays, 5 p.m.,

Tuesdays, 8 p.m., Wednesdays, 8 p.m., \$50-\$85. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. 858-755-1161. (DEL MAR)

Drum! Cultural heritage of Nova Scotia showcased in musical revue with more than 20 musicians, singers, dancers performing musical history of the four principle Nova Scotia cultures. Enjoy music, dance poetry, video, rhythm, song. 619-570-1100. Saturday, 8 p.m., \$25-\$50. Balboa Theatre, 854 Fourth Avenue. 619-570-1100. (DOWNTOWN)

More David Oliver Relin Journalist, co-author of *Three Cups of Tea* reads from, discusses book as part of "One Book, One San Diego" events. 858-552-1657. Wednesday, 7 p.m., La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. 858-552-1657. (LA JOLLA)

Shakespeare and Swords Watch a "realistic sword fight" as it would have been fought in a Shakespeare play, enjoy silly "reduced Shakespeare" version of *Romeo and Juliet* performed by library staff and friends. 760-643-5100. Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Avenue. 760-643-5100. (VISTA)

Staggering Toward America Following 9/11, Rik Reppe journeyed from California to New York to discover what America and Americans had become, and who he was becoming. Content may not be suitable for younger audiences. 800-988-4253. Friday, 8 p.m., Saturday, 8 p.m., \$25. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard, 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)



Pre-Valentine's Day Beauty Party
Thursday, February 7

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San Diego Reader January 24, 2008 65

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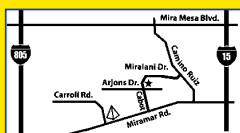
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LECTURES

"Embryos and Evolution" Grey Matters lecture series continues with talk by UCSD biologist William McGinnis. All animals share similar architectural control genes called Homeobox genes, which "provide a pattern to construct organisms of incredible diversity, beauty, and complexity." 619-232-3821. Thursday, 6:30 p.m., San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. 619-232-3821. (BALBOA PARK)

"Real Cool Geckos" Rami Guirguis focuses on geckos of New Caledonia when San Diego Herpetological Society gathers, in room 104 of Casa del Prado. 760-533-2611. Thursday, 7 p.m., Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Science Solutions for a Planet in Peril" Charlie Kennel, Scripps Institution of Oceanography distinguished professor, discusses how convergence of earth science, biology, social science could lead to new awareness of Earth's systems that may enable coordinated responses to global environmental challenges. Reservations: 858-534-5771. Thursday, 6:30 p.m., \$5-\$8. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. 619-534-FISH. (LA JOLLA)

"Winter Wildlife of Japan" World-wide tour guide, photographer Roy Toft presentation for Sierra Club. 619-585-3773. 619-299-1743. Friday, 7:30 p.m., Joyce Beers Community Center, 3660 Centre Street. (HILLCREST)

Behavior Problems Parrot Education and Adoption Center seminar, followed by "Question and Answer: Ask the Expert at 2:45. Room D-6. Reservations: 619-287-8200. Sunday, 1 p.m., \$15. Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way. (PACIFIC BEACH)

British Isles Genealogical Research Association Group meets to hear Jim McNamara speak, share photographs from his recent genealogical research trip to Scotland, Ireland, Isle of Skye, and London.

Remotely situated at San Diego County's far east side and surrounded by Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Agua Caliente Regional Park draws winter visitors to its comfortable warm and hot bathing pools and its homey campground. Several hiking trails lace the park, all of which are perfect for casual hiking with kids. The particular trail covered in this column leads to small



Amid the willows at the pond

freshwater marsh (which the park calls "the pond") where groundwater saturates the sandy soil and nourishes a riparian oasis of willows and palms.

First, how to get there: From most of the San Diego city area, the fastest and easiest route is Interstate 8 east to Ocotillo in Imperial County. From Ocotillo, follow Highway S-2 northwest for 27 miles to Agua Caliente, on the left. Inland North County residents may find it quicker to go through Julian on Highway 78, down the Banner Grade east of Julian to Scissors Crossing (junction of Highway S-2), and then southeast on S-2 for 22 miles.

This being a county park, be prepared to pay an entrance

fee, whether for day use or for overnight camping (call County Parks at 858-565-3600 for camping reservations).

Pick up the trail to the pond at the campfire circle near the entrance to Agua Caliente Regional Park. You wind west over a low ridge, passing a spur trail leading south to an overlook, then descend to a dry, sandy wash. Turn left and make your way past thickets of thorny mesquite bushes, which are vibrant green when leafing out in February or March. The nutritious pealike pods of the mesquite ripen in September and are eaten by various mammals.

Ahead lies the pond — a marshy area with several large willow trees and some small palm trees. At least one diamondback rattlesnake makes a living on the small furry creatures that come here to drink. Coyotes and bobcats also frequent this little oasis. On the nearby hillsides you can admire the natural gardens of barrel and teddy-bear-cholla cactus. The latter cactus, especially, is nice to look at from a distance, but up close reveals bristles of stiff and incredibly sharp spines.

Just beyond the pond, in a jagged ravine to the south (named

Non-members welcome. 760-476-9289. Saturday, 10 a.m., Wesley United Methodist Church, 5380 El Cajon Boulevard. (COLLEGE AREA)

French Art in the 19th Century Explore work by Edouard Manet, Renoir, Degas, Pissaro, and Monet

when art historian Linda Blair concludes lecture series. 858-454-5872. Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., \$17. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

Journey to the Copper Age Final week of exhibit includes presen-

Squaw Canyon on topographic maps), is a small cave, a *tinaja* (a natural rock tank) and a usually dry waterfall. Further exploration is possible up any of the several branches of the canyon.

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

ness area. Trails and pathways are not necessarily marked. Conditions can change rapidly. Hikers should be properly equipped and have safety and navigational skills. The *Reader* and Jerry Schad assume no responsibility for any adverse experience.

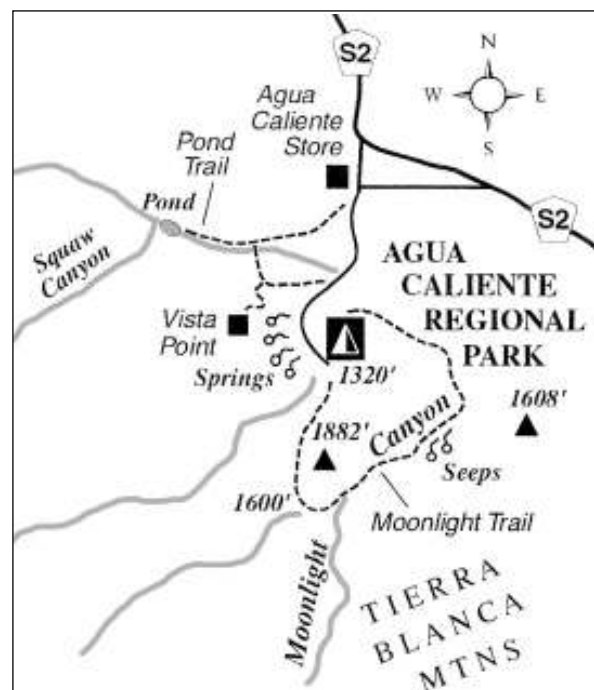
THE POND AT AGUA CALIENTE

A mini-freshwater marsh awaits your inspection at Agua Caliente Regional Park in the Anza-Borrego Desert.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 100 miles

Hiking length: 1.4 miles round trip

Difficulty: Easy



tation on "The Emergence of the Earliest Temples in the Holy Land" by Thomas Levy. Many of the objects on exhibit are from excavations conducted by Levy; he'll reflect on discovery of these finds, many never before shown outside of Israel and Jordan, during gallery tour following lecture (4:30). Reservations: 619-239-2001. Sunday, 3 p.m., \$20. San Diego Museum of Man, 1350 El Prado. 619-239-2001. (BALBOA PARK)

Kumeyaay and Luiseño practices Revealed during class, "The Use of Native Plants by Native People." Participants will learn about "plants

used for food, medicine, ritual, and basketry" and "the interdependency between land and people." Required registration: 760-436-3036, x206. Thursday, 7 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m., \$100. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. 760-436-3036. (ENCINITAS)

The Use of Native Plants by Native People Kumeyaay and Luiseño practices revealed during class, "The Use of Native Plants by Native People." Participants will learn about "plants used for food, medicine, ritual, and basketry," and "the interdependency between land and peo-

ple." Classes held 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays, January 10, 17, and 24, and Saturday, January 26, 9 a.m. to noon. \$100. Required registration: 760-436-3036, x206. Thursday, 7 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m., \$80-\$100. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. 760-436-3036. (ENCINITAS)

OUTDOORS

Audubon Society Bird Walk Bring binoculars and drinking water to explore Tecolote Canyon. 858-581-9944. Saturday, 9 a.m., Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT)

Basic Birding Tom Troy leads basic birding program. Emphasis on identifying birds by sight and sound and using binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides. Directions: 760-967-6915. Saturday, 8:30 a.m., Buena Vista Lagoon, 2202 South Coast Highway. (CARLSBAD)

Ceanothus, or wild lilac, a white- or blue-blossoming native plant, is set to bloom by late January or early February. Ceanothus is common wherever native sage-scrub and chaparral vegetation grows, from the bluffs of Torrey Pines, to the edge of the Anza-Borrego Desert. The October wildfires burned off much of the ceanothus cover in the North County foothills — but the plant is resilient against periodic wildfires and will eventually return.

Desert Garden Tour Bizarre trees, cacti, succulents showcased when Offshoot Tours hosts its monthly hour-long guided stroll through desert garden. 619-235-1122. Saturday, 10 a.m., Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Fledging Birders — Santee Lakes Join Audubon Society birders with a scope if you have one. Directions: 858-755-7133. Wednesday, 8 a.m., Santee Lakes, 9040 Carlton Oaks Drive. (SANTEE)

Have Fun on the Trails Naturalist/biologist Carol Stanford leads moderately strenuous four-mile hike primarily along Boulder Loop Trail. Meet in main parking lot on La Honda Drive with water and hiking boots. 760-839-4680. Sunday, 9 a.m., Daley Ranch, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

Hawkwatch Visit Ramona's grasslands to witness winter migration of hawks, falcons, and eagles during outing led by Wildlife Research Institute. Walks led by trained biologist every Saturday, in January and February. Wear hiking or walking boots. Bring binoculars or spotting scopes if you have them. Heavy rain

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OUT & ABOUT

HAWKWATCH

Saturdays, Ramona

(SEE OUTDOORS)



cancels. 760-789-3992. Saturdays, 9 a.m., Wildlife Research Institute, 18030 Highland Valley Road. 760-789-3992. (RAMONA)

Live Entertainment on the Lake! See coots, migratory shorebirds performing mating rituals dur-

ing guided nature hike. 619-668-3281. Saturday, 8:30 a.m., Kumeyaay Lake Campground entry station, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Mission Valley River Clean-Up Join Friends of 92108 and San Diego River Park Foundation's Clean and

Green Team to clean stretch of San Diego River southeast of Mission Valley de Alcalá. Help remove garbage, refuse. Tools, gloves, trash

bags provided. Meet in staging area located in parking lot. RSVP: 619-297-7380. Sunday, 9 a.m., SD River cleanup site, 10981 San Diego Mission Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

Peace on Earth Rippling of San Diego River, chirping birds, scented flora during guided walks through oak groves and native chaparral. F619-668-3281. Saturday, 9:30 a.m., Monday, 9:30 a.m., Sunday, 9:30 a.m., Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. 619-688-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

San Diego County's Waterfalls should be at their very best during the next month or two. Just how impressive they will be will depend on the overall amount of winter rainfall. Three of the most accessible waterfalls are: Green Valley Falls at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park; the falls below the first palm grove in Borrego Palm Canyon (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park); and the falls

S A N D I E G O

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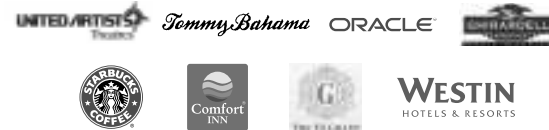
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Rosarito

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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

at the midpoint of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve — a three-mile walk from either its east or west entrance. Hikers and climbers can explore many other waterfalls (some with heights up to 100 feet) in remote areas of the county.

Venus and Jupiter, the two brightest (by far) planets in the sky, and now both visible in the morning sky at dawn. They will appear ever closer to each other on successive mornings until dawn on Friday, February 1, when they will lie only 0.6 degree (a little more than the full moon's apparent width) apart.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

From the United States use the prefix 011-52-664 when calling Tijuana; when calling Tijuana use only the seven-digit number.

"Palabras Divinas Palabras"
Lecture by Hernán Lara Zavala. 011-52-664-684-8609. Thursday, 7 p.m., Friday, 7:30 p.m., ICBC, Avenida Centenario #10151, Zona Río.

"Two Birthdays: Virginia Woolf and Edgar Allan Poe"
Mayra Luna, Pedro López Solís, Olimpia Ramírez, and Luis Gastelum discuss these two influential authors who were both born in January. 011-52-664-687-9636. Thursday, 7 p.m., Centro Cultural de Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

OUT & ABOUT

"CORTEO: CIRQUE DU SOLEIL"
Wednesdays through Sundays, Del Mar Fairgrounds.

(SEE IN PERSON)



SPECIAL

"A Taste for the Arts" Have your tarot cards read and enjoy "culinary delights." Fee includes museum admission. RSVP: 760-839-4120. Thursday, 7 p.m., \$5. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard, 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)

"Food and Water Bowl XVI"

More than 450 cats expected to attend two-day event hosted by San Diego Cat Fanciers, which includes household pet class competition. Lectures, adoptions, vendors. 760-735-8209. Saturday, 10 a.m., Sunday, 9 a.m., \$6-\$8. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, 858-755-1161. (DEL MAR)

"What Is Globalization's Dark Side?" Share opinions with P&R

Discussion Group. 619-370-1027. Thursday, 7 p.m., The Other Side Coffee House, 4096 30th Street. 619-521-0533. (NORTH PARK)

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

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

Have Some Haggis! Robert Burns Night celebrated with dinner, poetry, Scottish country dancing, (the aforementioned) haggis, single malt whiskey tasting. Reservations: 619-283-6242. Saturday, 6 p.m., \$25. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 4227 Fairmount Avenue. (CITY HEIGHTS)

House Beautiful Home Show Exhibits, vendors with products for your home. 800-999-5450. Friday, 10 a.m., Saturday, 10 a.m., Sunday, 9 a.m., Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. 858-755-1161. (DEL MAR)

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park Old adobe buildings were once vacation retreat and working rancho of actor Leo Carrillo. Tours on Saturdays, (11 a.m., 1 p.m.) and Sundays, (noon, 2 p.m.). Saturdays, 11 a.m., Saturdays, 1 p.m., Sundays, noon, Sundays, 2 p.m., Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park, 6200 Flying Leo Carrillo Lane. 760-476-1042. (CARLSBAD)

Mochi Class Make fruit *daifuku* with instructor Miho Ishida. Materials provided. Reservations: 619-232-2721. Saturday, 10 a.m., \$25. Japanese Friendship Garden, Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

Orchid Auction San Diego County Cymbidium Society's auction start with preview at 11 a.m., auction at noon. 760-732-0055. Saturday, 11 a.m., Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe Street. (CARLSBAD)

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

Winter Regional Button Sale Antique and modern clothing buttons offered for sale at San Diego Button Club's eleventh annual Winter Regional. Fourteen dealers showcase buttons ranging in age from mid-18th-century to late 1900's. 760-315-0709. Saturday, 9 a.m., Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT)

SPORTS

Hanohano Ocean Challenge Twelfth annual paddleboard, OC-1, surfski, kayak, and stand-up race hosted by Hanohano Outrigger Canoe Club. Short course in Mission Bay (approximately five miles, with junior and paddleboard divisions); long course is approximately nine miles on open ocean. Entry fee includes breakfast, lunch, awards, t-shirt (for first 175 entries). 760-436-

3589. Saturday, 8 a.m., \$15. Bonita Cove, 1100 West Mission Bay Drive. (MISSION BEACH)

Highland Valley Express It's hill climbing month, according to Sierra Club bicyclists, hosting a ride with steep grade, brisk pace. Snack stop. Two water bottles required; triple/compact crank recommended. Rain cancels. 858-974-4871. Sunday, 8:30 a.m., Studio Diner, 4701 Ruffin Road. 858-715-6400. (KEARNY MESA)

Leave Your Earplugs at Home! Electric Dragin' 2008 boasts electric, hybrid, and fuel cell vehicles competing in electric-drive racing event. Vendors, electric-drive owners, competitors "showing off the future of transportation by reducing pollution without losing the power and excitement of racing." 760-531-4000. Saturday, 8 a.m., Sunday, 8 a.m., \$10. Barona Drag Strip, 1750 Wildcat Canyon Road. (LAKESIDE)

Running Group One-on-one help for all levels to achieve running, fitness goals. Includes evaluation and follow ups, weekly runs led by certified personal trainer. Run locations during three-month program change weekly. First meeting free. Registration: 858-546-2488. Saturday, 9 a.m., \$90. Power Hour Fitness, 9430 Scranton Road. (CARMEL VALLEY)

MUSEUMS

Bonita Museum and Cultural Center The museum highlights the history of the Sweetwater Valley from the mid-1800s, with historical photographs; artifacts, tools, and farming implements; the district's 1953 fire engine; and bound copies back to the 1930s of the *Chula Vista Star News*. 619-

267-5141. 4355 Bonita Road, 619-267-5141. (BONITA)

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

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San Diego Reader January 24, 2008 69

What's That You're Reading?

NAME: PAUL PETERSON | **AGE:** 27 | **OCCUPATION:** PHYSICAL THERAPIST
NEIGHBORHOOD: BAY PARK | **WHERE INTERVIEWED:** STARBUCKS, LINDA VISTA



What book are you currently reading? What page are you on?

"*Life of Pi* by Yann Martel. I just finished it."

Tell me about the book.

"It is a fictional book about a child from India who is aboard a cargo ship with his family, who happen to own a zoo. They are moving to Canada and shipping their animals along with them. The ship sinks in the middle of the ocean. The boy winds up being the sole survivor, and he winds up in a lifeboat in the middle of the ocean with several of the animals from the ship: a Bengal tiger, a hyena, an orangutan, and a zebra. The story then goes on to tell [of the boy's] survival over 227 days at sea, about how the animals relate, about how he relates and is able to exist at sea alongside a Bengal tiger after the tiger has eaten the other guests on the lifeboat. So that's the story of his taming of the tiger and how he eventually lands in Mexico and escapes life at sea. And in the end — I'm still trying to pull this together — he tells two stories: one of the tiger, the other animals, and his survival, and another, which is more believable. He's telling it to Japanese officials who are questioning the sinking of the ship and asking for his account; they don't believe him. So he tells a story of himself existing with some other crew members of the ship and his family, and it begins to parallel the existence of the plight of the animals along with his own plight and the crew members of the ship."

What do you make of the story?

"Being that the book leans toward being a fable, almost, it's still surprising in the end that there's the duality of stories — one consisting of humans and one consisting of animals. So, I'm trying to process it in my head — which one the author is really trying to portray as the truth. And considering that one is representative of humans and one of animals, what lessons are to be learned from the plight of animals. Is the action of animals representation of how people react to each other in that particular scenario?"

Tell me about the style and language?

"The style is very simple. It's told in the first person, through the eyes of a teenage boy, the main character. It's simple, it's very retrospective — he's looking back on the story and recounting all of his thoughts, all of his emotions. The book itself needs to be read over a period of time in the fact that it's not a page-turner. But it has a lot of lessons to it, a very detailed account of his survival at sea and his transformation from being an Indian child and a vegetarian to being a resident of the sea, living off instincts, killing whatever

sea life he possibly can to survive."

Any favorite passages?

"At one point during the main character's life at sea, he finds himself temporarily rescued by arriving at something of a floating island in the middle of the ocean. It's supposed to consist of an algae, densely woven together to create a rather large island. So he finds refuge from the sea by being able to set foot on the island. And the island is inhabited by small rodents, which he's able to live off for a while. Eventually it turns out that the island is something like a Venus flytrap, a carnivorous island that eats whatever substance of protein that it can. So he has to seek refuge from the island by going back out to sea. There are a lot of very unique ideas about life and botany and zookeeping that the author puts forward. And also the author writes about the taming of the Bengal tiger by the boy; it's very interesting what goes into taming a wild animal. It happens in circuses and other places like that, what it takes to present yourself as an alpha male in the world of an animal."

What books have been influential in your life?

"In terms of a recent example of one, I would have to say the *Way of the Peaceful Warrior* by Dan Millman. It's a sort of a philosophical book that makes you want to live a better life, be a better man or woman. It was made into a movie recently with Nick Nolte — a movie that I refuse to see."

What magazines or newspapers do you read?

"Anything outdoor or health-related. I read the *Union-Tribune*, but I don't go too much into depth into various newspapers."

Do you talk to your friends about reading?

"Select friends, yeah. It depends on the person. With some people, it's very topical comments about did you like it, would you recommend it, etcetera. With some people, it's a little more in-depth in terms of theme and what's it mean to you and why would you recommend it. So, there are some people that ask deeper questions, and they're always looking for a good read. But if it's inspirational to me, then I'm more likely to talk about it than if it's just a story — if I think that other people can benefit from the lessons I learned."

Interpretive 1.5-hour train rides offered each weekend (11 a.m., 2:30 p.m.) over portion of the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway. 619-465-7776, 619-478-9937. 31123-1/2 Highway 94, 619-465-7776. (CAMPO-POTRERO)

Chinese Historical Society and Museum See artifacts from San Diego's Chinese and Chinese-American history, culture, and art. Current museum artifacts include a 1920s warlord's bed, exhibits on Chinese footbinding and Chinese-American veterans. The museum is in a building originally built in 1927 for the Chinese Mission. Adjacent to the building is an Asian garden with koi pond and waterfall. 619-338-9888. 404 Third Avenue, 619-338-9888. (DOWNTOWN)

Chula Vista Heritage Museum The museum features glimpses of Chula Vista's past; exhibits feature lemon packing crate labels, photographs of downtown Chula Vista, doors and adobe blocks from the original *Star* newspaper building, and relics from the Otay Watch Company. 619-427-8092. 360 Third Avenue, 619-427-8092. (CHULA VISTA)

Creation Museum A museum contrasting the evolution and creation world views. 619-448-0900. 10946 Woodside Avenue North, 619-448-0900. (SANTEE)

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

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

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. 760-743-8207. 321 North Broadway, 760-743-8207. (ESCONDIDO)

House of Pacific Relations International Cottages are open every Sunday, noon-4 p.m., presenting history and traditions of 30 ethnic groups. On fourth Tuesday of each month, *Children Around the World* videos screened in Hall of Nations, select cottages open. 619-234-0739. 2125 Park Boulevard, 619-234-0739. (BALBOA PARK)

J.A. Cooley Museum An eclectic collection of items — including displays on phonographs, clocks, electric trains, and 20 other types of collections — is featured at the museum. The current featured attraction is an "Industrial Product Collection," with examples of the historical progression of auto technology from 1886-1915, "some classics and a concept car." 619-296-3112. 4233 Park Boulevard, 619-296-3112. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park, old adobe buildings were once vacation retreat and working rancho of actor Leo Carrillo. Tours on Saturdays (11 a.m., 1 p.m.) and Sundays (noon, 2 p.m.). 760-476-1042. 6200 Flying Leo Carrillo Lane, 760-476-1042. (CARLSBAD)

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum Housed in a historic building, the museum features five permanent galleries with artifacts, uniforms, vehicles, weapons, and photographs depicting Marine Corps history. The museum is located in Building 26 at MCRD, just inside Gate 4, off Pacific Highway. 619-524-6038. Witherby Street and Hancock Street, 619-524-6038. (DOWNTOWN)

Museum of San Diego History "Place of Promise: Stories of San Diego" lets visitors "literally walk on San Diego"; a map of county extends from wall to wall across the floor. Also featured in ongoing exhibit are two large 1930s murals by artist Charles Reiffel and a 1910 San Diego streetcar. Stories of San

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Diego are interpreted through images, artifacts, oral histories from society's collection. The museum is located in the Casa de Balboa building. 619-232-6203. 1649 El Prado, 619-232-6203. (BALBOA PARK)

Parsonage Museum of Lemon Grove "The Kumeyaay: At Home in the World" features murals depicting the world of Kumeyaay in Lemon Grove in 12,000 B.C., when vast sweeps of oak savannah and a river dominated the area. The coming of the Spanish conquistadors and the Catholic hierarchy in the mid-18th century is portrayed. Century-old artifacts, along with photographs of leading contemporary Kumeyaay family flank the life size figures.

"The Art of The Treganzas" boasts hammered copper and brass artifacts, paintings, drawings, and Arts and Crafts furniture created between 1906-1935 by this pioneer Lemon Grove family.

In "Lemon Grove: 1892-1935," homes and families of pioneer fruit growers are shown in rare photographs, along with artifacts, in this display detailing agricultural roots of the town. 619-460-4353. 3185 Olive Street, 619-460-4353. (LEMON GROVE)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center "Listen Here! Making Sense of Sound," allows visitors to experience the nature of sound, how human beings perceive sound, and the act of listening through exhibits, activities, demonstrations. Exhibit from the Exploratorium in San Francisco continues through Sunday, June 1.

Ongoing exhibitions include "Origins in Space: Spin-Offs in Science and Technology," "So WATT! An Illuminating Look at Energy," "Aging for All Ages," "Kid City" (for preschoolers), "TryScience!" "Escape from Dino Island" is theme for motion simulator ride. Films are shown daily in the IMAX theater. 619-238-1233. 1875 El Prado, 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Archaeological Center "A Letter from the Ocean Hotel: Victorian Lady Traveler's Adventures in San Diego, 1888" includes glassware, dishes, bottles, personal items dating from late 1880s that were excavated from a block in East Village area downtown in 2002.

The museum is dedicated to "curation of archaeological projects and sharing them with the public." 760-291-0370. 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, 760-291-0370. (ESCONDIDO)

San Diego Automotive Museum "High Art: Concept Cars and Automobile Design," continuing through Wednesday, March 26, includes vehicles from General Motors, Nissan, Chrysler, Mazda, Honda, Volvo, and Art Center College of Design.

More than 80 automobiles and motorcycles from horseless carriages to future prototypes are included in the museum's permanent collection. Find the museum near the Starlight Bowl. 619-231-2886. 2080 Pan American Plaza, 619-231-2886. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Hall of Champions Ongoing exhibits include "Bird Watching — Tony Hawk in Flight," "Surfing in San Diego," exhibits of baseball card art, fencing, local rugby history. The museum is dedicated to promoting, recognizing, and preserving athletic achievement. 619-234-2544.

2131 Pan American Plaza, 619-234-2544. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Maritime Museum "The War through Steichen's Eyes — Combat Photography in the Pacific 1943-45" features 50 photographs produced by Edward Steichen and photographers under his supervision; many famous images of World War II featured. Additional photographs, documents, artifacts chronicle the life of this accomplished photogra-

pher. Through July. "San Diego's Navy," based upon book by same name written by Bruce Linder, is said to be "the only comprehensive exhibit depicting the extraordinary contribution the Navy has made to the history of the San Diego region."

The museum features permanent exhibits documenting the history of San Diego's waterfront and the building of the West Coast by sea, the old San Diego

Coronado ferryboats, the tuna fishing industry, and the military. The museum fleet consists of the 1863 bark Star of India, the 1898 San Francisco ferryboat Berkeley, and the 1904 Scottish steam yacht Medea. The HMS Surprise, used in film Master and Commander, is permanently on exhibit; see artifacts, costumes, props used in making of the flick. Also open for touring: a B-39 Soviet attack submarine, among the

largest conventionally powered submarines ever built. This Project 641/Foxtrot class diesel-electric submarine was designed to track U.S. and NATO warships throughout the Earth's oceans. There are also nautical exhibits, ship carpenters, model building, ships in bottles, woodcarvers, complete research library. 619-234-9153. 1306 North Harbor Drive, 619-234-9153. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego Museum of Man "Journey to the Copper Age: Archaeology in the Holy Land" tells story of profound changes metallurgy brought to human society: birth of Mediterranean farming, creation of first temples and cemeteries, emergence of complex societies. Exhibition chronicles development of humanity in present-day Israel, Palestine, and Jordan. Highlights include photographs by *National Geographic*

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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

photographer Kenneth Garrett and collection of archaeological artifacts seen for first time on West Coast. Through January.

"Edward S. Curtis Refocused" offers Native American insight into Curtis's photo documentation of their lives. Curtis is famous for his photographs of recreated scenes of traditional life and ceremony, for portraits of tribe members wearing historic garments. Exhibition features prints of his photogravures taken in locations throughout U.S. and Canada and examines some controversial elements of Curtis's work, techniques he used.

"Art and Expression: The Legacy of Our Collections" highlights 17 key collections, relates stories of the collectors, how collections came to museum, their significance in preserving history of past generations. Objects include pottery, baskets, beadwork, jewelry, woodcarving, folk art, katsinas, bone and ivory implements, shields, textiles.

In "Artists Speak: Contemporary Art from Ghana and Zimbabwe," museum has partnered with artists from Ghana and Zimbabwe to showcase paintings and sculpture by accomplished African artists.

Permanent anthropology exhibit "Footsteps through Time: Four Million Years of Human Evolution" features "more than a hundred touchable replicas of early humans, primates, and fu-

turistic cyborgs (part human, part machine)." 619-239-2001. 1350 El Prado, 619-239-2001. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Tug Boat Museum
A 100-foot retired Korean War-era tug boat built in 1951 is open for tours at museum. Boat is docked along Harbor Drive, between Grape Street and Broadway. 619-200-7417. Harbor Drive, 619-200-7417. (DOWNTOWN)

San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park
Commemorates the clash (on December 6, 1846) during the Mexican War between the U.S. Dragoons, bolstered by sailors and volunteers from San Diego, and California militia. Narrated slide-show screens throughout the day, telling the story of the war in Mexico and California. Self-guided tour recounts the events of the battle and profiles the leaders of the forces and also describes the lives of the Indians indigenous to the valley. 760-737-2201. 15808 San Pasqual Valley Road, 760-737-2201. (ESCONDIDO)

Valley Center History Museum
The museum features an educational exhibition centered around a California grizzly bear, described as "the only one on view in San Diego." Also on exhibit: model of an 1862 settler's cabin, collection of Indian baskets, and aerospace display. 760-749-2993. 29200 Cole Grade Road, 760-749-2993. (VALLEY CENTER)

William Heath Davis House Museum
Museum is said to be the oldest surviving structure in the new town area of downtown San Diego. The house is a well-preserved example of a pre-framed lumber "salt box" family home, shipped from the East Coast to California by boat around Cape Horn in 1850. 619-233-4692. 410 Island Avenue, 619-233-4692. (DOWNTOWN)

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Indigenous Material

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A Mexican woman in traditional Indian garb, loose long hair swaying, strides past stone outcroppings toward the Sonora Desert, like a pilgrim or wanderer, except that she's carrying what was called in 1979, when the picture was taken, a ghetto blaster, like a valise bearing new voices to some desiccated borderland. We see her from behind, so the face doesn't tell us how to interpret motive or mood. The photograph's visual information fuses to opaque, unexplained myth about journeying ancient and modern.

A young Tijuana man's naked back, seen in extreme close-up, bears a tattoo of Our Lady of Guadalupe: that inscription of the sacred (tattooing is a form of writing) declares a weird, mixed piety having to do with Mexican, specifically *cholo*, identity, along with irrational religiosity, attitude, manhood rites, and mother worship. The photograph's title: *La frontera* (*The border*).

Haciendas in northern Oaxaca hire Mixtec Indians to slaughter goats. Honoring a tradition that dates to an unremembered time, an animal from each herd is preserved alive and crowned with flowers. A young man then lifts the goat on his shoulders and dances. In a 1992 photograph of such a slaughter, a wildly beautiful, barefooted Anna Magnani type is skinning a goat, a knife clenched in her teeth, her skirt soaked with its blood. Sacrificial ritual rooted in pre-Columbian culture and raw sweaty sexuality spill one into another.

These are three of an easy dozen images I could cite to argue, as if she needed it, that Graciela Iturbide is one of the great photographers of the past half-century. Each comes from portfolios Iturbide has compiled during the last 30 years, and over 150 of her photographs, taken in Mexico and the United States, make up an exhibition currently at the J. Paul Getty Center in Los Angeles. The title of that first picture, *Mujer ángel* (*Angel Woman*), bespeaks how this photographer blends the sacred and secular in settings that can seem as remote and other as ancient Mycenae. She's a purveyor-archivist of phenomena that, in a global culture less mechanized and materialistic than our own, would inspire the creation of mystery cults. Even when she's photographing a familiar natural sight, a squall of black birds gusting from tree boughs, we feel the frontal force of some mystery of the separate orders of being.

Born in 1942 to a well-off family and schooled in a convent, Iturbide married when she was 20 and within eight years had three children. Nineteen seventy marked a momentous turn: her young daughter died in an accident, her marriage ended, and, while enrolled in the Centro Universitario de Estudios Cinematográficos at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de

México, her teacher and mentor, Manuel Álvarez Bravo, the most famous Mexican photographer of his time, hired her as his assistant. He helped her develop impeccable craft and encouraged her — at a time when foreigners like Edward Weston, Paul Strand, and Tina Modotti had already adopted Mexico as a subject — to pursue indigenous material.

The goat slaughter takes place in La Mixteca in northern Oaxaca. Way south of there, in the small city of Juchitán de Zaragoza, a very different culture exists, the most purely indigenous and matriarchal community in Mexico, famous for the social, political, and economic independence of its Zapotec women, who favor the traditional dress worn by that desert angel, a long skirt and the short patterned blouse called a *huipil*. And what women they are! They put heft back into all the clichés about big, strong women. The Mexican writer Elena Poniatowska explains why males are best not to mess with them: "Man is a kitten between their legs, a puppy they have to admonish, 'Stay there.'" The most familiar picture from Iturbide's Juchitán series, which ponders the feminine in all stages and stations of life — infants, transvestites, virgin teens, crones, dwarves — is *Our Lady of the Iguanas*, an up-from-under shot of a woman who brought iguanas to the public market. (Iguana stew is a Zapotec delicacy, and the iguana figures in their myths and folklore.) She wore to market a crown of live critters on her head (after sewing shut their jaws) and then put them on the ground to sell. In one of those instants photographers learn to wait for, though the waiting usually entails exposing as much film as possible, Iturbide snapped the picture the moment the majestic broad-browed woman and her prehistoric consort all tipped up their chins. She looks like a risen, mythic queen of some underworld, and she looks exactly like what she is, a vendor displaying her wares.

Iturbide says she isn't interested in religion as such but is very much interested in the palpable presence of the gods among certain



Mujer ángel, desierto Sonora, México, 1979

Danza de la cabrita: Fotografías de Graciela Iturbide

(*The Goat's Dance: Photographs by Graciela Iturbide*)

J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles
Through Sunday, April 13. For additional information, call 310-440-7300.

peoples. Her stated intent is "to photograph the most mythological aspects of people; I don't believe in anything, but I seek rituals of religion, the heroes of religion, the gods." The gods and the life of the tribe are often associated with animals, a primal relatedness the western industrialized world has mostly lost or forgotten. I don't want to mislead: Iturbide's images aren't exhibits of anthropological curiosity. While her pictures teem with anthropological information, she doesn't simply document cultures. Iturbide seeks those "heroes of religion, the gods" from within these societies. She doesn't put us at a testimonial remove from her subjects, no matter if she's working in Texas, Tijuana, the American South, Los Angeles, or Oaxaca; her seeking eye moves and glides amidst it all. She records cultural dynamics from the inside out. To her eye, nature and culture aren't pretty or adorable, and the consistency and steadiness of her gaze are amazing. She watches for life lived close to death and makes us feel she's on the prowl for what's sacred and terrifying.

In *Danza de la cabrita* (*The Goat Dance*), her portfolio of slaughter culture, she rubs right up against the membrane of ancient practice and savage (I use the word not to degrade but to exalt) observance. She shows us, as if snagged in the corner of her vision, goatskins stretched

on trees like trapped kites. She practically puts us on top of a just-skinned, dirty-marble carcass hanging from a dark, bloody hand that holds a knife. This series sets off all kinds of associations, especially of slaughter as sacrifice to appease gods. It's festive (the dancing boy) and restorative (one animal spared and crowned), but blood's everywhere in *The Goat Dance*: in a heap of just-slaughtered animals, stockings of blood wash down over their hooves. For many indigenous societies, observance of blood rites helps a people to keep their community sane and prevent its soul from becoming deranged. Iturbide's images aren't shocking, they just contain a given ferocity and violence necessary to preserving something whole.

The *cholos* she photographed in East L.A. have their rites, too, but in Iturbide's images of young men and women (and their babies), the rituals have come partly unstuck from the kind of ancient underground stream of meaning preserved among the peoples of La Mixteca and Juchitán. The women of Juchitán have their traditional dress, and the 1980s gang-bangers of East L.A. have their own costume — jeans, sleeveless T-shirts, sometimes hairnets, always tattoos. They and their girls flash gang signs, and in one picture so does, or so it seems, a babe in arms. Approve or not, that's commu-

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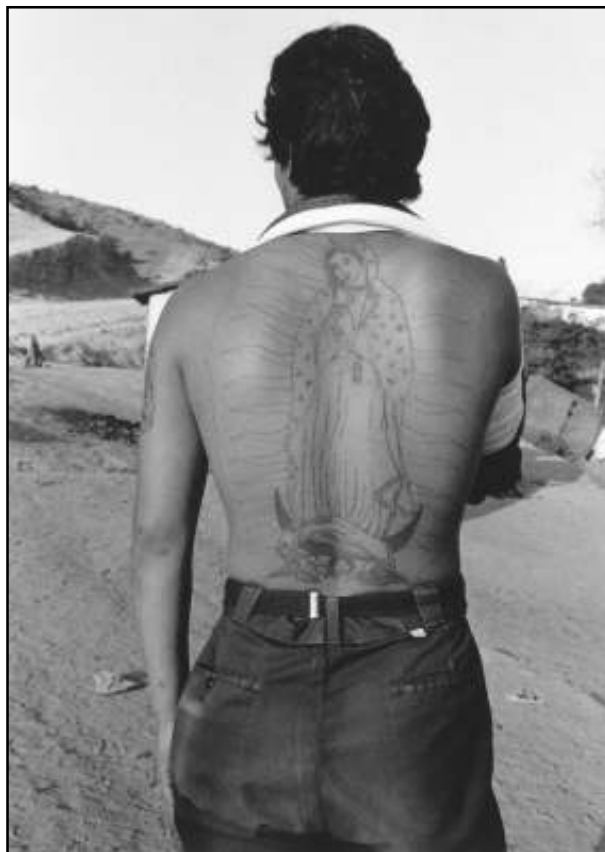
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nity. If there's something missing in all this, it's that the culture the photographer presents is more caught up in display than in piety or observance. The tattoos, the custom-job muscle cars, the hard-case attitude — so many of the Zapotecas look *happy*: the barrio toughs work hard to look like severe, closed-down outsiders — all involve decorative surfaces. Though even this culture reveres its own back-in-the-day traditions, especially the zoot-suit *pachuco* culture of the 1940s that bursts from beautifully orchestrated murals its self-styled successors sometimes pose against. "I insist on astonishment," Iturbide says. Yes, indeed. Her goat and Juchitán pictures have prepped us to see past the hand signs and affectless stares to the skeleton and blood-fed tissue under the skin.

The "Flatlands" portfolio that resulted from a trip through the American South shows off Iturbide's formalist gifts in the woolly half-tones of a haystack, or a farm-stand backed by mealy gray skies. In our South she finds her Mexico, in local cultures like cigar-making and beekeeping. In North American settings she's still seeking her gods. She makes scrappy landscapes in Mississippi and Louisiana look like the cactus gardens she photographed in Mexico City for her *El Jardín (The Garden)* series. And her ongoing inquiry into feminine presence and power results in a shot of



La frontera, Tijuana, México, 1990

another poster icon, Marilyn Monroe, "overseeing" through window glass an American boy. Though it contains many representative images and portfolios, this exhibition is really just a sampler of the achievement of one of the most steady, incorruptible artists of our time. ■

ART LISTINGS

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tion. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to **READER EVENTS**, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

GALLERIES

"Be There in the Moment" Plein air landscape paintings by Victoria Polyak featured at San



Rosario and Boo Boo in Her Home, East Los Angeles, 1986

Diego Art Institute: Museum of the Living Artist through Sunday, February 17, along with "Outstanding Visual Artists" of the region and youth art. Friday, 6 p.m., San Diego Art Institute: Museum of the Living Artist, 1439 El Prado. 619-236-0011. (BALBOA PARK)

"Research" Reception for Roman de Salvo and Lael Corbin. De Salvo selected Corbin as emerging artist he wanted to exhibit with. Second exhibition of 2007/2008 San Diego Art Prize closes Saturday, April 19. 619-645-6593. Saturday, 7 p.m., L Street Gallery, 628 L Street. (DOWNTOWN)

"Small Image Show" 33rd annual juried show of diminutive

fine art opens with reception for artists. Through Friday, February 29. Friday, 5 p.m., Gallery 21 in Spanish Village Art Center, 1770 Village Place. (BALBOA PARK)

Women's History Museum After 25 years, museum honors its late founder Mary Maschal with a portrait painted by Susan E. Roden. Painting will be unveiled during reception. RSVP requested: 619-233-7963. Sunday, 2 p.m., Women's History Museum, 2323 Broadway, suite 107. 619-233-7963. (GOLDEN HILL)

ART MUSEUMS

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

"Niki de Saint Phalle: A Spiritual Path" offers a closer look at de Saint Phalle's spiritual journey, her interpretation of traditional tarot cards. "Is the tarot pack only a game of cards, or is there a philosophy behind it?"

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

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

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

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

Also on view: "American Viewing Stones: Natural Art in an Asian Tradition." Chinese connoisseurs began using large stones to decorate gardens, courtyards during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 220); "Scholar's Rocks" is English name most commonly used for these items. American viewing stone collecting began

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with first- and second-generation Japanese-Americans who continued traditions of bonsai and suiseki.

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

Masterworks from permanent collection are gathered in "The Beauty of Use — Mingei International Museum at 30," showcasing significant objects from many cultures shown in relationships highlighting similarities and differences among them. Museum has formed a collection of mingei now comprising 17,000 objects from 141 countries such as collection of 19th-Century African tribal currency, group of masks including example of Amazonian feather work, ritual objects, selection of monumental containers. Closes Sunday, May 11. 619-239-0003. 1439 El Prado, 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

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

"Art of Play: Kinetic Toys of the World" — closing Sunday, June 29 — features objects that move when manipulated. See kites from many countries, pull- and push-toys, antique mechanical banks, puppets, wooden toys. 760-735-3355. 155 West Grand Avenue, 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown "Robert Irwin: Primaries and Secondaries" is "the largest exhibition of renowned artist...Irwin's work since 1993." Exhibit features five new major installation works created specifically for MCASD's galleries, is drawn almost exclusively of works from museum's collec-

tion. Closes Sunday, April 13. Find the museum directly across from the Santa Fe Railroad Depot. 858-454-3541. 1001 Kettner Boulevard, 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

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

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

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

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

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

"Josef Albers and His Students: Theory and Practice," closing Sunday, March 2, presents four prints by master artist, color theorist, teacher Josef Albers. Display features works by four of his Ameri-

can students — Richard Anuszkiewicz, Robert Birmelin, Robert Rauschenberg, Audrey Flack — with each work corresponding to one of Albers' prints. 619-232-7931. 1450 El Prado, 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

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

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

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CLASSICAL MUSIC

"British Invasion Concert" Percussionist Ross Karre and pianist Aleck Karis perform selections by Birtwistle, Fernyhough, and Pintscher. 858-534-3229. Wednesday, 8 p.m., Mandeville Recital at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (UCSD)

"Soirée Parisienne" Enjoy "stylish evening of French inspiration" when Camarada performs pieces by Debussy, Ravel, Fauré, and Bizet. 619-231-3702. Friday, 7:30 p.m., \$25-\$15. St. Paul's Cathedral, 2278 Sixth Avenue. 619-298-7261. (HILLCREST)

"Tannhäuser" San Diego Opera opens 43rd season with Richard Wagner's "spiritual and moving opera of self-sacrifice and atonement" promising a knight's quest and the miracle of pure love. Cast includes *heldentenor* Robert Gambill (who has made Tannhäuser his signature role), Finnish soprano Camilla Nylund, German mezzo-soprano Petra Lang, German bass Reinhard Hagen. Conductor is Gabor Ötvös, director is Michael Hampe. Sung in German with English translations above stage. Reservations: 619-533-7000. Tuesday, 7 p.m., Saturday, 7 p.m., \$28-\$175. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. 858-570-1100. (DOWNTOWN)

"The Romantic Piano Concerto" Pianist Nadia Shpachenko joins when Tifereth Israel Community Orchestra to play pieces by Kodály, Barber, J.S. Bach, Tchaikovsky. 619-697-6001. Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., \$10-\$15. Tifereth Israel Synagogue, 6660 Cowles Mountain Blvd. . 619-697-6001. (SAN CARLOS)

Carol Williams, Civic Organist Sundays, 2 p.m., Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 2211 Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

Former Civic Organist Jared Jacobsen in concert. 619-702-8138. Sunday, 2 p.m., Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 2211 Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

From Baroque to Big Band Select Brass plays works by Bach, Dukas, Ewald, Bernstein, Ellington, others. Reception following the concert. Offering. 619-297-4366. Sunday, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church of San Diego,

2111 Camino Del Rio South. 619-297-4366. (MISSION VALLEY)

Hair-Raising Ensemble Technique! Cantus makes San Diego concert debut, with program drawing from standards of male choral music, as well as from works commissioned by the group, folk tunes, rock music. 858-459-3421 x109. Sunday, 4 p.m., \$25. St. James by the Sea Episcopal Church, 743 Prospect Street. 858-459-3421. (LA JOLLA)

Kensington Trio Chamber music and songs by La Jolla composer Robert Fürstenthal performed for winter concert series. 619-236-5810. Sunday, 2:30 p.m., San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

Mainly Mozart Spotlight Series Violinist Angela Fuller, flutist Timothy Day, pianist Marc Shapiro perform works by Bach including "Trio Sonata in G," "Sonata No. 4 in C Minor for Violin and Piano," "Flute Sonata in E," "Trio Sonata from *The Musical Offering*." 619-239-0100. Friday, 8 p.m., Saturday, 8 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m., Sunday, 6:30 p.m., \$25-\$60. Neurosciences Institute, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive. 858-882-8000. (LA JOLLA)

Percussion Concert Matthew Jenkins in recital featuring works by Christian Wolff and Birtwistle's "Axe Manual." Minji Noh accompanies on piano. 858-534-3229. Tuesday, 8 p.m., Mandeville Recital at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (UCSD)

Piano Dedication Recital Karen Follingstad performs for Grace and the Arts Concert Series. Offering. 619-295-3503. Sunday, 2 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church,

3967 Park Boulevard. 619-299-2890. (HILLCREST)

San Diego Symphony Ensembles Enjoy "some of the greatest music ever written." 619-533-3902. Monday, 6 p.m., College-Rolando Library, 6600 Montezuma Road. (COLLEGE AREA)

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and legendary violinist, conductor Pinchas Zukerman join San Diego Symphony for a "superconcert" co-conducted by Jahja Ling. Program boasts Weber's "Oberon" overture and Beethoven's "Violin Concerto" and "Symphony No. 5." 619-235-0804. Thursday, 7:30 p.m., \$30-\$100. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. 619-235-0804. (DOWNTOWN)

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Who They Weren't

In the time it took him to fire up his stogie, he missed the quickest TKO in heavyweight boxing history.

Right place, wrong timing: In 1938, a friend of mine's great-uncle saved his shekels and went to the, at that time, Fight of the Century — the Joe Louis/Max Schmeling rematch at Yankee Stadium. Along with an estimated 70,000 others, he wanted to see "the Brown Bomber" demolish the Aryan brute who floored Louis in 1936 and who symbolized all things Nazi.

REVIEW

JEFF SMITH

Come fight time, the bell rings and Louis blazes, landing jabs and rocket rights. Schmeling goes down. Gets back up. "Gonna be a great bout," the uncle thinks, why not make it perfect, with a good cigar? As he leans over to light up, he hears three dull cracks, like bullwhips on wet rawhide. The crowd explodes, stands, cheers. The uncle jumps up. Schmeling's down. In the time it took to fire up his stogie, he missed the quickest TKO in heavyweight boxing history.

Steven Drukman's *In This Corner* contends, a bit more often than need be, that history has missed something about Louis and Schmeling as well: the truth. The media turned each into an ideological icon, even though Schmeling detested Hitler (and sheltered two Jewish boys in his hotel from storm troopers); and Louis, once he stepped out of the ring, became yet another segregated African-American who couldn't have his picture taken with a white woman.

The play retells Pygmalion. Depression-choked America needs a hero, and a hero needs a villain.

So the media engineers them, out of words (many of them alliterative, often racist, tags). Louis, a gentle man who stuttered and liked to speak his mind, becomes a fabrication: a white's ideal black man. He can clobber opponents, preferably with fury, but can't smile or gloat and must remain subservient. When he steps out of the ring for good and the media can no longer exploit him, Louis nosedives from celebrity like

an Icarus.

For their first fight, Schmeling detected a flaw in his opponent's technique: after a series of jabs, Louis would lower his left hand. Drukman's world-premiere script also lowers its left: his characters exist more in theory, as verbal constructs meant to prove a point, than in depth.

The play shows us who they weren't, but who *were* Louis and Schmeling? We never learn, for example, why his manager chose Louis (the first time we see him punch, he has zilch skills). Plus, didn't Joe philander, a lot? And the conclusion, which never happened (Louis is in a psych ward; Schmeling comes to visit in 1970), is weak. The playwright substitutes a thesis, that losing can make one born again, for a theory. The two square off and do a slow parody of *Rocky III*, when the Italian Stallion goes toe-to-toe one last time with Apollo Creed, as the credits roll.

Drukman's script has crisp dialogue and flashes of sharp writing (the ref does a set piece about order and chaos in boxing that's a hoot)



Al White, Dion Graham in *In This Corner*

In This Corner, by Steven Drukman

Cassius Carter Centre Stage, Simon Edison Centre for the Performing Arts, Balboa Park

Directed by Ethan McSweeney; cast: Dion Graham, Rufus Collins, T. Ryder Smith, Al White, David Deblinger, Katie Barrett, John Keabler; scenic design, Lee Savage; costumes, Tracy Christiansen; lighting, Tyler Micolescu; sound, Lindsay Jones; fight director, Steve Rankin

Playing through February 10; Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-234-5623.

but could use more grounding. As if sensing this need, director Ethan McSweeney has drenched the Cassius Carter with atmosphere and detail. The stage is a boxing ring, a near-perfect fit, in fact:

white canvas, frayed gold ropes, brown and black Everlast gloves dangling from turnbuckles. Four stations flank the squared circle, where actors watch, participate, and make practically unseen



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costume changes. Designer Lee Savage has raised the Carter's floor three or four feet, to the same level as the audience. I've never seen actors' heads that close to the ceiling before at the Carter. It makes the pugilists (even though their fight choreography's pretty much by the numbers) loom almost larger than life.

McSweeney has an affinity for the Carter. He directed last year's *Body of Water*, which turned the intimate theater-in-the-round into a shimmering blue dreamscape. Often during *In This Corner*, he creates a soundscape. The banter straight from *The Front Page*, the pace of workouts, and the distinctive clack of an Underwood typewriter often have the fluidity of music.

Joseph Louis Barrow was six foot two. Dion Graham, who plays him, not only has Louis's height, he's also got his eyes, at once fierce and quizzical, as if he sees double — and double standards. Graham, and a booming-voiced Rufus Collins, who plays Schmeling, fill in many of the script's blanks with subsurface suggestions.

The play's about Main Event headliners, but McSweeney and a talented supporting quintet make it an ensemble show. As a reporter and a promoter (roles he makes reversible), David Deblinger talks like Louis de Palma on steroids. Al White's smooth trainer-manager percolates with low-grade malignity. John Keabler plays various sparring partners/Louis punching bags, for which roles he prepares with a brisk, half-hour preshow warm-up.

Katie Barrett, Craig Noel Award-winner for *Mother Courage* in 2006, demonstrates even more versatility as several different women, each sharply etched. Another Noel winner, T. Ryder Smith handles several assignments with skill. He cuts loose with the ref's speech ("I make the KO okay") and does the evening's most dramatic sequence. Along with being about race and celebrity, *In This Corner's* about pre-TV sports in America, in which words hyped, mediated, and at times mangled events. As an announcer, Smith calls the second

Louis-Schmeling fight and shows that words could also describe indelibly. No one moves onstage. Instead we listen, to round one on the radio, and hear Louis's genius combinations my friend's great-uncle missed seven decades ago. ■

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.

A Matter of Tact

A "long form" improv troupe, Matter of Tact performs a "completely made-up on the spot" play. NORTH PARK VAUDEVILLE, 2031 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, NORTH PARK. THROUGH JANUARY 26; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., 619-647-4958.

Anton in Show Business

6th at Penn Theatre presents Jane Martin's backstage comedy about an ill-fated production of Anton Chekhov's *The Three Sisters* that skewers every sacred cow in theater. Dale Morris directed. 6TH AT PENN THEATER, 3704 SIXTH AVENUE, HILLCREST. THROUGH MARCH 2; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., 619-688-9210.

Fences

Cygnat Theatre and the San Diego Black Ensemble present August



Sea of Tranquility

Wilson's complex portrayal of Troy Maxson, a man fenced in and out. Delicia Turner Sonnenberg directed. CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, SUITE N, COLLEGE AREA. THROUGH FEBRUARY 24; SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., 619-337-1525.

Guys and Dolls

San Diego Musical Theatre presents Lerner and Loewe's popular musical about Sky Masterson's seemingly impossible wager. Troy Magino directed and choreographed. EAST COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 210 EAST MAIN STREET, EL CAJON. THROUGH FEBRUARY 3; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., 619-440-2277.

Highly Caffeinated Comedy

Hugh Butternut's done his lounge act at the Triple Espresso Coffeehouse 20 years to the day. While patrons sip a house blend — "Grape," "Scandinavian Blizzard," or "Mokoko Cocoa Mocha" — Hugh plays '70s tunes on the piano. He and his companions, here to celebrate Hugh's anniversary, got stuck in the '70s. The trio used to be Maxwell, Butternutt, and Bean, a comedy group that never went far. They're "losers," they admit, but not "ordinary" ones. And hey, their reunion could help them face searing issues from their mediocre pasts. The story line's straight from *Forever Plaid*. There's also the *Forever Plaid* problem: the three comedians are far too talented to play inept char-

acters. One's a whiz at the piano. Another's a first-rate mime, and the third's a crackerjack magician. The trio's so talented, when the plot has them complain of difficulties to overcome, you wish they'd quit trumping up the pseudo-drama and get on with this highly entertaining, if lightweight show. HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN. THROUGH FEBRUARY 17; THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 5 P.M., SATURDAYS, 5 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 3 P.M., SUNDAYS, 3 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., 619-234-9583.

In This Corner

Reviewed this issue. CASSIUS CARTER CENTER STAGE, SI-

MON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. THROUGH FEBRUARY 10; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., TUESDAYS, 7 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 7 P.M., 619-234-5623.

Ion's Intimate Ibsen: Pillars of Society

Ion Theatre presents a staged reading series of Henrik Ibsen's works, one for each month of 2008. This month's: *Pillars of Society*. ION THEATRE COMPANY, 4580-B ALVARADO CANYON ROAD, GRANTVILLE. ; SUNDAY, 1 P.M., THURSDAY, 8 P.M., FRIDAY, 8 P.M., SATURDAY, 8 P.M., SUNDAY, 7 P.M., 619-374-6894.

Mark Twain Tonight

The historic Balboa Theatre re-opens its doors after renovation with Hal Holbrook's immensely popular portrayal of Mark Twain. BALBOA THEATRE, 854 FOURTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN. THROUGH OCTOBER 19; SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., 619-570-1100.

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 gone competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling ("where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests while 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. Using suggestions from the audience, they play "Emotional Sympathy," "Blind Line," and "Freeze Tag," with judges awarding points to the best scenes.

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Calendar

MUSIC SCENE

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Dead Scene? “I heard after last year’s [Street Scene] that they were going to pull the plug,” says one promoter about San Diego’s largest

through 2004. When it moved to the parking facilities in Petco Park (2004) and then Qualcomm Stadium (2005, 2006), those disheartened with the venue changes dubbed the event “Parking Lot Scene.”

The 2004 Street Scene drew an estimated 105,000. Insiders say last year’s event

blurt

the inside track

outdoor music event.

Rob Hagey founded Street Scene in 1984 and sold it last year to Los Angeles-based Live Nation, the country’s largest concert company. Last year’s event, originally planned to take place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, was moved to Coors Amphitheatre in Chula Vista due to slow ticket sales.

“I think Live Nation blew it by trying to run it from L.A.,” says a Los Angeles-based promoter who is familiar with the local concert market. “You need someone local who knows San Diego.”

Live Nation spokesman Greg Terlizzi says he had no information about when or if Street Scene would be back.

Street Scene was held in the streets of downtown

brought in about 10,000 paid customers.

— Ken Leighton

Meanwhile... The first concert at a new 13,000-capacity venue in Mission Valley will be held in April, according to Mike McSweeney, marketing manager for Qualcomm Stadium. The site of the former Chargers practice facility near Qualcomm Stadium — to be called AEG Live Concerts on the Green — will have temporary, portable structures. AEG has entered into a three-year deal with the stadium, which is owned and operated by the City of San Diego.

Headliners have not been announced, but insiders suggest that many of the acts

brought in about 10,000 paid customers.

that previously played the “Bayside” Embarcadero Marina Park South facility (Radiohead, Angels & Airwaves, Black Eyed Peas) are being sought to appear at the venue. Bayside’s viability as a concert venue was hurt due to noise complaints.

AEG, the country’s second-largest concert company, opened an office in San Diego last year and is attempting to draw business away from Live Nation. Live Nation controls Cox Arena, Open Air Theatre, and Coors Amphitheatre. An insider says that the Warped Tour, held at Coors last year, may take place at the AEG facility.

— Ken Leighton

Goodbye to Romance

On January 28, bass-less indie-rock trio Buzzkill Romantics will split up after a CD-release show at the Casbah for their *Aftermath of Love* album. For at least the



FERGIE THE PEA TO PLAY THE GREEN?

first half of 2008, guitarist Davida Milkes will be a guitar tech and backing musician on tours with Gene Loves Jezebel and ex-Catherine Wheel front man Rob Dickinson. (She’ll join Dickinson onstage for several songs.)

Later this spring, Milkes will tour North America in the Electric Mood Maidens, her new group that includes Marty Willson-Piper of ’80s hit-makers The Church.

“I’ve been friends with them for years, particularly Marty,” explains Milkes of her connection to the Australian rockers. It was through them that she became a roadie.

“The subject came up and — what do you know —



MILKES GETS DOWN AT SCOLARI'S ('05)

I’m the guitar tech for the Church,” she laughs. “Of course, I had never [done

that] before, so I had to learn quick.” She’s been with the band at every American show for almost two years, occasionally joining them onstage for the song “Providence.”

At an August 2006 show in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Milkes played part of a Church set

after Willson-Piper came down with a migraine. Rather than cancel the performance, Church front man Steve Kilbey approached Milkes and asked her how many songs she knew.

Though the roadie biz is a male-dominated field, Milkes hasn’t had any problems, at least not with her employers.

“To be honest, I think bands welcome a woman on the crew; it changes the dynamics and gives traveling a different feel.... On the road, when we show up to gigs, I have had some men that work for the clubs make some comments, but they usually shut up pretty quickly when they see I actually know what I’m doing.”

— Bart Mendoza

Ferret Love Last week, EMI/Capitol Records announced it would fire 1500 employees — 25 percent of its workforce — and that it

would become the first major label to eliminate large advances. (The company reportedly gave British singer



LOWER DEFINITION, HIGHER EXPECTATIONS

Robbie Williams \$150 million when he signed with the label in 2002.)

“There’s a lot less glamour in signing with a major if they’re cutting your funding,” says Valentino Artega, guitarist with Chula Vista-based Lower Definition. The big-label troubles make him feel even better about his band’s new deal with independent New Jersey label Ferret Music.

“Major labels are flopping because they sometimes have to sell a million copies [of each release] to break even.” Artega says bands Every Time I Die and In Flames — also on the Ferret label — have sold over 100,000 discs, a profitable benchmark for an indie band.

Artega points to the air time of Chiotos and As I Lay Dying on MTV2 and Fuel TV as proof that bands can get on the radar without the backing of a big label.

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Calendar MUSIC SCENE blurt continued

Though Artega's "melodic hardcore" band received no up-front money, Ferret will pay for tour support and for Lower Definition's recording session at a Portland, Oregon, studio next month. In addition, the band was allowed to select producer Kris Crummett (Dance Gavin Dance, Drop Dead Gorgeous), whose fee will be covered by Ferret.

Lower Definition is known locally for playing to under-age audiences exclusively. Artega says his band has "seriously toured" for the last three and a half years, which helped stimulate label interest.

"You just have to get out there and tour and get as far away from San Diego as you possibly can. We toured the western U.S. at least seven times. It's gotten a lot easier to tour with the Internet."

— Ken Leighton

Smokin' The Lost Boys of Penzance have covered a TV commercial jingle, "The Disadvantages of You," from a 1967 Benson & Hedges 100s cigarette ad.

"I recalled hearing the tune on TV, growing up in the 1960s," says bandleader Jonathan Villegas. The commercial is still remembered for its images of extra-long cigarettes getting caught in elevator doors and lighting the beards of people standing too close.

"The ad didn't turn me into a smoker," says the 50-year-old guitarist, "but the lilting melody of the song

stuck in my head. I later discovered that my dad had the sheet music in a songbook that'd been distributed to members of the armed forces."

To obtain song rights, Villegas says, "I got a compulsory mechanical license, granting use of the song once I paid the statutory royalty rate, which is currently 9.1 cents per minute for songs five minutes or less. The minimum quantity is 500 units. So, for a cover of a two-minute song, it cost me...\$91."

Rockers who claim to smoke Benson & Hedges include the Gallagher brothers of Oasis and AC/DC guitarist Angus Young. "We don't endorse smoking ourselves," says Villegas, "other than smokin' hot tunes."

The Lost Boys of Penzance are based near



LATE '60S BENSON & HEDGES AD

surfing hotspot Swami's in Encinitas. Their version of "The Disadvantages of You" is included on the surf-rock compilation *Beyond the Sea*.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Impossible Germany Dmonstrations have confirmed upcoming tour dates in Japan, thanks to their new overseas booking company. They would have toured Europe last year, were

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it not for a falling out with Germany-based Dial Booking, which had confirmed only around half the dates as the band prepared to depart.

"We couldn't afford the gear and van rental for the whole month without shows booked every day," blogs the band. They say they tried to reach their contact at the booking agency, "but it is obvious that he has more important or pressing issues in his life right now. We were waiting over two months to get a final response from him."

"This is frustrating due to the fact that we had over eight months to plan this," said the band when canceling the tour. "However, we aren't willing to risk the potential to incur a substantial debt due to others' lack of planning and professionalism."

"Our decision was also greatly influenced by the recent events with our friends Mika Miko, who happened to go through Dial Booking and

ended up getting the runaround in Italy and losing \$1500 of their own money on their recent trip. Our friends Die! Die! Die! have also been waiting to hear of dates, and

as a result of this, they have canceled their [overseas] tour too."

The Dmonstrations' 2008 tour of Japan was arranged through a different booking agency. Dial Booking did not respond to email requests for comment.

— Jay Allen Sanford

In His Face... Some excerpts from Martin Storrow's tour diary:

Ohio, 1/8/08: When most of what you play are love songs, or relationship related, or very poetic, it's always a surprise to walk into a show and find out that you'll be

playing for an entirely male audience, especially in the middle of Ohio, where men are especially manly...about fifty guys had shown up. Oh, and one very lucky girl. I started the show by gesturing to the girl and saying, "I just want you all to know that there's a slight imbalance here tonight, and whenever I play a love song, it will be dedicated to her."

"Be careful," a guy from the crowd said. "Her boyfriend is here, too." Crap.

"All right," I said. "I'll dedicate a few to him, too." The crowd busted up. The ice had been broken.

Waltham MA, 1/12/08: They didn't have a room for me to warm up in, so I went into the parking lot and began to do my vocal exercises and stretch. Some of my vocal warm-ups sound roughly like a mix between whale squeaks and outboard motors....

About a minute later, two police cars came down into the parking lot, a cruiser and an SUV. I wondered what

was going on. They approached me and the SUV in back pointed a spotlight in my face. A female officer rolled down her window.

"Are you okay, sir?" I smiled... "Yes, I'm fine. I'm playing a show here tonight and was just warming up my voice."

The officer looked relieved. I was, too. "So you haven't been drinking or



DEFINITELY JAPAN FOR THE DMONSTRATIONS

PHOTOGRAPH FROM MYSFACE/DMONSTRATIONS



PHOTOGRAPH FROM MYSFACE/MARTINSTORROW

STORROW MAKES LIKE A WHALE

anything?" I laughed. "No. I must look a little nuts warming up out here."

"Somebody thought so. Have a great night, sir."

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS William Crain, Dave Good, Larry Harmon, Michael Hemmingson, Ken Leighton, Ryan Loyko, Bart Mendoza, Derek Plank, Eric Rife, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone

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This Week In Music

Thursday 24

South Park film shop Citizen Video hosts a local film-maker showcase at neighborhood watering hole Whistle Stop.

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THE LOCUST AT EPICENTRE

caught the Sess yet, get on it. And grab some hot wax while you're there — they just pressed a two-side 45". Old school.... Local noiseniks the **Locust** swarm teen hall Epicentre for a Casbah-sponsored set with South Beach punks **Poison the Well**. Looks like PtW are touring the world this year behind new Ferret Music disc *Versions*, a collection of studio-stewed hardcore.... Psych-pop act **A Scribe Amidst the Lions** will premiere music from their second disc *Sunken Cities* tonight at Casbah. The ambient electronics shot through with guitar skronk and taffy-pulled vox are sure t'reach all you radioheads. This Rockit Presents gig includes **Astra** and the **Material**.... Sonic spacemen **Earthless** launch at Bar Pink Elephant tonight. On last year's Tee-Pee Records release *Rhythms from a Cosmic Sky*, the instrumental three-piece built Japanese psych-rock squalls around the thudding Kraut-rock drums of Mario Rubalcaba (Clikitat Ikatowi, RFTC, Hot Snakes, Black Heart).... They burnt bright but brief after 2002's *What It Is to Burn*, and then late last year **Finch** regrouped. The Temecula alt-rock act continues to stretch their stage legs tonight at Soma. Power-poppers **Reeve Oliver** also on the bill.... **Roman Spring** pull out of the garage for a Beauty Bar set. You like the Strokes? They do.

Friday 25

Big band **Ozomatli** will funk up Belly Up for two nights Friday and Saturday. The nine-piece multi-ethnic band may have a variety of seasonings but the flavor's always south-of-the-border spicy. Check last year's *Don't Mess with the Dragon* for a taste of their Los Angelino mélange. Afro-beats band **Cava** opens both nights, but it looks like Saturday's sold out.... No worries; get your dance jams at Winstons, where **Hot Buttered Rum** will pull bluegrass roots for a packed-house party. The SanFran improv band is kicking off a Left Coast tour behind new disc *Live in the Northeast*.... Clap your hands say **Yeasayer**. Another Brooklyn band exhumes Talking Heads polyrhythms and Byrne's nasally no-wave. The quartet tours shiny new *All Hour Cymbals* through Casbah Friday night. **MGMT** and **Calico Horse** share the stage, while **Brainticket DJs** spin between sets.... Anthology hosts jazz bassist **Stanley Clarke** for two nights. Clarke's touting '07 disc *The Toys of Men*, which topped Billboard's contempo jazz chart. The 56-year-old fusion player cut his teeth with pure jazz players Art Blakey, Horace Silver, and Stan Getz, among others.... Beat Farmer **Joey Harris** and his new band the **Mentals** pull into Whistle Stop, where the guitarist/songsmith will split the ticket with folk chanteuse **Sara Petite** and her **Sugar Daddies**.... Reggae-rockers **Pepper** spice a night at 'Canes with their latest dish *To Da Max*.

Saturday 26

All-age Soma props ska Saturday night when they plug in the **Toasters** and **Buck-O-Nine** on their Sports Arena stage. These brassy punks are pushing the quarter-century mark as they pair up in support of new releases.... Desert 'lectronic act **Gram Rabbit** hops into Casbah. The JoshTree band rocks trip-hop beats behind the bewitched voice of Jesika von Rabbit. It's a CD release for new one *Radio Angel and the Robot Beat* — Beck with a lady's touch. The **Viewmasters** and the **Blakes** set the stage.... Indie pop bands the **Fascination**, **Frantic Romantic**, and **Long Live Logos** hit Ken Club with nu wave. The Fascination debut material from *Love, the City, and Space*, while for LLL it's *Little Monster and Me*. The gig's a CD release for Frantics new s/t e.p.... Escondido punk-pop mash-ups **Tiltwheel** are patched and pumped to roll into Tower Bar, where they'll spill beer with **Grabass Charlestons** and the **Tim Version**.

Sunday 27

Brooklyn MC **Talib Kweli** visits House of Blues. The rapper is an academic and a businessman whose heady take on the genre helped spawn "alternative hip-hop." Check 1998's Mos Def-mentored *Black Star* for Kweli's high note, as last year's *Ear Drum* met with mixed reviews. New one *A Prisoner of Consciousness* is due to drop in early '08. **DJ Demon** opens.... Belly Up books a pair of power trios Sunday night as '60s rock-rollers **Mountain** (remember radio anthem "Mississippi Queen?") and local "face-melters" **Shock and Awe** stack it up on the Solana Beach stage.... Independent radio 94/9 hosts a free local showcase at Casbah with



GRAM RABBIT AT CASBAH

fresh-
faced hopefuls **Hotel St. George**, **Desert Diamonds**, the **Tighten Ups**, and **Team Abraham**.... **Autotonic** mix it up at Bar Pink Elephant. The unsigned indie quartet samples hooky pop rock on MySpace, where the SD band's getting much love in their friend space.

Monday 28

Casbah's Anti-Monday League turns up **irradio**. The San Diego sextet returns this year with *I Am the Horn*, a progressive rock collection pumping crunk and soul. **Sky Parade** and **Buzzkill Romantics** also on the bill. For Buzzkill, this gig's a CD release for limited-edition e.p. *The Aftermath of Love* and a farewell — their "last show ever!"

Tuesday 29

L.A. prog-rock throwbacks **Mars Volta** kick a CD-release party for *The Bedlam in Goliath* at Soma Tuesday night. The duo of Omar Rodriguez-Lopez (guitar) and Cedric Bixler-Zavala (yowls) have built a metal monster since 2005's crit-pick *Frances the Mute*. According to *Paste* magazine, Volta's upped the levels on slap-n-pop bass and Middle Eastern beats and horn bleats for a confounding "proggy bog."... NYC's electronic-pop crew **White Williams** blows *Smoke* (Tigerbeat Records, 2007) at Casbah Tuesday night. Think Roxy Music infused with clubby grooves or Soft Cell at 76 rpm. Pitchfork touted dance track "New Violence" in its singles selections and scored *Smoke* a respectable 8.3. They're joined by **Health** and **Tribal Tats**.... Mexican metal band and two-time Latin Grammy winners **Molotov** goes off at House of Blues. The Mexico City quartet comes out of a three-year hiatus to tour in support of new release *Eternamiente*.

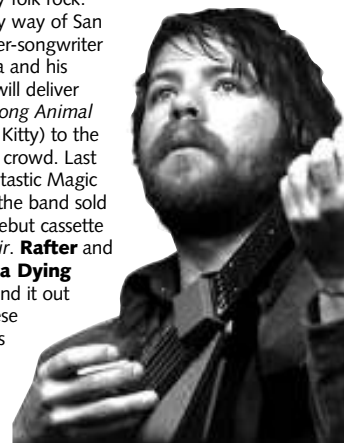
Wednesday 30

Couple creaky carnival rides repair to Casbah as **Castanets** and **Fantastic Magic** riddle the room with goth-y folk rock. Brooklyn by way of San Diego singer-songwriter Ray Raposa and his Castanets will deliver new 7" *Strong Animal* (Asthmatic Kitty) to the hometown crowd. Last look at Fantastic Magic suggested the band sold out of its debut cassette *Witch Choir*. **Rafter** and **Vision of a Dying World** round it out making these Casbah sets bill of the week....

NYC indie pop band the **Bravery** ride the hype wave behind their 2007 Island disc *The Sun and the Moon* into House of Blues. **Switches** and **Your Vegas** warm the downtown crowd....

Local blues baby **Anna Troy** joins the **Modlins** for live sets at new North Park venue U-31.... Out at Winstons, **Vegitation** feeds O.B. heads homegrown reggae.

— Barnaby Monk



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Barely Legal

"The kids were digging the show so much they started physically and sexually assaulting the band."

The Atoms are a young band, barely old enough to play the bars around town. The members came together at Bonita Vista High School in 2003 with a dream to play music. They have a forthcoming EP produced by Sweet Tooth Records and can be seen at alternative side venues such as the Casbah's Atari Room and the stage corner of UCSD's Ché Café. The band recently served as the "opening act" for the Ken Cinema's showing of the Talking Heads' *Stop Making Sense*. Their tunes are retro, early '80s, influenced by the punk/pop/new-wave sound of early Devo, Blondie, and the Boomtown Rats.

The five Atoms are Joey on vocals, Dee on guitar, Kaitlin on keyboards, Branden on bass, and Christy Beats "on the beats." I caught up with them rehearsing for a gig; half the members were getting over the flu.

BEST/WORST GIGS?

Branden: "Best, any Ché show. Worst, any bar show with fewer than 15 people in attendance."
 Joey: "The gig we did with Gravy Train at the Ché Café was both the best and worst. It was the best because we were sort of starting out around that time. It was the first sold-out show we ever played, so you can imagine our excitement. The kids were digging the show so much they started physically and sexually assaulting the band [onstage]. That's when it got messy, concluding with us all having busted lips

and a whole new bag of issues to rant to our shrinks about."

WHAT IS IN YOUR CD PLAYER TODAY?

Joey: "Sparks, *Propaganda*."
 Branden: "*Talking Heads: 77*."
 Dee: "*Wire, Pink Flag*."
 Kaitlin: "Jay Reatard, *Blood Visions*."
 Christy: "CD?"

WHAT DID YOU DO PROM NIGHT?

Branden: "Hung out with my band."
 Joey: "The band attended prom together in 2005. We digested an unhealthy amount of mercury at Benihana, arrived to the dance late, took cues from the other students, and danced ridiculously all night. Later we engaged in underage drinking and unprotected sex. Nothing special—just some American kids getting American kicks."
 Christy: "Motel 6 and Denny's."
 Dee: "My hand."

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT...WHAT ABOUT IT?

Branden: "What about it...?"
 Christy: "Yes, what about it...?"
 Dee: "What?"
 Joey: "What's that?"
 Kaitlin: "Sticky!"

FAVORITE QUOTE?

Joey: "The fittest shall survive, yet the unfit may

live."
 Christy: "If you can put ketchup on it, you can put BBQ sauce on it."
 Dee: "There's no such thing as hair-do's or don'ts."

BEST ADVICE YOU EVER RECEIVED...

Branden: "Follow your mind."
 Joey: "Anything Branden says."
 Christy: "Stay the course."

SEXIEST LOCAL PERFORMER?

Branden: "Austin from the Power-Chords."
 Dee: "Jeremy Rojas."

BEST TIME YOU EVER HAD DRUNK?

Joey: "At a gig in Vegas our publishing company took us out for a night on the town where we drank from dusk till dawn, ate a dangerous amount of pizza, and I ended the night by shouting obscenities in a four-star restaurant. Naturally I embarrassed myself, the band, and the publishing company who was letting us abuse their plastic...I wandered the streets of Vegas all night, but that's another story. Wow, that was awesome!"

WORST JOBS?

Branden: "Dishwasher."
 Joey: "The only job I've ever had is working retail...it's great for observing human behavior, but I barely got a bowl of rice a day."

FAVORITE DEAD CELEBRITY?

Branden: "John Lennon."
 Joey: "Hugh Hefner."

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT?

Dee: "Obama, because he's so cute!"
 Joey: "The Atoms support the right to vote, rather than any particular person or party. Who knows? I mean, didn't the guy who won eight years ago only end up making a documentary?" ■



Atoms

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS WOO



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Calendar CONCERTS

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THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

THURSDAY

Ben Kenney, House of Blues, Thursday, January 17, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Cross Canadian Ragweed, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, January 17, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

FRIDAY

Pat Green, 4th & B, Friday, January 18, 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Tiger Army, Soma, Friday, January 18, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-226-SOMA.

Social Distortion, House of Blues, Friday, January 18, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Chuchito Valdes, Anthology, Friday, January 18, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Dilated Peoples, Belly Up Tavern, Friday, January 18, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

SATURDAY

Ryan Adams, Spreckels Theatre, Saturday, January 19, 121 Broadway, Downtown. 619-235-9500.

Social Distortion, House of Blues, Saturday, January 19, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

SUNDAY

Social Distortion, House of Blues, Sunday, January 20, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Tower of Power, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Sunday, January 20, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

MONDAY

Lil Wayne, House of Blues, Monday, January 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

TUESDAY

Exodus and Goatwhore, House of Blues, Tuesday, January 22, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Todd Snider, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, January 22, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

WEDNESDAY

Debbie Davies, Anthology, Wednesday, January 23, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Mike Keneally, Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, January 23, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

JANUARY

Black Dahlia Murder, Soma, Wednesday, January 30, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-226-SOMA.

The Bravery, House of Blues, Wednesday, January 30, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Robben Ford, Anthology, Thursday, January 31, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

FEBRUARY

Poncho Sanchez, Anthology, Friday, February 1, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

The Head Cat, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday,

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BROTHERS**

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W/GUEST
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4/13 **Charlie Musselwhite** – on sale Friday @ noon!
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| 2/26 Adrian Belew | 3/9 The Blind Boys of Alabama | 3/21 Built to Spill w/The Meat Puppets & Helvatia |
| 2/27 Punch Brothers feat. Chris Thile | 3/10 New York Dolls | 3/22 The Presidents of the United States of America |
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| 2/29 Boogie Nights – Final Warning '80s Fever! | | 3/29 The Avett Brothers |
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THUR 1/31 7:30PM

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HAWAII'S UKULELE MAESTRO



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BENNY HOLLMAN'S BIG BAND EXPLOSION	2/9
NOVAMENCO	2/10
DAVID PATRONE	2/12

Can't get enough of your love!
VALENTINE'S WEEKEND

Anthology House Band	2/14
Royal Crown Revue	2/15
Charles McPherson	2/16
Johnny Polanco	2/17

BOX OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Thur 9am-8pm, Fri/Sat 9am-10pm, Sun Noon-8pm. All shows subject to change.

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Anthology Box Office & 619.595.0300

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1337 India Street (between A & Ash) in Little Italy

Calendar CONCERTS

February 1, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine.
619-445-5400.

Brazil Carnival 2008, 4th & B,
Saturday, February 2, 345 B Street,
Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Poncho Sanchez, Anthology,
Saturday, February 2, 1337 India Street,
Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Los Lobos, Belly Up Tavern, Saturday,
February 2, 143 South Cedros Avenue,
Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Raul Malo, Anthology, Sunday,
February 3, 1337 India Street, Little Italy.
619-595-0300.

Wyclef Jean, House of Blues,
Monday, February 4, 1055 Fifth Avenue,
Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Raul Malo, Anthology, Monday,
February 4, 1337 India Street, Little Italy.
619-595-0300.

Pinback, House of Blues, Tuesday,
February 5, 1055 Fifth Avenue,
Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Robin Trower, 4th & B, Tuesday,
February 5, 345 B Street, Downtown.
619-231-4343.

Pinback, House of Blues, Wednesday,
February 6, 1055 Fifth Avenue,
Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Super Furry Animals, Belly Up
Tavern, Wednesday, February 6, 143
South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach.
858-481-9022.

Jake Shimabukuro, Anthology,
Thursday, February 7, 1337 India Street,
Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Velvet Revolver, House of Blues,
Thursday, February 7, 1055 Fifth
Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Los Amigos Invisibles and SI*SE,
House of Blues, Friday, February 8, 1055
Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Tab Benoit, Anthology, Friday,
February 8, 1337 India Street, Little Italy.
619-595-0300.

Colbie Caillat, Viejas Casino
DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday,
February 8, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine.
619-445-5400.

The Wallflowers, Viejas Casino
DreamCatcher Show Room, Saturday,
February 9, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine.
619-445-5400.

James Blunt, Spreckels Theatre,
Sunday, February 10, 121 Broadway,
Downtown. 619-235-9500.

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Thursday, January 24

**Richard
Samuels**

Friday, January 25

**Jeff Moore,
Dean Smith &
Billy Thompson**

Saturday, January 26

Triple Shot

Sunday, January 27

Rick Ross Trio

Monday, January 28

Cactus Twang

Tuesday, January 29

Jack Tempchin

Wednesday, January 30

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 26



SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

Moulin Rouge presents
CLUB SEDUCTION
Reggae Sundays Kickoff Party
DJs ALONZO, BABY KROWN & BIG DADDY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

NSD presents
AMERICAN HITMAN
TESTING TOMORROW • SIXTH DAY
FIGHT THE FEAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

40 OUNCES TO FREEDOM
(Sublime tribute)
HIGH TIDE • RUDE BOY ROOTS
SOCIAL GREEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

ELIJAH EMANUEL
RAIZ MUSIK

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

**MUZZLE • CASKETS ON PARADE
ENCURSOS**
IN EVERY BREATH

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

THREE BAD JACKS
THE CATHOUSE THUMPERS
THE HANDSOME DEVILS
THE ORANGE VELVETS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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DJ DEMON
JANUARY 27

MOLOTOV
JANUARY 29

THE BRAVERY
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
SWITCHES
FOUR VEGAS
JANUARY 30 ALL AGES*

Vonda Shepard
HOB DELTA ROOM
JANUARY 31

WYCLEF JEAN
FEBRUARY 4

PINBACK
MC CHRIS
FEBRUARY 5 & 6

LOS AMIGOS INVISIBLES
si sé
FEBRUARY 8

AMPHREY'S MCGEE
FEBRUARY 12

EDITORS
HOT HOT HOT
LOUIS XIV
FEBRUARY 13 ALL AGES*

HORRORPOPS
The Pink Spiders
Rocket
FEBRUARY 15 ALL AGES*

STUX
FEBRUARY 16

SONATA ARCTICA
SANCTITY
UNIA
FEBRUARY 19 ALL AGES*

TRANSPARENT PRODUCTIONS & DINO PRESENTS
THIRD DAY
THE MYRIAD
FEBRUARY 20 ALL AGES*

Queensrÿche
The Hits
DON JOCKEN
FEBRUARY 21

LED ZEPPELIN
FEBRUARY 22

BADFISH
a tribute to
SUBLIME
SCOTTY DON'T
MYSTIC ROOTS BAND
FEBRUARY 23 ALL AGES*

JUPITER
RISING
DAGBRAVES
FEBRUARY 24

DAVE ATTELL
CAPTAIN MISERABLE
LIVE IN CONCERT
FEBRUARY 28

EVERY TIME I DIE
FEBRUARY 29

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| 3/7 | BAD RELIGION | 3/31 | CITIZEN COPE |
| 3/12 | CLUTCH | 4/5 | BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS |
| 3/18 | NADA SURF € | 4/7 | MINISTRY |
| 3/29 | THE BLACK KEYS € | 4/20 | SYMPHONY X |
| | | 5/23 | NIGHTWISH |

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Robin Trower
Mike Keneally Trio
FEBRUARY 5

Paula Poundstone
FEBRUARY 8

D.L. HUGHLEY
UNAPOLOGETIC
FEBRUARY 23



- | | |
|------|---|
| 2/10 | The Wallflowers • Grand Cabaret at Pala Casino |
| 3/7 | Bob Saget • 4th & B |
| 3/13 | Angels & Airwaves • SOMA |
| 3/29 | Lavell Crawford • 4th & B |
| 4/6 | RBD with La Nueva Banda Timbiriche • Coors Amphitheatre |
| 4/26 | Def Leppard with REO Speedwagon • Coors Amphitheatre |
| 4/30 | Avril Lavigne with Boys Like Girls • Cox Arena |

LIVENATION.com

WINDY 90.9 OFFICE ticketmaster CHARGE BY PHONE: \$19.99 PER TICKET
All dates, acts and ticket prices subject to change without prior notice. Subject to applicable service charges.

Calendar CONCERTS

Novamenco, Anthology, Sunday, February 10, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Rhett Miller, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, February 10, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Rodrigo y Gabriela, 4th & B, Monday, February 11, 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Umphey's McGee, House of Blues, Tuesday, February 12, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

The Editors and Hot Hot Heat, House of Blues, Wednesday, February 13, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Subliminal, House of Blues, Thursday, February 14, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, February 14, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Richard Elliott, 4th & B, Friday, February 15, 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Fabulous, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday, February 15, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Styx, House of Blues, Saturday, February 16, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Maceo Parker, Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, February 16, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Third Day and the Myriad, House of Blues, Wednesday, February 20, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Queensrÿche and Don Dokken, House of Blues, Thursday, February 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Blake Sheldon, 4th & B, Friday, February 22, 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Blake Shelton, 4th & B, Friday, February 22, 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, House of Blues, Sunday, February 24, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Marilyn Manson, House of Blues, Monday, February 25, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Jay Farrar, Belly Up Tavern, Monday, February 25, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Pat Metheny Trio, Anthology, Tuesday, February 26, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Adrian Belew, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, February 26, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Pat Metheny Trio, Anthology, Wednesday, February 27, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

MARCH

Miguel Bosé, Cox Arena, Sunday, March 2, 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Marcia Ball and John Hammond, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, March 2, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Foo Fighters, Cox Arena, Monday, March 3, 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Rufus Wainwright, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, March 4, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Bad Religion, House of Blues, Friday, March 7, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

The Blind Boys of Alabama, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, March 9, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

New York Dolls, Belly Up Tavern, Monday, March 10, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Clutch, House of Blues, Wednesday, March 12, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

Stanley Clarke is back after a five-year respite from solo recording. He has a new CD and a hot young band that is reviving the sound of '70s jazz fusion with an animation and propulsion not heard since Clarke himself was a young man. *The Toys of Men* begins with a six-part suite in which Clarke, as his press says, "examines the emotional sweep of war."

"That title," he says via telephone from his daughter's home in Santa Monica, "is kind of a metaphor for countries that use tremendous amounts of force from machines to purposely annihilate people." Toys as a metaphor for weapons? "Yeah," he says.

"And we all know what the 'toys' are from a global point of view — from countries fighting against other countries to a guy committing a drive-by in Compton. The effect is the same."

Forget that Stanley Clarke has won just about every major award available to a bass player — what is most important about Clarke is that he unchained the bass from the back of the bandstand and moved it into the spotlight. After his 1976 release *School Days*, Clarke would go on to become the first bassist in the history of that instrument to tour as a concert headliner. He took both the bass guitar and the acoustic bass and torched them with a speed and dexterity the likes of which haven't been replicated. Critics might say that Clarke only enlarged upon a foundation already laid by the best of his generation — Jaco Pastorius, Larry Graham, James Jamerson.



STANLEY CLARKE

son. Not entirely true. Clarke is the virtuoso bass guitar hero whose ambitions have destroyed all of the traditions and myths about what a bassist can do.

STANLEY CLARKE, Anthology, Friday, January 25, and Saturday, January 26, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. \$20 to \$56. 619-595-0300.

Angels & Airwaves, Soma, Thursday, March 13, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-226-SOMA.

Nada Surf, House of Blues, Tuesday, March 18, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

The Itals, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, March 20, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Built to Spill, Belly Up Tavern, Friday, March 21, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Presidents of the United States of America, Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, March 22, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

The Black Keys, House of Blues, Saturday, March 29, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

A Flock of Seagulls and Dramarama, House of Blues, Sunday, March 30, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Citizen Cope, House of Blues, Monday, March 31, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

APRIL

Bret Michaels, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday, April 4, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Big Head Todd & the Monsters, House of Blues, Saturday, April 5, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

RBD, Coors Amphitheatre, Sunday, April 6, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

Ministry, House of Blues, Monday, April 7, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Def Leppard and REO Speedwagon, Coors Amphitheatre, Saturday, April 26, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

Victor Wooten, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, April 27, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Avril Lavigne and Boys Like Girls, Cox Arena, Wednesday, April 30, 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

MAY

Juanes, San Diego Sports Arena, Saturday, May 3, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-224-4171.

Megadeth, Cox Arena, Tuesday, May 20, 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Nightwish, House of Blues, Friday, May 23, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

JUNE

The Cure, Cox Arena, Tuesday, June 3, 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

JULY

Richard Cheese & Lounge Against the Machine, House of Blues, Saturday, July 26, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

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Friday, January 25
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CITY LIKES ADDICTION
WICKHEAD

Wednesday, January 30
MERKABA BANDITS
DOGSPILE

Thursday, January 31
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TERRY MULLAN
WES HOPPE • PHON

Friday, February 1
WASTING JUNE
S.A.T.O.R.I.
ESCAPE NOTE

Saturday, February 2
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BURLESQUE REVUE

2/16 **Angry Samoans** • 2/22 **"Rock This Town"** (an appreciation for '50s music & culture)
2/24 **Acoustic Alliance** • 2/28 **4or the Nod Productions**
3/1 **Funland** (featuring Klaus Flouride & East Bay Ray of Dead Kennedys) • **JFA**
3/2 **The Mother Truckers** • 3/17 **Witchcraft** • 4/4 **Y&T** • 4/30 **UFO**

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Saturday, February 9
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SIERRA LEONE

Wednesday, February 13
MORAL CRUX
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COFFIN CADDIES
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Friday, February 15
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 25 POP ROCKS 9:45 PM-1:30 AM	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1 The Reaganomics 9:45 PM-1:30 AM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26 The M-80s 9:45 PM-1:30 AM	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2 The Reaganomics 9:45 PM-1:30 AM

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TUESDAY, JAN. 29 & FEB. 5 Mystique (Element of Soul) Jazz/Funk/R&B 6:30-11:00 PM	WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30 & FEB. 6 The Soul Revue 6:30-11 PM

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MORE MUSIC AND VENUES

Athenaeum Music and Arts Library:

Monday, noon: Jazz Tribute to Bill Evans. Tommy Gannon Trio performs for Athenaeum's mini-concert series. 858-454-5872. **Friday, 7:30 p.m.:** Jazz at the Athenaeum. The aptly named Quartet M, comprised of Marty Ehrlich, Myra Melford, Mark Dresser, and Matt Wilson, performs for series. It's a "double cd release event celebrating release of *Spark!* by Ehrlich and Melford and *Big Picture* by Trio M. 858-454-5872. 1008 Wall Street, La Jolla. 858-454-5872.

Balboa Theatre: Sunday, 3 p.m.: Canadian Brass. Ensemble boasts more than 60 albums and expanding repertoire of music from classical to jazz, contemporary concert music. 619-570-1100. 854 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-570-1100.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido: Thursday, 8 p.m.: 50th Anniversary Monterey Jazz Festival. Band is led by pianist, musical director Benny Green, trumpeter Terence Blanchard, saxophonist James Moody, bassist Derrick Hodge, drummer Kendrick Scott, vocalist Nnenna Freelon. 800-988-4253. 340 North Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253.

Lou's Records: Saturday, 2 p.m.: Matt Costa. Full band performance and celebration of January 22 release of *Unfamiliar Faces*, his second CD on Jack Johnson's Brushfire Records. 434 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-753-1382.

Normal Heights United Methodist Church: Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.: AcousticMusicSanDiego. Co-bill with Mary Gauthier and Mark Olson. 619-303-8176. **Friday, 7:30 p.m.:** Fred Eaglesmith. AcousticMusicSanDiego concert. Reservations: 619-303-8176. 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights.

San Diego United Methodist Church: Saturday, 7:30 p.m.: Jay Unger and Molly Mason. Celebrated acoustic duo performs for San Diego Folk Heritage. 858-566-4040. 170 Calle Magdalena, Encinitas.

Stephen & Mary Birch North Park Theatre: Sunday, 7 p.m.: "Rural Folk Pianist". New Age pianist George Winston, whose pieces "evoke the essence of a season," in concert. 619-239-8836. **Saturday, 8 p.m.:** Ramsey Lewis Trio. Three-time Grammy Award winning pianist, composer plays program to be announced from stage for jazz series hosted by La Jolla Music Society. Reservations: 858-459-3728. 2891 University Avenue, North Park. 619-239-8836.

UCSD Faculty Club: Sunday, 4 p.m.: Miles Ahead. Tribute to trumpeter Miles Davis by trumpeter Gilbert Castellanos and saxophonist Charles McPherson in concert benefiting Rebecca Elizabeth Lytle Memorial Scholarship at UCSD's Thurgood Marshall College. 858-534-0263. 9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD.

Calendar CLUBS

DJ

Air Conditioned Lounge: Thursdays: Too Cool for School. Old-school hip-hop and '80s music, funk freestyle and new wave. **Fridays:** Junior the Disco Punk. Old school, rare grooves, funk, and disco, with opening set by DJ 1979. **Saturdays, 9 p.m.:** The Air Conditioned Cocktail Party. "Dance in your dazzling duds." Come in cocktail attire and get 2-for-1 cover charge. **Sundays:** Guest DJ Night. Guest DJs TBA. **Mondays:** DJ 1979. Hip-hop, funk, and soul. Special guest joins DJ 1979. **Tuesdays, 9 p.m.:** Big Sonic Chill. "Ethereal dream-pop bliss" sponsored by San Diego's Local 94.9. **Wednesdays:** Club Nigel. Steve West and DJ SG spin the '80s. 4673 30th Street, Normal Heights. 619-501-9831.

Bar Dynamite: Thursdays, 9 p.m.: DJs SG, Dubz, Teknikscian. Hip-hop, funk, old school, mashups, and reggae. **Wednesdays, 9 p.m.:** Deep House Nite. DJs Duane, Lil Ryan and Johnny D spin house music. 1808 West Washington Street, Mission Hills. 619-295-8743.

Beauty Bar: Tuesdays, 8 p.m.: Diamond Dog Tuesdays. "The night transitions in mood from lounge bar music all the way through the night to a full-scale dance club. DJ Heresy, Cota-Pop, and DJ Divebomb — three different DJs with three different styles." **Friday, 9 p.m.:** The Villians. The Villians DJ with MC Pete (L.A.) and local DJ Edgartronic spins his danceable choices for the night. 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge. 619-516-4746.

Bluefoot Bar and Lounge: Monday, 9 p.m.: Weekend Revival. Audio and

visual mixes. 3404 30th Street, North Park. 619-235-8466.

Bourbon Street: Tuesday: Play With It. Best and worst of the '80s with DJ Junior the Disco Punk. 4612 Park Boulevard, Normal Heights. 619-291-0173.

Candelas: Thursdays: DJ ALA. Deep soulful house in a new downtown venue. 416 Third Avenue, Downtown. 619-702-4455.

The Casbah: Friday, 9 p.m.: Yeasayer, MGMT, Brainticket DJs. 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. 619-232-HELL.

Cow Shed Bar & Grill: Friday, 9 p.m.: Hop & Pop. Sirah with Lenny Ducano, Artoo+ DJ Dripps, 11:11+Eyesore with DJ Rob Fayder, Elum T.F.A., Heard, and Fluxco. 502 East Mission Road, San Marcos.

Dream Street Live: Sunday, 9 p.m.: Club Kingston. Local reggae band with DJ Artistic and DJ Carlos Culture. 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-8131.

Excelsior: Thursdays, 9 p.m.: Paradisco. Upscale lounge environment. 1028 Prospect Street Suite 210, La Jolla.

Inferno Young Adult Nightclub: Fridays, 9 p.m., Saturdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Kool T. Top 40, techno, and '80s. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-1271.

Jack's La Jolla: Thursdays, 10 p.m., Saturdays, 10 p.m.: Jack's La Jolla. DJs & dancing in the Wall Street Bar 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-8111.

Kadan: Saturday: Boogie Nights. Every Fourth Saturday, with DJ Sandra T. Disco-house, electro, funk. 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

The Kava Lounge: Saturday, 9 p.m.: Trans-Europe Express. European-

techno/new wave/house. Free before 9:30pm; \$5 after. 2812 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. 619-543-0933.

Lei Lounge: Sunday, 2 p.m.: Remedy. Afternoon DJs, outdoor patio. 4622 Park Boulevard, University Heights. 619-813-2272.

Livewire: Monday: Wheels of the Industry. Featuring local DJs. **Sunday, 10 p.m.:** DJ Ruby Mars. Garage/trash/soul. 2103 El Cajon Blvd, Normal Heights.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: Saturdays, 9 p.m.: What's Good. DJs Enigma and Cisco. Hip-hop, R&B, and

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Calendar CLUBS

DJ

(continued)

Top 40. 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6550.

On Broadway: Saturday: DJ Miss Lisa. Long-standing female DJ in SD. Friday:

DJ Z Trip. 615 Broadway Avenue, Downtown.

Onyx/Thin: Tuesday, 9 p.m.: DJ Sachamo. Spinning in underground jazz bar. 852 5th Avenue, Downtown. 619-235-0NYX.

San Diego Sports Club: Thursdays: Club '80s. New wave, punk, and new romantic with DJs Bryan Pollard, Roxanne Redlight, Sickboy, and Stem. 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-299-7372.

Sevilla: Saturday, Friday: DJ Joe Guerrero. Top 40, Latin pop, and reggaeton. 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-233-5979.

Static Lounge: Friday: Club Pop Noir. Every fourth Friday of the month, Maystar's Club Noir featuring DJ Groundfloor and DJ Edgarrtronic. Indie/electroclash/dance music. 634 Broadway, Downtown. 619-544-1609.

Thrusters Lounge: Thursday, 10 p.m.: DJs Prnutz and Collagey. Hip-hop on the decks. 4633 Mission Blvd., Mission Beach.

Tio Leo's Lounge - Clairemont: Thursdays, 8 p.m.: Tio Leo's. Thursdays, zydeco dance with DJ Gator Boy. 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. 5302 Napa Street, Clairemont. 619-542-1462.

U-31: Thursday: Deep. DnBand jungle with DJ Modus (U.K.). Friday: Feel the Noise. Local indie/electro/dance-rock with Gabe Vega and Saul Q. 3112 University Avenue, North Park. 619-584-4188.

Waterfront Bar & Grill: Thursdays: Classic Hip Hop, Party Jamz, '80s. Traditional dive bar setting. 2044 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy.

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<p>SATURDAY • JANUARY 26 CD RELEASE SHOW GRAM RABBIT THE VIEWMASTERS THE BLAKES</p>	<p>MONDAY • JANUARY 28 ANTI-MONDAY LEAGUE PRESENTS ROSES ON HER GRAVE THIEVES AND LIARS FIRETHORN</p>	<p>MONDAY • FEBRUARY 4 THE METEORS</p>
<p>SUNDAY • JANUARY 27 FM 94.9 & THE LOCAL PYLE PRESENT A FREE SHOW WITH HOTEL ST. GEORGE DESERT DIAMONDS THE TIGHTEN UPS TEAM ABRAHAM DOORS 7 PM • FREE FOOD LIVE RADIO BROADCAST</p>	<p>TUESDAY • JANUARY 29 WHITE WILLIAMS HEALTH • TRIBAL TATS</p>	<p>TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 5 DJ VADIM</p>
	<p>WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 30 CASTANETS FANTASTIC MAGIC VISION OF A DYING WORLD IN THE ATARI LOUNGE RAFTER</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 6 DEAD MEADOW</p>
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<p>Friday 1/25 Conformity Jones Futyle (They're back...) The Empire State</p>	<p>Sunday 1/27 Reggae Sundays Club Kingston Roots Covenant DJ Carlos Culture DJ Chris Red Rose</p>	<p>Friday 2/1 Media Lab Sixstitch The Rickets</p>

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SOUTHERN COMFORT

Calendar CLUBS

DJ

(continued)

Whiskey Girl: *Fridays*, 9 p.m., *Saturdays*, 9 p.m.: DJ Marc Thrasher. Music videos mixes. 600 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-236-1616.

Whistle Stop: *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Booty Bassment. Big house party jams with DJs Ikh and Dimitri Born. 2236 Fern Street, South Park. 619-284-6784.

Zenbu: *Saturday*, 8 p.m.: Zenbu DJs. Local DJs spin house, dance-rock, indie, and downtempo. Intimate sushi bar/lounge setting. 7660 Fay Avenue, La Jolla. 858-454-4540.

CLUBS BY AREA

If you wish to submit a listing, call 619-235-3000, ext. 405, night or day by 5 pm Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA, 92186. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the music section.

BEACHES

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844. *Wednesday*, 9 p.m., *Wednesday*: Mad Mardigan, Deaf Zero. Local rock. *Monday*, 9 p.m.: Mitch Budd, Aaron Blyth, Allegra. Local acoustic artists. *Saturday*: Sprung Monkey, Faded Chronicles. Alternative/pop/rock. \$10. 21+. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: Superunloader, Yesterday's Papers, Cheeky. Local rock. *Friday*: Superunloader. Led Zeppelin tribute. 21+. *Thursday*, 9 p.m.: Quiksand, Close Enough, Iriesside. Local rock/reggae.

The Pannikin La Jolla: 7467 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-5453. *Friday*, 8

p.m.: J. Scott Bergman. Alternative/acoustic/pop-rock.

Zenbu: 7660 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-4540. *Saturday*, 8 p.m.: Zenbu DJs. Local DJs spin house, dance-rock, indie, and downtempo. Intimate sushi bar/lounge setting.

'Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Cash'd Out, The Handsome Devils, Babes in Sin. Johnny Cash cover band and guests. Rockabilly, country, punk-rock. 21+. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: Pepper Reggae/dub/rock band originally from Hawaii. \$25. 21+.

Dream Street Live: 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-8131. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Awaiting Samsara, One Inch Punch, Canobliss, Silence Betrayed. Local hard rock/metal/hardcore. 21+. *Wednesday*, 9 p.m.: Metal Lounge. Featuring local metal bands. *Sunday*, 9 p.m.: Club Kingston. Local reggae band with DJ Artistic and DJ Carlos Culture. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: The Empire State, Futyle, Rule of Thirds, Twelve Twenty, Aepnia. Local rock.

Excelsior: 1028 Prospect Street Suite 210, La Jolla. *Thursdays*, 9 p.m.: "Paradisco". Upscale lounge environment with DJs.

Gallagher's Pub & Grill: 5046 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-5300. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Flashback featuring Jack Ramzy. Funk.

Jack's La Jolla: 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-8111. *Thursdays*, 6 p.m.: Piano Bar. Every day of the week in the Ocean Room. *Thursdays*, 10 p.m.: Wall Street Bar. DJs and dancing in the Wall Street Bar. *Tuesdays*, 6 p.m., *Wednesdays*, 6 p.m., *Fridays*, 6 p.m., *Saturdays*, 6 p.m.: Piano Bar. Every day of the week in the Ocean Room. *Saturdays*, 10 p.m.: Wall Street Bar. DJs and dancing in the Wall Street Bar. *Sundays*, 6 p.m., *Mondays*, 6 p.m.: Piano Bar. Every day of the week in the Ocean Room.

Thrusters Lounge: 4633 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach. *Thursday*, 10 p.m.: DJs Pnutz and Collagey. Hip-hop on the decks. 21+.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822. *Wednesday*:

NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

Los Angeles band **Health** (or, as the band members like to spell it, HEALTH) has two MySpace pages — one to showcase the band's noise rock and one to show off electronic remixes of their work. It can be disorienting to hear the heavy drums and shrieking feedback of a Health song like "Crimewave" and then switch to the Crystal Castles remix of the same song and hear it turned into a mix of Nintendo game bleeps and cheesy 1980s Casio keyboards set to a cheap-sounding drum machine. But whether the remix is done by Crystal Castles or by some other act, the songs never completely lose their compelling strangeness.

For one thing, Health hints at song structure, but they avoid the regular verse-chorus-verse patterns. For another, there's almost always some electronic manipulation in the vocals or some part of Health's straight recordings, and there's almost always some squealing guitar or crashing drums in the techno remixes. If you like one version, there's probably something for you in the other version. It's not often Luddite rock fans and technophiles can find common ground like that.

Health is part of the Los Angeles scene growing around the downtown club known as the Smell. Along with bands like No Age and Abe Vigoda, Health is breaking down old orthodoxies and expectations about punk rock, noise, electronic music, and the avant-garde. Their D.I.Y. approach is clearly a



HEALTH

product of punk, but the music doesn't necessarily sound like it. It certainly doesn't sound like what's passing for punk at a mall near you. However tweaked and remixed it may be, it sounds new, weird, and exciting.

HEALTH, The Casbah, Tuesday, January 29, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-4355. \$10.

Vegetation. Homegrown reggae. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Cubensis. Grateful Dead tribute. 21+. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: Hot Buttered Rum. Rev. Payton's Big Damn Band also performing. Bluegrass/Blues/Acoustic. \$12-\$15. 21+. *Thursday*, 9 p.m.: Pleasure Device, Behind the Wagon. The Underclassmen, Shea Rebellion also performing. Punk. 21+.

CENTRAL

The Shout House: 655 4th Avenue, Downtown, 619-231-6700. *Thursdays*, 7 p.m., *Fridays*, 6 p.m., *Saturdays*, 6 p.m., *Sundays*, 7 p.m.: The Shout House. Rock and roll sing-along dueling pianos. \$5-\$10. 21+.

Across the Street: 4601 Park Boulevard, University Heights. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: Vanja James, Save Amos, Bill

Cardinal, Chip Conrad & The Concrete. Local songwriters, country, and Americana acts. \$8.

Air Conditioned Lounge: 4673 30th Street, Normal Heights, 619-501-9831. *Thursdays*: Too Cool for School. Old-school hip-hop and '80s music, funk freestyle and new wave. 21+. *Tuesdays*, 9 p.m.: Big Sonic Chill. "Ethereal dream-pop bliss" sponsored by San Diego's Local 94.9. *Wednesdays*: Club Nigel. Steve West and DJ SG spin the '80s. *Fridays*: Junior the Disco Punk. Old school, rare grooves, funk, and disco, with opening set by DJ 1979. *Saturdays*, 9 p.m.: The Air Conditioned Cocktail Party. "Dance in your dazzling duds." Come in cocktail attire and get 2-for-1 cover charge. 21+. *Sundays*: Guest DJ Night. Guest DJs TBA. 21+.

Alibi: 1403 University Avenue, Hillcrest. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Pleasure Device, Ealy

Autumn, Beautiful View. Local indie. 21+.

Bar Dynamite: 1808 West Washington Street, Mission Hills, 619-295-8743. *Thursdays*, 9 p.m.: DJs SG, Dubz, Teknikscian. Hip-hop, funk, old school, mashups, and reggae. \$5. *Wednesdays*, 9 p.m.: Deep House Nite. DJs Duane, Lil Ryan and Johnny D spin house music. 21+.

Beauty Bar: 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-516-4746. *Tuesdays*, 8 p.m.: Diamond Dog. *Tuesdays*. "The night transitions in mood from lounge bar music all the way through the night to a full-scale dance club. DJ Heresy, Cota-Pop, and DJ Divebomb — three different DJs with three different styles." 21+. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Danger Danger, Eric Diaz, Corey Biggs, Adam Selter. Band from New York with local DJs after. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: The

Villians. The Villians DJ with MC Pete (L.A.) and local DJ Edgartronic spins his danceable choices for the night. *Thursday*, 9 p.m.: The Roman Spring and Fing. Garage rock, blues, and soul. 21+.

Belo: 919 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-231-9200. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Naughty By Nature. Grammy Award-winning hip-hop. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: Infected Mushroom. Israeli psy-trance duo. With Daniel Santos.

Black Box: 2469 Broadway, Downtown, 619-238-8190. *Friday*, 8 p.m.: The Shambles. Black Box Studios Art Show.

Blarney Stone Pub: 5617 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont, 858-279-2033. *Sunday*, 8 p.m.: Sean O'Donnell. Lead singer of Reeve Oliver. Allison Gill also performs.



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Friday, January 25
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Electric Soul

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Saturday, January 26
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9:30 pm • Blues Guitar

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Sunday, January 27
8 pm • Smooth Jazz

Reggie Smith



Monday, January 28
7 pm • Jump Blues

Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra

Wednesday, January 30
8 pm • R&B

Federal Funk

Tuesday, January 29
7 pm • Roots Blues

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<p>Sunday, Jan. 27 Blue Largo</p>	<p>Monday, Jan. 28 "Big Mo" Blues</p>	<p>Tuesday, Jan. 29 Len Rainey & the Midnight Players</p>	<p>Wednesday, Jan. 30 Bill Magee Blues</p>

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Calendar CLUBS

CENTRAL *(continued)*

Bluefoot Bar and Lounge: 3404 30th Street, North Park, 619-235-8466. *Monday*, 9 p.m.: "Weekend Revival". Audio and visual mixes. 21+.

Bourbon Street: 4612 Park Boulevard, Normal Heights, 619-291-0173. *Tuesday*: Play With It. Best and worst of the '80s with DJ Junior the Disco Punk.

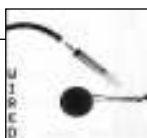
Brass Rail: 3796 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-298-2233. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Noche Latino. Latin music night, with DJ Ruben Casas and DJ Klaus.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Avenue, Clairemont, 619-275-LIVE. *Wednesday*, 9 p.m.: Merkaba Bandits, Dogsmile.

Rock/funk/reggae. \$5. 21+. *Friday*: Staring at Strange, City Lakes Addiction, Wickhead. Metal/hardcore, rock. 21+.

Candelas: 416 Third Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-4455. *Thursdays*: DJ ALA. Deep soulful house.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HELL. *Wednesday*, 9 p.m.: Castanets, Fantastic Magic, Vision of a Dying World. Local bands take the stage. 21+. *Saturday*: Gram Rabbit. The Viewmasters and The Blakes (Seattle) also on the line-up. 21+. *Sunday*, 9 p.m.: Local 94/9 Presents Local Showcase. Hotel St. George, Desert Diamonds, The Tighten Ups, Team Abraham. 21+. *Tuesday*, 9 p.m.: White Williams, Health, Tribal Tats. 21+. *Monday*: Anti-Monday League, Irradio, Sky Parade, and the Buzzkill Romantics perform. 21+. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: Yeasayer, MGMT, Calico HORse. Brainticket DJs spin between sets. \$10-\$12. 21+. *Thursday*, 9 p.m.: A Scribe Amidst the Lions. Also catch ASTRA (formerly Silver Sunshine), and the Material during this Rockit Present gig. 21+.



>hometown CDs BY OLLIE

Album: *Wired (2007)*

Artist: Retrolust

Label: Nethertune Records

Where available/price: CDBaby.com for \$11.50 or iTunes for 99 cents per song

Songs: 1) In My Head 2) Superstarr 3) RX 4) In Vein 5) Faith for a Sedative 6) House of Fallen Saints 7) Daylight Savings 8) Lovers Tree 9) Duplicated and Dumbfounded 10) Look at Me Now 11) Mortem

Band: Garrett Kai (vocals, keyboard, electronic production), Trevor Denounce (vocals, keyboard, electronic production)

Website: retrolustmusic.com

Retrolust's genius is that this much sound comes from two guys. Garrett's whiny voice lays flat against the electronic back-

beat, which emphasizes the poppy lyrics. On track 2, "Superstarr," the lyrics go, "I'll taste your lips and flash some tit and entertain a taboo."

Claire de Lune: 2906 University Avenue, North Park, 619-688-9845. *Saturday*, 8:30 p.m.: Chris Klich Jazz Quintet. Jazz.

Croce's: 802 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-4355. *Sunday*, 11:30 a.m.: Jazz Brunch. Daniel Jackson performs.

Epicentre: 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000. *Friday*: The Silent Comedy, No Bragging Rights. Upon Beauty Rests also performing. Indie/folk rock/electronic. \$7-\$9. *Thursday*, 7 p.m.: The Locust, Poison The Well, and Dance Gavin Dance. Rock. *Friday*, 7 p.m.: Thieves and Liars. CD-release party with the Silent Comedy, Waltz Reprise, No Bragging Rights, and Upon Beauty Rests (Portland). Indie/hardcore, folk-rock. *Thursday*:

Poison the Well, The Locust. Dance Gavin Dane, 3 also performing. Hardcore/rock/progressive. \$15.

Henry's Pub: 618 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-238-2389. *Wednesday*, 9 p.m.: Lady Dottie & The Diamonds. Blues/soul/rock with room to dance. 21+. *Sundays*, 9:30 p.m.: Karaoke with Levi Strauss. Weekly opportunity to sing your heart out. 21+.

In Cahoots: 5373 Mission Center Road, Mission Valley, 619-291-8635. *Wednesdays*, 7 p.m.: KSON Night. Country western dance bar. 21+.

Jimmy Love's: 672 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-595-0123. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: Pop Rox. Fun '80s dance band. 21+.

In the same song, the "papparazi," the best "blow," and "sex videos" repeat in the hook like a satirical love letter to celebantes of Paris and Lindsay's ilk.

The drawbacks of only two guys making this much sound is that it sounds a little cheesy in some parts. The album's wholly electronic and keyboard arrangements come off as though someone hit the "rumba" button on a standup Casio and went about recording the rest of the track. The basics seem ignored; musical elements are glossed over. But there are enough high-flying sound effects, nimble keyboarding, and rhythmic complexity to distract the listener from the tinny quality.

I know the guys were going for a dark but con-



Retrolust

temporary "Nine Inch Nails meets Prince" glitchy pop sensibility, but the album feels more like a resurrection of all the bad parts of sterile, math-y '80s new wave. And there's a reason that musical phase evolved or died out: it's a little damn irritating.

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

Lei Lounge: 4622 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-813-2272. *Sunday*, 2 p.m.: Remedy. Afternoon DJs, outdoor patio.

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CENTRAL

(continued)

Moonjoggies Pacific Beach: 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-6550. *Saturdays*, 9 p.m.: "What's Good". DJs Enigma and Cisco. Hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40.

O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub: 1130 Morena Boulevard, Clairemont, 619-276-5637. *Wednesday*, 9 p.m.: Tore Back, Blindheim. Rock/punk/metal. *Monday*, 8 p.m.: Mystery Train. Blues/soul. *Saturday*, 8:30 p.m.: Astra Kelly & the 47's, Endoxi, Darryl Purvis. Rock/folk/alternative/indie. 21+. *Friday*: A Scribe Amidst the Lions. The Holy Rolling Empire (AZ), Apes of Wrath also performing. Rock/alternative/psychedelic/powerpop. 21+.

On Broadway: 615 Broadway Avenue, Downtown. *Saturday*: DJ Miss Lisa. Long-standing female DJ in SD. 21+. *Friday*: DJ Z Trip.

Onyx/Thin: 852 5th Avenue, Downtown, 619-235-ONYX. *Tuesday*, 9 p.m.: DJ Sachamo. Spinning in underground jazz bar. *Tuesday*, 9 p.m.: Tuesday Night Jazz. Local trumpet player Gilbert Castellanos performs for KSDS 88.3FM jazz night. 21+.

Patrick's II: 428 F Street, Downtown, 619-233-3077. *Thursday*, 9 p.m.: Blue Four. Chicago blues.

Riley's: 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma. *Wednesdays*, 9 p.m.: Swing Night. Live swing bands perform.

Rosie O'Grady's: 3402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-284-7666. *Tuesdays*, 9:30 p.m., *Tuesdays*, 9:30 p.m.: Bdbub's Jazz Jam Session. Modern jazz classics and standards. 21+.

San Diego Sports Club: 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-299-7372. *Tuesdays*, 9 p.m.: Acoustic Open Mic Night. Unplugged talent every Tuesday. 21+. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Anna Troy. Local bluesy songwriter performs. F.U.Z.Z. CD release. 21+. *Saturday*: Stick It in Your Ear Productions. Live bands every fourth Saturday of the month. 21+. *Thursdays*: Club '80s. New wave, punk, and new romantic with DJs Bryan Pollard, Roxanne Redlight, Sickboy, and Stem. \$2-\$4. 21+.

Sevilla: 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-5979. *Wednesday*, 8:30 p.m., *Tuesday*, 8:30 p.m.: Club Salsa. With *Salsa Caliente*. *Mondays*, 9 p.m.: Rock en Espanol. 21+. *Thursday*: Club Salsa. Salsa/Latin music and dancing.

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-SOMA. *Thursday*: Reeve Oliver. Alternative rock; on the bill with Finch.

South Park Bar & Grill: 1946 Fern Street, South Park, 619-696-0096. *Sundays*, 6 p.m.: Original Music Modern Jazz. Weekly jazz series. *Sundays*, 6 p.m.: Original Music Modern Jazz Series. Every Sunday, with Doug Walker (bass), Tim Nunnink (sax), Nick Tocco (guitar), and Nathan Hubbard (drums).

Static Lounge: 634 Broadway, Downtown, 619-544-1609. *Friday*: Club Pop Noir. Every fourth Friday of the month, Maystar's *Club Noir* featuring DJ Groundfloor and DJ Edgartronic. Indie/electroclash/dance music. 18+.

The Bar Pink Elephant: 3829 30th Street, North Park, 619-564-7194. *Sunday*, 3 p.m.: Autotonic. Rock band's debut. *Thursday*, 10 p.m.: Earthless. Sonic spacemen offer up alternative rock.

Tio Leo's - Mira Mesa: 10787 Camino Ruiz, Mira Mesa, 858-695-1461. *Saturday*: Just Been Funked. Old school R&B from the '70s, '80s, '90s. 21+. *Thursday*: Stars on the Water. Rock. 21+.

Tio Leo's Lounge - Clairemont: 5302 Napa Street, Clairemont, 619-542-1462. *Thursdays*, 8 p.m.: Zydeco Dance. DJ Gator Boy, every Thursday.

as i hear it

BY BRIAN CARVER

Artist: **Gemini**
Song: "Priceless" (from the CD *Do What We Do Records Presents*)
Heard By: **Greta Smith**, North Park



Greta

Essentially, I feel like what they were trying to say is that "their love is priceless" and that "if you don't know that by now, you'll never know." I think it's poignant and works on many levels, but it's not really my thing. It was really minimal; I heard some snapping and a series of squeaks, but it was rhythmic. I really don't listen to R&B at all. I felt like it wasn't too over-the-top — like, all "note-y" with too many notes. They played it safe. It's so mild, it could be on a commercial. It's almost like a jingle. I could see someone kicking back in their house and listening to that while sweeping the floor.

SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Artist: **Little Man T**
Song: "Tea Party" (from the CD *Mon Autre Moitié*)
Heard By: **Dan Bryant**, Brooklyn, NY



Dan

It had the aspects of stereotypical French café music — not in a bad way — but with some "prog" almost. Like maybe if some kids who were into more math-y indie rock were also really into that music at the same time and synthesized the two. It was all instrumental. There's at least two stringed instruments or more and an accordion. There's also some xylophone or glockenspiel recurring throughout. It was pretty pleasant music. I couldn't help but picture frantic, high-end cooking or cuisine going on — like, maybe a montage shot of people cutting vegetables and big pots of steam.

Artist: **Shaka Buku**
Song: "Set Yourself Free" (from the CD *Feel Different*)
Heard By: **Bryan Welch**, San Francisco



Bryan

It was like a commercial for a cruise ship. The first lyrics are about "being 45 but feeling 25." That snippet is what you'd use in the beginning of the commercial because when you cut up a song for a commercial, you use the breakdown and maybe one poignant lyric that vibes with your brand. You're only working with, like, 60 seconds. There's a slap-bass solo you would use, but only, like, a second of it. At the end [of the song] there's a guy chanting "S-E-T yourself free" and you'd fade out the commercial on that. I would compare them to Huey Lewis and the News.

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The Tower: 4757 University Avenue, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-284-0158. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Grabass Charlesons, The Tim Version, Tiltwheel. Florida and San Diego punk. *Monday*, 9 p.m.: Dance to the blues. With *Lady Dottie & The Diamonds*. 21+. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: Oaks, Lady Sinatra, Who Rides the Tiger, Dali's Llama. Local rock.

U-31: 3112 University Avenue, North Park, 619-584-4188. *Tuesdays*: U-31 Karaoke. 21+. *Wednesday*: Anna Troy, the Modlins. Funk/soul/blues. *Monday*, 8 p.m.: City of Industry. For locals in the hospitality industry. *Sunday*: Tribe of Kings. Reggae. \$5. *Thursday*: Deep. DnBand jungle with DJ Modus (U.K.). \$8-\$10.

Waterfront Bar & Grill: 2044 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. *Thursday*: Classic Hip Hop, Party Jamz, '80s. 21+.

Whistle Stop: 2236 Fern Street, South Park, 619-284-6784. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.:

Booty Bassment. Big house party jams with DJs Ika and Dimitri Born. 21+. *Tuesday*: Board Games & Mellow Grooves. *Sunday*, 10 p.m.: Gary Hankins DJ Set. Lead singer of Scarlet Symphony spins Jazz for *Night of The Cookers*. 21+. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: Sara Petite & The Sugar Daddies, Joey Harris & The Mentals. Songwriter and pop. 21+. *Thursday*, 9 p.m.: The Sess. Punk/R&B after the *Local Filmmaker Showcase* at Citizen Video, (across the street from Whistle Stop). 21+.

EAST COUNTY

Fannie's Nightclub: 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley, 619-698-2204. *Thursdays*, 8:30 p.m.: Cory Wilkins. Alternative/rock/blues. 21+. *Saturday*: Beneath the Faults, American Maniacs. 21+. *Friday*: One and Done. 21+.

Second Wind (Magnolia): 8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee, 619-596-8350.

Mondays, 9 p.m.: Second Wind Karaoke. Weekly event. 21+. *Thursday*: Dust-N-Bones. Guns N' Roses tribute band. 21+.

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

The Alley: 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-434-1173. *Thursdays*, *Fridays*, *Saturdays*: The Love Rangers. Dance music.

E Street Cafe: 128 E Street, Encinitas, 760-230-2038. *Saturday*, 8 p.m.: J. Scott Bergman. Acoustic/folk.

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Cow Shed Bar & Grill: 502 East Mission Road, San Marcos. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: "Hop & Pop". Sirah with Lenny Ducano, Artoo+ DJ Dripps, 11:11+Eyesore with DJ Rob Fayder,

Elum T.F.A., Heard, and Fluxco. \$5-\$7. 21+.

Inferno Young Adult Nightclub: 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido, 760-741-1271. *Saturdays*, 9 p.m., *Fridays*, 9 p.m.: DJ Kool T. Top 40, techno, and '80s.

J.J. Lander's Irish Pub: 125 South Main Street, Fallbrook, 760-731-0839. *Saturday*, 8:30 p.m.: City Limits Band. Country.

Molly Malone's: 1270 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-9050. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: American Rock Experience. Alternative rock. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: Radiostar. '80s new wave rock.

The Red Eye Saloon: 1448 South Mission Road, Fallbrook. *Friday*, 8:30 p.m.: City Limits Band. Country.

SOUTH BAY

Janie's Cocktails: 656 E Street, Chula Vista. *Sundays*, 9 p.m.: Karaoke.

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**THIN
ONYX**

by Josh Board

Whenever I hear the name Ian, I think of the singer of Jethro Tull. Or my friend's grandfather, who knew everything about sports. He was like Rain Man with statistics. If you were talking about the Hendrix song "Hey Joe," he'd say, "You know, Simon and Garfunkel mentioned Joe DiMaggio in one of their songs. He had a .325 lifetime batting average."

When I heard there was a San Diego woman named Ian who threw "amazing parties," I was skeptical. She calls her place near SDSU "the house of the future," and it is one of the most interesting houses I've partied at.

It had a long deck that overlooked a stand of eucalyptus trees. There was a bar at the end of it for people who wanted to drink. The other end led into a yard with a fire pit.

The party was a fundraiser for Synergy, which is an art group that Ian is a part of. The theme of the event was "urban pulses."

When I walked up, I saw a few lowriders. One was at the



bottom of a long driveway. At the garage door, graffiti artists were painting.

I asked one of them what "urban pulses" was about. "It's raising money for the arts center down in Barrio Logan." The cover charge at the door was part of

I noticed bowls of M&Ms near us and said, "At least you picked a great place to sit."

the funds being raised.

The flyer listed DJs, performance artists from San Francisco, and bands. One of the bands was called Culture Clash. Another was



a hip-hop group called Pyramid Empire.

Inside were several works of



Top left: the guy who auctioned off his shirt; Top right: graffiti artist working on the driveway



met at a previous party. I couldn't think of his first name, but I remembered his last name was Lucas (because of the Suzanne Vega song "Luka"). I wish more song titles could help me recall names.

There was a band playing in the living room. Their version of "Light My Fire" sounded like a hipper version of José Feliciano's cover. I told them that after their set. When I asked the attractive Latina backup singer if she has any say in what songs they do,

art you could bid on. My girlfriend bid on a piece that had a golfer in it. She said it would make a great gift for her boss.

I ran into an artist I had

she told me that she didn't.

When the singer came over and started explaining how they pick their set list, my cell phone went off. It was a call I was expecting, and I excused myself.

As I went out to the patio to take the call, my girlfriend continued talking with them. I realized that in all the years I'd had a cell phone, that was probably the rudest thing I'd done with it.

I decided that when I finished the call, I'd go back and apologize. After the ten-minute call, I hung up and walked in, but the band was nowhere to be found. My girlfriend was sitting on a couch near the fireplace, which was in the center of the living room. She had no clue where the band went. She thinks their name was Fearless Planet.

I noticed bowls of M&Ms near us and said, "At least you picked a great place to sit," and I scooped up a handful. Then, people kept bending over with their backsides in my face when they came over for M&Ms. And my hands were three different colors. (Note to self: find out who

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came up with the ad line “melts in your mouth, not in your hands” and try to get them fired.)

I went to look at the art on the walls. There was work by an artist named Gibran Isaías Crol. He started drawing when he was five years old after seeing his father painting on poster board. His bio stated that after his mom and dad split, he took out his aggression spray-painting neighborhood walls and researching graffiti art. He told me that he’d reconnected with his dad and now geared his artwork toward tranquility and love.

A woman named Naimeh, who is a part of Synergy and works to promote local artists, suggested some artists I should talk to. When I was in the kitchen grabbing some chips and salsa, she said, “You should find a guy named William Henry. He’s a self-taught San Diego artist who does street art — Chicano murals, gang writing, punk, and even surf and skate art. It’s the aesthetic of West Coast street graffiti.”

I asked Naimeh to point him out to me, and she left to find him. I figured that’d give me a good ten minutes to scarf down the chips. I never saw her

again.

A guy walked by who had a woman on each arm and one painted on his shirt. I told him it was a cool shirt. He said, “You know what? Everyone keeps saying that. I think I’m going to auction it off.”

“If someone buys it, what will you do, drive home without a shirt?” I asked him.

He said, “If that’s what it takes, man! Hey, they can take my pants, too. I’ll sell them.”

Later I noticed he had a bidding form taped to his back. I yelled from across the room, “Do you have any bids yet?” He told me he didn’t, but that he’d get some. I said, “You know, that’s not a bidding form on your back. Someone just wrote ‘kick me’ and told you it was a bidding form.”

When the DJ played an R&B track, he was dancing spastically. I took out a pen, went up behind him, and acted as if I were trying to fill out the bid form on his back but his dancing was preventing me from doing so. A few people laughed as he turned around, but he looked like he wanted to slug me, so I retreated to the M&M bowl.

I ran into an artist

named Santos Orellana, whom I had met at a street fair. I remembered him talking about being raised in Honduras and that he was once a chemist but quit that job to pursue his dream of being a muralist.

We talked about his art and he told me about a piece he did for Mahatma Gandhi’s grandson Arun, *The Life of Gandhi*. I thought about telling him that I once was at a party with Errol Flynn’s grandson but didn’t want to disrespect him. Orellana has a one-man show coming up at Colosseum Fine Arts on Kettner Boulevard in February. He said it’s called “Fragmentos.”

I told him I’d try to make it and figured that if I mentioned it here, he couldn’t get mad if I’m a no-show. ■

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The Early Bird Gets the Duck

Breathe a sigh of relief: It's not your grandma's Chez Loma anymore. The lovely, long-running Coronado bistro has sprung back to vivid life with new owners who quietly took it over two years ago. This is cause for rejoicing, because during its final five or six years, under the previous chef-owner (who was distracted by his other eateries), the food at this charming, civilized restaurant often plunged into dangerous sloppiness, while the front-of-the-house staff exhibited a cultish fortress mentality. (At my first meal there, the mussels were alarmingly stinky. At my second and last try, two years later, the *bagna's* olive oil was blatantly rancid; when I asked for butter instead, the waiter got hinky and brought a frozen, equally rancid block of some unidentifiable rendered critter fat.) So good riddance to all that (including the waitrons, all replaced). Service is user-friendly, food is much improved. Ring in the new regime.

Better yet, there are several fine three-course bargain meals at various price levels, including a nightly "early bird" special (5:00–6:00 p.m.) for \$25 that's available all evening on Tuesdays. Every night, there are also \$38 and \$45 prix-fixe menus. In all of these, the dishes are drawn from the à la carte menu (although sometimes with the substitution of a simpler sauce). And the interesting, merciful wine list (mainly \$30–\$35) also helps one enjoy life even with post-holiday budget blues.

The bistro occupies a historic Victorian cottage a few blocks north of the Del hotel. At the front porch you're greeted by delicious cooking aromas — it's like visiting Grandma's house. The decor is warm and cozy in the mode of O.B.'s Thee Bungalow, with two small, cozy dining rooms of well-spaced tables on two floors. The night we ate there, the sound system softly played Lady Day all evening. Perfect. (Piaf would work too — sisters under the skin.)

The bread still comes with a *bagna* (olive oil, sun-dried tomatoes, et al.), but when one of my friends asked for butter, she was accommodated graciously and quickly. About 70 percent of the menu is carried over from the 30 years of previous régimes — old favorites remain from generation to generation. Our foursome chose the \$25, \$38, and \$45 prix fixes and one à la carte meal. They were all equal in quality. (If anything, the \$25 dinner was the best.)



On the early dinner menu, one starter choice is the *soupe à l'oignon* — a Normandy-style onion soup. Normandy is France's apple-growing region, so the soup includes cider — and what a grand difference it makes. Where classic onion soup gains a certain rooty sweetness from caramelized onions alone, the cider adds a vibrant fruity dimension to the deep, dark broth. The top comes capped by the classic baked Gruyère cheese crouton. It's pure pleasure. (And usually I don't even like onion soup.)

Another starter choice from this menu is the house Caesar salad. If you love anchovies (as I do), you'll enjoy the bountiful array of oil-packed fillets along with whole romaine leaves, shaved Parmesan, and croutons of toasted *fougasse* bread. The dressing (which includes a touch of pasteurized egg yolk) seemed a bit on the light side, closer to a vinaigrette than the classic Caesar but still enjoyable.

For our entrée on this menu we chose *canard rôti*, a generous portion of half a roast duck, flawlessly cooked with crisp skin and tender meat in

every part, breast to drumstick. The bird came with herbed rice, Provençale vegetables, and two traditional sauces, both sweeter than I'd wish: a cherry-port wine sauce and a burnt orange sauce. Well, that's tradition.

Other early dinner options are *boeuf bourguignon* and *saumon saifort*, the latter with a light, bright horseradish crust, my favorite dish here under the ancien régime. I've no doubt that it's still wonderful,

since everything else we ate was at least as good as, and usually better, than it was in olden times.

On the \$38 menu, we chose the château sirloin steak entrée — Angus (USDA Choice) beef, grilled, served with bordelaise sauce, blue cheese butter, and gratin potatoes. The sauce is the Julia Child classic — sautéed shallots, red-wine reduction, lots of butter beaten in to thicken it. It's simple, rich, satisfying. (The à la carte version comes with a heavier, more elaborate *espagnol* sauce.) The meat is a bit chewy (at least compared to steakhouse Prime grade) but has good beef flavor.

The \$45 prix fixe starts with a difficult choice

Chez Loma French Bistro

★★★ (Very Good)

1132 Loma Avenue (at Orange Avenue), Coronado, 619-435-0661, chezloma.com

HOURS: Tuesday–Sunday, 5:00–to about 9:30 p.m.

PRICES: Soups and salads, \$8–10; appetizers, \$12–15; entrées, \$23–\$36; desserts, \$7–13. Early-bird three-course prix fixe (5:00–6:00 p.m. and all night Tuesdays), \$25; other three-course prix-fixe menus, \$38 and \$45.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Classic French bourgeois cuisine, including authentic, non-clichéd bistro choices. Adventurous wine list at modest markups, with strength in regional French bottlings at all price ranges; plenty by the glass, plus interesting flights. Full bar.

PICK HITS: Normandy-style onion soup; roast duck; salmon with horseradish crust; sirloin steak; gingerbread.

NEED TO KNOW: Reservations urged, especially Tuesdays and weekends. Half-price wines (on bottles under \$90) on Wednesdays. Quiet atmosphere, dressy-casual. Ground-floor dining room is wheelchair accessible, specify when reserving. No serious vegetarian options.

Ratings reflect the reviewer's reaction to food, ambiance, and service, with price taken into consideration. Menu listings and prices are subject to change.

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of tempting appetizers: lobster bisque or *saumon fumé*, rum-smoked salmon tartare over brioche toasts with avocado crème fraîche. (The restaurant smokes whole sides of salmon.) The tartare sounded more spectacular than it tasted: The cubes of cured salmon met with no perceptible sign of avocado, alas. Without much sauce to unify the dish, it seemed to lack concentration and purpose — chopped gravlax with attention deficit disorder. We didn't try the bisque. Since there are no lobster entrées on the menu to provide spare parts (like swimmerets), along with fresh shells, I knew the stock would be made from frozen empty lobster shells and separately packaged lobster

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meats of some sort. One can make a good bisque with those ingredients but rarely a great one.

For the entrée, we chose *flétan grillé* “Oscar” — pan-seared Alaskan halibut served with asparagus, crab, and béarnaise sauce. This dish was carried over from the past. The “Oscar” garnishes were originally designed to go with veal, but I was willing to try them with fish — why not? Ultimately, I didn’t think they suited the halibut, which seemed aloof from the crowd. The crab, unexpectedly, wasn’t loose crabmeat in sauce but a thin crab cake crowning the top of the fillet like a miniature party hat on a compliant bulldog’s head. The sauce thinly coated the plate, not the fish. The asparagus sat on the side of the plate like an innocent bystander. I might like the dish better if everything (especially the sauce) were piled right on top of the fillet. Mild-mannered halibut doesn’t need protection from additional flavors, it needs all the help it can get.

The alternate choice on the \$45 prix fixe is fillet mignon with black truffle butter and red-wine sauce, with garlic-roast potatoes. Although rib-eye eaters may consider that tender cut milquetoast, it’s a favorite of the chef’s wife and co-owner, and those garnishes do sound alluring.

The à la carte appetizer list is a parade of enticements. There’s a house-made duck liver pâté; escargots with prosciutto

in a puff pastry shell; scallops over pea coulis; and Mussels Provençales with fennel and white wine. But I arrived with my heart set on the *crêpe de homard*, filled with Maine lobster and mascarpone in a white-truffle carrot emulsion. It was...not as expected. Most of the flavor came from chopped green asparagus and the thick, vegetally sweet carrot sauce that surrounded the crêpes. Inside them — was there some lobster meat? Sort of. It’s frozen lobster there, which is a large step up from the awful vacuum-extruded “knuckle meat” of many local restaurants, but the freezing seems to have sapped much of the flavor and texture.

A steak tartare needs rethinking (and the owners are rethinking it even as you read this). The menu describes it as “smoked raw filet mignon,” but it’s no longer raw after its turn in the smoker, merely bits of cooked beef running around loose on the plate. It’s not lush, not sinful, not risky like true tartare — in fact, not really anything.

For the à la carte entrée I chose *cassoulet de mer*, precisely because this dish was god-awful when I tried it under the previous owner — the repository of the evil, stinky mussels, not to mention undercooked white beans with too much crunch on the surface and hard, dry cores. Glad to say — Come on in, the mussels are fine now, and so are the beans! (The new

owners get seafood deliveries more often and dump old seafood readily rather than poison their customers.) The dish was probably invented as a local response to a New York food fad of the late ’80s, pairing lobster with beans. Here, it’s not lobster but sea scallops, mussels, shrimp, and salmon, all very tender, in lobster sauce, covered with a fluff of cornbread crumbs. “I can’t taste the seafood under all this frou-frou,” beamed one of my companions. And I couldn’t taste any lobster flavor in the lobster sauce. Oddly enough, I enjoyed the remains of the dish more at home the next night, gently reheated, and found myself appreciating the flavorful bits of onion and tomato mingling in the shells with the mussels. I even enjoyed the fluffy topping. (I still couldn’t taste any lobster.) The beans were now cooked soft all the way through, as they should be, so they properly took a supporting role to the seafoods, instead of hornng their way to center stage.

Other interesting possibilities include *poulet de foie gras*, a flavorful Shelton chicken breast, grilled and topped with foie-gras butter and Madeira-mushroom sauce, and a balsamic-marinated rosemary rack of lamb that the new chef-owner has brought to the menu. Weekends bring original specials.

By dessert, our appetites were sated, but since we had

three prix-fixe dinners, we were entitled to three sweets and couldn’t say no. A fine gingerbread was somewhat obscured by a generous pour of caramel sauce on top. (Now, that’s a dish where I’d rather have the sauce pooled on the plate.) A fallen chocolate soufflé was very dark and properly airy. Since we still had some tasty Côte de Rhone in our glasses, we went for the cheese plate (an extra \$2 on the prix fixes — pocket change). The cheeses were ordinary but delicious — a good, gooey Brie, a blue, and a mild Fontina.

Coronado Island is hardly a normal neighborhood, with its million-buck three-bedroom houses, but Chez Loma (barely 12 minutes from the ghastly Gaslamp) has restored its street cred as anybody’s neighborhood restaurant, regardless of where you live. With Valentine’s Day coming up in a few weeks, it’s also a rather romantic destination. If it’s not quite flashy enough for Gaslampish trendy daters or a swain with a big diamond ring in his pocket, it could be just right for steadies, marrieds, or cohabitators, as well as friends looking for a pleasing night out with good company, good food, and good conversation.

ABOUT THE CHEF

Lars and Carolyn Sjostrand bought Chez Loma, the first restaurant they’ve owned. “We’ve both been in the restaurant business a long time,” says Carolyn. She’s the pretty blonde

who works the front of the house, as hostess or waitress, while Lars is the chef. “My husband started out as a breakfast cook when he was 16, working in the same little place that his mom was a waitress, up in Huntington Beach. Then he moved to the front of the house, since there’s a little bit more money in the front. And I started out as a hostess in a Mexican place when I was 16. He worked for Las Brisas in Laguna Beach for a while, and then we moved up the valley and I worked at Hula Grill, which is the same chain as Jake’s up in Del Mar. And then I moved back here. I met my husband when I was on vacation in Hawaii. He was working at Duke’s, which is also part of the chain. I moved there and managed Keoke’s, on the south side of the island. We moved back here about six years ago, I worked at Pacifica, he worked as a bartender at Jake’s and En Fuego.

“About three years ago, we started thinking, ‘Now we’ve done everything in a restaurant, maybe we should start thinking about our own place.’ We worked with the same broker who sold the restaurant to [previous owner] Ken Irvine. We didn’t actually know much about Chez Loma because we live in North County, but it seemed like a good fit. It was nice to get something that has an established name, because new-concept restaurants are so hard to get started. It didn’t seem as scary to take over this

restaurant. My husband decided to do the back of the house, so Ken and my husband trained in the kitchen for a few weeks together from July to October of ’05, when we took over the restaurant. Lars learned the menu, learned the food. He has great knowledge of cooking and he’s so creative, although he doesn’t have any formal training.

“About 60 to 70 percent of the menu comes from the previous menus, which go back 30 years, even before Ken. We added the rack of lamb, and a pork dish that’s off the menu right now, and we run weekend specials. We like to keep the nuts and bolts of the menu and do creative things on the weekends, when we know the crowds are going to be a little fuller.”

The Sjostrands quickly learned, once they settled in, that in its final years Chez Loma had problems with both food and service, which they took steps to correct. “Our staff is all new, and our quality control is good,” says Carolyn. “We make the dishes correctly, and we make them more often. The desserts are made four days a week now. I heard that for a while they were just awful. We get our seafood in four to five times a week. We don’t order in huge quantities. Same with produce, we get it in five to six days a week. We’ll just 86 anything that’s not up to par. We’d rather tell you we don’t have it than to have you get it and not like it.” ■



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"You know the only thing missing?" I say to Hank. "Couple of nags. Then we could stay all night."

Rose turns her back on me. She picks up the phone.

"Hello? No, I don't see him."
 She puts the phone down. "I can't tell a lie," she says. "I'm telling the truth! If I face the wall, I don't see them. They probably already said, when they were leaving, 'I'm just going to the Neighbor's.' So they were telling the truth too."

That's what this place is called. "The Neighbor's." Rose is demonstrating how to handle domestic "situations." We're sitting around the curve of this P-shaped bar — me, Hank, Cricket, Charlie, Bob, John, Sue, Lee, chewing fat and downing a couple of beers. And chewing more fat.

"I live in Santee, but my horse is here in Lakeside," Cricket says. She's ex-Army. Sergeant. First Class. "I ride here sometimes."

"In Barstow, we kids always rode to the dances," Charlie says. "So getting home wasn't a problem. And at the end of the evening the girls had their horses too."

"Was that good or bad?" Hank asks.
 Man, this place is such a find. Hank and I stopped in here at, like, fourish, this Tuesday afternoon, before heading down the hill to Diego. I was the one who noticed the little shingle-roofed pub attached to the end of a forgettable strip mall. The pub owners must have stuck the wood shingle on to give it a bit of personality. But mainly, I noticed its blue-and-yellow sign. "The Neighbor's Pub & Grub." Sounded perfect.

So we get inside, just as Rose the bar lady is talking about Sunday lunches going for...three bucks. I think, three bucks?

Charlie nods. "That's why I moved up here. Everything is cheaper, people are friendlier, the town is quieter — and we've got this place, and

Rosie, to come to."
 Rose, who's Lee the postal carrier's wife, says she's been working behind this bar for 17 years. Huh. Hank slurps on his Michelob draft Amber Boc (\$2.50). God, it looks delicious. He swears he's only having one, since he's driving. The incredible thing is these beers cost almost more than the food. I mean, yes, the chow's homey, but the prices are downright fire-sale. We check the "Grub Menu." Cheeseburger's \$3.50, BLT's \$3, ham-and-cheese sandwich is \$3, hot link's \$2.50, hot wings are \$3.50, tuna sandwich is \$3, and ye old corn dawg goes for \$2. Oh, and a bowl of chili for \$2.50. The most expensive thing, the one I'm just about to ask Rose for, is the pork tenderloin sandwich, \$4.50. But, too late. Hank's in like Flynn.

"I'll have the pork," he says. He looks at me. "What?"
 Guess I have an expression on my face. "You have it too," says Rose. "I've got enough." "Never," I say. "Principle."

"Well, do you like meat loaf?" Rose asks. "I could get you some meat loaf and peas."
 Sounds good. And when I hear it's gonna cost me, uh, \$2.50, it sounds unbelievably good.

"Guess I'll have some fried mushrooms too," says Hank. They're on the extras bit at the bottom of the menu card, \$2.50. "And can you do a salad?"
 "Sure, I can rustle you up some salad," says Rose.
 There's no mention of salad on the menu. But five minutes later, she comes out from the kitchen carrying a full, blue cardboard plate loaded with the pork sandwich, the salad — lettuce and cut-up tomatoes and sliced cucumbers in a kind of vinaigrette — plus a pile of breaded, deep-fried mushrooms. Not long after, my blue plate ar-

rives, with crumbled meat loaf, a nice heap of peas, a bun, and pots of butter. It's hot, hearty, soothing. I grab a couple of Hank's mushrooms. Mmm. Good. Okay, Hank says one of his is still cold in the middle, but he won't ask Rose to warm it up. He knows she would.

"Naa. She's too busy right now."
 Instead, Hank challenges me to a 50-cent game of pool. I whup him — heh heh — get three lucky lies and sink 'em all. Then I'm back chowing meat loaf and jawing with Charlie, and he's telling about being a kid in Barstow, son of a locomotive engineer. "My grandfather was one too, and my great-grandfather," he says.

Wow. I'm dreaming steam, cow catchers, cowboys, the sounds of those ancient whistles blowing into the big-sky Barstow night.

And then John's telling me how Charlie here spent 21 years in submarines, and years in a North Korean POW camp. Plus John himself and his brother were Marines with two-tour Vietnam records. "We're redneck military here," says Cricket. "Course, she's an Army of One among this gang of Navy and Marine vets. "Seriously," she says, "these are good people. We're always having potlucks for someone who needs food, or medicines they can't afford. It's family, a little community."

Cricket (her sister called her that because she was always jumping about) says it's no problem riding her horse Spot (he's a black-and-white pinto) down this avenue. "That's what's so great about Lakeside," she says. "You still can."

It's only now that I notice one wall is made of brick, and about half the bricks have been painted with messages. "You pay \$5 and you can put what you want on it," says Rose, as I get the bill. Lordy. Hank's salad was only \$1.50.

Cricket shows me a tribute brick she did to her



Rose

dad, another for friends who didn't make it back from war. "Come by Saturday for karaoke," says Rose. "Or Sunday, for that Sunday special meal. We lay it on."

Man, nothing I'd rather do.
 "You know the only thing missing?" I say to Hank. "Couple of nags. Then we could stay all night, get drunk as skunks, just climb on board, let 'em take us home."

"You been watching too much *Lonesome Dove*, son," says Hank. "Or is it *Comanche Moon* this time?" ■

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Boutique Bubbings

"There's going to be somebody who really goes over the top and does everything right."

The hills across the road from Steve Chapin's Temecula vineyards — situated out past the tourist-friendly wineries and a short hop from Lake Skinner — are fallow now. Chapparral grows where vines once stood — 660 acres of Chardonnay that used to be under contract to Callaway, the former giant of the valley. Someday, says Chapin, "There's going to be a project called Seven Oaks — 125 homes on one-acre estates, and the rest going back into vineyards. There's a plan for a winery, too. The valley is going to change a lot."

Change seems to be something of the norm for Temecula of late. "You drive along Rancho California Road, and you can see orange groves coming out left and right," observes Chapin. People continuing the fight against Pierce's disease, depriving the Pierce's-bearing glassy-winged sharpshooter of its winter home amid the citrus. Huge new projects like the South Coast Winery and Resort. And here and there, at places like Palumbo Family Winery, the bubbings of a boutique-winery culture, a culture Chapin hopes to foment (ferment?). "I feel that the boutique wineries are going to be what puts Temecula on the map," says Chapin, owner of Chapin Family Vineyards. "There's going to be somebody who really goes over the top and does everything right."

Chapin stops short of saying that he's going

to be that somebody — his four and a half acres of vines went in just six years ago, and he's selling only his first release, an '04 Cabernet. But he's happy to say that he wouldn't mind someday "being recognized for making really excellent wines —

velvety, luxurious type of wines. I'm pretty happy with what I'm producing right now, but I'll always try to improve. I read a lot about the great vineyards of the world, just to stay motivated. I read that book, *The Great Wines of America* by Paul Lukacs. As much as he had about the farm-

ing methodologies up in Napa and Sonoma — I think we do a very good job of matching them as far as the way they farm vines."

"We" refers to Chapin and his consultants, local winemaking consultant Enrique Ferro and international viticultural consultant Marco Cavaliere. "I bought this land in '87 as an investment property," recalls Chapin. But after a globetrotting career in medical diagnostics got him introduced to the joys of wine, "I said, 'If I ever have the time, I think I'd like to grow vines and make wine.' After 25 years, I said, 'It's time. I don't want to do it when I'm so old I can't do it.' Me and about ten other guys planted the vines — Cabernet, Syrah, Petite Verdot, and Montepulciano." But come time for the first harvest, "I found out that investing in consultants is well worth the money. Trial and error is not the way

to go." (A winemaking friend recommended Ferro, and Ferro found Cavaliere in Argentina.) That first Cabernet "probably wasn't that great as a standalone varietal," grants Chapin — but a little Cabernet Franc, brought in on Ferro's suggestion, did wonders.

"I think Enrique is really critical," says Chapin. "He's not afraid to tell you..." Case in point: the '05 harvest was deemed unacceptable and sold off. "It wasn't very good quality," says Ferro. "Very high yields, bunches were huge — everything against the quality. So he sold it to the neighbors." Continues Chapin, "I read about an individual who didn't put his name on a wine until ten years out. He sold grapes and he made wine, but you didn't know it was his until he was satisfied. You're always looking for ways to improve; you're not hesitant to put in that extra labor."

And there's plenty of extra labor. "I estimate we drop 40–50 percent of our crop," says Chapin. "We prune to about two or three bunches per node. And Marco really wants us to control the canopy — we pull leaves to get about 50 percent sun on the grapes, and we keep it to about nine square feet of foliage per vine to keep down the vegetative character."

"The vineyard is still young," comments Ferro. "With time, it will give us much better quality grapes. Our operation is to optimize the quality that is already there. It's working with what the place can give you; not forcing nature. In Napa, if you don't harvest over 25 Brix, you're going to have very tough tannins. They have to go higher," with the attendant rise in alcohol and overall body. "Here, that's not a question. In our case,



Steve Chapin, Enrique Ferro

it's at about 24, 25 Brix that we achieve soft, polymerized tannins. We're not going to have those monster Cabernets."

Eventually, the house on the property, the one with the 2000-square-foot wraparound porch, may be converted to a tasting room. But for now, it's a rental, helping to finance the fledgling winemaking operation in a nearby outbuilding. There, Chapin tends the wines with a chemist's precision, and under Ferro's careful guidance. "We use a destemmer, but not the crusher," says Chapin. "Instead, we do whole-berry maceration for more fruit character. Then we ferment in open bins. And I keep the barrels really topped up."

When I visit, the two are discussing blends for the '06 Cabernet. One is backed by 15 percent Zinfandel and 10 percent Merlot, the other, by 22.5 percent Merlot and 2.5 percent Cabernet Franc. The former is closer to the '04 in style — leaner, earthier. But the large dose of Merlot in the latter gives a bit of the fleshy/berry character that, as Ferro puts it, "people are always looking for." Chapin has five more blends put together

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for Ferro in medicine bottles, their labels bearing varietal percentages instead of drug dosages. Before he leaves, Ferro says he likes the blend that incorporates 10 percent Zinfandel, 10 percent Cabernet Franc, and 5 percent Merlot. "As soon as we get the blend set," explains Chapin, "the wine will go back into barrel for three or four weeks. Then, if it looks okay, we'll bottle it."

And then Chapin will get busy selling it. He's had some favorable reception so far: "I live in Carlsbad, and there are a lot of wine shops in town. The Wine Spot loved it. Kathy Bankerd at Carlsbad Wine Merchants put it into their wine club. North County Wine Company has it. And I'm on the list at the Monterey Bay Cannery and the Lost Artichoke. One gentleman said, 'I really like the direction you're going in.' He didn't say it was a top-end wine, but he said, 'It's good news to taste a wine out of Temecula that I enjoy.' I al-

ways get this reaction — "Temecula?" — like the question mark is riding over my head. But they seem to be very pleased with it." ■

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

The Reader's Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Barbara David, Ambrose Martin, Shari McCullough, Max Nash, Eleanor Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of over 700 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a midrange entrée. **Inexpensive:** below \$10; **moderate:** \$10 to \$19; **expensive:** \$21 to \$29; **very expensive:** more than \$30. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

BEACHES

Barbarella 2171 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-454-7373. This popular restaurant sits nestled in an English garden just blocks from the beach. You can dine amidst the flora at street-side tables, in the enclosed patio, or in the small dining room. Once you're seated, the friendly staff provides fresh-out-of-the-oven sourdough wheat bread to nibble on. The menu changes daily, offering fresh fish, steak, chicken, pastas, soups, and pizzas, all cooked with a

twist of imagination that delivers on the flavor. For instance: pizza topped with smoked salmon, crème fraîche, chives, and fried capers. Or delicate Alaskan halibut served over creamed spring onions with a watercress salad. If a fresh fruit crepe happens to be on the dessert menu, leap on it! Open for lunch and dinner daily. — S.M.

Café Athena 1846 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-274-1140. With a more upscale, eye-catching decor and a longer and more serious menu than most Greek cafes, this is a popular destination, so be sure to reserve for dinner or you'll risk a long wait. The choices include good soups and appetizers (except for a sub-par *taramasalata*), outstanding moussaka, above-average gyros, and interesting, unusual desserts. There's plenty for vegetarians. Rather noisy when crowded. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate.— N.W.

Costa Brava 1653 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-1218. Cordial owner-host Javier Gonzalez opened this charming restaurant so that local Spaniards would have a place to gather with an authentic atmosphere of home, and indeed, the "Euro" atmosphere and late hours give a truly Iberian feel. The lively garlic-rich dishes here include a wide array of tasty tapas and, among the entrées, a paella that's made to order (sized to serve two or four; call ahead for larger groups). Patio seating in good weather. Parking lot and wheelchair access via the alley behind the restaurant. Open daily 11 a.m. to midnight, with bargain prices at Sunday brunch. Reservations advised for weekend evenings. Moderate. — N.W.

Daily's Restaurant 8915 Towne Centre Drive, La Jolla, 858-453-1112. The idea is brilliant: Just serve food

that's really, really good for your customers. Low fat, low calorie, low sodium. Branchchild of cardiac surgeon Pat O. Daily. So what's the problem? It's the B-word. Bland. Not that they don't fight heroically to make all the dishes interesting, but lots of items have that lentil-y, bean-y feel. Or naked salad-y. Or steam-up-your-nose veggie. Among the more interesting choices is the Cajun chicken with black beans and brown rice with cayenne-paprika in the spices. The most popular lunch order, the buffalo burger, has a little gamy aftertaste — but that just proves it is the legendarily lean prairie beast. Nice outside seating in Restaurant Row, except you've gotta resist the smells from the more wicked eateries that aren't on the same crusade. Inexpensive. Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. — E.B.

Humphrey's by the Bay 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577. Most diners at this resort/concert venue restaurant eat at the prix fixe preshow dinners because they guarantee good seats for the concerts at the next-door amphitheatre. But better food emerges once the music-mavens leave the premises. The kitchen features fine seafood, juicy meats, and prime steaks with seasonal veggie garnishes. Preparations are pleasing but in no way startling — it's a hotel restaurant, after all. Reserve for show nights or to snare a window table with a gorgeous marina view. Free parking when there's no concert, valet parking when there is. Dining room pleasantly quiet. Open daily breakfast through dinner; brunch buffet Sunday. Preshow prix fixe upper moderate, à la carte expensive/very expensive. — N.W.

Isabel's Cantina 966 Felspar Street, Pacific Beach, 858-272-8400. This cheerful café instantly became a gathering spot for many PB-ites, including the forsaken population of adults. Chef-owner Isabel Cruz, who calls herself "Food Girl," has imported much of her Mission Cafe menu of Latin-Asian-sorta-health-food to the beach. A self-confessed "lazy cook," she focuses on wholesomeness rather than authenticity. Breakfast and lunch are the main meals here and include com-

petent eggs, luscious scrambled eggs, huge sandwiches, and weighty slabs of coconut French toast. Competent Latin-style dishes include tamales with airy masa. Devotees of Southeast Asian cuisines, however, may be disappointed by the simplistic stabs in that direction. If your dish is too mild, house sauces (chili oil, salsa, chipotle sauce, etc.) are available on request. Beer and wine. Small, free front parking lot; pay lot across the street at west end of the block. Three meals daily; closed 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

Kaiserhof 2253 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, Ocean Beach, 619-224-0606. Even on weeknights, crowds fill this restaurant and *biergarten*, chowing down on hefty, hearty German cooking in a festive atmosphere. Flavors are authentic, but can be monotonous due to the kitchen's reliance on commercial products (especially a heavy-flavored beef base that makes all the sauces taste alike). Good schnitzels, potato pancakes. The excellent apple strudel is the only dessert made in-house. Reservations advised, especially for patio seating. Full bar. Lunch Friday through Sunday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — N.W.

Nine-Ten 910 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-964-5400. Chef Jason Knibb's level of craftsmanship shows a culinary sophistication that would be at home in San Francisco or New York. You'll find adventurous, seasonal cuisine emphasizing "market fresh" local produce (much of it organic or sustainably raised), naturally raised meats, and wild seafood. It's not just the food that's fresh — the ideas are, too, and the flavor matches are flawless. The wine list is superb, and new personnel in the front of the house have brought up the standard of service. Validated valet parking, full bar. Reservations urged. Open daily, three meals. Expensive. — N.W.

Red Sails 2614 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-223-3030. One of the city's oldest eateries has been renovated to look like it always has, but fresher. The dining rooms resemble those on a river paddleboat or a small, rakish cruise ship, while the bayside patio is a

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funky waterside pleasure, beset by pi-geons. The menu runs to simple seafood and steaks (wet-aged USDA Choice), but quality is uneven. Tasty starters include briny littleneck clams on the half-shell, an interesting clam chowder, and a classy house salad (but ask for vinegar and oil on the side to dress it). The coconut shrimp entrée is a good, guilty pleasure, but the fin-fish and fried entrées taste like supermarket frozen food. For the starch accompaniment, baked potato is the most flavorful option. Full bar, strong cocktails, weak wine list. Kiddie menu available. Daily three meals until 11 p.m. Low moderate. — N.W.

Sante Ristorante 7811 Herschel Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-1315. The name is Italian for "saint," and the Northern Italian/regional cooking shines here, especially the fish and seafood dishes. Fresh seafood specials are available every night, in addition to those on the menu. Excellent pasta with mushrooms, ravioli with quail, and lamb chops. Separate room for bar; separate private dining room. Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner nightly. Enclosed patio for lunch. Not to be missed. Moderate (pastas) to expensive. — E.W.

Sushi on the Rock 7734 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-1138. This noisy, high-energy spot — a boxy, saloon-like space with a sushi bar in back — draws a lively twentysomething

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crowd (although older folks will have plenty of company, too). Unlike more traditional sushi bars, there's a vast selection of "rock and rolls" — huge, creative party sushi. And they're fabulous, with sparkling fresh seafood and immensely clever combinations. Try, for instance, the shrimp tempura roll, which wraps fried shrimp, crab shreds, daikon sprouts, and Japanese mayo in deep-fried salmon skin — the combo would be just as impressive as an appetizer at a top Cal-French restaurant. The Orange Crush is another sublime invention, fresh and crunchy with veggies and tobiko wrapped in suave salmon. Even simple rolls are so well conceived, and the rice so nicely seasoned, you won't need soy-wasabi dip. No reservations, long waits (in cramped entryway) on weekends. Good sake list. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly, with deep discounts for happy hour specials. Moderate. Second (quieter, but with full bar) location at 1923 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad, 760-436-6261. — N.W.

BAJA

From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.

Chiki Jai Avenida Revolución #1388, Baja, 664-685-4955. Eat here and you're surrounded by ghosts: Errol Flynn, John Huston, Rita Hayworth, Anthony Quinn, Ava Gardner, and, they say, Ernest Hemingway, who all ate — and drank *vino tinto* — here. Plus the great stars of boxing and bullfighting. But mainly it was a haven for Spanish jai alai players desperate for Old Country food. This is one of Tijuana's great historic eateries, its tale written on the walls. Old border photos, Don Quixote art, fighting bull ranchos' brands, and a matador's framed green cape with his blood still on it. The food's all Spanish, so paella is big (with soup, salad, French bread, and bleu cheese), but also try the baby eel appetizers, chorizo (pork sausages), *bacalao* (cod fish) *à la Vizcaina*, trout with olive oil and garlic, and Gallican octopus. Vegetarian upon request. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

La Diferencia Avenida Sanchez Taboada 10611-A, Baja, 664-634-3346. Mexican haute cuisine, with inventive combinations of traditional flavors. The creative menu reframes the old dishes and devises new ones. Wine list centers on Baja wineries (Monte Xanic and Cetto) at reasonable prices. Vegetarian upon request. Secure, free valet parking next to exterior courtyard. Menu is in Spanish (in a hard-to-read font), but some staffers speak some English. The restaurant is often noisy, even louder when mariachis play. Smoking permitted. Wheelchair access marginal. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W.

La Escondida Santa Monica #1, Baja, 664-681-4458. This hidden ("*escondida*") mansion has been a restaurant for three decades. The terrazzo and garden overlooking the Tijuana River Valley make breakfast and dinners a treat. House specialties are more interesting than the regular fare. Try the seafood casserole (*cacerola de mariscos*); the *tambor* (a dish of layered beef, cheese, and pork); or the roasted baby Monterrey goat ("*cabrito tatemado*"). Desserts include the house *especial*, mango and ice cream with *rompopo* (Mexican eggnog), and *crepas de cajeta con nieve*, crêpes with walnuts, green pistachio ice cream, and "burnt milk" caramel sauce — the nearest thing to liquid fudge this side of paradise. Vegetarian on request. On weekends the place rocks with parties and live music. The big downside: It's hard to find. Take Agua Caliente Boulevard one half mile past the racetrack, turn right at Las Palmas, then left at the Rey del Pollo sign. The La Escondida entrance sign is in red neon at the road's end. Open daily for breakfast, lunch, dinner. Moderate. — E.B.

Mercado Sobre Ruedas Colonia Lucio Blanco (from Tijuana, on toll road, take first Rosarito exit; turn left at third), Baja. Don't miss this huge flea market that materializes every Sunday (from morning until midafternoon) a couple of miles north of the tourist part of town. Its dozens of food-booths offer a vast variety of local treats, ranging from barbecued mutton (*bor-*



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rego) to savory Jalisco-style goat steak (*birria de chivo*), to all manner of tacos, made-to-order hotcakes with syrup, “Mexican hamburgers,” and Sno-Kones (don’t worry about the ice; by law, it has to be made with purified water). The food is totally authentic, cooked to Mexican tastes, and it’s a carnival for the mouth. Many vendors speak some English. Rock-bottom prices; cash only. — *N.W.*

El Nido Boulevard Benito Juárez #67, Baja, 661-612-1430. Head south if you’re looking for a great dry-aged, mesquite-broiled steak at a bargain price — but don’t stop there. Try the house specialty, quail with garlic sauce (*codorniz al mojo de ajo*), or venison, especially the savory *machaca de venado* (strips of meat with peppers, onions, and tomatoes). Both are locally raised on the restaurant’s own ranches and may be united in a brilliant breakfast of quail eggs with deer *machaca*. Seafood and surf-and-turf variations are tasty, too. Vegetarian upon request. The restaurant’s name means “the nest,” and the amusing indoor-outdoor decor is a sort of multiroom aviary with birds singing, chirping, and fluttering all over. Full bar. If sensitive to smoke, don’t sit next to the mesquite-burning hearth on the roofed patio. Dressy-casual. Bilingual staff and menu. Open daily, early morning to late evening. Mostly moderate; cash only. — *N.W.*

Los Pelicanos Calle Del Cedro 115 #45, Baja, 661-612-0445. This hotel dining room is El Nido’s little (and less-gifted) sister, with a shorter menu and perhaps less-careful cooking. It serves good steaks and surf-and-turf in a handsome room and, at lunch, on a pretty ocean-view terrace. To find it, look for large sign on west side of Juárez, north of the tourist hub, directing you to the site. One winding flight up to the restaurant, no elevator. Bilingual staff and menu. Vegetarian upon request. Full bar. Open daily,

three meals. Moderate; cash only. — *N.W.*

Tacos Varios y Aguas Frescas Corner of Constitución and Third, Baja. This is “just” a cart, but don’t let that stop your making the effort. Students, local businesspeople, and workers agree: this is the real thing. It’s always causing a people-bulge on the sidewalk. However, the cart is only here from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., so you have to time it right. But from tongue to chicken mole, to *milanesa*, steak *ranchero*, *carne asada*, *chile relleno*, and *pescaado* (fish), they create really big taco meals right there. Bonus: standing around chomping in the street is a great way to meet people and practice your Spanish. Nighttime only. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

CENTRAL

Alex’s Brown Bag 2550 Fifth Avenue #171, Hillcrest, 619-231-2912. The reborn Alex’s (now in the Mr. A’s building) is rightly famous for its “Original Philadelphia cheese steak sandwich” (with fried bell peppers, onions, mushrooms, and mozzarella). The owners say what makes their sandwiches so special is that they have the meat trucked in from cheese steak central, South Philly itself. Other Italian-American goodies include the Italian Stallion (Genoa salami, capocollo prosciutto, and mortadella sausage meat), eggplant parmigiana with hot garlic bread, grilled pastrami, and cheese on rye. Open for breakfast, lunch, and just-after-work dinner weekdays. — *E.B.*

Bali Thai Café 407 Camino del Rio South, Mission Valley, 619-297-0800. Expect the unexpected! This tiny, unique restaurant splits its menu between three nations with chefs from Indonesia and Thailand and a chef-owner from Suriname, a former Dutch colony (like Indonesia) in South America. The Thai menu is standard, although the *tom kha koong* (shrimp in coconut milk soup) is outstandingly authentic (don’t

eat the stuff at the bottom of the bowl!), while the richly tropical Indonesian dishes are so rare locally that culinary adventurers will want to explore such delights as “seafood delight roll,” corn fritters, the soothing *soto ayam* (the Indonesian version of chicken-noodle comfort soup), Balinese fish file, and the spicy *sambal goring* (shrimp in chili sauce), among others. Short but smart wine list, beer, sake. Easy evening parking. Heated, roofed patio. Large portions. Reserve for weeknights, no reservations accepted for weekends. Tuesday through Sunday, lunch and dinner. Low moderate. — *N.W.*

Bandar Fine Persian Cuisine 825 and 837 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-238-0101. In a comfortable setting, the Persian menu offers just a “pick hits list” of popular dishes culled from this fabled cuisine, but the cooking is first rate, featuring fine ingredients prepared with care, skill, and healthfulness. The “Bandar Special” entrée combo lets you choose any two kebabs (chicken, game hen, or beef), beautifully marinated and cooked to your order. Entrées featuring rice with poultry are elaborate and refined, spiked with tangy barberries, sour cherries, or lentils and dates. The list of Persian desserts now includes Persian ice cream, a rose-scented exotic treat. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Beach City Market 3 Horton Plaza, Downtown, 619-232-2491. Is this the nearest thing to an actual café downtown? Where you can sit outside and slurp coffee or have a full meal and watch the world pass by? It tries hard to be, even though it’s fast deli food. Your sandwich comes in butcher paper. Soup pots are cardboard. You can buy wine, but you can’t drink it here. Why? Other Horton Plaza tenants won’t allow it. Still, soup and sandwich deals give good, generous portions, like minestrone and the Londonport roast beef sandwich flavored with port, white herbs, and spices, or the Deluxe, roast beef with horseradish. Open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Boomerangs Gourmet Burger Joint 4577 Clairemont Drive, Clairemont, 858-483-9500. Aussie food?

Nope. The Boomerang idea is that “you’ll always come back for more.” Although maybe they are thinking Aussie with their extensive create-your-own-burger options, which include fixings like horseradish, artichoke hearts, carrots, cranberries, cheeses, and mushrooms. Their bright idea: chop and tuck these items into your raw burger meat, like a joey into mama roo’s pocket. Add imaginative sauces (Thai peanut, chipotle pepper, citrus, others). Result: great-tasting burgers. They’re a bit pricey, maybe because they use only “100-percent Angus hormone-free beef.” But that means they can safely cook your burger rare. Rare! That’s enough to boomerang anyone back. Open daily 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Broadway Pizza 1008 Broadway, Downtown, 619-232-6264. This restaurant, near the downtown Senior Center and City College, offers no-nonsense Italian-American food. And they’re not skimpy: from a pizza slice to barbecue beef sandwiches to a Louisiana-style sausage link sub, portions are generous. If you want a hearty dinner, try the whole slab of beef ribs, with veggies, garlic bread, and salad. Unfortunately, the quality has dropped; the formerly fine pizza, for instance, is now marred by oily, low-grade mozzarella and not-so-great optional deli-meat toppings. But the main thing is, while the rest of downtown snores, they’re still open, from 10 a.m. to 3 a.m., seven days. And they’ll even deliver to nearby neighborhoods. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Le Cake Château 1152 Seventh Avenue, Downtown, 619-325-0977. This feels like a real French pâtisserie. For starters, the display cabinet has beautiful golden flaky croissants, plus pastries too arty to eat. They do breakfast, but at lunchtime the place is abuzz. You gotta try their version of the *croque monsieur* (grilled ham-cheese sandwich covered with a mornay sauce), or crepes with, say, blueberries and sweet cream cheese. The grilled chicken Caesar wrap is good, but it’s their originality with simple items that’ll turn you on. Like the onion roll loaded with marinated mushrooms, roasted pep-

pers, caramelized onions, goat cheese, and caper mayonnaise. Or a dessert carrot cake with “pineapple raisins.” Don’t ask. You have to try it. Open daily except Sunday for breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

California Pizza Kitchen — Mission Valley 7007 Friars Road #901, Mission Valley, 619-298-4078. Two Beverly Hills lawyers started this chain in 1985 to exploit “the premium pizza segment.” Some 150 restaurants later, guess it worked. The place is all shiny chrome, glass, etched palm trees, golden wood and black furniture, and two pizza ovens with real logs burning inside. The Original BBQ chicken pizza, the chain’s first hit, is still their top seller. It has barbecue sauce, smoked Gouda and mozzarella cheeses, BBQ chicken, red onions, and cilantro. The BBQ chicken chopped salad is good too, as is the jambalaya. If you’ve got a sweet tooth, but are embarrassed to order “Hawaiian” pizza, try the pear and Gorgonzola. It has caramelized pears, caramelized onions, Gorgonzola and other cheeses, and hazelnuts. At night, the Nobel Drive branch features a view of the shining Mormon cathedral. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

China Too 916 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-4283. Don’t blink or you’ll miss this Gaslamp bargain. The menu claims “New York-Style Fine Chinese Cuisine.” Would you settle for decent Brooklyn- or Bronx-style eat-in/take-out? Here you’re getting cheap-but-good Chinese fare for the price of a cup of soup nearby. Lunch specials (with soup, two egg rolls, rice) include green pepper steak with onions, kung pao hot chicken, beef broccoli, shrimp with veggies — all made with no MSG and minimal cornstarch. The owner’s last place was in New York, where customers ranged from Kofi Annan to Robin Leach. Chef Chen even has some of his old dishes here, on a page of multi-regional “chef specialties” (#90 to #107 on the menu). But what really makes this a “New York-ish” spot will bring joy to hungry mouths all over the restaurant-starved stretch east and south of Balboa Park: free delivery from I-8 to Harbor Drive, from Pacific Highway to 805 or even farther. Open 11

a.m. to 11 p.m.; closed Saturday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

El Comal 3946 Illinois Street, North Park, 619-239-7101. No border compromises here, just great home cooking from the mainland (Michoacan, Guerrero, Jalisco, Puebla, Oaxaca, and the Yucatan) in a pair of restaurants founded by Luz Herrera Ibarra, a biology teacher from Acapulco. Stuffed tortilla dishes are back in their proper place as appetizers or lunches (don’t expect numbered “combo plates”). A *botana* sampler plate that “serves two” (actually stuffs four) is a fun way to try a bunch of them, including outstanding pork-filled *sopes* that taste like somebody’s loving *mamacita* made them. Also try a *mulita*, a soft, substantial, house-made tortilla folded over your choice of meat with melted cheese and guacamole, perfect for lunch. For entrées, look to the casseroles, with such exciting choices as Lengua en Salsa Verde (tongue in tomatillo sauce), Barbacoa de Chivo (tender goat in a lively red “barbecue” sauce), and an excellent Mole Poblano (tender chicken breast in sweet-spicy chocolate-based mole sauce). Fish are also well treated. Grilled meat choices, which include a full *parrillada assortment* (“serves two,” feeds six), are cut thin and cooked well done. Full bar at North Park location; Mexican and U.S. beers at both. Three meals, seven days (shorter hours in Chula Vista). Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Extraordinary Desserts — Little Italy 1430 Union Street, Little Italy, 619-294-7001. Patrons looking for a quiet dessert still cling to the original charming cottage near Balboa Park. Those wanting more of a meal head for the newer Little Italy location, a vast, noisy space with industrial-chic decor and a menu of eclectic small plates — *mezze* spreads, bruschettas, sandwiches, and cheese plates. Flavors tend to be intense; some creations (such as a bacon-cured salmon sandwich and *panterella*, a celery-date spread) are wonderful, others are exhausting even in small portions. Both locations offer pastry cases full of desserts that live up to “extraordinary,” to eat on-site or to take home. Chef-

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Greystone 658 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-232-0225. The Italian steakhouse fare here centers on dry-aged prime beef, game meats (including exceptionally tender bison), lobster, and pastas as the main draws, with indifferent starters and desserts. An impressive wine list offers rewarding California and Italian bottlings at \$35 to \$50 but roars up to the stratosphere of first-growth Bordeaux, super Tuscan, and scandalously overpriced Napa reds. Bossy, sometimes-abrasive waiters push higher-priced choices. Patrons are mainly “suits” with deep expense-account pockets, loudly talking business or enjoying raucous office parties in a testosterone-high atmosphere. Wheelchair access to the street patio and bar area only (dining rooms are up or downstairs). Reservations urged but may not be honored promptly. Dinner nightly. Extremely expensive. — *N.W.*

Harney Sushi 3964 Harney Street, Old Town, 619-295-3272. This friendly little spot on a side street serves as a secret haven of pretty-good sushi just a few steps from Old Town’s nonstop tacos and margaritas. You can also get sashimi, Japanese appetizers, and a few mixed-ethnicity entrées (noodles, pasta, teriyaki, tempura) made with seafood or chicken breast. Beef is served, but numerous dishes are vegetarian. Good sake list. Sound system runs loud inside; patio dining available in warm weather. Reservations for sushi bar accepted but not necessarily honored. Open weekdays for lunch, dinner nightly until midnight, with a DJ Tuesday through Saturday. Sushi prices lower than most, entrées inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.*

Hong Kong Restaurant 3871 Fourth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-291-9449. Where to get a good Chinese meal after midnight? This restaurant (next to Column One’s statues and fountain shop) serves meals till 2:30 a.m. Inside is typical Asian decor, including black-and-white Chinese brush paintings and carved cherry wood chairs. Their huge menu offers traditional Szechwan and Mandarin fare. The fried, pork-filled wontons on raw cabbage are delish, especially spliced with fiery Chinese mustard. The Singapore-style rice noodles (not often featured in Chinese restaurants) are tangled with curry, and excellent, as is the kung pao chicken. Also look at egg drop soup, pork chow mein, shrimp with lobster sauce, and scallion ginger chicken. Service is super quick. Lunch and dinner, seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Joe’s New York-Style Deli 3401 First Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-295-7666. You enter a time machine: a cavernous concrete-floored deli that dates back to 1902, with a high ceiling, acorn-shaped hanging lights, and a big old-fashioned cooler-counter packed with cheeses, hams, and sausage meat. Old display cases carry olives, pâté, Ryvitas. A sawed-off wooden barrel bulges with Hungarian wines. Go for wraps, jumbo hot dogs with sauerkraut, or East Coast-generous sandwiches like corned beef, dry Genoa salami, cotto salami, bologna, or liverwurst. That Boars Head liverwurst is da bomb. Caesar salad with chicken or a cup of tortellini soup are good light alternatives. Open breakfast through early dinner daily. — *E.B.*

Lefty’s Chicago Pizzeria 3448 30th Street, North Park, 619-295-1720. An eight-pound pizza? That’s what Lefty claims his “king of all pizzas” weighs at his often-crowded little corner pizzeria. Truth is, you can’t help but be drawn, especially at night, to the little ribbon of lights framing the sidewalk canopy with its tables and benches. Lefty is determined to bring “the real Chicago” to San Diego. So of course we’re talking deep-dish pizzas, as well as some thin and crispy. But the ultimate is his “stuffed” pizza, a 14-inch, eight-pound monster that needs one hour’s “make and bake” time. They also do Chicago hot dogs, char burgers, beautiful spicy fries, juicy Italian beef au jus sandwiches, and a decent “Lefty’s

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RESTAURANTS

carbonara” (spaghetti, eggs, bacon, Parmesan, and cream). Open lunch and dinner six days, closed Mondays. — *E.B.*

Lotus Thai — Downtown 906 Market Street, Downtown, 619-595-0115. This restaurant has taken a giant step up from standard Thai eateries. Most of the menu consists of the usual dishes, but each branch also offers a selection of chef’s specialties. Some of these are more authentic; others are more creative than the norm. The chefs are from northern Thailand, and something in their cooking hints of their region — a certain zestiness, a love of strong citrus and fresh herbs that speaks of the Ping River and the hills of Chiang Mai. Well-chosen, affordable wine list, Asian and American beers, and cocktails based on *soju* (Asian lower-proof rice liquor), including a yummy rambutan cosmo. Noisy when crowded. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Low moderate. — *N.W.*

Monsoon Exotic Cuisine of India 729 4th Avenue, Downtown, 619-234-5555. The younger sister to Hillcrest’s Bombay Exotic Cuisine sometimes shares the same chefs and serves much the same standard repertory of “Northern Indian cuisine made easy,” with a few tropical additions vaguely inspired by Southern flavors. Curries are indistinct from each other and run to the mild side, no matter what you specify. Breads are good; tandooris disappointingly soft-surfaced. A room-dividing fountain recreates the roar of the namesake tropical downpour. Add a lively dinner crowd and it’s a (Gunga) din. Solid wine list, some Indian beers, full bar specializing in sweet cocktails. Open daily. Inexpensive buffet lunches; moderate à la carte dinners until 11 p.m. — *N.W.*

Mr. Tiki’s Mai Tai Lounge 801 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-1183. If you loved Trader Vic’s (or can

remember it, anyway), you may be amused at the revival of the genre here. Check out the “grass skirt” decor with huge tiki gods and the vaguely “islander” cuisine featuring, in addition, Asian fusion items, elementary sushi, and the occasional sprint into fusion-cuisine seafood. But, as you might guess, the greatest creativity in the house goes into the silly umbrella cocktails, and those are mainly delish. Age 21 and over after 9 p.m. (even with parents). Dinner nightly. Cocktails until 11 p.m., weekends until 1 a.m. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Old World Restaurant 3930 30th Street, North Park, 619-238-0568. This is a delight for anyone who loves northern European food. Their “Great Grilled Grueben” — homemade corned beef on rye with Swiss cheese, sauerkraut, Thousand Island dressing, and mustard is, as they say, *gemütlich*. Also, try the sausage platter: grilled bratwurst, kielbasa, sauerkraut, potato salad, spicy mustard, and rye bread. Open for breakfast and lunch six days, closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Osetra 904 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-1800. Possibly the most expensive restaurant in San Diego. Osetra is named for a precious, near-endangered caviar (which it serves) and attracts patrons who enjoy throwing their money around. The atmosphere is pure Las Vegas, with two floors of loud ambient music, glitzy decor, and a “wine angel” in black tights hoisting herself around a gleaming glass tower to fetch your precious bottle. Celebrities and big spenders get attentive service, others take their chances. The menu is mostly seafood, but it, too, carries the Vegas imprimatur of vulgar bad taste. Too many bold flavors are at war on almost every plate, and even the simplest dishes are overwrought frenzies of fusion. Best bets for satisfying your palate and curiosity: raw oysters, the cold seafood platter, caviar (if your wallet and conscience can afford it). Disabled access to first-floor dining room only. Full bar. Dinner nightly to at least 10 p.m. Reserve well ahead. Expensive. — *N.W.*

P. F. Chang’s China Bistro — Mission Valley 7077 Friars Road,

Mission Valley, 619-260-8484. Okay, you’re looking at the haunches of a giant horse right outside your corner window, and there don’t seem to be any actual Chinese people among the wait staff. But this busy mall-Chinese chain (130-plus restaurants) has a certain cool. Those reproduction Chin Dynasty horses are really something, as are the bits of the Great Wall and the terra-cotta soldiers scattered inside. The food? The spicy ground chicken and eggplant was too salty for our taste, the “Sichuan from the Sea” shrimp too sweet, and the Cantonese roasted duck not that exciting. Yet there are jewels, if one searches for them. And — not that it’s at all Chinese — the massive “Great Wall of Chocolate” dessert will knock you over. Lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *E.B.*

The Palm 615 J Street, Downtown, 619-702-6500. This upmarket chain steakhouse, open since 1926, claims to be the oldest family-operated white-tablecloth restaurant in the country, and it’s spread all over the country as well. The Gaslamp branch, its 30th, is just like all the other branches, even down to decor details, which is the whole point — business travelers with contacts to impress can rely on it wherever they go. The fare features tender, dry-aged and wet-aged USDA Prime beef from the chain’s own wholesale butcher and, for the really high-rollers, monster-sized Nova Scotia lobsters. Other good dishes are shrimp Bruno (with a Dijon sauce), baked crab cakes with no filler, and the Slater Special, which combines the last two in an appetizer. Don’t eat meat, but do eat garlic? Try clams and shrimp *posillippo* and scare off the vampires. All dishes à la carte. Portions are generally gigantic on up. Key lime pie (a normal-sized wedge) makes a good, tart dessert, and clean *macchinetas* make outstanding espresso. Excellent wine list, plenty by the glass; full bar. Valet parking. Dinner nightly. Very expensive. — *N.W.*

Panda Inn 506 Horton Plaza, Downtown, 619-233-7800. Behind all the Panda Express fast-food stops is the smaller, more serious Panda Inn chain which originated many of the now-familiar dishes of semi-Americanized

“Mandarin” cuisine (they claim to have invented orange chicken, and their version is vastly better than those at the 99-cent joints). Tofu with eggplant and “Mongolian Hotpot,” a meatball casserole with Chinese cabbage, are among the more authentic choices. Preparations here are generally clean and greaseless with well-balanced flavors; spicy dishes are moderately hot unless you request otherwise. It’s not the spot for high adventure, but it does offer dishes for all tastes. Moderate-priced banquet menus make this a good choice for family gatherings. Full bar. Validated parking in Horton Plaza garage; heated patio seating in dry weather. Lunch and dinner daily. Lunches inexpensive, dinner moderate. — *N.W.*

The Prado 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, 619-557-9441. In a magical space at the heart of Balboa Park, Prado features cute neo-Nouveau decor and a something-for-everyone menu of American-Mexican-Italian-with-Asian-touches cuisine. The food brings few surprises, but is flavorful and served in huge portions. Top choices include meaty crab cakes and an astonishingly tender, slow-roasted pork loin. A meringue-based banana *tres leches* cake is everyone’s favorite dessert. The bar makes a nice stop during a museum crawl and offers ethereal fried oysters and a range of gussied-up margaritas. Keep an eye out for special prix fixe dinners that include tickets to museum exhibitions. Dinner reservations vital. Vast interior can be noisy, but heated, umbrella-topped terrace tables are quiet and scenic. Moderate to a little expensive, with reasonable wine list. — *N.W.*

Rannoush 3890 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-235-1360. The full menu of Lebanese-Jordanian cuisine runs from *mezze* (tapas) to house-made sausages and kebabs to desserts — and includes fabulous falafel that’s actually good enough to eat (especially the stuffed version). At this petite, pretty place with Scheherazade decor, all the cooking is from scratch — no nasty instant falafel mix or any other shortcuts, and you can really taste the difference. Other great dishes include vegetarian

kebbeh, *soujok* sausages, and shrimp kebabs. Desserts include standard Middle-Eastern items such as *baklava*. Wines and beers include food-friendly imports from Lebanon. Lunch 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., dinner 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. — *N.W.*

Red Sea Restaurant 4717 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-285-9722. You’ll find richly seasoned (and potentially very spicy) Ethiopian cuisine, served communally on a tray lined with a porous pancake, *injera*, which looks like an edible dish towel and serves as both an edible spoon and an edible tablecloth. (Use pieces of it to scoop up morsels in your right hand.) The meat combination platter here isn’t nearly as exciting as several of the specialties. The *kitfo* (spicy beef tartare) is very good, the *gored-gored* (meat cubes in spicy butter) is excellent; both are cooked (or not cooked) to your order and seasoned to your specifications (if you say “hot,” expect fire). Vegetables are fine, too; the yellow split peas, especially, sing with flavor. Restrooms not wheelchair accessible. Vegetarian friendly. Can be noisy on weekend evenings. Open daily. Very inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Saffron Noodles and Sate 3737 India Street, Mission Hills, 619-574-7737. It’s the smell of the spicy chicken grilling that will get you every time. Whatever the recipe is — and Su-Mei Yu, the owner and celebrated cookbook author, says it’s from the Isaan, Thailand’s ethnic Lao Northeast — it catches your nose. We’re talking “boxing-arena grilled chicken,” after the place where she smelled its spicy cooking aromas while growing up in Bangkok. You have a choice of five sauces to go with the chicken, from peanut to sweet pepper. Also try the noodle soups, like Tom Yam with shrimp: sinus-clearing, delicious, and surprisingly filling. The food here is real, fresh, genuine Thai cuisine with Chinese echoes — like Su-Mei Yu herself. Middle-class San Diego seems to have adopted her eatery, despite the fact you’re in a pretty stark gray-and-white room with views of I-5. Open for lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Samba Grill 510 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-236-1000. This huge restaurant serves Brazilian food and Brazilian spirit. The format is a *rodizio* — waiters circulate through the room with tall swords, impaling an ever-changing assortment of grilled meats (highly salted and cooked well done, but zesty nonetheless). On the side is a vast buffet of additional Brazilian entrées, vegetables, and salads. The staff are charmers, but make sure to ask for appetizer and dessert menus and the 100-bottle wine list if the server forgets to offer. Full bar includes authentic, irresistible Brazilian Caipirinha lime cocktails, made by a roving “Caipirinha Girl.” Live band on weekends. Lunch and dinner daily, until 11 p.m. weekends. \$35 buys a more-than-full meal. Half price for kiddies; reduced price for buffet food only; extra cost for a special “gaucho feast” that includes additional meats, plus wild game choices upon request. — *N.W.*

Sammy’s Woodfired Pizza — Mission Valley 1620 Camino de la Reina, Mission Valley, 619-298-8222. It’s not Italian or New York pizza, it’s...San Diego pizza! The crusts are Californian: thick and slightly sweet. The toppings range from ordinary to exotic. The menu includes many salads and a handful of American-Italian entrées. Continuous service, same menu lunch and dinner. Open daily. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Seau’s 1640 Camino del Rio North, Mission Valley, 619-291-7328. Footballer Junior Seau’s extravagant multi-venue sports pub is major-league fun — a real-life reincarnation of some 1960’s McLuhanite media art show, with 70 video screens (ranging from large-normal to giant HDTV) running sportscasts and a professional DJ on high, periodically spinning cool sounds over muted talking heads. The menu offers mainstream “something for everyone” choices, including pizza, hefty but so-so burgers, some elementary sushi, all-American entrées, and Seau’s family recipe of Samoan teriyaki “plate lunch.” Above all, there’s the pub grub. The chicken wings are pretty good, and you can get all three sauces (Buffalo, BBQ, and Asian) on one order. Perfect

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hangout for mismatched couples with one sports fan and one fashionista (the latter can head for Nordstrom and Saks discount outlets nearby). On game days, patrons are allowed just one game in the dining room (\$15 minimum), but you can linger from wake-up to closing on the patio or in the bar. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

Sluggers by the Ball Park 1219 Market Street, Downtown, 619-546-5973. Not your typical hot dog stand. Sluggers café is all glass, steel, cinder block, and new. This eatery catches much of the Padres business, selling Vienna-brand beef hot dogs and Polish sausages. “Served Chicago-style” — meaning, the dog’s topped with tomato wedges, mustard, pickle, relish, onions, and peppers, all, they say, on a steamed poppy-seed bun from Chicago. Other goodies from the Windy City include the Comiskey Park Pole (a charbroiled Polish sausage dog) and the Italian Stallion (charbroiled Italian sausage in bun). Place is still a little cinder blocky but a good rendezvous for a brewski and a dog after work. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Super Cocina 3627 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-584-6244. If you’re looking for authentic, rustic Mexican home cooking, this simple, bright cafeteria is the place. There’s no chef; instead, local Mexican housewives from many regions prepare their specialties for the restaurant. They’re mainly fascinating, complex meat or poultry stews, made without border compromises — if a dish should be spicy, it is spicy. The array of about a dozen entrées changes daily from a rotating repertory of about 100. The counter people will give you tastes of any entrée before you choose the two you want, which come in generous dollops with rice, lively ranchero beans, and tortillas. For breakfast, the *chilaquiles* are renowned. Free parking, family atmosphere, no alcohol, cash

only. Open daily, 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Very inexpensive. — N.W.

Taka 555 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-338-0555. The seafood at this always-packed sushi bar and Japanese appetizer restaurant is top quality. *Ama ebi* (sweet shrimp) from the live tank go down soft and silky smooth, unlike their frozen brethren. And the chefs are highly skilled: the well-seasoned rice is freshly made all evening, and for once the spicy scallop hand roll has scallops, mayo, cuke, and hot pepper running all the way through, not just plopped on top. Savory appetizers supplement the sushi, including miso-baked black cod and mushroom-topped *agedashi* (lightly fried) tofu. The one problem: the later you arrive, the louder it gets. Make reservations, and if you value your ears, go to an early hour. Dinner nightly. Most dishes inexpensive, but many little bites can eat a hole in your wallet. — N.W.

Tamale Cart 1852 National Avenue, Logan Heights, 619-338-9140. If you’ve ever wondered what it would be like to eat as the Aztecs ate, come here and try some of the tamales — classic Aztec food — in all their flavors. Tamales are sort of steamed cornmeal dumplings wrapped in corn husks, served with sauce. The choice of goodies stuffed in the middle can include strips of pork, beef, chicken, or cheese, as well as pineapple, strawberries, or coconut. While you’re at it, try the traditional accompaniment, the *champurrado* drink: milk mixed with *masa* — ground corn meal — chocolate, and cinnamon. In this mainly Spanish-speaking market you can sit, watch, and pick up a few bargains too. Tamales make a great breakfast. Three should do you. These are made by the Restaurant Chiapaneco up at 25th and Market. Open breakfast through late lunch, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Uncle Joe’s Pizzeria 4591 El Cajon Boulevard, SDSU, 619-584-2535. The owner’s a retired Navy medic, one of the first women to serve in the Middle

East combat zone. She’s named sandwiches for career stops, like “The Recruit Training Center, Orlando, Florida” (chicken breast, bacon, avocado, provolone cheese, spinach, tomato, and onion) or “North Island Dental Clinic” (turkey, ham, bacon). But try a main dish like eggplant Parmesan or chicken with sautéed mushrooms. Or a massive chunk of lasagna, plus bread and salad. Coffee? You get a huge French-style press-the-coffee-down affair. Your big decision: eat out on the flower-strewn boulevard patio or inside among black leather easy-chairs and a giant screen? Open for lunch and dinner daily until 10 p.m. (until midnight Friday and Saturday). Inexpensive. — E.B.

Woodstock’s Pizza 6145 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-265-0999. It’s a college pizza joint, but the fare rates well above standard beer ballast. For that matter, the beers — Karl Strauss and Wyder’s Ciders (along with the usual Coors Light and Bud) — aren’t exactly chug-suds. Crusts — white or sweetly robust whole wheat — are pressed, tossed, and then folded over at the edge, producing a spongy, crunch-crustured rim. The mozzarella is rich, gooey whole-milk; the marinara sauce is dark and spicy; and the toppings are fresh, hearty standouts. Watching your weight? Two low-fat combos (half the cheese) are available. Inexpensive. — A.M.

Zocalo Grill 2444 San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 619-298-9840. This casual, festive spin-off of the Brigantine chain features “Pacific coastal cuisine,” an eclectic international hodgepodge with a faint Mexican accent and “something for everyone.” And some of those somethings are delicious — a stacked salad of shrimp and avocados, or coconut-shrimp kebabs emerging from a pineapple, or a huge, beautifully grilled lobster with avocado salsa. Appetizers are discounted at happy hour, and you

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NORTH INLAND

94th Aero Squadron 8885 Balboa Avenue, Kearny Mesa, 858-560-6771. One of San Diego’s hidden jewels: there’s classic American fare (stuffed pork tenderloin, farmhouse chicken) in the “Officers mess.” Happy hour is weekdays from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Fridays, the outside “Runway” grill features chicken kebabs. The biggest attraction is the place itself. Built to mimic a WWI French farmhouse taken over by a bunch of Yankee flying aces, it has a garden full of antique planes and live ducks — and right outside, the real Montgomery airfield. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Abbey’s Real Texas BBQ — Mira Mesa 6904 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa, 858-566-5235. Texas barbecue consists of meat, chicken, turkey, and links that are repeatedly mopped with a marinade and cooked in a big cast-iron smoker (rather than grilled over a fire). Here they use mesquite to barbecue the poultry quickly and the brisket ve-r-r-y slowly. In addition to the usual BBQ sides (potato salad, coleslaw, beans, etc.), they offer a Caesar salad. At the Miramar branch the room is large and unadorned but very clean. Wheelchair accessible. Same menu lunch and dinner. Open daily; continuous service for lunch and early dinner weekdays; normal dinner hours weekends. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

Bamboo Hut 9172 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-348-0414. You’ll find a taste of Hawaii in a strip mall in a neighborhood that’s all-mall. The bright little “hut” has bamboo chairs, a bamboo ceiling, bare floors, and unclothed tables, with a sushi counter next to a tiny kitchen with a roaring gas grill. A large lattice awning offers outdoor seating a few steps from the door. The quality of the food is all over the map, though — this is not the place to try your first Spam sushi. The seafood sushi is good, though, including a fine Rainbow Roll with really sweet crab; the more creative rolls run to cream cheese and hot sauce. “Local food” choices include a tasty ahi poké and excellent chicken *katsu*; the *kalbi* short ribs are tough, though. Plate lunches include one to three entrees (priced accordingly) with steamed or mildly garlic-flavored rice, macaroni salad, and green salad with bright orange dressing à la Kraft French. Be sure they deliver what you ordered; there may be slipups. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Very inexpensive. — N.W.

Bistro 221 221 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-737-7398. This genteel bistro — with comfortable chairs and linen-covered tables inside and a shaded patio on the sidewalk — is especially tasty at lunch, with its sophisticated quesadillas and a classic burger and fries cooked your way. At dinner simple starters shine, including a Florida version of gumbo and Maryland crab cakes with minimal filler. The dinner entrées are also the best. — N.W.

Dumpling Inn 4619 Convoy Street #F, Kearny Mesa, 858-268-9638. Hole-in-the-wall? Yes. But what a hole-in-the-wall. For those who love the Far East and its food, finding the Dumpling Inn is a little revelation. It’s located in the busy Jasmine/Korean Market Center among Oriental herbalists, man-size-vase shops, even feng shui experts. The Inn itself is tiny but charming. Long hanging lanterns, decorative strings of scarlet and gold firecrackers, Chinese flutes, and even the odd conical straw hat. The food is serious but not expensive. Dishes like ten fish and green chive dumplings, spicy stir-fried three-ingredient lo mein (thick noodles, jumbo shrimp, calamari, and chicken plus hot red peppers) are challenging and exciting, as is the Dumpling Dinner (including hot-and-sour soup, cold cuts, shredded pork

bun, pot-stickers, shrimp and pork dumplings). Don’t miss their divine jellyfish salad — crunchy-tender, bright and spicy (but not too) — you’d be hard-pressed to find its like outside of Hong Kong. Open 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

El Biscocho 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-675-8500. The deluxe restaurant in this rural golf-and-tennis hideaway features upscale, creative French-California cuisine, incorporating old-is-new techniques and imaginative combinations of seasonal ingredients. The weighty wine tome starts out expensive and goes up from there, with relative bargains at the high end and some half-bottles; by-the-glass choices are just adequate. To find it: Take Bernardo Oaks Drive (a long block west of Pomerado) north to the end of the road to the RBI parking lot (with validated parking for restaurantgoers). If disabled, specify when you reserve, and they’ll set up your table in an accessible area. Otherwise there’s a maze of short staircases to negotiate en route to the restaurant. Tie-and-jacket requirement now relaxed, but still very dressy. Great service, luxury resort ambiance. Dinner nightly, Sunday brunch. Very expensive. — N.W.

El Galeón 503 West Mission, Escondido, 760-746-5951. Mexican seafood, along with the usual dishes, is featured in a bright coffee-shop atmosphere with comfortable booths, big windows, a lunch counter, and a salad bar. Shrimp and langostino (“squat lobster,” in fishermen’s terms) are the house specialties and are well treated. Also consider an intense little marlin taco (squeeze some lime onto this rich, strong fish), or the savory *albondigas* soup (lime it up, too). Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive (standard dishes) to moderate (seafood). — N.W.

Fish House Vera Cruz 360 Via Vera Cruz, San Marcos, 760-744-7346. Additional locations in Carlsbad and Temecula. This affordable seafood eatery packs in diners like sardines. Fresh fish and lots of it is the happenin’ thing. On a recent day, 23 different fresh fish selections were available as daily specials, on top of the regular menu of crab, lobster, oysters, shrimp, catfish, etc. All fish are grilled plain, with nothing added but a dab of tartar sauce. The seafood is so fresh you don’t

really mind. Each entree includes a choice of side dishes, two for lunch and three for dinner. The Manhattan chowder is especially tasty, as is their “krab” salad. This is an ideal place for families, but don’t even think of it for a romantic meal out. Dinner daily, lunch daily except Sunday (dinner all day Sunday). Moderate. — S.M.

Hill Street Coffee House 524 South Coast Highway 101, Oceanside, 760-966-0985. Organic in Oceanside? Really! Look for the sign: “Organic Restaurant and Espresso Bar” in front of a restored yellow-and-white Victorian house from O’side’s past. Most of their meats, poultry, fish, and veggies are organic, and the menu is full of healthy dishes: tofu/spinach breakfast scramble, frittata *espinaca* (“Greek eggs”), and *pain perdu* (for us peasants that’s French toast) with fresh fruit and syrups. Some vegan items. After 11 a.m., try their Cajun chicken. Open daily, breakfast to dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

The Philadelphia Sandwich 3904 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-571-0888. This classic luncheonette is a monument to Philly culture, including sports pennants, historic photos, and colorful mummies’ costumes. The menu is equally devoted to the city’s cuisine, especially its two great cult sandwiches: the hoagie and the cheese steak. The mixed-meat hoagie is way more than a hero — its flavor array is similar to (and just as intense as) a New Orleans muffuletta. As for the cheese steak, it starts with steak strips, onions, and your choice of cheese, and expands from there. Philly natives may like the simple version with Cheez Whiz, but the luscious “Everything” with provolone is more likely to seduce the innocent. “Philly fries” (with garlic) are the right go-with. The menu also offers Pennsylvania-packaged foods (“Philadelphia Scrapper”) to go, Tastykakes, Wise potato chips) to nostalgic émigrés. Lunch to early dinner nightly. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Phuong Trang Vietnamese Seafood Restaurant 4170 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-6750. Tired of putting up with the crowds at the popular Convoy Street restaurant? Go east, where you’ll find the same menu without the hassles. The fare centers on Vietnamese “people’s food” emphasizing numerous genres of noodle soups, but there are a handful of

more elegant house specialties — including the extraordinary “Special Sauce” Dungeness crab from the live tank. (The sauce is tangy tamarind.) Call ahead to order steamed or grilled live-tank catfish. Reservations and credit cards accepted, both branches. Vietnamese beers including “33”; just two generic wines. Also bring a pad and write down the numbers of your orders to give the waiter, as staffers speak little English. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate (higher for live-tank seafood). — N.W.

The Place: El Parque 2659 Reche Road, Fallbrook, 760-731-2775. Just think Little Red Riding Hood — this is Grandma’s place. Okay, it’s not a little old, thatched cottage — it’s a cream-painted metal shed with a gazebo in front. But it is in the Live Oak woods, and you can sink your teeth into some pretty fair Mexican food here, sitting alongside an interesting bunch of agricultural workers and maybe some ruby miners. Good combination plates include the tostada and beef taco, and burrito and enchilada. The time to be here is Sunday morning, when those aggies pour in here for the *menudo*, cooked in a three-foot-high pot. Open daily, breakfast through early dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

San Tong Palace 4690 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-571-6837. This unassuming strip-mall restaurant is easy to overlook, but once found, impossible to resist. San Tong’s hybrid Korean-Chinese menu draws from these regions’ tastiest styles. The Rainbow Salad demonstrates this combination deliciously, and San Tong’s dumplings are outstanding. The seafood dumplings are especially remarkable. For the adventurous, I recommend the jellyfish salad, a novel treat for westerners. At San Tong Palace, curious appetites are rewarded well. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — M.N.

La Tapatia 340 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-747-8282. Take a walk on the mild side at this family-owned favorite, in business since the 1930s. You’ll find standard Mexican fare in a comfortable dining room or, in good weather, a lovely, arbor-like stonewalled patio. The most celebrated dish is the “cheese crisp,” a large tostada covered one-third in ground beef, one-third in beef chunks, and one-third in beans, with cheese, avocado puree, and

sour cream over all. Many preparations (grilled seafoods, etc.) are healthy, and veggies taste fresh. Seasonings are rather de-tuned, but there’s a saltshaker and a lively salsa on the table. Open daily, three meals. Moderate. — N.W.

Wayside Café 507 South Main Avenue, Fallbrook, 760-723-9633. Locals love meeting and eating in this long low-porched building — partly because it all just feels small-town America. The place used to be Mahrs’ Service Station. You can even sit in the old lube bay to eat. Count on generous servings, especially the mountain piles of red-skinned homefries as a side at breakfast. Open for breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

NORTH COASTAL

Beach Grass Café 159 South Coast Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-509-0632. Formerly a branch of Parkhouse Eatery, Beach Grass has been bought by a mini-chain (with Swami’s Cafe and Honey’s), but still serves the original recipes. You could eat breakfast here daily and never get bored with the creative morning menu, which includes foamy, fresh orange juice and “Beach Benedict” with eggs and house-made hollandaise on a soft, lush crab cake. Oddly, though, the “maple” syrup and “butter” spread are both mass-market blends. Lunches and dinners feature multi-ethnic “coastal cuisine,” with the best results in seafood dishes like “Morocean crabcakes” and the fish-n-yam chips (with fine house-made tartar sauce). Vegetable accompaniments are tasty and creative. Reservations essential for weekend breakfasts. Free parking in back via driveway to right of restaurant. Breakfast through dinner daily. Moderate to slightly expensive. — N.W.

Besta Wan Pizza House 148 Aberdean Drive, Cardiff, 760-753-6707. This ever-popular North County restaurant which opened back in 1965 is a family operation all the way. Their thin-crust East Coast-style pizzas are famous locally. Also check for the big-pile spaghetti or lasagna specials if you just want to fill up. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

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This tiny storefront does only a few things (sandwiches, gelati, and sorbet) but does them exceedingly well. The "gourmet sandwiches" really do live up to their designation, with intriguing Mediterranean combinations (artichoke hearts, black olives, grilled eggplant, Gorgonzola) are among the choice of ingredients) on soft, round Italian bread. (Or you can just get a tuna melt if that's your flavor.) Gelati are about twice as rich as Häagen-Dazs, and feature an ever-changing array of bold flavors, e.g., vanilla rosewater and chocolate cinnamon. Open daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., closes later on Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Café Zinc 132 South Cedros, Solana Beach, 858-793-5436. The Rancho Santa Fe set like to hang out here in the garden patio with their Porsches at the curb and their shih tzus under the table (dogs are welcome). Even for non-doggie people, the California pepper trees and garden sculpture make this indoor-outdoor eatery a really pleasant kick-back place (which gets its name from the zinc-top bar inside). The menu, a mixture of Italian and vegetarian, offers dishes like frittata with cucumber salsa, and baked eggplant "pizzette" (personal-size pizza) with marinara, mozzarella, and Parmesan cheese. The vegetarian chili and the Zinc veggie burger (served on a La Brea bun) are tasty too. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Fidel's Carlsbad 3003 Carlsbad Boulevard, Carlsbad, 760-729-0903. It's not upscale modern Mex — no cumin-infused, mango-corn salsa on Fidel's menu — but who gives a flyin' fajita when you can order just about any traditional SoCal-Mexican dish and know it's gonna be good? Whether you try the chicken-and-rice soup with fresh cilantro and avocado chunks, fluffy *chile rellenos*, a crab enchilada, *carne asada* with all the trimmings, or a lonely à la carte chicken burrito, you're going to be a happy camper. Add a reliable margarita or a beer and you're set at this popular North County mainstay. Open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — S.M.

Joe's Crab Shack — Oceanside 314 Harbor Drive, Oceanside, 760-722-1345. Joe's is silly with crab-shack ambience (campy nautical paraphernalia on down to souvenir gimme caps), but the food's not bad. You can choose buckets of steamed, barbecued, or garlic crab (of various subspecies), or go for fried or grilled seafood or steaks, or salads. Grown-ups may prefer the patio to the rockin', raucous interior. Full bar, not much wine. Inexpensive to low moderate. Also in Pacific Beach, Mission Valley, and downtown. — N.W.

Joey's Smokin' B-B-Q — Carlsbad 6955 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, 760-929-1396. Joey Maggioro doesn't produce Southern "Q" so much as SoCal "Q" — more an homage to Memphis than anything you'd find in Memphis itself — but the tables include paper towel dispensers instead of napkins, a clear signal to go ahead and get messy. All the meats are smoked, not grilled, in true "Q" fashion. Pulled pork offers reasonably credible Memphis-style flavor and tender-chewy texture. Baby back ribs come in three versions: sweet ribs glazed with the "suh-weet" sauce, wet ribs glazed with the mild-spicy sauce, and dry-rubbed ribs sprinkled with spice rub. Sweet or wet are the best. Chicken plates come in a variety of sizes and parts. House-made hot links are well seasoned in the Louisiana manner but extremely salty. The list of sides is long and varied. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

Johnny Mananas 308 Mission Avenue, Oceanside, 760-721-9999. Local teachers hang out at this green-white-and-red-tiled place because it's such good value. Most dishes are Mexican. There's a Caribbean chocolate, black bean, paprika, curry-in-the-rice thing going on. Pescado Veracruz (fish marinated in lime juice and garlic with rice, beans, and green salad) is good. The roasted chicken is delicious. The Big Breakfast Burrito Special (eggs, onions, beans, cheese, and rice, wrapped in a large flour tortilla) is *my popular*, but then so is J.M.'s Great All-American Cheeseburger. Open daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Osteria del Pescatore 1201 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, 858-509-9293. The restaurant's name means

50% off Chula Vista's favorite Italian cuisine

Buy one entrée, get second of equal or lesser value 50% off. With coupon. Expires 2/7/08.



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Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup

\$1 Off Spring Rolls or Egg Rolls*

Cannot be used with 10% off entire check offer.

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in the North County
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Breakfast Special \$3.95 with purchase.
9-11 am Saturday and Sunday

*Purchase required. Specials start at 5 pm.

SANDIEGOREADER.COM

Calendar

RESTAURANTS

"Fisherman's Hostelery," and you'll find expert, courteous service and well-crafted seasonal Italian fare here with a strong emphasis on zesty fresh seafood. Go straight to the single-spaced page-long list of daily specials for the most exciting dishes, including spaghetti *a cartoccio* (baked in parchment paper) and lobster risotto. But save room for dessert, especially if the day's offerings include *torta alla nanna*, a rose-scented nut confection. Parking behind restaurant (turn east on 12th Street); heated dining patio available. Interesting international wine list. Reservations advised. Lunch Tuesday through Saturday; dinner nightly. High moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Pacific Coast Grill 437 South Coast Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-794-4632. The grill features a free-form menu of Pacific Rim cuisine featuring fine ingredients and integrating Mexican, Hawaiian, and Asian flavors into So-Cal comfort cooking. Try the green salad with vibrant cranberry vinaigrette, the "Bag of Bones" (house-smoked pork ribs), and whatever fruit creation is on the dessert menu. Busy and noisy; reservations urged for weekend dinners and all summer. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Full bar. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Red Tracton's 550 Via de la Valle, Del Mar, 858-755-6600. Even though you know you're a half mile from the

Pacific Ocean and across the street from the Del Mar Racetrack, one step inside Red Tracton's dining room sends you reeling back in time to an upscale, dimly lit, maroon-and-gilt restaurant of 1960's Chicago. The only thing missing is the scent of cigars. Food portions are enormous: The lobster sandwich (a touch heavy on the mayo) easily packs a half pound of lobster (available at lunch on Fridays). The selection is generous: steaks, prime rib, seafood, chicken, and pork — all expertly prepared and served in record time. On days when you don't give a rip about the Surgeon General's latest warnings, run to Red Tracton's and indulge your All-American appetite. Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner nightly. Expensive. — S.M.

Tomiko 87 Encinitas Boulevard, Encinitas, 760-633-3587. In a lovely setting overlooking Moonlight Bay you can enjoy Japanese and Pacific Rim fusion cooking and sushi in a serene but lively dining room. When the sushi bar is free from the weekend rush, the quality can be amazing: stunningly fresh *uni*, world-beating silky *toro*. The sushi-master also keeps an eye on the restaurant's seafood purchases, so they meet exacting standards. Appetizers such as "salmon tower tartare" and "drunken black cod" are rewarding, as are the simple, excellent fusion-tinged seafood entrees. Reserve for weekends, especially for sushi bar. Dinner nightly. Moderate. — N.W.

I Trulli Trattoria 830 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-943-6800. An enduring hit in Encinitas (where there's no shortage of Italian restaurants), I Trulli serves modern Italian

food with fashionable new ingredients. The menu, subtitled "Nouvelle Italian Cuisine," resembles the somewhat ambitious, generically "northern Italian" bills of fare that you encounter all over Hillcrest and the Gaslamp. (It is, in fact, a partner restaurant to Hillcrest's Ar-rivederci.) The signifiers of seriousness are the pink peppercorns, goat cheese, sun-dried tomatoes, and light cream sauces that coexist with the more traditional mozzarella-tomato sauce arrays. Best bets are the daily specials, which offer the greatest chance for fresh ingredients and creativity. Busy, cramped, painfully loud inside. Street patio next to highway is also noisy. Reserve for dinner on weekends or expect an hour's wait. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — N.W.

Tuscan Sun Italian Deli 1070 North El Camino Real, Encinitas, 760-633-4546. A town abounding in Italian restaurants ought to have a great Italian deli, and it does. You'll find domestic and imported deli meats and cheeses, fresh-baked breads and focaccia, marinated veggies, and a wealth of gourmet products from Italy. The specialty is the "Caprese" (tomato-plus) sandwich on focaccia bread with a variety of fillings, best served grilled and dressed with pesto. The eat-in/take-out menu includes pizza, pasta, salads, and a host of sandwiches. Open daily. — N.W.

and Chula Vista's growing Peruvian community expects authenticity. El Dorado is there for them. The *papa relleno* is pure bliss — a little football of creamy mashed potatoes, lightly fried around a filling of ground beef, olives, and raisins. *Seco de cabrito* features young goat in a complex, herbed stew exploding with cilantro. Peruvian ceviche is lively and garnished with *cancha*, smoked hominy-corn kernels. Alas, here in the far north, the cuisine's fire is tuned way down for the kiddies — but there's always hot sauce. Reflecting the local population, half the menu here is Mexican — not tacos but more serious dinner dishes, especially seafood, carried out with above-average flair. Breakfast and dinner daily, lunch weekdays. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

Island Wok 922 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-6835. This tiny indoor-outdoor-takeaway cafe is a standby with locals, especially the high school crowd. It serves good Vietnamese-Chinese food, and plenty of it. The owner, Xuan, makes scrumptious fresh (not fried) Vietnamese spring rolls wrapped in rice paper with shrimp, pork, or chicken and vegetables in the middle. But most customers go for the steam-table combination plates. You always get chow mein, fried or steamed rice, and a fried spring roll to start off, and then you can add entrées like orange chicken, *kung pao* chicken, or sweet-and-sour pork. Closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Jimmy's — Chula Vista 1198 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, 619-427-7161. Thank goodness for this family-friendly restaurant with good, old-fashioned American food. Their six-page plastic menu tells all — forget your diet and dig into the breakfast "Eggs and Cakes" (two eggs, three pancakes), the "Touch-down" (two eggs, two hotcakes, four strips of bacon or three link sausages), or the "Monte Cristo" hot sandwich (ham and turkey grilled on battered Texas toast with Swiss cheese, hot syrup, and French fries). Later in the day, the New York strip or sirloin steak with all the trimmings, and desserts like homemade cinnamon bread pudding with raisins and whipped cream. Open three meals, seven days. Inexpensive.

Mary J's Cafe 1930 Cleveland Avenue, National City, 619-477-6645. Mary J and her cafe have been around for 40 years, and about the only thing to change is the prices. This is the real National City. The regulars start piling in at 5 a.m. Mary always has specials going, but check the big-board menu above the stove too. One of their most

popular items is the Trucker's Breakfast (three eggs, ham, bacon or sausage, home fries, and toast), or steak and eggs with hash browns and toast. Mary's son Vic, the morning cook, always gives you more than enough. For lunch or early dinner, try the meat loaf with mixed veggies, boiled potatoes covered with gravy, toast, and soup or salad. Or chicken-fried steak with all the fixings. Also hefty: cheeseburgers or tuna melts (with fries plus soda included in the price) and that old American favorite, a fried egg sandwich with chips. Open 4:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Inexpensive. — E.B.

The Tin Fish 910 Seacoast Drive, Imperial Beach, 619-628-8414. At a table by this fish shack at the far end of the pier, you can watch people and pigeons (and people feeding pigeons) as you dig into huge portions of simple seafood, appetized by the sea air. The bill of fare features fish — fried, grilled, chowdered, or wrapped into burritos, tacos, or sandwiches. The big fried combos are about what you'd expect, but more piquant pleasures come in smaller packages. (Portions are generous, whatever you order.) The spicy fish tacos are really spicy, while the fried onion rings are of surpassing delicacy. Best of all, the crab cakes are huge and seriously crabby, with plenty of meat and very little filler. With a call, they'll give you a lift from the parking lot to their restaurant. A second branch at 170 Sixth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-238-8100, offers patio dining across from the Convention Center, with live music during summer. Both locations open daily for lunch and early dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

Greek Town Buffet 345 West Main Street, El Cajon, 619-441-9708. Just another Greek buffet? Well, yes. Your choices are standard: gyros meat, *spanakopita*, moussaka, *dolmades*. And the decor is the usual blue and white with Greek island posters. But it's the customers who give it an exotic feel, speaking languages from Russian to Greek to Somali. And if you're hungry, this all-you-can-eat deal is great. Have gyros meat, but also try the chicken souvlaki (grilled lemon chicken), or start with the excellent *dolmades* (grape leaves wrapped around beef and rice). The leaves' tangy taste and the lemony sauce inside get your juices running. Don't forget salad...or the dessert table (how could you leave without baklava?). Open for lunch and dinner, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Grossmont Student Center Cafeteria 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon, 619-644-7000. This is no UCSD, with its dozen food franchises and Persian and Somali food tents on campus. Grossmont's single cafeteria (open to the public) is big, ehoye, and sticks to standard-issue food like crumb-coated chicken katsu, cheeseburgers, burritos, and really, really cheap pizzas. Breakfast? How about a sausage and tater tot burrito? Health fans do have a plentiful salad bar. It's quite an experience, sharing lunch with local and foreign students, looking over the rolling hills to El Cajon — like being at an international finishing school in, well, Switzerland. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Mario's de la Mesa 8425 La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-461-9390. The man on the *burro* (seen on the restaurant's sign and menu) holds two flags, those of Mexico and the U.S.A. — very appropriate. Few dishes (except maybe the *menudo*) will push the paler palate too far in any direction, but gosh-allo, everything is so darn tasty. Tamales are a house special: rich, pillowy clouds of cornmeal surrounding richer shredded pork scattered with raisins for a smidgeon of sweetness. Pork also gets loving treatment in the *carnitas rojas*, big chunks browned to the barest crisp, which falls away to melting tenderness. Great marinade (cumin?) on the *carne asada*; intense flavor and buttery richness on the "machaca sonora style" (dry-roasted shredded beef). Beans are so light as to seem whipped; rice is studded with peas and spicy carrots. Service is fast and friendly. Breakfast and lunch Sunday and Monday; three meals Tuesday through Saturday. Inexpensive. — A.M.

SOUTH BAY

Coronado Boathouse 1887 1701 Strand Way, Coronado, 619-435-0155. For a relaxing good time with lovely views and tasty food to match, put on your aloha shirt and head over the bridge. The old Coronado Boathouse boasts a handsome, historic structure with architecture mirroring the nearby Hotel Del, plus enthusiastic servers, terrific water views, and satisfying mainstream American cooking. The herbed artichoke appetizer and fresh macadamia-crust halibut sauced with coconut milk are wonderful. The juicy roast beef here is USDA Prime (translates to melt in your mouth") and even the desserts offer some old favorites cooked with classy ingredients and imaginative twists. A perfect place to entertain your in-laws or hold your birthday dinner. Full bar. Dinner seven days. — N.W.

El Dorado 311 Palomar, Chula Vista, 619-426-4545. The food of Peru is arguably the zestiest in South America,

EAST COUNTY

Anthony's Fish Grotto — La Mesa 9530 Murray Drive, La Mesa, 619-463-0368. If you don't want over-complicated food, Anthony's obliges. Fish and chips is still the simplest and the best. Or Mama's Platter, cod combined with batter-fried calamari, shrimp, oysters, scallops, and clam strips. Anthony's has been up and running for six decades now, with the buying power to get the pick of the catch. The menu offers 18 different seasonal fish to choose from, plus — if you've got the bread — delicious lobster dishes (in season) like lobster thermidor with a creamy, winey sauce. No reservations. Open daily, lunch through dinner. Moderate. — E.B.

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10% off*

20+ items • Salad bar
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Philly cheese steak

\$5.49 New customers only. One per person. Delivery available.

So authentic that we've trucked in our meat from South Philly since 1984!

Alex's Brown Bag
San Diego's King of the Philly Cheese Steak

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One sushi roll, small sake and small Japanese beer. Some restrictions apply. Sun.-Thurs. One per customer. Must present coupon.

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www.greekvillagetaverna.com

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Philly cheese steak \$5.49



New customers only. One per person. Delivery available. Offer expires January 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month. Coupon not valid on holidays.

Alex's Brown Bag

San Diego's King of the Philly Cheese Steak. So authentic that we've trucked in our meat from South Philly since 1984!

2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 171 (between 4th & 5th on Maple), 619-231-2912
www.alexsbrownbag.com

Reader Coupons
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2-for-1 entrée

Buy 1 full-price entrée, receive 2nd of equal or lesser value free. \$20 minimum discount. 17% gratuity will be added to original amount. 3 coupons per table maximum. No separate checks. Offer expires January 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month. Coupon not valid on holidays.

The Boathouse

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2040 Harbor Island Drive, 619-291-8011

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The Blue Parrot Bar & Grill **50% off entrée**
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Pacific Beach Bar & Grill **2 for 1 entrée**
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Saska's **\$12 off second entrée**

La Jolla

Cafe Milano **Free Comedy Store tickets**
Clay's La Jolla
Extreme Pizza **Free medium pizza**
Jack's La Jolla **Free dessert**
La Jolla Brew House **Free lunch or dinner entrée**
The Shack Bar & Grill **Burger, fries & beer \$6.95**
Su Casa **20% off entire check***

North County

Calypso **Free appetizer**
A Delight of France **Free appetizer or dessert**
Greek Village **Free saganaki**
Inta Juice **Free smoothie**
Mikko Japanese **50% off sushi**
Pho Lucky **10% off entire check**
Rossi's Pizza **Free mini pizza**
Santa Fe Cafe **50% off 2nd entrée**
Sipz **Free vegetarian appetizer**
Wild Note Cafe

East County & State College

Anna's The Family Restaurant **50% off second entrée**
Centifonti's Restaurant **50% off entrée**
Fix Me A Plate Cafe **15% off any entrée**
Golden Wok **10% off buffet**
Greek Town Buffet **50% off 2nd dinner buffet**
Habana **Free appetizer**
La Fogata **50% off entrée**
Shakey's **Lunch buffet \$5.49**
Stockdale's **50% off Southern Alabama cuisine**
Thai Dragon House **Free Thai entrée**
Thai Taste **50% off 2nd entrée**
Trevi Ristorante **50% off entrée**
Windy City Beef **1/2 off menu item**

Uptown & North Park

Café Bleu **Complimentary starter**
Cay Nhan **\$4.95 Vietnamese dishes**
Coffee House on Broadway **Free Mocha Jackson**
Harar Ethiopian Restaurant **Free sambussa appetizer**
Hob Nob Hill **\$2 off entrée**
India Princess **Free dinner***
Lips **50% off dinner**
Old World Deli & Café **\$2 off breakfast or lunch**
Rudford's **\$2 off any menu entrée**
San Filippo's **Saturday pizza special**
Seasons 142 **1/2 off tapas**
The Wine Encounter **Free wine tasting**

Midway, Old Town & Mission Valley

Bali Thai **Second entrée free**
Pizza Bella **\$1 wine carafe**
Rockin' Baja **Baja Bucket for two \$29.95**
Royal Spices Thai Cuisine **20% off receipt**
Tio Leo's **Dinner combos \$9.49 each***
Todai **10% off lunch or dinner**

Downtown & Point Loma

Alex's Brown Bag **Philly cheese steak \$5.49**
The Boathouse **2-for-1 entrée**
Dublin Square **2 for 1 breakfast**
Hard Rock Café *
Hornblower Cruises
House of Blues **20% off restaurant receipt**
Humphrey's
Jewel Box **2 for 1 entrée**
The Local **\$3 Thursdays**
McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant
Olé Madrid **2 for 1 lunch or brunch entrée**
Petrini's **Free entrée**
Puerto La Boca **Free Argentinian dessert**
RA Sushi
Richard Walker's Pancake House **\$1 off entrée**
Rock Bottom
Sevilla **\$10 off Spanish cuisine**
The Shout House
Sierra Pacific **3-course gourmet dinner \$34.95**
Visions **25% off sushi**
Xavier's **Free appetizer**

Clairemont, University City, Miramar Rd., Poway, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch & Kearny Mesa

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Pampas **Free empanada**
RB Sushi **50% off sushi and rolls only**
Sky Box Sports Grill **Burger special \$7.99**
Studio Diner **Free appetizer**
Thai Cafe **\$1 off buffet**

South Bay & Coronado

Lai Thai **50% off entrée**

Restaurants listed without coupon offers have only menus online. Restaurants with * have multiple locations. See online menu or coupon for all locations.

Party's Over

It speaks disarmingly of human inadequacy in the face of the unthinkable.

No matter how generally annoying a technical innovation or stylistic vogue might be (the telephoto lens, the zoom shot, rack focus, etc.), there will always come along a movie to show how it can be used to advantage. Or at least how it can be used to minimize the annoyance. *Cloverfield* performs this service

REVIEW

DUNCAN SHEPHERD

for the grainy, jiggly image of the handheld camcorder, the mockumentarist's best friend and a corner-cutting, cost-cutting device for any purpose. The premise — the excuse — is the making of a video souvenir at the going-away party for a Manhattan yuppie, the night before his departure to a plum job in Japan; and the product, by its very nature, is an exercise in subjective camerawork as extreme as, though not as strained as, Robert Montgomery's anomalous *Lady in the Lake*, 1946. Amateurish by design, with the camera in the hands of a conscripted novice, the evolving souvenir is all we get for the first twenty minutes of the movie, a chance for young people (boasting an abnormally high babe quotient) to be young — which is to say, fun-seeking, self-involved, insouciant, fatuous, and all that —

and a chance, too, to secure a vicarious connection from the young people in the movie audience. (A cast of unknowns, Lizzy Caplan, Jessica Lucas, T.J. Miller, Michael Stahl-David, Mike Vogel, and Odette Yustman in alphabetical order, will help to narrow the separation between the young people on screen and those in the audience.)

The party part goes on a bit longer than necessary, leading to suspicions of padding in what turns out to be barely an hour-and-a-quarter movie. It might have led also to squirms of impatience if the document had not been labelled at the top as the property of the Department of Defense, retrieved from the "area formerly known as Central Park." You know something's coming.

What finally comes at the twenty-minute mark is a Big Bang and a momentary power outage, signalling an attack whose initial indications insistently call to mind 9/11: the upper-floor fireball, the pancaking skyscraper, the advancing cloud of ash and dust, the lingering flutter of paper. You could call this unimaginative, literal-minded, even tasteless, but the truth of the matter is that 9/11 taught



Cloverfield

us more about toppled buildings than did all the Godzilla movies put together, and you would have to admit that the makers of *Cloverfield*, producer J.J. Abrams and director Matt Reeves, paid close attention to the visual data and came close to re-creation. (The bronze head of Lady Liberty in the middle of the street, swatted off her body like a T-ball, is more strictly

symbolic, and is potent as such. And near the end, the limply leaning building, propped up like a drunkard against an adjacent building, shows plenty of imagination.) Later indications will reveal, bit by bit, fleeting glimpse by sidelong glance, that what's behind the attack is in fact a distant relative of Godzilla — the yuppie didn't have to go to Japan; Japan came to the

yuppie — a composite creature combining on a gargantuan scale the slimy squid, the plucked chicken, and the skinned calf, shedding like fleas some spidery creatures of more human dimension. (Additional aerial footage from a cable news network lends some helpful perspective.) It is quite understandable and quite realistic, in the post-Rodney King era, that the party



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videographer would choose to keep the tape rolling as his small circle of friends fights to survive the night ("People are gonna wanna know how it all went down"), and the shaky, sketchy coverage of the events only enhances their immediacy and intensity. If the dialogue, with modern-day freedoms, duplicates the banality that Susan Sontag affectionately noted in the grade-Z creature features of the Fifties — "There's some serious shit going on" and "What's up with that?" and "This is like a nightmare" and so on — it speaks disarmingly, now as then, of human inadequacy in the face of the unthinkable and the unbearable. (The truism that Godzilla and his compatriots were metaphors for the Bomb makes it an easy stretch to tab the new invaders as all-inclusive Terrorists.) And the monsters themselves, even allowing for their extended tendency to play peek-a-boo, are expertly realized. This is *Blair Witch* on a looser budget.

Nits can nonetheless be picked. You would think that at moments of peak intensity — as, for example, when besieged by creepy-crawlies in an unlit subway tunnel — the videographer would put down his camera to defend himself and his friends, and would settle for shooting the aftermath. (You would think, at the same time, that such interruptions could have been dramatically effective: just an audio record of the skirmish, let's say, while the camera eye stares at nothing, followed up by a post-battle survey of the carnage.) Then, too, when you remind yourself that you are ostensibly viewing a found video and are not actually present as it is being shot, the theater-rattling sound effects are ludicrous. Maybe this falls under poetic license, but somehow it feels bluntly prosaic.

With *Cassandra's Dream*, Woody Allen looks like he has overextended his stay in England. The refreshment is gone. Less engrossing than *Match Point*, less engaging than *Scoop*, it spins a yarn of working-class brothers (Ewan McGregor, Colin Farrell, working their thespian tails off) who, in exchange for financial favors from a rich uncle, become literal brothers in crime, new to the game and unfit for it. Allen, writer and director, and absentee on screen, slides the chess pieces around on their felt bottoms, no friction, no deception, no hesitation, carrying out a telegraphed plan of attack. An air of detachment is the closest he comes to humor; a Dreiser-esque moralism spreads a wet blanket. One listens for his voice through the thick British accents, and one hears a frequent tone of whining and pleading, and just a snatch of highbrow chat about Greek tragedy. One looks for his fingerprints, and one sees a sedentary camera and a burnished surface. The spectator's search for the familiar filmmaker generates most of the sparse suspense.

27 Dresses is a girly fairy tale to do with the proverbial always-a-bridesmaid, twenty-seven times by actual count, with a closetful of once-worn gowns to prove it, who stands mutely by as her slutty younger sister returns home and steals her dreamy boss right out from under her nose. Screenwriter Aline Brosh McKenna and director Anne Fletcher unprotestingly accept all the romantic-comic conventions, the contrivances, the clichés, and tidy them into shape as if with a nail file and vial of varnish. (New cliché? The film shares with *P.S. I Love You* a scene in which the heroine and a romantic prospect experiment with a kiss and

instantaneously agree there's no spark, and no hard feelings.) Katherine Heigl, blandly beautiful whenever her face-crumpling fierceness isn't spoiling the effect, gets an opportunity to play a more coherent character than in *Knocked Up*, and demonstrates a fine control of the light and shade of legible emotion. She keeps the blahs at bay.

* * *

The festival year begins, as ever, with the San Diego Jewish Film Festival, the 18th Annual edition (coinciding, the printed program prompts us, with the 60th Anniversary of Israel), February 7 through 17, mostly at the AMC La Jolla, with annexes at the UltraStar Mission Valley, the UltraStar Poway, and the David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre in the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center. It comprises a couple of dozen features, pretty evenly split between documentary and fiction, most notably Israel's nominee for the foreign-film Oscar, *Beaufort*. Full schedule and ticket information can be found online at www.lfjcc.org/sdjff, or, if you are cyberspatially challenged, at 858-362-1348.

* * *

It's a story that has been written

and re-written for some while now. A belt-tightening newspaper, usually a smaller-town newspaper, opts to pare away its film critic, with his eye on the local scene, his sense of community, and his continuity in point of view, and to make do instead with an assortment of wire-service reviewers from afar. The story can now be set within our own city limits, after the *Union-Tribune* last week pushed David Elliott unceremoniously out the door. Differ with him where you may, he has been a critic who, straight out of the starting gate almost a quarter of a century ago, could write about movies from a base of knowledge and commitment. And from a purely selfish standpoint, differ with him though I did, an "alternative" voice such as mine (if I don't flatter myself) wants and needs another, a bigger voice, to which to be an alternative. To say that I was completely shocked by the move would be to say untruthfully that I had never noticed in the pages of the *U-T* the increasing reliance already on supplementary wire-service reviews, the box scores filled with the star ratings of other critics across the map (as if one man's stars counted the same as another man's stars), the

weekly *Street* insert to give vent to the voice of youth and inexperience, the forum of grade-schoolers, the second-opinion column of a self-christened "Movies Maniac," not to mention the You-Be-the-Critic welcome mat on the website. In their heart of hearts, the editors appear to have clung to the belief (or else to have reverted to the belief) that anybody can be a film critic — a vestige, this, of the benighted days when the Home-and-Gardens beat writer might get moved over to the vacated film critic's seat. No doubt the Internet, where literally anybody can build himself a platform, has given new life to the belief. Cyberspace may be limitless. Our town just got smaller. ■

MOVIE LISTINGS

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Robert Wilonsky, THE VILLAGE VOICE

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Dennis Dermody, PAPER

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"SCARY...DELIVERS THE THRILLS."

Los Angeles Times, Kevin Crust
"WE'RE LEFT WANTING MORE."

San Francisco Chronicle, Peter Hartlaub
"A TERRIFIC MOVIE, FILLED WITH SPECTACLE AND A SURPRISING AMOUNT OF HUMOR."

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sneakers and his unflattering, inexpensive period haircut, framing his face with folded wings. With Chiwetel Ejiofor, Josh Brodin, Lymari Nadal, and Ruby Dee. 2007.
★ (GASLAMP 15)

Atonement — British, bookish period piece, from an Ian McEwan novel, about a young girl's misreading of the amorous activities of her elders, and its tragic consequences. (A mole on the right cheek links the three different actresses who play the role, Saoirse Ronan in the Thirties, Romola Garai in wartime, and Vanessa Redgrave in modern day.) The movie starts rather sedately, despite some point-of-view tricks, in a commonplace country estate; and it then gets rather overblown in the war sequences, including a marathon Steadicam single take of the evacuation at Dunkirk. But all in all it's well-mounted, well-dressed, well-acted, and, well, dull. With Keira Knightley, James McAvoy, Brenda Blethyn, and Harriet Walter; directed by Joe Wright. 2007.

★ (ESCONDIDO 16; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead

— Interesting attempt by the eighty-three-year-old Sidney Lumet to keep up with the Tarantinos, piloting a caper film of back-and-forth time jumps and alternating points of view. The caper itself, a jewelry store stickup, is strictly small-time. "We don't want Tiffany's," the mastermind, a drug-dependent real estate accountant (Philip Seymour Hoffman), pitches the idea to his younger brother, a deadbeat dad (Ethan Hawke): "We want a mom-and-pop operation." More specifically, the operation of their own mom and pop (Rosemary Harris and Albert Finney), squeezed between Claire's and Foot Locker in a cookie-cutter Westchester shopping mall. The robbery goes very wrong very early, and the ensuing time scramble dispenses information and revelations on an unpredictable schedule. We meet "Grandma," for example, at a school play *after* we have seen her shot in the holdup and *before* we find out she was not supposed to be at work that day. And we find out that the recruited younger brother is having an affair with his sister-in-law, the mastermind's wife (Marisa Tomei, more extensively attractive than ever), *before* we even know that the mastermind has any part in the plan. The totally botched robbery, leaving no prospect of success and profit, quickly eliminates much of the standard suspense in this sort of thing (cueing instead a



Cassandra's Dream

brooding *Fargo*-esque musical score from *Fargo*'s actual composer, Carter Burwell), and it permits the focus to shift to the deeply jaundiced view of family life — family discord, family disloyalty, family dysfunction. That view, while it lets in a fair share of malicious humor, is not to be taken lightly. Lumet, whose long list of credits runs along the lines of *Twelve Angry Men*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *Fail-Safe*, *The Pawnbroker*, *Serpico*, *Dog Day Afternoon*, *Network*, *The Verdict*, and the like, is by nature banished from lightness. 2007.
★★ (GASLAMP 15)

The Bucket List — A feel-good death trip, directed by the crowd-coddling Rob Reiner, about two terminal cancer patients, a billionaire WASP and a blue-collar black, who bond as hospital roommates and set out together to do the things and see the sights they never had time for: skydive, car-race, get a tattoo, visit the Riviera, the Dark Continent, the Pyramids, the Great Wall, and along the way open themselves up to epiphanies: "The stars — it's really one of God's good ones." (Although they often have a book at hand in bed or on an air-

plane, you can't expect a screen character to use his final months to curl up at last with *The Pickwick Papers*.) The good feelings extend even beyond the grave: the action is narrated posthumously in the first-person omniscient, implicitly settling the amicable debate on the afterlife. A fair measure of your regard for Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman would be your pain at seeing them in such pap. Perhaps the closest contact with a real concern emerges in the former's probing question to the latter: "You always had those freckles?" Sean Hayes, Rob Morrow. 2007.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Cassandra's Dream — Reviewed this issue. With Ewan McGregor, Colin Farrell, Hayley Atwell, Tom Wilkinson, and Phil

Davis; written and directed by Woody Allen.

★ (FLOWER HILL 4; LA JOLLA 12; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Charlie Wilson's War — Didactic poli-sci lesson on How the System Works, entertainingly illustrated by screenwriter Aaron Sorkin and director Mike Nichols. The titular war is the one between the Soviets and the Afghans in the Reagan era, and Charlie Wilson is a nonfictional Texas congressman (played with supreme complacency by Tom Hanks) who, ideally situated for budgeting purposes, spared some time from his enjoyment of the perks of power (single malt, cocaine, strippers in the hot tub) in order to do the bidding of a rabid Right-wing fundraiser in his home state (Julia Roberts, fully surrendering to her natural or enhanced grotesquerie, at one point intrepidly separating her gluey eyelashes with an open safety pin) and broker a covert alliance between the Pakistanis and the Israelis, combatting the Evil Empire from discreetly behind the scenes. This is not your typical tale of the cavalier cynic getting involved, finding religion, commit-

ting himself to a cause. The protagonist's profligate ways are typical enough, and the refugee camp that opens his eyes is depicted very straight, but there remains, even after that, a sense of irony about his crusade — no more solemnity in his demeanor than in that, let's say, of the surgeons in *MASH* — so that his commitment is forever perceived as something of a pose, something within quotation marks. The job gets done all the same. Philip Seymour Hoffman, sporting a lush mustache and full head of dark hair in testimony to the character's Mediterranean ethnicity, goes Hanks one better (several better, in fact) as a disgruntled CIA spook who, irked at not getting the Finland assignment after studying Finnish, cannot even throw a tantrum without a wink. Not only does Hoffman walk away with the show, he also gets to recite the Buddhist parable whose punchline frames the entire picture, turning an ostensibly happy ending into an up-in-the-air ending, or in other words no ending at all. We know too well what happened next. With Amy Adams, Emily Blunt, Ned Beatty. 2007.

★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12)

Cloverfield — Reviewed this issue. With Lizzy Caplan, Jessica Lucas, T.J. Miller, Michael Stahl-David, Mike Vogel, and Odette Yustman; directed by Matt Reeves.

★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly

— Julian Schnabel relates another true-life tale from the wide world of art, this one a little more liberated from convention than his *Basquiat* or his *Before Night Falls* (though it immediately and continually brings to mind Alejandro Amenábar's *The Sea Inside*), the tale of Jean-Dominique Bauby, an editor at *Elle* magazine, who in the prime of life suffered a stroke that left him paralyzed but for his left eyelid (and his imagination and his memory), and who dictated a memoir, letter by letter, through a system of blinks. The first three-quarters of an hour or so are reasonably audacious, subjectively visualized through the eyes of the invalid (Mathieu Amalric, at this point unseen), with cropped faces and figures, blurred edges, off-kilter angles, etc., and yet the camera looks awfully free-swinging and the editing awfully jumpy for the P.O.V. of a paralytic, as if Schnabel felt he had to lend a helping hand to keep things hopping. (The rotation of comely coquettes to serve as speech therapist, physical therapist, and amanuensis seems to have been assembled out of similar motives.) Much of the remainder of the film feels drawn out and padded, with the major exception of a tense scene in which the wife, operating the speakerphone in the hospital room, is required to mediate a call from the mistress. The essential subject matter is one that demands in its treatment purity and rigor, and that receives instead disorder and indulgence. (This really wasn't the time and place for further proof of the director's hip taste in music, U2, Velvet Underground, Tom Waits.) A big critical favorite, nonetheless, perhaps owing to the special dispensation granted the handicapped, the quickness to applaud the least little show of humor, verve, perseverance. With Emmanuelle Seigner, Marie-Josée Croze, Anne Consigny, and Max von Sydow. 2007.
★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

First Sunday — A pair of backed-up-against-the-wall black Baltimoreans (Ice Cube, Tracy Morgan) go into a ghetto church with the intent to rob it, enter into endless negotiations at gunpoint with the fundraising committee, fix the air-conditioning, and come out better, and not poorer, men. A caper comedy devoid of laughs. With Chi McBride, Malinda Williams, Katt Williams, Loretta Devine, and Michael Beach; written and directed by

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David E. Talbert. 2008.

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The Great Debaters — An Oprah film (or anagrammatically, a Harpo Film) for Oprah's audience, with their insatiable appetite for uplift. The fact-based story of the debate team at little Wiley College, an all-black institution in segregationist Texas, and of their climactic showdown on the topic of Civil Disobedience against the national champs of Harvard University, plays as a sort of two-hour spot for the UNCF. Denzel Washington, as both the debate coach in front of the camera and the director behind it, may be somewhat unimaginative, even embarrassingly unimaginative, in his complete and precise merger of the two roles into one: the great edifier. (*Not just my character but me myself.*) Still, if the remedial elucidation of racial issues seems a bit behind the times, it's not so much because the action is set in the 1930s as because racial progress continues to lag in the 2000s. The edifier has plenty of just cause. Nate Parker, Jurnee Smollett, Denzel Whitaker, Forest Whitaker. 2007.
★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12)

How She Move — She move pretty good. Her name Rutina Wesley, step-dancin' fool. But she have troubles, man, big troubles. Her sister O.D., and she drop out of school and go back to the hood, and her only way out be the Step Monster competition in D-Town, fifty G's on the line. And she be photographed in lighting like the morgue, y'unnerstan'? And she act bad, man, real

bad. With Dwain Murphy, Tracey Armstrong, Brennan Gademans; directed by Ian Iqbal Rashid. 2008.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 1/25)

I Am Legend — The third screen treatment of Richard Matheson's post-apocalyptic vampire tale is the first to retain the original title (cf. *The Last Man on Earth* and *The Omega Man*), and the first to bring to it the total commitment of top dollar, most helpful in creating a weed-overgrown New York City. It also brings to it some very wet sentimentality, with Will Smith having a hard time shouldering the burdens of being a Renaissance man amid a population of nocturnal zombies: he's a brilliant scientist, a hardbodied soldier, a tender dog lover, a Bob Marley aficionado, a *Shrek* memorizer, and so on. The situation nevertheless keeps a good grip until the fortuitous appearance of a second (and third) human being, after which the grip loosens. With Alice Braga, Charlie Tahan, and briefly an uncredited Emma Thompson; directed by Francis Lawrence. 2007.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Into the Wild — Illustration, in a sketchy hand, of the Jon Krakauer nonfiction book on Christopher McCandless, a 1990 college graduate, on the doorstep of Harvard Law School, who gave away his tuition fund to Oxfam, obliterated his identity, renamed himself Alexander Supertramp, and swapped the evils of society for the purity of the northern wilderness ("No longer to

be poisoned by civilization," he carved into a wooden shingle at his encampment), where ultimately he starved to death in 1992. It may not sound like much of an idea for a film. It isn't. A Seventies-style road movie, redolent of Seventies-style disaffection, it has a strong element of travelogue, as our happy-go-lucky hobo rides his aging Datsun westward to South Dakota, abandons it at Lake Mead, kayaks down the Colorado River, drifts into Mexico, train-hops up to L.A., thumbs his way to the Salton Sea, Anza Borrego, and Alaska. In that final destination, the travelogue veers toward nature documentary. At nearly two and a half hours, the film feels very, very long, albeit short on relatable incident: the protagonist goes places, he meets people, and then he goes to a place where he won't meet people, where he will meet only his end, a martyr to something or other. Director Sean Penn unmistakably takes himself very seriously, and takes his protagonist almost reverently, painting him as something of a holy fool (a reader of Tolstoloi, even though an eater of meat when he can get it), and offering up this speculative reenactment as nothing less than an endorsement. At the top, he sets the tone with a high-flown epigraph from Lord Byron: "I love not man the less, but Nature more" — that one. The kid sister periodically supplies some explanatory narration ("I understand what he was doing"), and Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder chimes in with a half-dozen or so acoustic songs in sympathy and support. Of the real protagonist's earnestness and conviction, the film can tell us next to nothing. Of the filmmaker's, it can tell us much. And then it can tell us again. And again. With Emile Hirsch, Marcia Gay Harden, William Hurt, Jena Malone, Vince Vaughn, and Hal Holbrook. 2007.

★ (GASLAMP 15; LA PALOMA)

Juno — A slow starter. In the title role of a pregnant Minnesota high-schooler (named after the Roman goddess of marriage, fidelity, fertility), the dry flat sardonic line-delivery of Ellen Page, the angelic avenger of *Hard Candy*, is not easy to warm up to, no matter how much we might try to see it as an adolescent defense mechanism, or how much as humble emulation of Janeane Garofalo. And the garishly colorful dialogue, from first-time scribe and former stripper Diablo Cody, often tends to push too hard ("Being pregnant makes me pee like Seabiscuit"). The heroine, interested in simply finding a good home for the baby, not in making a profit off it, finds a possible taker in the weekly *PennySaver* ("next to the exotic birds"), a neat-freaky suburban couple in the gated confines of Glacial Valley Estates. It's there that things really begin to get interesting. Our initial arrival at the housing development is alone sufficient to convince us of Jason Reitman's directorial bona fides: a series of static shots of anti-septic House Beautiful after House Beautiful as the car passes across the screen, left to right, in front of each. And the prospective mother, Jennifer Garner (her piano-wire tautness put to good use), turns out to be the neater of the pair, someone who will studiously ponder "custard" versus "cheesecake" as the color for baby's room, while the prospective father, Jason Bateman, proves to be the freakier, a stay-at-home composer of advertising ditties and a frustrated rock-and-roller. A curious, po-

tentially dangerous after-school relationship blossoms between him and the heroine: he may be a commercial sell-out as a composer, but he's a person who can talk music to a teenager, and he demonstrates "decent taste in slasher movies" (e.g., Herschell Gordon Lewis's *The Wizard of Gore*, another impediment to our warming up to the heroine). Over time, the film builds, and it does so with proficiency, patience, and foresight. If the heroine is never wholly embraceable, the surrounding characters go far to compensate, specifically J.K. Simmons as her droll laconic dad, Allison Janney as her worldly-wise, even-keeled mom, and above all, Michael Cera as her shunted-aside, unassertive, but ever-faithful boyfriend, the baby's biological father, and a cooler dude than you'd ever guess from his track-team togs. And if the dialogue is unabatingly overcolored, at least the hues are spread around democratically. 2007.

★★★ (CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HILL-CREST CINEMAS; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

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Crazy Love

TIM BERROTH

Film reviewer,
hollywoodjesus.com

In *Deathtrap* director Sidney Lumet ably crafts Ira Levin’s play into an engrossing thriller with wicked plot twists and a deliciously devious ending. The brilliant Michael Caine and Christopher Reeve (shedding his Superman tights at the height of his popularity) match wits as “collaborating” playwrights.

Will Ferrell puts aside his lowbrow antics for the thoughtful and utterly human drama, *Stranger Than Fiction*. As Crick, he learns he’s a character in Emma Thompson’s novel and his demise is imminent. After seeking the help of a professor and finding elusive intimacy with a baker, Crick begins to truly experience life and the joys that come with spontaneity, vulnerability, and connection.

Crazy Love is a disturbing and utterly fascinating documentary — kind of like a car crash that you drive by and have to look at. Director Dan Klores weaves an engrossing tale of two lovers whose dysfunctional relationship is too bizarre to be believed.

DEATHTRAP (USA) 1982, Warners

List price: \$9.98

STRANGER THAN FICTION (USA) 2006, Sony Pictures

List price: \$19.94

CRAZY LOVE (USA) 2007, Magnolia

List price: \$26.98

older actor are brutally spotlighted in the scene where a Taliban bully tells the now adult hero that he never forgets a face, when in truth the face little resembles the one that the bully last saw. It is not surprising that the hero, in turn, doesn’t recognize the bully. With Khalid Abdalla, Zekeria Ebrahimi, and Ahmad Khan Mahmudzada. 2007.

★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Mad Money — A demographically diverse trio of women (Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah, Katie Holmes) are of undivided mind about the wisdom and fun of siphoning off wrinkled old bills, marked for shredding, from the Kansas City Federal Reserve. The director, Callie Khouri, makes a unanimous fourth. A caper comedy heedless of consequences, completely inconsequential. With Ted Danson. 2008.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION



The Namesake

GREG WRIGHT

Managing editor, *Past-the-Popcorn.gospelcom.net*

The documentary *Deep Water* recounts the first race to circumnavigate the globe solo. Natural elements, the human competitive drive, fear of failure, love of the sea, and the cost of isolation produce results that neither entrants nor organizers could have anticipated.

Director Mira Nair has been steadily acquiring a reputation as a director with one foot firmly planted amidst her Indian roots and the other in the American film industry. We can be deeply thankful for the way she has matured and converged with novelist Jhumpa Lahiri’s *The Namesake* to produce a virtual masterpiece that might establish a new model for “coming of age” stories. When young adults are not truly achieving independence until deep into their 20s, *The Namesake* offers a new vision for a genre that takes emotional and sexual awareness for granted, and instead focuses on a different kind of awakening: of identity, purpose, and cultural, societal, and familial reconciliation.

DEEP WATER (England) 2006, IFC

List price: \$24.95

THE NAMESAKE (India/USA) 2006, 20th Century Fox

List price: \$27.98

VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Michael Clayton — The title figure is the designated fixer for the elite Manhattan law firm of Kenner, Bach & Ledeen, touted as a “miracle worker” but more modest in his self-assessment: “I’m not a miracle worker, I’m a janitor. The smaller the mess, the easier it is for me to clean it up.” And a three-billion-dollar class action suit against his firm’s biggest client, United Northfield, or UNorth for short, makes a very big mess. Aside from being George Clooney, the hero doesn’t look like much. Crushed under a mountain of debt, sworn off the gambling habit (notwithstanding a prefatory relapse at the poker table), run ragged by his job,

begging his boss for an advance and getting the brush-off, he has little time for his neglected son and none for a shave. In addition to all that, Clooney has firmly suppressed the head-wagging smugness that so often chills his charm. In fact he has sunken into the part quite deeply and depressively. We keep waiting to see some sign of a miracle. And waiting. In its bald essentials — the soulless law firm, the monolithic corporation, the robotic hit men, the stirrings of conscience and poses of piety, the mechanics of comeuppance — the film is fairly standard-issue. But screenwriter (the *Bourne* series) and first-time director Tony Gilroy, beginning with the nonlinear narrative arrangement, has devised an all-over strategy of tease and obfuscation, very clever at disguising what the hell people are talking about, we never altogether get weary of wanting to know. Tilda Swinton, Tom Wilkinson, Sydney Pollack. 2007.

★★ (MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; FROM 1/25)

National Treasure: Book of Secrets

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

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

No Country for Old Men — The Coen brothers’ first literary adaptation, from a Cormac McCarthy original, an overflowing bloody pulp thriller, plumped up with folksy first-person social commentary in italics, about a Texas good ole boy who stumbles upon the internecine scene of a drug deal gone bad, makes off with a satchel of cash, and tries to ditch the implacable hired killer (among others) on his trail. Sharing the writing credit as always and sharing the directing credit as they only began to do with *The Ladykillers*, the brothers were smart to cut down the social commentary — the Decline of Western Civilization as viewed by an aging third-generation lawman — to a single block of voice-over at the outset (“Some of the old-time sheriffs never even wore a gun”), and to sprinkle any additional such commentary lightly into the dialogue (“Once you quit hearing ‘sir’ and ‘ma’am,’ the rest is soon to follow”). Without those repeated and repetitive interruptions, the simple pursuit narrative — the killer pursuing the filcher, the lawman pursuing both — unfolds as lean, linear, streamlined, and yet slow, steady, and long, never very deep. And on the Coens’ part, never very inventive. They have followed McCarthy’s blueprint scrupulously, even slavishly, and have bountifully harvested his lip-smacking dialogue; and the major unconventionalities in this mostly conventional thriller are all his. (For better or for worse.) To be sure, the Coens are meticulous technicians, supremely skillful, attentive to the minutest detail. And while the body count climbs numbly high, the tension in individual set pieces is teased out to an exquisite agony, and with no artificial boost from any background music. (The Coens’ regular composer, Carter Burwell, gets credited for the exit music.) Certainly a personal touch, a personal sense of humor, comes into the local-color cameos of gas-station attendant, motel clerk, hotel clerk, trailer-park manager, etc., etc. And perhaps a somewhat unseemly humor, or at least unseemly delight, comes into the characterization of the psy-

chopathic killer, with his robotic delivery of lines, his torturous banter, his gimmicky weapon (a compressed-air tank for blowing locks out of doors and blowing holes in heads), and above all his Engelbert Humperdinck haircut circa 1972 (hair humor always being big with the Coens). Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Kelly Macdonald, Woody Harrelson. 2007.

★★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; PALM PROMENADE 24)

One Missed Call — Serial deaths with a pattern: a young person receives a cell-phone message of his or her own voice, saying his or her last words, dated two days before he or she says them, ultimately dying on schedule with a marble of rock candy in his or her mouth, after seeing nightmarish visions of millipedes, zombies, and such. “What the hell’s happening?” someone naturally inquires. There must be an explanation, though it can’t hold water — or interest. Drudging remake of a Japanese horror film, manifestly not one of the better ones. With Shannyn Sossamon, Edward Burns, Ana Claudia Talancón, Azura Skye, Johnny Lewis, Ray Wise, and Margaret Cho; directed by Eric Valette. 2008.

● (HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

The Orphanage — Spanish ghost story that strives at all times to stay within arm’s reach of ambiguity — real ghosts or overheated imagination? — in the mold of the Henry James prototype, *The Turn of the Screw*, or at any rate in the mold of the academic squabbles over it. James may have set out to write a straightforward ghost story, but was, bless his unsullied soul, incapable of it. Director J.A. Bayona is no James, nor is he even a Jack Clayton, the judicious filmmaker who turned *The Turn... into The Innocents* on screen. The basic situation without doubt seems primed for “resonance,” and the lead actress, Belén Rueda, seems primed almost for spontaneous combustion. An adopted orphan returns to the palatial orphanage thirty years later, with plans to reopen it, and with an adopted, HIV-positive orphan of her own. The boy, already inclined towards imaginary playmates, appears to have made contact with the ghosts of half a dozen children still hanging about the place, and soon goes missing. His mother then goes bananas. Bayona’s tightwire act of trying to walk a line of psychological subtlety while also trying to keep genre addicts on the hook tends to make the obligatory jolts feel all the more forced and factitious: the premonitory music, the startling noises, the creaking hinges, the magnified eyes of the prunefaced old lady behind her coke-bottle lenses, the fingers slammed in the bathroom door and the backward jackknife into the tub, the plowed-over pedestrian and the gruesome makeup on the carcass. Through all that, we are apt to remain, in common with the rational husband and police-woman, unconvinced and unmoved. Ambiguity will have that effect. The climax, when the heroine is at last left alone in the house, nevertheless crams in two or three good shivers, but it goes on three or four steps too far. Fernando Cayo, Roger Príncipe, Geraldine Chaplin. 2007.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA 12; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Persepolis — Cartoon recap of the comic-strip memoir by Marjane Satrapi, covering her childhood in Iran under (and then out from under) the Shah, her adolescence in Austria to escape the strictures of the Islamic Revolution, her return to her homeland as a depressed and medicated young woman, then a bride, then a divorcee, and her ultimate exile in France, stretching from the late Seventies, to put dates on it, to the early Nineties. The animation is not all that animated. With stiff movement, a flat visual field, and a black-and-white palette (but for the lightly colored framing scenes in the present tense), it is the furthest thing from the limitless taffy-pull of contemporary computer animation. It is in fact quite deliberately reactionary, a return to “nature” if you will, a homespun product of the human hand, staying as close as possible (notwithstanding some decorative embellishment here and there)

to the naive style of the original drawings. And since Satrapi herself is credited as co-director along with a fellow comic artist, Vincent Paronnaud, we can be sure the result has her stamp of approval. The general effect, overriding any risk of trivialization, is something in the vicinity of the Brechtian "alienation effect," something distancing, something cushioning, so that we experience such painful subjects as political oppression, imprisonment, torture, execution, etc., less viscerally and (for all the outward resemblance to a Saturday-morning TV kiddie cartoon) more cerebrally. That's not to say the film goes in for in-depth analysis of Middle Eastern modern history. It goes at these subjects strictly from the point of view of a growing girl trying to make sense of them, and the emphasis gradually and eventually shifts to the individual. If she started out to bear witness to the events of her time, she wound up in the long run a witness primarily to the witness. And she delivers her unblushingly personal testimony with candor, with humor, with self-deprecation, and with aesthetic distance — a distance commensurate to that provided by the primitive animation. Whatever mixed feelings we might have about that animation, they fall away as it becomes merely a serviceable vehicle, frugal and no frills, to convey the unhackneyed story. A useful medium, plain and simple. With the voices of Chiara Mastroianni, Catherine Deneuve, Danielle Darrieux, Simon Abkarian, and Gabrielle Lopes. 2007. ★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

P.S. I Love You — The overhanging question is whether a two-time Academy Award-winning actress, Hilary Swank, can lighten herself into the thespian weight-class of a Sandra Bullock or a Kate Hudson. The answer seems to be no, not when the director and co-writer, Richard LaGravenese, who directed her also in *Freedom Writers*, is intent on sniffing out pockets of genuine emotion in a mechanical tearjerker (and laugh-jerker) about a turning-thirty widow who learns to live again under the guidance of pre-written missives from her dear departed, Gerard Butler, a life-loving, beer-chugging Irish minstrel. ("Why," she wonders in front of the TV screen one night, "can't I be Bette Davis?" — another two-time Academy Award-winner, but an unequalled ten-time nominee.) Swank may not be able, in a flashback to the meet-cute, to look quite like a college coed on her first tour of Europe, but she can touchingly act like one, and remind us in the process that one of her rarest gifts is her totally uncool enthusiasm. Kathy Bates, merely a one-time Academy Award-winner, has her moments, too, as Swank's sourpuss mother. With Lisa Kudrow, Gina Gershon, and



27 Dresses

Harry Connick, Jr. 2007.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Rambo — Sylvester Stallone, director and star, revives his Vietnam-vet character, with Julie Benz, Matthew Marsden, Graham McTavish.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 1/25)

The Savages — Philip Seymour Hoffman in the male lead, blond and bearded, as a Buffalo drama professor at work on a tome on Bertolt Brecht. And Laura Linney in the larger female lead, brunette and bedraggled, as an unproduced dramatist at work on a "subversive, semi-autobiograph-

ical play" (as she describes it in her grant applications) inspired by the works of Jean Genet, Eugene O'Neill, and cartoonist Lynda Barry. They are brother and sister, forced into the same yoke to deal with their demented father (Philip Bosco) after his Sun City "girlfriend" of twenty years kicks the bucket and her family kicks him out. These are big performances in a small film made up of small moments, a life-is-messy comedy of small (but not few) laughs.

Writer and director Tamara Jenkins, not heard from since her (subversive, semi-autobiographical) *Slums of Beverly Hills*, seeks the universal in the individual — the particulars, the peculiarities, the normal abnormalities (the lachrymosity of Hoffman, the mendacity of Linney) — which is the right way to go about it. The peculiarities needn't have been so artsy-fartsily peculiar. With Peter Friedman and Cara Seymour. 2007.

★★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber

of Fleet Street — The Grand-Guignol Broadway musical (words and music by Stephen Sondheim), Tim Burtonized for Hollywood. Which means, among other things (such as less music), a ton-of-bricks production design, an ashen color scheme sometimes edging up to the border of black-and-white (excluding the rivers, lakes, geysers of rich red blood), and the *de rigueur* Johnny Depp, showing off a dif-

ferent singing voice, as a frightfully frigid avenger, chilling in quite the wrong way. (Whoever said revenge is a dish best served cold can't have meant straight from the freezer.) Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, and Timothy Spall are likewise not singers. 2007.

★ (ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14)

There Will Be Blood — Based loosely, so they say, on *Oil!*, a muckraking, boat-rocking, banned-in-Boston novel by Upton Sinclair (a writer partial to exclamation points in his titles), this is a kind of anti-epic, an anti-*Giant*, about a miserly, misanthropic, nothing short of murderous American oil man in the first decades of the last century: warped beyond recognition as an exemplar of the enterprising capitalist. (The accompanying music credited to Jonny Greenwood of the British rock group Radiohead, edgy, skittery, dissonant, helps set the tone: not music to Build an Empire By, such as a Dimitri Tiomkin or a Max Steiner might have composed, but instead music to Squirrel Away Nuts for the Winter By.) The hard dirty work, at the outset, of digging a well all by his lonesome is vividly and wordlessly captured by writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson, yet it's hardly adequate to explain or excuse the character's subsequent aberrance, and his particular animus towards a hayseed faith healer (the initially very young and insufficiently aging Paul Dano), each of whom has his own inflexible reasons for not deferring to the other: the Self-Made Man versus the Man of God. Daniel Day-Lewis, ever the risk-taker, even if the risk (immurement in Victorian melo-

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drama) is much the same as in *Gangs of New York*, makes of the protagonist a real and repellingly compelling figure when he's not breaking the spell with his John Huston rollercoaster cadences. (Why would this de-praved money-grubber, we keep asking ourselves, be impersonating the director of *The Maltese Falcon*, *Treasure of the Sierra*

Madre, whatever?) But two and a half hours, if all we're going to do is gape, are a long time to spend in the company of such a man, a good hour or more too long. There will, as promised, be blood, though not any time soon, and never all that much. Kevin O'Connor, Ciarán Hinds. 2007. ★ (FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VIL-

LAGE; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

27 Dresses — Reviewed this issue. With Katherine Heigl, James Marsden, Edward Burns, Malin Akerman, and Judy Greer; directed by Anne Fletcher.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL

MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14;

VISTA VILLAGE)

U2 3D — Documentary on the Irish rock band's "Vertigo" tour, directed by Catherine Owens and Mark Pellington. (MIRA MESA 18)

Untraceable — Serial-killer thriller with

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL

CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14

4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234)
Call theater for program information

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15

701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400)

Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:15, 3:25) 5:45, 8:10, 10:25; **American Gangster** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:20) 5:05, 8:20; **Before the Devil Knows You're Dead** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:50) 4:40, 7:20, 9:55; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:05, 3:20) 5:35, 7:50, 10:05; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (2:10) 4:45, 7:10, 9:35; **First Sunday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:55) 4:20, 6:40, 9:15; **Into the Wild** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:30) 5:10, 8:25; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (2:00) 5:00, 7:30, 9:40; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:40) 4:50, 7:35, 10:15; **Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie** (G) Fri.-Sun. (1:15, 3:15) 5:20, 7:25, 9:25; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:00, 2:20, 3:30) 4:35, 5:45, 7:00, 8:15, 9:20, 10:30; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:10, 3:00) 4:30, 6:20, 8:00, 9:45; **Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:00, 3:15) 5:40, 8:05, 10:20

Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)

Call theater for program information

LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)

The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri. 12:40, 2:55, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20 Sat. (10:25) 12:40, 2:55, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20 Sun. 12:40, 2:55, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20; **Cassandra's Dream** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:15; **Charlie Wilson's War** (R) Fri. 1:45, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55 Sat. (10:55) 1:45, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55 Sun. 1:45, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri. 12:05, 2:15, 4:20, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 Sat.-Sun. (10:15) 12:15, 2:15, 4:20, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri. 12:50, 3:10, 5:40, 8:25, 10:55 Sat.-Sun. (10:35) 12:50, 3:10, 5:40, 8:25, 10:55; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 1:25, 4:05, 7:00, 9:40; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri. 12:00, 2:05, 4:10, 6:15, 8:30, 10:50 Sat.-Sun. (10:20) 12:05, 2:05, 4:10, 6:15, 8:30, 10:50; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri. 1:35, 4:30, 7:35, 10:35 Sat. (10:45) 1:35, 4:30, 7:35, 10:35 Sun. 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00; **Rambo** (R) Fri. 12:25, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (10:15) 12:25, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:50; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri. 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 8:10, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (10:25) 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 8:10, 10:45; **Untraceable** (R) Fri. 12:15, 2:35, 5:05, 7:30, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (10:20) 12:20, 2:35, 5:05, 7:30, 10:05

La Jolla Village

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)

Atonement (R); **The Kite Runner** (PG-13); **No Country for Old Men** (R); **The Savages** (R); **There Will Be Blood** (R)

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa 18

10733 Westview Parkway (858-635-7700)

Call theater for program information

MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18

7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262)

Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:45) 2:10, 4:40, 7:05; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:20) 1:50, 4:20, 6:55, 9:25; **Charlie Wilson's War** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:50) 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:15; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:55) 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:45 Fri.-Sat. (10:55) 12:30, 1:10, 2:50, 3:30, 5:10, 5:50, 7:35, 8:10, 10:05, 10:45 Sun. (10:55) 12:30, 1:10, 2:50, 3:30, 5:10, 5:50, 7:35, 8:10, 10:05, 10:45; **First Sunday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 1:40, 4:05, 6:40, 9:20; **How She Move** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:50) 1:20, 3:50, 6:30, 9:15; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sun. (11:05) 1:35, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30; **The Kite Runner** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 9:35p.m.; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.

(11:10) 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:55; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:00) 1:15, 3:35, 5:55, 8:15, 10:40 Sun. (11:00) 1:15, 3:35, 5:55, 8:15, 10:25; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sun. 12:25, 3:40, 6:45, 10:00; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 1:25, 4:25; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:45) 12:00, 12:45, 2:25, 3:10, 4:50, 5:35, 7:15, 8:00, 9:45, 10:25 Sun. (10:45) 12:00, 12:45, 2:25, 3:10, 4:50, 5:35, 7:15, 8:00, 9:45; **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R) Fri.-Sun. 7:25, 10:20; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:35) 2:20, 6:10, 9:40; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:40, 11:30) 1:30, 2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:50, 10:30 Sun. (10:40, 11:30) 1:30,

2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:50; **Untraceable** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:25) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10

Mission Valley 7

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)

Atonement (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:45, 10:30 Sun. (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:45; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:30, 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:30; **Care Bears: Oopsy Does It!** (G) Sat.-Sun. (10:30a.m.); **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30) 6:00, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30) 6:00, 8:15; **The Kite Runner** (PG-13) Fri. (10:15, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sat. (1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (1:00,

4:00) 7:00; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15; **Skidmarks** (Not Rated) Fri.-Sat. (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Sun. (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:15, 8:30; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00

Mission Valley 20

1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)

Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:35) 12:55, 3:15, 5:40, 8:10; **Atonement** (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:45) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:40 Sun. 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30; **The Bucket List**

(PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:05) 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:55, 10:15; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:40, 10:05 Fri.-Sat. 12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20, 11:35 Sun. 12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20; **First Sunday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:00 Fri.-Sun. 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:00; **How She Move** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:30) 12:15, 2:00, 2:45, 4:30, 5:25, 7:10, 8:05, 9:40, 10:35, 12:05 Sun. (11:30) 12:15, 2:00, 2:45, 4:30, 5:25, 7:10, 8:05, 9:40; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sun. 12:20, 2:40, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35) 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 9:55; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:25) 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30, 11:45 Sun. (10:25) 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30; **Michael Clayton** (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:55) 1:40, 4:35, 7:25, 10:10 Sun. 1:40, 4:35, 7:25, 10:10; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:20) 1:25, 4:25, 7:15, 10:20; **One Missed Call** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 10:30p.m.; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 11:45) 12:30, 2:10, 2:55, 4:50, 5:35, 7:20, 8:00, 9:50, 10:30, 12:10 Sun. (10:00) 12:30, 2:10, 2:55, 4:50, 5:35, 7:20, 8:00, 9:50; **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:25) 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:45; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. 12:05, 3:25, 6:50, 10:20; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 11:40) 1:35, 2:30, 4:20, 5:10, 7:05, 7:50, 9:45, 10:25; **Untraceable** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:50) 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:05

STATE UNIVERSITY

Ken

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)

Big Time (PG) Sat. 11:55p.m.

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas

3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (PG-13); **Juno** (PG-13); **No Country for Old Men** (R); **The Orphanage** (R); **Persepolis** (PG-13)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)

Dinosaurs Alive! (NR) Fri. 3:00p.m. Sat.-Sun. 11:00, 3:00; **Forces of Nature (1999)** (PG-13) Fri. 7:00p.m.; **The Living Sea** (Not Rated) Fri. 1:00, 5:00, 9:00 Sat. 1:00, 5:00, 9:00 Sun. 1:00, 5:00; **Ring of Fire** (Not Rated) Fri. 6:00p.m.; **Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure** (No Rating) Fri. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 8:00 Sat. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 Sun. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00

San Diego Natural History Museum

1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)

Ocean Oasis (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18

405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)

Call theater for program information

LA MESA

Grossmont Center

Grossmont Center (619-465-7100)

Call theater for program information

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Rancho San Diego 15

2951 Jamacha Road

Call theater for program information

SANTEE

Santee Drive In

10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)

Cloverfield (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sun.; **Saw IV** (R) Fri.-Sun.; **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R) Fri.-Sun.

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista 10

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)

Skidmarks (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45

Call theater for program information

"The first laugh-out-loud comedy of the new year!"
James Thomas, "First Look"/KDNL-TV (ABC)

ICE CUBE KATT WILLIAMS TRACY MORGAN

FIRST SUNDAY

WITH CHI McBRIDE

SCREEN GEMS PRESENTS A CUBE VISION / STORY COMPANY / FIRM FILMS PRODUCTION A FILM BY DAVID E. TALBERT
"FIRST SUNDAY" LORETTA DEVINE MICHAEL BEACH KEITH DAVID REGINA HALL MALINDA WILLIAMS
MUSIC BY STANLEY CLARKE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STACY KOLKER CRAMER NEIL MACHLIS RONALD MUHAMMAD JULIE YORN
PRODUCED BY DAVID E. TALBERT DAVID McILVAIN TIM STORY ICE CUBE MATT ALVAREZ WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DAVID E. TALBERT

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13
LANGUAGE, SOME SEXUAL HUMOR AND BRIEF DRUG REFERENCES

CrimeDoesntPray.com

NOW PLAYING
CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

Diane Lane, Billy Burke, and Colin Hanks, directed by Gregory Hoblit. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16;

RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 1/25)

War/Dance — Patongo Primary School, from the rebel-infested war zone in northern Uganda, qualifies for the National Music Competition for the first time ever. Glossily photographed documentary (with

an overreliance on warping wide-angle lenses), but very skimpy in its coverage of the actual competition. And after an hour's worth of horrific war stories from the mouths of children, you may be in no mood. Directed by Sean Fine and Andrea Nix. 2007. ★ (KEN, 1/25 THROUGH 31)

The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep — A fatherless lad during WWII finds the egg of "the rarest of all creatures" — only one on the planet at a time — and nurses the hatchling into the Loch Ness Monster, easily mistakable for a Nazi submarine. Spectacular scenery (New Zealand supplementing Scotland) as the

backdrop for a gruesomely cute CG critter and some strong-arm manipulation. With Alex Edel, Emily Watson, Ben Chaplin, David Morrissey, and Brian Cox; directed by Jay Russell. 2007. ● (PALM PROMENADE 24)

OTAY RANCH 12

Eastlake Parkway at Olympic (858-558-2262)
Atonement (R); **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Cloverfield** (PG-13); **First Sunday** (PG-13); **How She Move** (PG-13); **Juno** (PG-13); **Mad Money** (PG-13); **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13); **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG); **The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie** (G); **Rambo** (R); **27 Dresses** (PG-13); **Untraceable** (R)

Palm Promenade 24

770 Denney Road (858-558-2262)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); **Atonement** (R); **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Cassandra's Dream** (PG-13); **Cloverfield** (PG-13); **First Sunday** (PG-13); **How She Move** (PG-13); **I Am Legend** (No Rating); **Juno** (PG-13); **Mad Money** (PG-13); **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13); **Michael Clayton** (R); **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG); **No Country for Old Men** (R); **One Missed Call** (PG-13); **The Orphanage** (R); **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13); **Rambo** (R); **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R); **There Will Be Blood** (R); **27 Dresses** (PG-13); **Untraceable** (R); **The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep** (PG)

Rancho Del Rey 16

East H Street (619-216-4707)
Call theater for program information

IMPERIAL BEACH

South Bay Drive-In
2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)
Call theater for program information

NORTH INLAND

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Carmel Mountain

11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sun. (1:00, 3:00) 5:10, 7:20; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:15, 3:25) 5:35, 7:50, 10:00 Sun. (1:15, 3:25) 5:35, 7:50; **Charlie Wilson's War** (R) Fri.-Sat. 7:25, 9:50 Sun. 7:25 p.m.; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:05, 3:10) 5:30, 7:40, 9:55 Sun. (1:05, 3:10) 5:30, 7:40; **How She Move** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:00, 3:20) 5:30, 7:45, 10:05 Sun. (1:00, 3:20) 5:30, 7:45; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sat. (2:00) 5:00, 7:35, 9:30, 10:00 Sun. (2:00) 5:00, 7:35; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:50) 4:20, 7:15, 9:40 Sun. (1:50) 4:20, 7:15; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:10, 3:15) 5:25, 7:30, 9:45 Sun. (1:10, 3:15) 5:25, 7:30; **Michael Clayton** (R) Fri.-Sat. (1:05) 4:15, 6:55, 9:35 Sun. (1:05) 4:15, 6:55; **Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie** (G) Fri.-Sun. (1:10, 3:15) 5:20; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sat. (1:15, 3:25) 5:35, 7:55, 10:05 Sun. (1:15, 3:25) 5:35, 7:55; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:30) 4:30, 7:00, 9:35 Sun. (1:30) 4:30, 7:00; **Untraceable** (R) Fri.-Sat. (1:55) 4:25, 7:05, 9:30 Sun. (1:55) 4:25, 7:05

ESCONDIDO

Escondido 16
350 W. Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)
Call theater for program information

FALLBROOK

River Village
5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)
The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 2:30) 5:00, 7:15, 9:45 Sun. (12:00, 2:30) 5:00, 7:15; **Care Bears: Oopsy Does It!** (G) Sat.-Sun. (10:30a.m.); **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 Sun. (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:00, 8:15; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:30, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (12:30, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30) 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 Sun. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30) 5:30, 7:45; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:45, 3:00) 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 Sun. (12:45, 3:00) 5:15, 7:30; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 8:00

POWAY

Poway 10
13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)
Skidmarks (Not Rated) Fri.-Sat. (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Sun. (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:15, 8:30
Call theater for program information

SAN MARCOS

San Marcos 18
1180 West San Marcos Boulevard at Old California Walk (760-471-3711)
Call theater for program information

VISTA

Vista Village
Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7469)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sun. (1:35, 4:00) 6:30; **Atonement** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:45, 4:30) 7:10, 10:00; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 2:10, 4:35) 7:05, 9:30; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:05, 12:30, 1:20, 2:45, 3:35, 5:00, 5:45) 7:20, 8:00,

9:40, 10:20; **First Sunday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:20, 2:45, 5:05) 7:30, 10:00; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sun. (2:20, 4:50) 7:30, 10:10; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 2:15, 4:40) 7:10, 9:35; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 2:30, 5:00) 7:25, 10:00; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15) 7:35, 9:50; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:45, 4:45) 7:40, 10:35; **Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie** (G) Fri.-Sun. (11:10a.m.); **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 3:05, 5:25) 7:50, 10:15; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00, 10:25; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:45, 2:20, 5:05) 7:45, 9:00, 10:25; **Untraceable** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:15, 4:45) 7:15, 9:45

NORTH COASTAL

CARLSBAD

Plaza Camino Real
2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469)
The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:10, 2:30, 4:45) 7:00, 9:15 Sun. (12:10, 2:30, 4:45) 7:00; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:55, 1:55, 3:55) 5:55, 7:55, 9:55 Sun. (11:55, 1:55, 3:55) 5:55, 7:55; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:20, 2:45) 5:05, 7:25, 9:40 Sun. (12:20, 2:45) 5:05, 7:25

DEL MAR

Del Mar Highlands 8
El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road (858-646-9420)
The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:45) 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 Sun. (11:00, 1:45) 4:30, 7:15; **Charlie Wilson's War** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 Sun. (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:30; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00) 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00) 6:00, 8:15; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:30) 4:45, 7:00, 9:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:30) 4:45, 7:00; **Skidmarks** (Not Rated) Fri.-Sat. (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Sun. (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:15, 8:30; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:30, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:30, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15; **Untraceable** (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 12:30, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (10:15, 12:30, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45

Flower Hill 4

2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425)
Atonement (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:30, 1:30) 4:30, 7:30, 10:15 Sun. (10:30, 1:30) 4:30, 7:30; **Cassandra's Dream** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 3:30) 7:00, 10:30 Sun. (11:30, 3:30) 7:00

ENCINITAS

La Paloma
471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-SHOW)
Into the Wild (R) Sat.-Sun. 3:00, 6:00, 9:00

LA COSTA

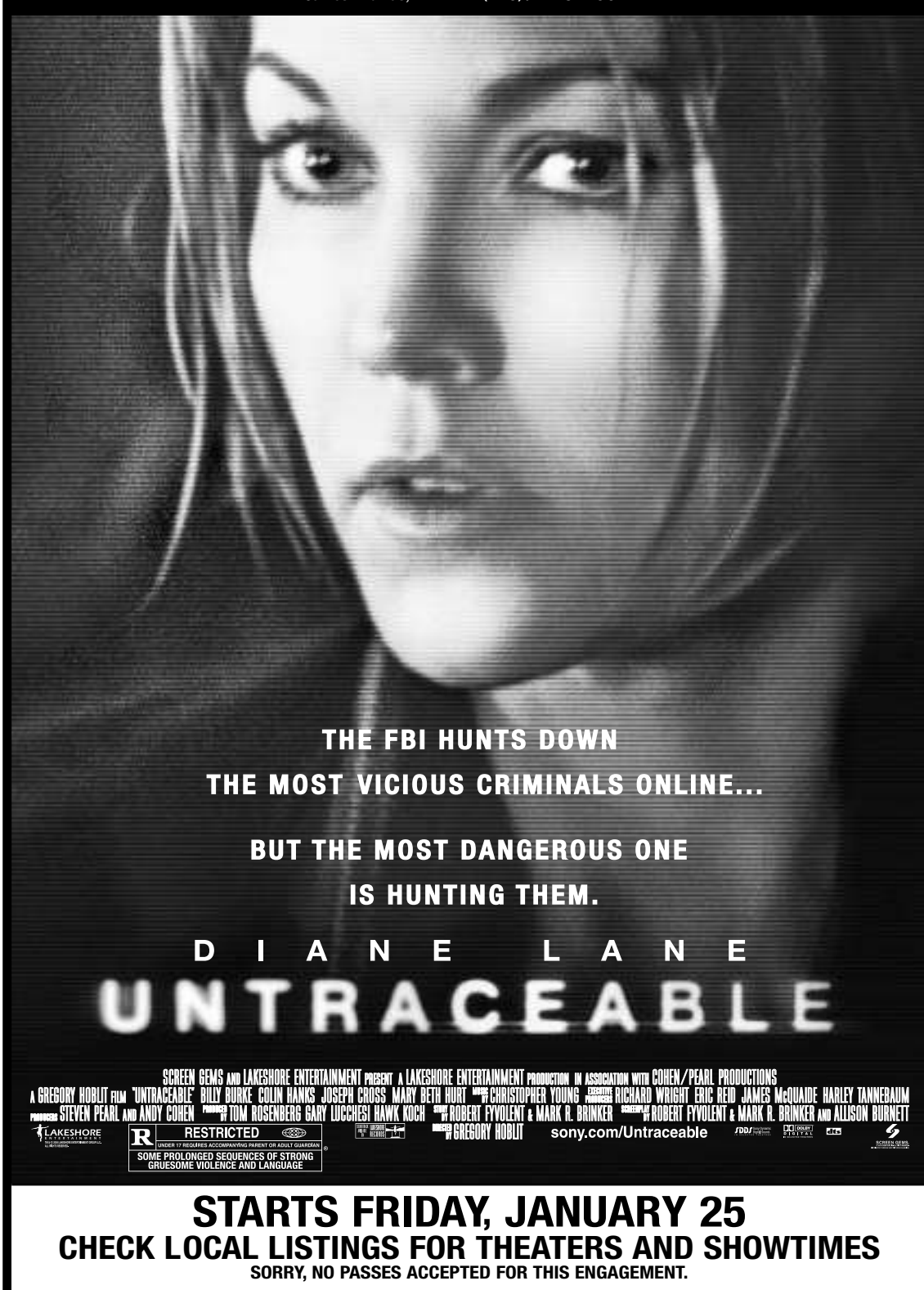
La Costa 6
6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221)
The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:15, 2:00) 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 Sun. (11:15, 2:00) 4:45, 7:15; **Care Bears: Oopsy Does It!** (G) Sat.-Sun. (10:30a.m.); **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 1:45, 4:00) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Sun. (11:30, 1:45, 4:00) 6:15, 8:30; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri. (10:30, 1:30) 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 Sat. (1:30) 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 Sun. (1:30) 4:30, 7:30; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15

OCEANSIDE

Mission Marketplace 13
College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sat. (12:15, 2:30) 5:00, 7:30, 9:45 Sun. (12:15, 2:30) 5:00, 7:30; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:45, 2:30, 4:45) 7:30, 10:00 Sun. (11:45, 2:30, 4:45) 7:30; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 2:15, 4:15) 6:30, 8:30, 10:45 Sun. (12:00, 2:15, 4:15) 6:30, 8:30; **First Sunday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 7:45; **How She Move** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:15, 1:30, 4:00) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Sun. (11:15, 1:30, 4:00) 6:15, 8:30; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 1:45, 4:30) 7:00, 9:30 Sun. (11:30, 1:45, 4:30) 7:00; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 2:00, 4:45) 7:15, 9:45 Sun. (11:30, 2:00, 4:45) 7:15; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:00, 3:15) 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 Sun. (11:00, 1:00, 3:15) 6:00, 8:15; **Michael Clayton** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:15, 2:15) 5:15, 8:00, 10:45 Sun. (11:15, 2:15) 5:15, 8:00; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (12:45, 3:45) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (12:45, 3:45) 7:00; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30) 5:45, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30) 5:45, 8:00; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45; **Untraceable** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30) 5:45, 8:15

Oceanside 16
401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733)
Call theater for program information

“UNTRACEABLE” IS THE ‘SILENCE OF THE LAMBS’ FOR THE INTERNET AGE”
James Thomas, KDNL-TV (ABC) / “FIRST LOOK”



THE FBI HUNTS DOWN THE MOST VICIOUS CRIMINALS ONLINE... BUT THE MOST DANGEROUS ONE IS HUNTING THEM.

D I A N E L A N E

UNTRACEABLE

SCREEN GEMS AND LAKESHORE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT A LAKESHORE ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH COHEN/PEARL PRODUCTIONS
A GREGORY HOBLIT FILM "UNTRACEABLE" BILLY BURKE COLIN HANKS JOSEPH CROSS MARY BETH HURT AND CHRISTOPHER YOUNG COSTARS RICHARD WRIGHT ERIC REID JAMES McQUAIDE HARLEY TANNERBAUM
PRODUCED BY STEVEN PEARL AND ANDY COHEN EDITED BY TOM ROSENBERG GARY LUCCHESI HAWK KOCH EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ROBERT FVYOLENT & MARK R. BRINKER PRODUCED BY ROBERT FVYOLENT & MARK R. BRINKER AND ALLISON BURNETT
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GRUESOME VIOLENCE AND LANGUAGE
SONY.COM/UNTRACEABLE

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CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES
SORRY, NO PASSES ACCEPTED FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT.

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PLACE PRINTED ADS in Job Giant and the Reader by calling 619-235-8200. **POST FREE ONLINE ADS** with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here!

ACTIVISM. Great jobs to protect the environment. Part time/full time positions. Career positions available. Earn \$350-\$550 per week. Call Lee at 619-297-5512. www.jobsthatmatter.org.

ACTIVITIES. Casa de las Campanas, an upscale retirement community located in Rancho Bernardo, has an opening for a full-time Activity Assistant. Responsibilities will include planning and implementing activity programs for Assisted Living and Independent Residents. Experience in Administration, proficiency with Word. We offer competitive wages and spectacular benefits. If you would like to make a difference, please visit us to complete an application Monday-Friday, 8:30am-12:00noon and 1:00pm-4:00pm, in the Human Resources Department, 18655 West Bernardo Drive, San Diego 92127. EOE.

AD SPECIALTIES SALES. Looking for experienced Representatives only! Must be currently selling or have recently sold ad specialties. We pay 100% over our low pars! Set your own hours! Call today, 619-402-3198.

ADMIN ASSISTANT/BOOKKEEPER. Accounting practices, office organization, administrative skills. Very reliable! Must be computer savvy. Competitive package offered. Resume/salary requirements: jobssdr@discounttechnology.com or fax: 619-491-9419. Reference BK02.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. The San Diego Reader is looking for a bright, capable and self-motivated person to assist its team of employment display advertising sales reps. Must possess excellent customer service skills and be able to work comfortably with the public and coworkers. Duties include preparing and scheduling display and classified ads to appear in the Reader and its employment publication, Job Giant. Customer contact involving discussion of rates, policies, deadlines and accounting issues included. Must be organized and detail-oriented. No actual sales involved. Benefits include health coverage paid 100%, 401(k) with employer match, free downtown parking in Little Italy, and more. E-mail: hrdept@sreader.com. Mail: Human Resources, PO Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803. Fax: Attention Human Resources, 619-231-0489.

ADMINISTRATIVE/CLERICAL. Volt Services Group. Temporary, Temporary-to-Direct Hire, Direct Placement. Competitive wages, paid weekly. Paid holidays, vacation. Medical, dental, train-

Free Classifieds: web or mail

EARLY DEADLINE by 6 pm **MONDAY**

Applies to private parties. Other rates for roommates, rentals and paid services. Info: 619 235 8200

WEB: SDReader.Com **MAIL:** P.O. Box 85803, San Diego 92186 (up to 25 words)

\$8 Classifieds: phone or walk-in

LATE DEADLINE by 6 pm **TUESDAY**

Applies to private parties. Other rates for roommates, rentals and paid services.

PHONE: 619 235 8200 **WALK-IN:** 1703 India Street (at Date) Little Italy

ing, career management. www.jobs.volt.com. EOE. San Diego: 858-576-3140; e-mail: clairemont@volt.com. Carlsbad: 760-729-8916; e-mail carlsbad@volt.com. El Cajon: 619-401-1524; e-mail elcajon@volt.com. San Marcos: 760-471-0800; e-mail sanmarcos@volt.com. Scripps Ranch: 858-578-0920; e-mail scrippsrancho@volt.com.

AGENTS WANTED IMMEDIATELY! Obtain your Real Estate license now! Our fast-track program is 2-1/2 weeks with 1-on-1

coaching and free video cram. \$100K potential. Work for national brand now! Call Susan: 858-245-7880 or 800-319-1031.

AIDE/HELPER. Pacific Beach. House chores, some cooking, some driving (using my car). Saturday/Sunday 5 hours a day, 10 hours total/week, 1pm-6pm/flexible. Living nearby helpful, check not cash, \$9.25-\$9.75/hour. 858-274-5078.

AIRLINE ATTENDANTS: Group interview 5pm Thursday, February 7, at Holiday Inn Express Old Town, 3900 Old Town Avenue, San Diego, CA, 92110. Please bring a copy of your resume and apply online. www.skywest.com/careers.

ANIMAL CARE ASSISTANT. 2 positions. City of Chula Vista. \$2722-\$3308/month.

Performs routine animal shelter maintenance and operations work. Apply by 2/15/08. City of Chula Vista, 263 Fig Avenue, Chula Vista 91910. www.chulavistaca.gov.

ANIMAL CARETAKER. Part-time Pet Sitter. Permanent. 7 days plus holidays. Split shift. Infrequent traveler, bonded, positive minded, ethical, prompt. Reliable car. 619-685-7979.

APARTMENT ASSISTANT MANAGER Part-time, off-site, assistant manager. Experience in computers and office skills. Strong renter with transportation. Call 619-692-3124.

APARTMENT MANAGER. Experienced manager for an onsite 92 unit complex in El Cajon. Substantial salary. Lodging.

Nice atmosphere. Couples welcomed. Fax resume to 619-303-2080.

APPOINTMENT SETTER. No selling! \$10/hour base pay. Earn up to \$20/hour! No experience needed. Just book appointments. Money motivated, reliable people for 9am-3pm shift, Monday-Friday. Additional hours available. Gateway Marketing, San Diego: 619-697-5600. Escondido: 760-743-0050.

APPOINTMENT SETTER. www.monarchjobs.com. Up to \$500-\$1000+ weekly! Paid weekly. AM/PM shifts. Full, part time. Medical, dental. Near Grantville trolley. Call today, start today! Mission Valley: 619-516-4276.

ARTIST WANTED. Paint on kitchen closet, pantries, Hawaii tropical scenery, plumarias. Birds of paradise. Scenery should be mural. Realistic style painting. Pay cash. 760-723-7373. 818-535-9955.

ASSET PROTECTION OFFICERS. Guard Management, Inc. provides all training, Guard Card testing, Live Scan for GMI potential hires. Hiring full/part time countywide. Immediate placement with valid California Guard Card. Excellent compensation, growth potential to \$20.00/hour for Field Officers. Recruitment bonus, 401(k), health, professional certification. Apply: 8001 Vickers Street, San Diego. Eligibility is conditional. 858-244-1896 or e-mail resume: FJohnson@GMIweb.com.

AUTO LOAN COLLECTOR/LOAN FINDER. Collect delinquent auto loans and process credit applications. Excellent customer service skills required. Entry-level with advancement opportunities. E-mail resume: bwathen@coastalcreditllc.com.

BALLROOM DANCE INSTRUCTORS. San Diego ballroom studio. Full-time positions for ambitious, outgoing individuals. Salary: \$15-\$25/hour plus commission. Paid vacation, sick days. 858-451-3775. www.dancemotionstudios.com.

BARTENDERS NEEDED. Looking for part/full time bartenders. Several positions available. No experience required. With hourly wages and tips make up to \$300 per shift. Call 800-806-0082 x200. (AAN CAN).

BOOTH RENTALS. Hair Menagerie in Clairemont. Off Balboa and Genessee near Conroy's Flowers. Small salon, great fun yet professional attitude. Join us! Cindy, 858-569-6233; 619-300-6629.

CALL CENTER REPS. MDI offers paid holidays after 2000 hours and vacation bonuses after 2000 hours. MDI Staffing, 8316 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, #204. Fax 858-277-5621. Call 858-277-5680.

CAMP SUMMER JOBS. Great summer jobs! Lifeguards, Camp Counselors, and Camp Unit Leaders. Check out our website at ecke.ymca.org.

CAREGIVER, LIVE-IN. Experienced for active male quad. Good driving record a must. Salary plus room and board. Background check. For more info: 619-466-9189.

CAREGIVER. Provide assistance to adults with developmental disabilities. Apply: Home of Guiding Hands, 1825 Gillespie Way #200, El Cajon, CA, 92020, on-line: www.guidinghands.org. call: 619-938-3057.

CAREGIVERS, LIVE-IN: Attentive Home Care has immediate assignments for Live-In Caregivers. Experience a must! CA ID or driver's license, Social Security card required. Fingerprint and TB test a plus. Flexible schedules. Hourly or live-in. Competitive pay. Overtime for holidays. Employer-matched 401(k). Health, vision and dental insurance available. Also hiring CNAs, HHAs and hourly Caregivers. Call for an interview in North County or San Diego: 760-434-4393 or 619-231-

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- Cash Bonuses Paid Nightly

Call: 760-497-5291



Or apply in person 12-5 pm Monday-Thursday:
2851 Camino del Rio South, Suite 300
San Diego, CA 92108

J O B S A T T H E R E A D E R

Online Sales Representative

SDReader.com, the website for the San Diego *Reader* newsweekly, has openings for Online Sales Representatives to join our team. We are seeking seasoned sales professionals with a strong background in Internet media sales. Qualified candidates will be proactive in developing revenue, increasing our client base, and selling marketing solutions for SDReader.com. Online Sales Representatives will also be responsible for developing proposals, managing current business, and generating opportunities in a quickly-changing industry. Please send a cover letter and updated résumé detailing your experience in online sales.

Classified Administrative Assistant

A personable, versatile, detail-oriented applicant needed for classified department of large weekly newspaper. Must be able to work comfortably with the public and coworkers. Multitasking skills a plus. Responsibilities include functioning as a sales assistant to classified/display advertising reps. Duties include contacting advertisers by phone, data entry, plus miscellaneous organizational and administrative tasks. Work in a positive, casual environment for the nation's fourth-largest alternative newsweekly.

Sales Administrative Assistant

The San Diego *Reader* is looking for a Sales Administrative Assistant with at least 3 years' experience. Must possess excellent customer service skills and be able to work comfortably with the public and coworkers. Multitasking skills are a plus. The ideal candidate will be smart, personable and detail-oriented to help support a busy sales staff. Duties include: servicing accounts, assisting sales reps with advertising production, clerical tasks, data entry, answering phones, researching accounting issues, contacting advertisers by phone, and miscellaneous organizational and administrative tasks for various departments. Windows, MS Word, and Excel required. Must be able to lift 35 lbs.

Benefits include health coverage paid 100%, 401(k) with employer match, free downtown parking in Little Italy and more.

E-mail:
hrdept@sreader.com

Mail:
Human Resources
P.O. Box 85803
San Diego, CA
92186-5803

Fax:
ATTN: Human Resources
Online Sales
(619) 231-0489

Careers in
Probation

**Correctional Deputy
Probation Officer I**

Minimum Qualifications

- 21 years old • Good physical condition • No illicit drug usage
- U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen
- No felony convictions • High school diploma or GED

Salary:

\$35,069-\$44,741 annually

Safety Retirement-Sworn Officers 3% at age 50.

Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply.

Test date:

February 2, 2008 • 8 am

Montgomery Middle School
2470 Ulric Street • San Diego, CA 92111

Applications available at the test site.

For additional information, contact the department's

Jobline: 858-514-8558

www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation

0151. *North County applicants, please mention where you're calling from.

CAREGIVERS. Beautiful assisted living facility in Poway has day shifts available (7am-7pm). Benefits, bonuses, extra pay for weekends. Must be kind and caring! Call 858-674-1255 x206.

CAREGIVERS. Full/part time. 24-hour live-ins. Male/female. 1+ year experience, vehicle required. Caregivers, Companions, HHAs, CNAs. Leave contact information and brief experience: 619-944-3327.

CAREGIVERS. Home Instead Senior Care needs cheerful, dependable people to help seniors stay at home with our non-medical home care services. Competitive pay/training. Flexible hours. Great benefits. Central/East Jobline: 619-433-6200. South Bay/Coastal: 858-277-3722.

CAREGIVERS/CNAs/HHAs Immediate openings: Hourly, Live-in, Nights. Cheerful, compassionate Companions/HHAs/CNAs to assist seniors in-home. Minimum 1-year experience. Premium pay/bonuses/benefits, 24-hour office support. Flexible assignments. Age Advantage, 619-660-8881.

CAREGIVERS/CNAs/HHAs. Hourly and live-in. Seeking caring, compassionate, dependable people with transportation. Flexible hours, competitive compensation, paid weekly. Apply weekdays: 9am-4pm. Right at Home, 8369 Vickers Street #203, San Diego CA 92111. www.rahlajolla.com. 858-277-5900.

CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Minimum 1 year experience non-medical home care for seniors. Valid California Driver's License. Serving Santee/La Mesa/Del Cerro/San Carlos. Maureen, Visiting Angels, 619-749-7525.

CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Visiting Angels, America's Choice in Homecare. Now hiring compassionate, caring Caregivers/Companions. Requires minimum 1 year experience in non-medical home care for seniors and valid CA driver's license. Serving Poway, Rancho Penasquitos, Scripps Ranch and Mira Mesa areas. Call for an immediate interview: 760-703-2192.

CAREGIVERS/HOME HEALTH/Personal Assistants/CNAs. Get paid weekly! Hourly and live-in. Compassionate and dependable. Flexible hours, competitive pay. Apply weekdays, 8am-3pm: Right at Home 858-451-7844; 16486 Bernard Center Drive #124, San Diego, CA 92128. www.rahencinitas.com.

CAREGIVERS LIVE-INS, 2, 3, 4 or 5 days/week, \$120/day including sleep and meal periods. Weekends and hourly: 4-hour, 8-hour and 12-hour shifts, AM/PM. Top pay, flexible shifts 24/7, 401(k), production bonus, rewards for good work. Requires valid driver's license, vehicle/insurance, registration, one year of paid elder caregiving experience, eligibility to work in the United States. \$50 Hiring Bonus after 90 days of employment. Comfort Keepers, 2006 Workplace Excellence Medallion Award SDSHRM, San Diego: 619-795-6036. San Marcos: 760-598-3400.

CAREGIVERS needed immediately. 1 year experience. All shifts available. Hourly and live in. Call Assertive Homecare Services, 3774 Grove Street, Suite L-1, Lemon Grove. 619-466-6890.

CARPET CLEANER for growing carpet cleaning company in San Diego County. Must have clean DMV. Call today, start tomorrow! 858-577-0341.

CHEMICAL HANDLERS: JOB FAIR: Monday-Friday, January 28-February 1, 10am-3pm, at 10717 Camino Ruiz, Suite 252, Mira Mesa, CA 92126 (corner of Mira Mesa Boulevard and Camino Ruiz). The Eastridge Group, in partnership with Kyocera America, has the following temporary and temp-to-hire open positions: Machine Operators, Microscope Inspectors, Chemical Handlers. Benefits available! Attend our job fair or call for more info: 858-566-9111.

CIRCULATE PETITION. Circulate statewide political petition. \$100-\$200/day. Paid 3 times per week. All areas. Work immediately after a brief orientation. Call 24/7, 619-819-8950.

CIRCULATORS. Collect signatures on statewide petitions. No experience necessary. Paid 3x/week. \$10-\$30/hour. Independent contract work where/when you want. Full/part time. 619-230-9020.

CLASSROOM AIDES. Work with developmentally disabled children in non-public school. Experience preferred. Allied Gardens, Chula Vista, La Mesa. Monday-Friday, 7:30am-1pm. \$9.75/hour to start. EOE. www.vistahill.org. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453. EOE. Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

CLOSERS WANTED to generate leads for home improvement. No selling of products! Average income \$20-\$30+/hour, part-time! Monday-Saturday, day/evening. More info, 1-866-DRHARTY (1-866-374-2789). www.thhd.net.

CNA/CHHA. Beginners, experienced. Family Caregivers, Childcare, Home Care Aides, Drivers. Great pay! New-hire bonus! Nonmedical, in-home help for seniors, children, disabled. 12-and 24-hour shifts! Training. Flexible schedules, benefits, retirement, childcare. At Your Home Familycare. E-mail: homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com. Toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS.

CNAs AND HHAs, Caregivers/Homemakers. We offer weekly pay, flexible schedules, and training. Hourly and live-ins wanted. Apply: Right at Home. 858-451-5762; or e-mail resume: employment@rahencinitas.com.

COMMERCIAL LOAN OFFICERS and Branch Manager positions available now. Generous commission splits, leads and proven marketing plans, work from home or office. No fees. 8 positions available. Fax resume to: 858-630-2236 or e-mail to: info@mortgageloanexpertsinfo.com.

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Now Hiring!**



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OF SUCCESS**

Exam Dates:

January 30, 2008 • 5:30 pm Arrival

Sheriff's Administrative Center
9621 Ridgehaven Ct., San Diego, CA 92123
Registration by e-mail or phone is required
prior to the Ridgehaven test **ONLY.**

recruit@sdsheriff.org

February 2, 2008 • 7:30 am Arrival

Southwestern College Cafeteria
900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista, CA 91910
18-year-olds eligible to apply!

Bring valid photo ID and \$3 for parking at Southwestern.

www.joinsdSHERIFF.net

858-974-2000

**San Diego County
Sheriff's Department
Open House
January 31, 2008 • 6-8 pm**

This FREE event is a great opportunity for anyone interested in a career in law enforcement. Talk to the heroes of the Sheriff's Department about the hiring process, qualifications, benefits, career advancement, the academy and much, much more!

San Diego Sheriff's Department
9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego, CA 92123

Contact Deputy Laura Legler:

858-974-2336

Laura.Legler@sdsheriff.org

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SELF Reliant, and SELF Directed.

*If "SELF"-ish describes you, then you should join
our professional vacation ownership Sales team!*

**In 2007, 35 Sales Agents made or were
on pace to make over \$100,000!**

**These people did NO prospecting,
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Call Tom Trobaugh at (760) 749-5082

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COMMUNITY TRAINING Specialist/Job Coach. \$9.75/hour to start. Assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. Behavioral and instructional programs. Implement schedules. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453. Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm, Stein Education Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

CONSTRUCTION: Project Managers, Service Technicians, Installers. Seeking motivated, organized people with experience with design, blueprints, A/V systems installation. Benefits offered. Send resume: dplotkin@audiassociates.com; fax 619-461-9469. EOE.

CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY PROBATION Officer I. County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Date: February 2, 2008, 8am, Montgomery Middle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage, U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. High school diploma/GED. \$35,068-\$44,740/year. www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

COSMETOLOGISTS. We provide benefits for Licensed Cosmetologists that are unmatched in the industry: health, wealth, training, and life crisis management resources. Call 877-870-8087 or email yasmin.shah@greatclips.net.

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CUSTOMER SERVICE, SEASONAL. Make people happy—Join ProFlowers as a Customer Service Associate. Requires good communication skills and computer proficiency in a Windows environment. \$10/hour with opportunities for seasonal increase; \$9/hour paid training. Flexible hours: early morning, late afternoon and evening start times. 24/7 call center. Location: Sorrento Valley/Mira Mesa area. To see for yourself why San Diego Magazine named ProFlowers as "One of San Diego's Best Places to Work" in 2006, check us out at <http://proflowers.ning.com>.

com. Send us your resume today for a fresh opportunity! E-mail: jobs@proflowers.com. Fax: 858-909-4201.

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CUSTOMER SERVICE/DISPATCHER. ARS of San Diego is seeking a motivated multitasker with good communication and leadership skills for a fast-paced environment. Must be a team player with a minimum of 5 years experience. Kevin, 858-677-5444 x113. kkelington@ars.com. www.jobswithars.com. Drug-free work environment. License #791820.

CUSTOMER SERVICE: Great opportunity for detail-oriented person at Mayer Repographics in Mira Mesa. Computer skills required. Full time with benefits. 8:30am-5pm Monday-Friday. Apply at: 6331 Nancy Ridge Drive.

DELIVERY DRIVERS for MSI. San Diego's largest production company. Delivering and picking up equipment from job sites, providing customer service/support, and installing, connecting and operating A/V equipment as needed. Must be able to work weekends and have clean DMV record. Experience driving up to a 24' truck and manual transmission preferred. Resume: fax 858-348-0079 or email hr@msiprod.com. Or apply in person: Meeting Services, Inc., 9220 Activity Road, San Diego, CA 92126, 858-348-0100. EOE.

DEMONSTRATORS. The ultimate job. \$15-\$25/hour. Pacific Home Remodeling, Inc. is seeking energetic and professional Demonstrators to promote our energy-efficient/green living products for our Show and Events Department. Make great money! No resume required. No experience necessary, training and materials provided. Growth opportunities. Call 877-411-4700. www.pacificremodeling.com.

DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICER. County of San Diego Probation Department is now hiring. Test Date: February 23, 2008. Qualified applicants will be notified by mail of the time and location of the test. Applications must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to exam date. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree with experience. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. \$50,752-\$61,672/year. Safety Retirement-Sworn Officers 3% at age 50. Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply. Applications can be accessed online from the Job/Current Recruitment section of the County website at: <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov>. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

DEPUTY SHERIFF and Deputy Sheriff Detentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Hiring for two types of positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam Dates: Wednesday, January 30, 2008, 5:30pm arrival, Sheriff's Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123 or Saturday, February 2, 2008, 7:30am arrival, Southwestern College Cafeteria, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista CA 91910. Registration by e-mail or phone is required for the Ridgehaven test ONLY at: recruit@sdsheriff.org. Detention/Courts: \$39,796-\$61,608 annual salary, plus benefits. 18-year-olds eligible to apply! Deputy Sheriff: \$49,704-\$71,099 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-112 years old, High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID and \$3 for parking at Southwestern. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www.joinsdsHERIFF.net. 858-974-2000.

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DISPATCHER/CUSTOMER SERVICE. ARS of San Diego is seeking a motivated multitasker with good communication and leadership skills for a fast-paced environment. Must be a team player with a minimum of 5 years experience. Kevin, 858-677-5444 x113. kkelington@ars.com. www.jobswithars.com. Drug-free work environment. License #791820.

DRIVER, VENDING ROUTE. Full time. Experienced preferred or will train. Bring

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DRIVER. Bus tours of San Diego and Tijuana, charters and SPAB. Class B/P/A license required. To \$14/hour plus medical, dental, and vision benefits. Call: 619-520-5200.

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DRIVERS WANTED. Requires valid CA driver's license, current H-6 DMV printout and good, safe driving skills. Must be 25 years or older. Apply in person at Xpress Shuttle, 1065 Bay Boulevard, Suite B, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

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DRIVERS. Dominion Distribution is looking for part-time Drivers to deliver free publications on Mondays and Fridays. You must have truck or van and be currently insured. Call Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, 858-279-3137 x243.

DRIVERS. Must have Class B license with passenger endorsement and at least 6 months experience. Fixed route, Monday-Friday, 36-40 hours/week with benefits. Call 619-287-0628.

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DRIVERS wanted for floral deliveries for Valentine's Day, February 12, 13 and 14. Must be courteous and professional. Must have own vehicle, insurance, clean DMV and Thomas Brothers Guide. \$15/hour plus gas. A Flower Factory, 858-974-1231, 7276 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard.

EDUCATION. San Diego County Office of Education seeking qualified applicants for permanent/temporary positions: Child Aide Worker \$11.96-\$13.21/hour, Food Service Worker \$11.96-\$13.21/hour, Program Secretary \$16.45-18.14/hour. Accepting applications at www.sdcoe.net/apply. EOE.

EDUCATION: Now hiring a Youth Leader, part time after school program working with high school students in the juvenile court and community schools. \$8.50-\$10.30/hour. Availability needed: Monday-Thursday, 1-5pm. Visit www.ymca.org, call Veronica Larios, 619-281-8313 x101, or e-mail vlarios@ymca.org. EOE.

ENGINEER, ELECTRICIAN, CARPENTER, Omni San Diego Hotel. Premier four star property located in the heart of Downtown San Diego, connected by sky bridge to the San Diego Padres Ballpark, is currently seeking candidates for General Engineer, Electrician and Carpenter. We offer an excellent benefit package and competitive wages. Drug-free workplace. EOE M/F/D/V/AA. Apply 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday: 675 L Street, San Diego, CA 92101. Fax 619-645-6564.

ENGINEER. Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. San Diego, CA. Engineering positions available: Engineer-SCA23409. Send resume to AMD, One AMD Place, Attention: M/S101, PO 3453, Sunnyvale,

CA 94088-3453 referencing appropriate job title and requisition number.

ESTHETICIAN. Busy hair salon has clients! Experienced. Feed off 22 busy Hairstylists, complement your clientele! Some clientele preferred. Booth rental/commission. Part/full time. 20% commission on Retail Cantly located, Hazard Center, Mission Valley. Free parking. Signing Bonus! Apply: Zino's Salon, 7610 Hazard Center Drive, #702, 92108. Zino, 619-574-7895.

EVENT/GAME STAFF. Fun working environment! Interactive game rental company hiring staff for corporate parties and events. Will train. Very flexible schedule. Heavy lifting may be required. \$9-\$10/hour to start. For more information and to fill out application, go to www.partyals.com/job.html.

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FITNESS CENTERS hiring Front Desk Staff, Sales Consultants and Group Exercise Instructors. Part/full time. Being Fit Fitness Centers. Mira Mesa, 858-549-3456; Clairemont, 858-483-9294; www.beingfit.net.

FITNESS TRAINER with strong fitness background. Personal training experience required. Must be able to work full/part time hours. E-mail resume: donawilson@fitnesstoegether.com or call 858-451-6051.

FITNESS: PERSONAL TRAINERS. Flexible schedules. No selling. Certification and experience a must. Private suites. Career growth. Mission Hills area. E-mail resume: BlakeBeckcom@FitnessTogether.com. (or call 619-794-0014).

FLIGHT ATTENDANTS: Group interview 5pm Thursday, February 7, at Holiday Inn Express Old Town, 3900 Old Town Avenue, San Diego, CA, 92110. Please bring a copy of your resume and apply online. www.skywest.com/careers.

FLORIST-DESIGNER. Established Pacific Beach flower shop needs competent, hardy, experienced floral designer. Part-time. Weekends a must. Production work and customer service required. Fax resume to: 858-273-1203.

FOOD SERVER: Lead Food Server, full time and part time, at Sunrise Assisted Living At La Costa (license #374601134).

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Special Education, Prevention Services and Treatment Programs

Applications/resumes are accepted Monday-Friday 9 am-4 pm.

Recreation Assistant • \$10.33/hr. to start, with benefits
Supervise direct care of children with autism and other disabilities. 12 units ECE or related field, CA driver's license. Pre-employment screening/background check. Monday-Friday 9:30 am-6 pm.

Community Training Specialist/Job Coach • \$9.75/hr. to start, DOE
To assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. Behavioral and instructional programs. Implement schedules. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits.

Transition Specialist • \$9.75/hr. to start, DOE
Assist teachers in group- and community-based instruction for developmentally disabled adults. Implement behavioral management programs. 30 hours/week.

Classroom Aides • \$9.75/hr. to start, DOE
Work with developmentally disabled children in a nonpublic school. Experience preferred. Allied Gardens, Chula Vista, La Mesa. Monday-Friday 7:30 am-1 pm.

Stein Education Center, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego, CA 92120
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- 21 years old • Good physical condition • No illicit drug usage
- U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen
- No felony convictions • Bachelor's degree with experience

Salary: \$50,752-\$61,672 annually
Safety Retirement-Sworn Officers 3% at age 50.
Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply.

Test date: February 23, 2008

Qualified applicants will be notified by mail of the date, time and location of the test.
All applications must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to the exam date. Applications received after the 15th day will be scheduled for the following exam. Applications can be accessed on-line from the Job/Current Recruitments section of the County website at:

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov>
Jobline: 858-514-8558

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& Presidents Way

Wed., February 6, 2008 • 6 pm
Balboa Park Club Ballroom
2150 West Pan American Road
& Presidents Way

Fri., February 8, 2008 • 8:30 am
Balboa Park Club Ballroom
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GENERAL. Free employment and training services for individuals with disabilities, ages 18-21 on probation or parole. Able-Disabled Advocacy, Inc., 2850 6th Avenue Suite 311, San Diego, CA 92103. 619-231-5990 x305.

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HAIR DESIGNERS. Busy Gaslamp salon seeking booth renters. Walk-ins available! Great urban loft environment, convenient parking. Move-in incentives. 619-231-7588.

HAIRDRESSER and esthetician needed for salon in Hillcrest. Full time or part time. Booth rental only. Free parking. Call Judy, 619-291-1190.

HAIRSTYLIST. Busy hair salon! Experienced. Some clientele preferred. Booth rental/commission. Part/full time. Thursday night complementary cutting classes. 20% commission on retail! Complimentary classes on Models. Centrally located, Hazard Center, Mission Valley. Free parking. Signing Bonus! Apply: Zino's Salon, 7610 Hazard Center Drive, #702, 92108. Zino, 619-574-7895.

HAIRSTYLIST. Children's hairstylist wanted for Children's Salon in La Jolla and Carmel Valley. Many clients eagerly awaiting you! Experience with children preferred. Please call 858-551-5161.

HAIRSTYLIST. Lower your expenses! La Jolla/UTC. Relaxed, established easy-going salon seeks weekly booth renters: \$200/week. Call Paul Gerard Hair Salon, 858-625-0555.

HAIRSTYLIST. New Urban Chic Salon, Point Loma, looking for Stylist. Good location. Owner with established clientele. Must see: 2145 Poinsettia Drive. Contact Lynnei, 619-226-6188.

HAIRSTYLISTS. Booth available at high-end salon in UTC area. Lots of advertising. Great opportunity to build. Call 858-457-1221.

HAIRSTYLISTS. In search of Bangin' Stylist! The Garage Salon, Rockabilly theme. \$250/week rent includes product, color, towels, Receptionist. Exclusively AVEDA. www.garagesalon.com. E-mail resume: garagesalon@mac.com.

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HEALTHCARE. Spring Valley. Direct Support Professionals. Provide care to adults with developmental disabilities in residential campus setting. Full/part-time positions, multiple shifts. Must be 18-years/own transportation. Requires HSD/GED; physical exam, fingerprinting, clear driving record; ability to lift/move 35+ pounds; perform household chores. Experience in similar environment a plus. Benefits for 35+ HPW. For application: www.noahhomes.com, print, complete, fax to 619-660-1481, Attention: HR.

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HOTEL FRONT DESK: Full-time, 3-11pm. Weekends required. Experience preferred. Apply Best Western Lamplighter Inn and Suites, 6474 El Cajon Boulevard, Fax/email resume: 619-582-6873/bwlamplichterinn@netherere.com.

HOTEL HOUSEKEEPING: Rancho Valencia Resort is currently hiring: Room Attendants, Turn Down Attendants, Housepersons, Carpet Cleaning Specialists. Apply in person: 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067. Or email resume (as Word attachment): hr@ranchovalencia.com. www.ranchovalencia.com. No phone calls please. EOE/Drug-free workplace.

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HVAC TECHNICIAN: ARS of San Diego is seeking career-minded HVAC Technician with minimum three years experience. If you like the idea of working for a national leader in the service industry, with benefits that rival the industry standard, and have the motivation and desire to earn an income that would make many college graduates envious, please call us today to arrange an interview that just might change your life forever! Kevin, 858-677-5455 x113. kcellington@ars.com.

www.jobswithars.com. Drug-free work environment. License #791820.

IN-HOME CARE: Caregivers and Companions. Minimum 1 year experience non-medical home care for seniors. Valid California Driver's License. Serving San Diego/La Mesa/Del Cerro/San Carlos. Maureen, Visiting Angels, 619-749-7525.

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JOB COACH/COMMUNITY Training Specialist: \$9.75/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. Fax 619-440-6864. 619-440-6802.

JOB FAIR: Monday-Friday, January 28-February 1, 10am-3pm, at 10717 Camino Ruiz, Suite 252, Mira Mesa, CA 92126 (corner of Mira Mesa Boulevard and Camino Ruiz). The Eastridge Group, in partnership with Kyoocera America, has the following temporary and temp-to-hire open positions: Machine Operators, Microscope Inspectors, Chemical Handlers. Benefits available! Attend our job fair or call for more info: 858-566-9111.

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LANDSCAPING SUPERVISORS to \$16/hour. Supervise crews of 5+. Must have clean DMV, be bilingual Spanish, and have supervisory experience. Apply at www.atworkstaffing.com, 619-234-WORK (9675).

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LAW ENFORCEMENT: Deputy Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Detentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Hiring for two types of positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam Dates: Wednesday, January 30, 2008, 5:30pm arrival. Sheriff's Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123 or Saturday, February 2, 2008, 7:30am arrival, Southwestern College Cafeteria, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista CA 91910. Registration by e-mail or phone is required for the Ridgehaven test ONLY at: recruit@sdsheriff.org. Detention/Courts: \$39,796-\$61,608 annual salary, plus benefits. 18-year-olds eligible to apply! Deputy Sheriff: \$49,704-\$71,099 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID and \$3 for parking at Southwestern. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www.joinsdsheriff.net. 858-974-2000.

LEAD SETTERS: \$1500-\$3500 weekly. Earn what you're worth! Pacific Home Remodeling is hiring ambitious, motivated individuals to set appointments to promote energy-efficient/green living products such as Magic Windows and Flex-On Exterior Coating—all products approved by the Department of Energy. Training plus all tools and support to insure success provided. Great pay! Growth opportunity. Call to schedule an interview: 858-866-0183. www.pacifichomere modeling.com.

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LINE COOK for Sorrento Valley corporate cafe. Temporary, could become permanent. Reliable, enthusiastic, willing to learn. Fast-paced team oriented environment. Monday-Friday, 6:30am-3pm. \$12/hour. Tom Marino: 858-597-8590; e-mail resume: jobs@mbe.com.

LOAN AGENTS/SALES: No real estate license required. Training provided! Leave message 24 hours a day for return call, 888-313-7226. Fax resume: 858-454-2437.

LOAN OFFICERS AND AGENTS: Self-motivated individuals with phone sales experience needed for San Diego real estate brokerage. Commission only, no salary. Call 858-576-2000 or fax resume: 858-576-2020.

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MACHINE OPERATORS. JOB FAIR: Monday-Friday, January 28-February 1, 10am-3pm, at 10717 Camino Ruiz, Suite 252, Mira Mesa, CA 92126 (corner of Mira Mesa Boulevard and Camino Ruiz). The Eastridge Group, in partnership with Kyoocera America, has the following temporary and temp-to-hire open positions: Machine Operators, Microscope Inspectors, Chemical Handlers. Benefits available! Attend our job fair or call for more info: 858-566-9111.

MACHINE PROGRAMMER (CNC): Machine Operator, Quality Assurance, Production Workers and Mail Sorters. MDI offers paid holidays after 520 hours and vacation bonuses after 2000 hours. Apply at MDI Staffing: 858-277-5680.

MAGAZINE PACKER: Cox San Diego Auto Trader is hiring Magazine Packers part time. EEOC/drug testing. E-mail sdjobs@traderonline.com. Call 858-654-3318.

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MAINTENANCE for older buildings. Must have experience. Tools and transportation required. Call 619-692-3124 or 619-234-7522.

MANICURIST: Come and join beautiful upscale salon. Seeking manicurist with clientele for booth rent. Two weeks free. Come and join our team. Call Carmela, 619-561-3137.

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MICROSCOPE INSPECTORS. Job Fair: Monday-Friday, January 28-February 1, 10am-3pm, at 10717 Camino Ruiz, Suite 252, Mira Mesa, CA 92126 (corner of Mira Mesa Boulevard and Camino Ruiz). The Eastridge Group, in partnership with Kyocera America, has the following temporary and temp-to-hire open positions: Machine Operators, Microscope Inspectors, Chemical Handlers. Benefits available! Attend our job fair or call for more info: 858-566-9111.

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Saturday, February 2, 2008: 11:00 am-4:00 pm

Wednesday, February 13, 2008: 4:00 pm-8:00 pm

Tuesday, February 26, 2008: 4:00 pm-7:00 pm

At the Western Metals Building located across from the Marriott on Tony Gwynn Dr.

Qualified applicants should have food service or retail background, but we will train the right individuals.

Positions available include:

Stand Leaders, Stand Attendants, Event Porters, Day Porters, Food Preps, Cooks, Vending Commissary Leaders, Vending Commissary Workers, Food & Beverage Vendors, Team Store Clerks, Program Vendors

Non-union positions: Level Supervisors

****Must be able to work Padres home games, including playoffs****

Fine Dining (Suites, In-seat & Clubs)

Tuesday, February 19, 2008: 4:00 pm-8:00 pm

Saturday, February 23, 2008: 11:00 am-4:00 pm

At the Western Metals Building located across from the Marriott on Tony Gwynn Dr.

Qualified applicants should have fine dining food service background, but we will train the right individuals.

Positions available include:

Bartenders, Bar Backs, Club Servers, In-Seat Servers, In-Seat Runners, Suite Runners, Cooks (event-only & pre-event), Food Preps (event-only & pre-event), Host Persons

Non-union positions: Level Supervisors

•DNC Sportservice requires pre-employment drug testing and criminal background checks.

****Must be able to work Padres home games, including playoffs****

• We will be conducting on-site interviewing.

Please dress in appropriate interview attire (no jeans, sneakers, sandals, T-shirts, etc.).

For more information log onto our website at www.sdbaseballjobs.com or call: 619-795-5901

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PROBATION CAREERS. Correctional Deputy Probation Officer I, County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Date: February 2, 2008, 8am. Montgomery Middle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. High school diploma/GED. \$35,069-\$44,741/year. www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

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RECREATION ASSISTANT for the Stein Education Center, a private special edu-

cation school serving children with Autism and other disabilities. Candidates must possess 12 units of Early Childhood Education or 12 units in a related field and a valid California driver's license. Duties include supervising direct care, scheduling social and recreation activities. Computer knowledge preferred. Monday-Friday, 9:30am-6pm. Starting salary \$10.33/hour with benefits. Pre-employment screening (drug test, TB) and Background Check (FBI and Department of Justice). EOE. Apply in person, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120 or fax resume to 619-281-0453.

RESEARCH STUDY: YAZ. Continuous (periods every 3 months), pays up to \$400, one year study. Call Kim at the Medical Center for Clinical Research, 619-521-2841.

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4th Avenue, Gaslamp or fax: 619-239-5828, or e-mail: dublinsquare@yahoo.com.

RESTAURANT LINE COOK: For Irish pub, bar and grill. Experience necessary. Apply: 554 4th Avenue, Gaslamp or fax: 619-239-5828, or e-mail: dublinsquare@yahoo.com.

RESTAURANT MANAGER for Doubletree Del Mar. Contact 858-481-5900 or in person: 11915 El Camino Real, Del Mar.

RESTAURANT. No nights or weekends. If you are a positive, energetic team player, we want you. North County and Kearny Mesa areas. Established corporate dining service has all positions (except bartenders) available. Fax resume: 858-627-6918. E-mail millenniumdining@aol.com.

RESTAURANT. Now hiring! Baker and Deli Clerks (Del Mar); Kitchen Supervisor and Baker (4S Ranch); Deli Clerk and Prep Cook (Carlsbad); Prep Cook (Escondido). \$9-\$15.50/hour. See ad under Grocery/Natural Foods. Jimbo's Naturally!

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RESTAURANT: OPERA SINGERS. Macaroni Grill now hiring Opera Singers, part-time or full-time, must be 18 years or older. Apply in person 2pm-4pm, Monday-Thursdays: North County Fair, 202 East Via Rancho Parkway, Escondido.

RESTAURANT: PETCO PARK. Delaware North Companies (DNC) Sportservice hiring for 2008 Padres Baseball Season. Job Fair for Fine Dining (Suites, In-Seat & Clubs) - Tuesday 2/19 4pm-8pm, Saturday 2/23 11am-4pm. Western Metals Building across from Marriott on Tony Gwynn Drive. Qualified applicants should have fine dining food service background but will train the right individuals. Positions available include: Bartenders, Bar Backs, Club Servers, In-Seat Servers, In-Seat Runners, Suite Runners, Cooks (event-only & pre-event), Food Preps (event-only & pre-event), Host Persons. Non-union positions: Level Supervisors. Must be able to work Padres home games, including playoffs. Requires pre-employment drug testing and criminal background checks. On-site interviewing,

please dress in appropriate interview attire (no jeans, sneakers, sandals, T-shirts, etc.). For more information: www.sdbaseballjobs.com. Or call: 619-795-5901. EEO/DFW/MF.

RESTAURANT: SUSHI CHEF. Experience required. Popular Japanese sushi restaurant in Gaslamp. Apply in person 3pm-5pm. Tuesday-Saturday: Taka Restaurant, 555 5th, 92101. 619-338-0555.

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RETAIL SALES. North County Drum and Percussion in Vista is looking for qualified sales staff for retail operation. Part/full time. Hourly plus commission and bonuses. No experience necessary. E-mail resume to northcountydrums@gmail.com. or call Daniel, 760-822-5372.

RETAIL/BILINGUAL. Wireless provider expands to El Cajon. Full/part time. Available weekends/holidays. Experience. HS diploma required. Call today! 858-597-4000. Fax: 858-453-9632; E-mail: staffing@tristaff.com.

RETAIL/RESTAURANT: PETCO PARK. Delaware North Companies (DNC) Sport-service hiring for 2008 Padres Baseball Season. Job Fair for Concessions, Retail & Warehouse - Saturday 2/2 11am-4pm, Wednesday 2/13 4pm-8pm, Tuesday 2/26 4pm-7pm. Western Metals Building across from Marriott on Tony Gwynn Drive. Qualified applicants should have food service or retail background but will train the right individuals. Positions available include: Stand Leaders, Stand Attendants, Event Porters, Day Porters, Food Preps, Cooks, Vending Commissary Leaders, Vending Commissary Workers, Food & Beverage Vendors, Team Store Clerks, Program Vendors. Non-union positions: Level Supervisors. Must be able to work Padres home games, including playoffs. Requires pre-employment drug testing and criminal background checks.

On-site interviewing, please dress in appropriate interview attire (no jeans, sneakers, sandals, T-shirts, etc.). For more information: www.sdbaseballjobs.com. Or call: 619-795-5901. EEO/DFW/MF.

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Cynthia Stevens
Hairstylist
Fresno

I have six. But four of them are really small, so they don't count. I was young, and they're just things like a tiny heart. When I met Debbie Harry, I had her autograph my arm, and then I had it tattooed, with the band name above it. I had Chris Stein sign also, but it got smeared, so I didn't have it tattooed. I'd eventually put the other band members on there. I want to have Debbie Harry's face. I'm going to have Kat from L.A. do it. She's known for doing great portraits.



Dagwood Reed
Songwriter
Phoenix

My one tattoo is really tiny. It's a genie's lamp. I was 14, and this girl was 14, when we learned how to tattoo. She tried to do a seagull but messed it up. Then she tried to make it a scorpion. That didn't turn out right either. So, we made it into a genie lamp, which worked well, since it's like my mom's name. She passed away, and it is a remembrance of her.



Frankie Koppelman
Retired
Los Angeles

I waited after a Blondie concert to have Debbie Harry sign my arm. She came out especially to do it. Clem Burke went and got her. I thought about having him sign my arm as well, but you can't have a guy's tattoo on your arm. I saw a picture of her on this shirt, and I might add that tattoo. I'm not sure. I like knowing, though, that for those two minutes she was signing my arm, I was a part of her life.



George Figueroa
Student
Escondido

I don't have any. I'll probably get one eventually, though. I think about it. I thought about getting a gar-goyle. But I thought it might look horrible when I get old. If my mom died, maybe I'd get her name. But, I think the thing I decided on is a lion because I'm a Leo. When I do get one, that's probably going to be it.



Lewis Schafer
Preschool Administrator
Poway

It's hard to say. I have a lot that blend into each other. I have more than 20 but less than 30. One arm is a sleeve. I have a big leopard-skin print with flames. I have one arm that is all Southwestern, Native American designs. There's a totem pole. And, I have the standard dagger with a rose wrapped around it to show I'm tough but sensitive.



Roberta Sopone
Makeup Artist
El Cajon

I do have two tattoos. Both are representations of tigers. I love the animal, and to me, it represents beauty and strength, and that is something I look for in my life. For several months now, I've been working on designing a larger tattoo. That will be an angel that will combine my two original ones to create one large tattoo. The previous ones hurt like hell when I had them done, but I would do it again.

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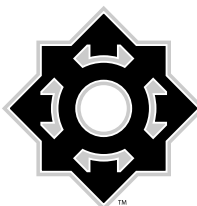
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OPEN HOUSE. The Art Institute of California, San Diego, Saturday, February 2, 2008. Design Programs: Check in 9:30am; presentation 10:00am. Culinary Arts Program: Check in 12:00noon; presentation 12:30pm. It's a new year and a new you! Find out about exciting career opportunities in the Design and Culinary Arts fields. Classes start February 14, 2008. Scholarship opportunities for 2008 graduates. Programs offered: Advertising; Baking & Pastry; Culinary Arts; Culinary Management; Fashion Design; Fashion Marketing & Management; Game Art & Design; Graphic Design; Interior Design; Media Arts & Animation; Web Design & Interactive Media. Visit us at www.aiopen.com/sandiego or call toll free, 866-275-2422. Local 858-598-1200.

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Across

- 1. JFK's predecessor
4. 'La Vie en Rose' singer Edith Piaf
7. Soviet leader
14. Regarding
15. 'No ___ Bob!'
16. Mournful-sounding instruments
18. Flood barriers
19. Singer impersonated on 'Chappelle's Show'
20. ___ Paolo, Brazil
22. Folk singer DiFranco
23. Prefix with dynamic
24. 'Scuse me?'
27. The Police, e.g.
30. Gave a new handle
31. UN delegate
34. Barbarian
36. Pointed arch
37. Choreographer Lubovitch
38. Saddle
41. Fail a polygraph
42. John Hersey's 'A Bell for ___'
44. Desex
45. Legal scholar's deg.
46. Voids
49. Wry Bombeck
51. 'Chantilly Lace' singer
53. Have a few words
57. Santa ___ winds
58. Baseball's Maglie
59. 'Deck the Halls' refrain
61. Seek help from
64. Punchlike beverage
66. Regard
67. Labor Dept. arm
68. Take the wrong way?
69. Encls. to editors
70. 'Witness' director Peter
71. NBA star Ming

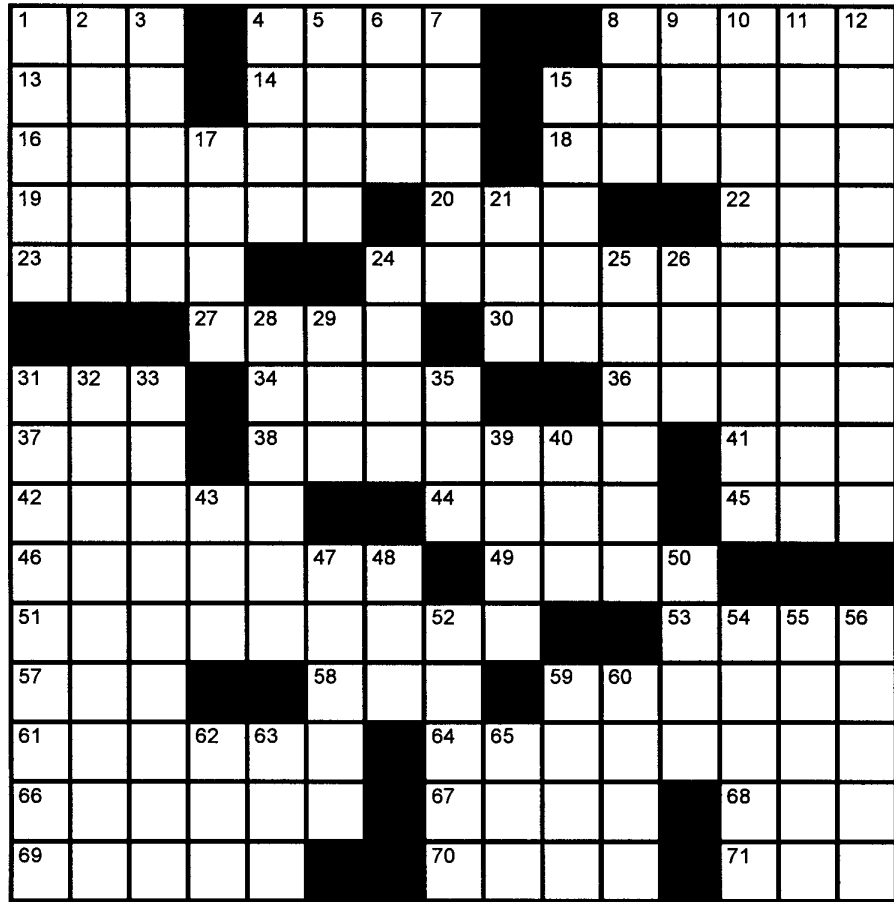
Down

- 1. Winger of 'Terms of Endearment'
2. Explorer Sir Francis
3. Raring to go
4. Sandbox item
5. 2002 Eddie Murphy movie
6. Lunched, say
7. Best Musical of 1999
8. Go out, as embers
9. Rap producer Gotti
10. Gym fixture
11. Bit of monkey business?
12. 'I should say so!'
15. Graph calculation
17. One to grow on?
21. Part of USDA: Abbr.
24. Wimbledon champ, 1976-80

- 25. Unidentified person
26. Joplin work
28. 'Domo arigato, Mr. ___' (lyric in a 1983 hit)
29. 'Where did ___ wrong?'
31. British actor knighted in 2003
32. Phrase on some product labels
33. They're not humble
35. McBain and McMahon
39. Phone co. employee
40. 'This means ___!'
43. Arrest
47. ___ salts
48. Hot spot
50. Rights org.
52. Macaroni shape
54. Like Bigfoot or Robin Williams
55. Maker of Reynolds Wrap
56. Popular exercise system
59. Alphabet run
60. Not closed all the way
62. Born: Fr.
63. Some NFL blockers
65. Put to work

RULES OF THE GAME

- 1. The prize for solving the Reader Puzzle will be a Reader T-shirt.
2. All entries in the Reader Puzzle contest must be received by the Reader by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date (Fax to 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803).
3. All entries must be accompanied by your name and address.
4. Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.
5. In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and arbitrary. We've only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are more than five winners, we'll have a lottery.
6. All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to our office.
7. One entry per person.



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IRA ANNAL ALEXA
RELATED TO SYLPH
WALTER WINCHELL
ASYE ZOO HOG
YES PABLONERUDA
RODEO ONES
SUSANSONTAG
DUOS EOSIN
ETHEL MERMANN GPS
WUE URL NEIL
PLACIDODOMINGO
PIPPI EMILY POST
GAMED RIVET ATH
ANET STASH NYS

Solution to and winners of the Reader Puzzle for 1/17/08.

There were 118 entrants. The winners are:

- 1. Tom Somich, San Diego
2. Rhonda Holt, San Diego
3. Marilyn Contreras, El Cajon
4. Jon Hutchens, Encinitas
5. Al Weiss, San Diego

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SurfDIEGO

Name: Mark Thompson

Lives: Ocean Beach

Surfing: South of the pier in Imperial Beach



"It's a known fact that I.B. has some of the dirtiest water, but I mean, I don't hear of people getting sick all the time," says Mark. "People get sick, you know, people swim in Mission Bay. That's just a stagnant pool.... [Imperial Beach] is probably cleaner than that."

Even though he lives in Ocean Beach, Mark ventured to Imperial Beach with a friend because "Coming down here is like a mini day out; it's like going to Oceanside for the day — spending the day, surfing, and hanging out.

"We came down yesterday. The conditions were really good in the morning. And we thought we'd score again. There's waves; it's really hollow out here. Lots of closeouts, but a lot of good ones too. You just have to get lucky and find it, and you have to be sitting in the right place."

For Mark, a perk to the I.B. experience is the lack of competition for waves.

"It was just me and [a friend] out there. You could pick any wave you wanted."

Along the beach, red signs warned of possible illness from exposure to the sewage-contaminated water. Mark thinks reports of the water's contamination are a

legal step that the City of Imperial Beach has to take, but the water is not as hazardous as the signs say.

"A few days after it rains I wouldn't even come out here, but it's been — what, ten days? Over a week. There's been a lot of surf

and a lot of swell.... It dilutes it a little bit and it mellows out. It's usually what you can't see — that's what they're warning you about."

See the video

Go to SanDiegoReader.com
Click on SurfDiego

NEED BABYSITTER? I Currently babysit 2 children, family is moving in a few months. Looking to babysit 2 or 3 children depending on age. 760-889-9861.

PREGNANT? Considering adoption? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching birthmothers with families nationwide. Living expenses paid. Call 24/7, Abby's One True Gift Adoptions, 1-866-413-6293. (AAN CAN)

SHARING 200 CHILDREN'S, Book collection. Little Golden, Charlie Brown, Nancy Drew, Star Trek, Cat in the Hat, Nursery Tales, Disney characters, Boy Scouts, \$2 each. 619-297-7636.

WEDDING & PARTY GUIDE

PLACE PRINTED ADS in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

POST FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SDReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here!

AFFORDABLE PHOTOGRAPHY and Ministerial. Married couple with over 30 years experience in wedding business teams up to cover your event. www.brianhowarthphotography.com. Call Brian or Valerie: 619-583-0411.

AMAZING DJs AND BANDS! Book your Special Event today! San Diego Parties & Entertainment. Excellent DJs, fabulous bands, specialty entertainment. Wedding/Event Coordination available. 619-315-6325.

AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER. See your wedding day unfold on DVD. On a budget? Digital photography. Hourly rates, special events. Kidnapper of Images, Beverly, 858-736-4472. 858-274-4472.

BAND, "HOT PURSUIT." Weddings: corporate, private parties. High-energy dance band featuring sax player, female vocalist. Swing, jazz, rock, R&B, country, dance hits. 760-751-1876. www.HotPursuitMusic.com.

DISC JOCKEYS/LIVE BANDSnovelty acts. Weddings, corporate parties. 400 bands, 10 DJs to choose from. All types of music. Affordable! Since 1973, 619-223-5732. www.musicasyoulikeit.com.

PROFESSIONAL MAKEUP ARTIST. Enhance your beauty with distinctive cosmetic artistry! Special occasions, weddings, proms, make-overs, photo-shoots. Airbrushing available. Makeup selection assistance. Great rates; group discounts! 619-277-9326.

REVEREND BILL WEST is glad to help you plan the ceremony (religious or civil) that is right for you. Reasonable. Accommodating. Caring. rev.bill777@yahoo.com or 619-384-4828.

VALENTINE'S SPECIAL! Boudoir Photography by a woman photographer. Find your inner Victoria Secret. Lingerie in studio, bikini on location... Free 8x10 with ad! RAWmanticphoto@yahoo.com. 619-997-8481.

STAGE NOTES

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Choose from
Deep Tissue, Shiatsu or
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1-hour massage includes your choice of hot tub, body shampoo, sauna or steam room.

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\$10 Off
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Favorite Massage in San Diego
Table Shower & Jacuzzi

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\$20 off any 1-hour treatment Acupressure

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Stop by to experience the best acupressure in town!
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Experience one of the best massages by professional staff!

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Walk-ins welcome.
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New Staff!

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ORIENTAL THERAPY

NAME This Place



Clue: Holy wisdom in the House of Gold?

Describe this location, name the nearest cross-streets, and win a *Reader* T-shirt. E-mail to NameThisPlace@SanDiegoReader.com; fax to 619-231-0489; or mail to *Reader*, Name This Place, Box 85803, San Diego 92186 — include your name and address. (Deadline, Tuesday, 9 a.m. In case of ties, lottery will determine top five winners.)



Last week's place: (clue: Many cool, creative ideas evolve here) Ice Age exhibit, Museum of Creation and Earth History, 10946 Woodside Avenue North, Santee. Museum exhibits cover everything from primitive earth to the Tower of Babel, the Rosetta Stone, and, of course, Darwin. (Last week's winners: Leone Walther, James Abrams, Warren Nocas, Rodney Nathans, Clyde Upton)

ABANDON YOUR ACTING FEARS! Actors' Workshop Studios, San Diego's number 1 film/TV studio! Professional 3-camera set. Weekly in-house auditions with Hollywood/local casting directors, producers, agents. www.actorsworkshopstudios.com; 858-587-6666.

ABILITY THROUGH TRAINING. The Robert Wald Actor's Studio focuses on moment-to-moment reality training. These classes unlock the actor's ability to work spontaneously and with the realism and intensity advocated by the industry's creative legends. Beginners welcome. Thursday evening class available, 6:30pm-10:30pm or Saturday morning. Call for information, 619-542-1216.

ALL YOU KNEAD/MY TOUCH. Revive! Personalized bodywork customized to your needs. Feather touch, Deep tissue. 2-4 hand delight. 7 days. Incall/outcall. Chelsey 760-828-2618.

AUDITIONS. Eveoke Dance Theater, 2811 University Avenue, 619-238-1153. Saturday, 1/26; Ages 8-14, 2-3pm; Ages 14-35, 4:30-6 p.m. Concert company,

performing group, and youth performing group.

LIVE ON STAGE! Point Loma Actors Workshop. Taste the performance high! New classes starting now. Beginners welcome. Join the fun. www.pointlomaactors.com. Sign up now. 619-225-0044.

MODELS. Amateur models needed for photo, video, web work. Ages 18-60. All types. No experience necessary. Cash paid. Professional setting. Call Jenn, 619-379-4964.

MOVIE EXTRAS/MODELS. Earn up to \$200 per day. All looks needed to work with film and TV production companies. No experience required. Call 877-282-2458.

MOVIE EXTRAS, ACTORS, models! Make \$100-\$300/day. No experience required. Meet celebrities. Full time, part time. All looks needed! Call now. 1-800-566-6103 x528. (AAN CAN)

START-UP MODELS. Paid roundtrip ticket, lodging, meals to Hawaii. Start/expend your portfolio. Colorful, tropical settings. On location training. Great

opportunity! freehawaiiiphotoshoots.com. 858-204-8525.

VOICEOVER WORKSHOP. Break into voiceover! Taught by voice actor/author James Alburger. Learn interpretation, character voices, microphone technique, more for radio/TV. www.voiceacting.com; 858-484-0220.

COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS

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ANXIOUS? DEPRESSED? Relationship issues? Parenting/family issues? Insurance and sliding scale accepted. Individuals, couples, children, adolescents/families. Private Mission Valley location. Phaedra Scootris, MA, MFT, MFC-43174. 619-972-0209.

ARE YOU MAD? Learn how to manage your anger constructively. Gain power,

control, reduce conflict and improve your relationships. Classes begin soon. Mission Valley. Jay Schneider, LCSW. Lic. 9573. www.manageangerdaily.com. 858-538-5587.

CLINICAL HYPNOTHERAPY. "What the mind can conceive, the body can achieve." All issues addressed. Free consultation. Patricia R. Parlin, Ed.D. CHT403-250. Call 619-442-3661 or 619-504-1935.

COUNSELING/DREAM STUDY. Curious? Unsettled dreams? Training needs? Jungian dreamwork for life issues, transitions, growth. \$40/1 hour session. \$10/2 hour group. Paul Hartsuyker, MFT-15896. www.sandiegotherapists.com/hartsuyker.html. 619-269-8939.

FEELING STUCK? STRESSED? Experiencing crisis? Relationship issues? Career problems? Family conflicts? Grief? Past trauma? Take back your power. Free consultation: 619-723-9244. Trish Deignan, LCSW21861.

GAY/BISEXUAL MEN. Supportive individual therapy. Depression, anxiety, confusion, addictions, spiritual/religious issues. Married, closeted welcome. Discretion, confidentiality assured. Mel Karman, PhD, MFC-12709. 619-296-9442.

HEALTHY ADULTS: Inner Child healing and recovery work. Establish healthy

boundaries. Heal wounds of dysfunctional family. Thought Field Therapy eliminates phobias and traumas. Counseling for individuals, couples' enrichment and family bonding. Sharon Goodlove, TFT Diagnostics; Glenn Goodlove, LCSW-1450. Goodlove Counseling Center, 858-569-8975. www.goodlove-online.com.

MALE GROUP MEMBER NEEDED for mixed process/support group. Relationship difficulties, intimacy, self-esteem, childhood issues. Tuesday evenings, UTC area. Insurance accepted. Susan Jorgensen, MFT-22281. 858-622-0632.

MILITARY. PTSD? Battle Fatigue Syndrome? Night Terrors? Memory Loss? Difficulty Sleeping? Troubled Relationships? Former military therapist licensed trauma specialist providing free group treatment. License #MFT37234. 858-342-0181.

THERAPY FOR SHOPLIFTERS. Group or individual, in Mission Valley. For details, call Joyce Nease, PhD (license PSY17073), 25 years experience with the legal system, 619-283-5090.

NOTICES

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ADDICTED to Internet pornography/sex? Out of control? You are not alone. Call Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, a 12-step fellowship, PO Box 3791, San Diego 92163 or 619-685-7211 or www.slaa-san-diego.org.

AGUA HEDIODA LAGOON. Foundation needs volunteers. Serve as docents, assist in beautiful native garden/special events/school field trips. Training free, flexible schedules. 760-804-1969. deb@aquahedionda.org.

AL-ANON. Grupo paz mental. Sufre por el alcoholismo en su familia? Juntas sesionan Martes, 5:30pm-7pm, y Sabados, 1-2:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road, #207, Bonita, CA 91902.

ALANON-GRUPO RENCUENTRO. Hay problemas de alcoholismo en su familia? Sesiones Lunes y Jueves de 5:00-6:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road #207, Bonita, 91902. 619-470-6955.

ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS. Problemas con el alcohol? Nosotros le ayudamos a vivir mejor. Sesiones Lunes-Viernes, 7am y 8pm. Sabados, 8am y 7pm. Domingo 8am y 5pm. Grupo Bonita Hispano, 3450 Bonita Road, #207. 619-280-7224.

ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS. Tiene problemas con la bebida? Llamenos 24 horas. Oficina Central Hispana, 3628 University Avenue, San Diego, 92105. 619-280-7224.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL works for human rights. Meetings: 7pm, 2nd and 4th Thursdays. First Unitarian Church, 4190 Front (opposite UCSD Medical Center). Information, 858-576-3811.

BE A MILLIONAIRE FROM HOME! Sell Mangosteen, make lots of money! Very high antioxidant value. Significant anti-inflammatory properties. Tons of health benefits! www.diane.discovermangosteen.com. Diane. 877-674-4280.

CANNABIS PATIENT(S) ACT. (Association Cannabis Therapeutics.) Nonprofit. Seeks caregiver/patients with questions about cooperatives, clones, medicine, growing guidelines. Proposition 215 local guidelines. Meth kills. 619-528-0907.

DIVORCARE meets every Sunday at 9am at 4926 La Cuenta Suite 203-A, Tierrasanta. Special Free support group for those divorcing, divorced, or broken live-in relationship. 4926 La Cuenta, Suite 203, Tierrasanta. Bruce, Bruce@sfunding.com or 619-461-4480.

DONATE that automobile, boat, RV, etc. to Ronald McDonald House Charities-San Diego, receive tax deduction and possibly a partial cash payment! Call toll-free, 866-244-8464.

EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS, 7pm Wednesday, College Area, a 12-step program for managing anger, fear, obsession, etc. No fee. Voluntary donation suggested. Call 619-287-5391.

FREE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS! "How to Start a Business" for people with disabilities. Wednesday 2/20 1pm-4pm at United Cerebral Palsy, 8525 Gibbs Drive #100, 92123. Bus 25 from Fashion Valley to Aero Drive/Alton or from Clairemont to Aero Drive/Glenn Curtiss Road. Off-street parking available. Sponsored by Able-Disabled Advocacy. Call Cindy Lennon, 619-231-5990 x315 to reserve your spot.

FREE EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING services for individuals with disabilities, ages 18-21 on probation or parole. Able-Disabled Advocacy, 2850 6th Avenue #311, San Diego 92103. 619-231-5990 x305.

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING. Lecture Clinic. Free readings for new visitors. Every month's first Monday, 7:30pm 1/7/08, 2/4, 3/3, by Vessa's Clairvoyant Program students. 4455's Morena Boulevard, #108. 858-509-7582.

GAIN SKILLS TO SUCCEED. Are you 16 to 21, low income, need high school diploma or GED and work experience? Turning the Hearts Center, 619-691-9643.

HAD UNUSUAL EXPERIENCES? Have beliefs, thoughts, perceptions different than others? Wonder how stress relates? Stress can lead to unusual experiences. Between 18-35? To participate: mjuan@alliant.edu.

HERPES/HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HSV/HPV) Support group. Accurate medical information and support. Recorded message, 619-491-1194. www.SanDiegoCityHELP.org.

KEEP ART ALIVE. Norma At Night And Friends Art Show. January 27, 6-10pm, Creative Expressions Art Studio, 8372 University Avenue, La Mesa. Free. 619-508-4741; www.creativeexpressionartstudio.com.

MOVIE BUFFS. Interested in watching movies then discussing it afterwards (like book clubs)? Ages 25 to mature welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-272-8727.

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE Anonymous 12-step meeting for people with OCD. Mondays, 6-7pm, Department of Health Services Complex, 3851 Rosecrans Street, Mission Room. Information: OCAhelp@cox.net.

PMS RESEARCH. UCSD researchers need women, 20-45, not on medication, birth control, or smoking, with regular menstrual cycles for a 5-month PMS study using sleep and light therapy. 8 overnights required. Call 619-543-7393.

PREGNANT/NEW MOMS. UCSD study, women ages 20-45, not using medication or smoking, are needed for a sleep/light study. Required, 4 evaluation visits + 4 overnight hospital stays. 619-543-7393.

PRIVATE COUNSELING. Your journey can be clearer, more peaceful; relationship issues, body image, self-esteem, anger. I can help. Work toward acceptance of yourself. Fee, 619-838-6817.

SERVICES

Deep Tissue & Swedish Massage
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7 days
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\$20 off 1-hr. massage or \$50 1/2-hr. massage
Deep Tissue • Philippine Shiatsu • Swedish
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NORTH PARK
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Royal Spa
\$20 Off 1-hour Oriental Massage
1-hour massage includes your choice of hot tub, jacuzzi or table shower.
6124 University Avenue (At College, parking in rear)
619.229.0509
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Sunny's Spa
Oriental Massage Shower • Jacuzzi Relax/Renew Restore/Energize
\$10 Off 30 Min.
\$20 Off 1 Hour
With ad.
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7 days 9 am-9 pm
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1-hour foot reflexology just \$38
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The Best Oriental Massage
Try our Japanese Hot Steam Shower Table Shower • Jacuzzi
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grand opening
Escondido Spa
Oriental massage
table shower & shampoo, Jacuzzi
30-minute massage \$49⁰⁰
255 North Ash, Suite 107, Escondido
760-743-1421
7 days 9 am-9 pm
Lic. #162163


RECOVERY GROUPS for men and women seeking freedom from addiction/co-dependency. Fridays, 7pm. Celebrate recovery, First Lutheran, 867 South Lincoln Avenue, El Cajon. 619-444-7444. www.recovery4u.com.

RESEARCH STUDY. Women living with smoker needed for 9-day research study. Leave message. 619-594-8827 or email TRDRPPDASStudy@projects.sdsu.edu, for more information.

SINGLES FOR JAZZ is a new not-for-profit club for singles interested in attending various concerts and clubs in the San Diego area. Membership is free. Call 760-445-5459.

SUPPORT GROUPS. Six groups monthly. SOSL (Survivors of Suicide Loss). Call 619-482-0297 or email soslsd@yahoo.com.

TEMPLE OF BHAKTI YOGA. Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30pm; Fridays, 6:30-7:30pm. Free. For information please call 760-787-0700.

TRANSITIONAL DELIVERANCE HOMES for abused women and the effects of abuses. Country meditation classes. 6-month to 1-year program. For complete restoration, join us! Christian non-profit ministry. 619-685-3660.

TWELVE STEPS NOT working for you? Try a self-empowering, skill-building approach with S.M.A.R.T. Recovery, free support groups. 858-546-1100.

UCSD/VA RESEARCH STUDY, Seeks older adults 60+ with worry or anxiety. Study involves drugs/counseling compared to placebo. Compensation provided. Call Project Coordinator 619-725-3530.

VA/UCSD RESEARCH STUDY, Seeks participants with chronic pain. Assessment and group treatment at no cost. Compensation provided. Please call the Project Coordinator at 858-552-8585 x2904.

VOLUNTEER CHILDBIRTH ASSISTANTS, Needed. UCSD Medical Center's Doula Program needs women to help mothers during labor. Big commitment, lots of gratification! 619-543-6269.

VOLUNTEERS. Help stop child abuse crisis. San Diego's abandoned/neglected children desperately need you. Become a child advocate. Information session on Wednesday, January 30 and February 20. Voices for Children, 858-569-2019, www.speakupnow.org.

WILHELM REICH'S ORGONE Energy. Learn about this basic life energy, ("chi," and how Reich learned to accumulate it, measure it, and use it for holistic health. See an accumulator. Organologist Dr. Mary Lou MacIrvine, PhD (dmr@macilvine.com) will give a talk and then answer questions. Orgone energy is a palpable physical energy basic to all living organisms and even our atmosphere. It is the endangered layer of life around our planet, seen as blue in photos from space. \$30. Sunday, January 27, 1-3pm, with reception. Limited seating. (Kensington). To reserve, call 619-501-0334.

WRITERS (2) looking for "Chicken Soup" type pet stories for new book and toon series, with photos if possible. claudia@writersetc.com or piedpiper@newsblaze.com or 858-693-3939.

WRITERS WANTED. The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The 8-week program (June 22-August 17, 2008) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in alternative-weekly style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit <http://aaaj.aan.org>. You may also e-mail us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by February 8, 2008. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN).

TRAVEL & GETAWAYS

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COMPANION. Charming Indian lady having flat in South Mumbai, India, seeks companion for travel by air or cruises to different countries and India. Contact Ma-neck. 619-235-9646.

L.R. Baggs Core 1 Acoustic Reference Amp in stock! Limited Edition



- Concert Classics and Flamenco
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TIMESHARE. Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Presidential Floating Timeshare, Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach Hotel and Spa. Rated top 20 Mexican resorts. Paid \$30,000; asking \$15,000. 760-845-6347.

PERSONALS

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DAVIEBABE in Boston. The more women I date, the more I realize how wonderful you were and how great we were for each other.

MUSIC

EQUIPMENT / INSTRUMENTS

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APEX MUSIC SINCE 1952! Get the gear you need, at affordable prices. Sales, repairs and rentals. No one compares! 6210 El Cajon Boulevard. 619-583-1431. www.apex4me.com.

ATTENTION MUSICIANS: Blowout sale at Rhythm House Music! Acoustic and electric guitars, amps, lessons, guitar setups and accessories. Full service drum and percussion shop. 652 Stevens Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-3069.

BASS CABINET, Eden 1x15XLT. 400 watts, excellent sounding lows, \$375. 858-509-3778.

DIGI-TRUCK-TOUR! Saturday, January 26, 12-6pm. Giveaways. School of Rock band performing. Free DigiTech effects. DigiTech experts and pro demos. Only at Guitar Trader of San Diego, 7120 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92111. Toll-free: 877-687-4276.

EFFECTS PEDALS-100s of different kinds in stock! Fulltone, Menatone, T-Rex, Maxon, Visual Sound, Barber, Xotic, Durham. Choose from many brands, www.SuperSoundMusic.com or call 760-739-9099.

ELECTRIC PIANO, Yamaha PF1000, mint condition, electronic display, top of the line, used for children to practice on, \$2400. Details at www.yamaha.com. Cell, days, 760-250-7950.

GIBSON FIREBIRD, With hard Gibson case. Cost \$1575, plus tax. Sell for \$1075. Fender FM 2-12, 100 watt amp. Cost \$450, sell for \$200 858-623-9727.

GIBSON GUITAR SOURCE, Over 300 Gibson guitars in stock. We guarantee best prices on all Gibsons and Marshall amps. Centre City Music, 1033 Sixth Avenue. 619-338-9033. www.citymusic.com.

GUITARS AND AMPS. Peavey Wolfgang Special EVH \$599, 1993 Gibson LP Studio \$799, Epiphone LP \$375, Carvin Vintage Tube Bel Air 2x12 \$425, Mesa Dual Rectifier Maverick 2x12 \$999, Fender Pro 185 \$249, SWR SA 500 head \$639, Workingman's 4004 head and 1x15 cabinet \$475, Hartke 4x10 cabinet \$425. At Moze Guitars, 619-698-1185.

KEYBOARD SALE. General Music S3 76-key synth/workstation, 16-track sequencer, mixer. Great solo/combi

Gibson®
100s in stock!

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We will beat any advertised price, Internet included!

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Say What?



Will Turner | Age: 25 | Occupation: Graphic Designer | Lives: Hillcrest

Wetware.

Hardware is part of the computer; it's internal and it's permanent. Software is executed with the hardware, like a game or program. And wetware are the brains in your head that let you

keep track of all this stuff. I guess it's nerdspeak. It can also be used to talk about a person in general, like referring to someone as wetware. I guess it's a little gross but anyone dorky enough to use this word probably doesn't care

about impressing other people. It's funny because brains are wet, get it?

See the video

Go to SanDiegoReader.com
Click on Say What

sounds, fully editable, effects processor, floppy disc, stand, amp, \$600/best. 760-839-5350.

MBOX by Digidesign, original with all bundled software and 6.7 software disk, \$250. 714-873-4255.

PIANO, Baldwin electric, model PS1500, \$1200/best. 619-977-9182.

PIANO, Technics digital, ebony finish, 455 sounds, 128 rhythms, 800 piano styles, 88 weighted keys, 64 note polyphony. Excellent tone, \$6400 new. Now \$1750. 858-451-6944

PIANOS WANTED! All pianos! Cash paid. Also, quality furniture and antiques. 1 piece or houseful. Bonded. Licensed. Since 1965. Same-day pickup. 1-800-840-4447. www.southcoastauction.net.

ROADCASES. San Diego's oldest road case company. Pleasing musicians for 20 years. Bring us your best deal; we will beat all. Call Left Coast. 858-278-7888.

MUSIC

MUSICIANS AVAILABLE / WANTED

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BASS AND VOCALS needed for death metal. Influences: Cephalic Carnage, Mastodon, Candiria, Meshuggah, etc. Check out myspace.com/blackambulance and/or call Shaun, 619-417-4751.

BASSMAN (amateur) hoping to form band. You: driven, versatile, dedicated,

practice ethics. Northeast County. Serious people only. We talk over coffee first. 760-207-5813.

BLUES HARPISIT WANTED with some vocal ability. Mostly 12-bar blues and some old time rock and roll. Guitar, bass, drums, ready to gig. 760-726-2606.

BLUES VOCALIST wanted, male, funk style, join professional-level players with 25 years national/international gigging experience. Check out www.myspace.com/gregbach. Kearny Mesa rehearsal. www.muchtoloud@hotmail.com, 619-302-1411.

COUNTRY MUSIC/BLUEGRASS jam. Guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo players interested in getting together to play country music and bluegrass. Call Bob, 858-753-1775.

DRUMMER/BASSIST wanted for The Brothers' Sexy hip-hop, funk, metal band. Influences: Keith Moon, Tommy Lee, JB's. Stay in pocket, keep grooves moving. www.myspace.com/thebrotherssexy.

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REGGAE HIPHOP ROCK/JAZZ Guitarist available. CD/tour credits: Pato Banton, Fully Fullwood, Majek Fashek, Myka

Nyne, Scientist, Skunk records, Tippi Irie, etc. Dale 858-401-2973, myspace.com/dalehauskins.

SINGER, acoustic guitarist sought to form acoustic duo to play Eagles, America, Beatles, Neil Young, etc., at clubs. I'm 46 years old. Mark, Escondido, 760-738-8059.

SINGER/DYNAMIC FRONT, Person wanted, (21-35) preferably. Experienced SDSU Area band alternative rock band seeking lead vocalist to record album/gig! myspace.com/theinformists.com, theinformists@cox.net, 619-993-9693.

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RANCHO PENASQUITOS. Bedroom, share bath. Kitchen/laundry privileges. Includes utilities and cable. No pets. \$525 plus \$300 cleaning deposit. Off Highway 56 near I-15. 858-538-2501.

SAN CARLOS, Roommates seeking third roommate, 3 bedroom house. Room, connecting 1/2 bath, available 2/01/08, 1/3 utilities. We have 2 dogs. Month-to-month, outside smoking. 619-339-5307.

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CARLSBAD. Bedroom with balcony and large bathroom available 3/1/08. \$759/month plus utilities and security deposit. No smoking, no pets (I have 3 cats). Call 760-438-0390.

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CARMEL VALLEY/DEL MAR East. Room for rent. \$585, includes utilities, cable, wireless Internet, kitchen, laundry room privileges. No smoking/pets. Close to shopping/theaters. 619-235-2415, x15529.

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CHULA VISTA, \$500 plus \$200/Deposit, 1/2 utilities. 2 bedrooms plus private bath in a 4 bedroom house. Male preferred. Shared kitchen, washer/dryer. John 619-427-4777.

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OFFICE SPACE. 300 square feet, \$500. La Mesa. Easy freeway access. Quiet area. 8900 Grossmont Boulevard. Bob Cota Realty, 619-465-9934.

GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN STORAGE space. \$100/month. 71 square feet, 7.5" ceiling. Central location. Easy freeway access. Access directly from alley. Loren, 619-997-0273.

CHULA VISTA. \$895. 900 square feet retail/office. 247 3rd Avenue, Suite F. Busy 6-plex off Davidson. Water, trash, taxes paid. Available 2/1. Agent 619-463-2971.

NORTH PARK OFFICE SPACE available from 315-1130 square feet at only \$1.00 per square foot. 3930 Oregon Street. www.utoplamanagement.com, 619-291-5555.

GARAGE. \$95. Chula Vista. Clean, secure, ready now. Behind 215 Glover Street on alley. Call Rachael, 619-804-1044.

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BALBOA PARK, EAST. 1 bedroom cottage, \$800. Hardwood floors. Private setting. Full bath with travertine tile. Galley kitchen. Secured entrance. 2659 B Street #B. 858-568-5081.

BAY PARK. Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 bath, Bay Park canyon home. 2-car garage. 2 bedrooms 1 bath kitchen, dining room, living room upstairs; 2 bedrooms, one bath living room, washer/dryer downstairs. Fenced backyard. Outdoor fireplace. Great views. Available February 1. 1381 Elevation Road. Kevin, 619-261-4241. \$2700.

CARDIFF. \$2150. Large 2 bedroom, ocean and park view, hardwood floors, garage, deck, yard, parking. Close to beach. Available February 1. 163 Norfolk Drive. 858-273-4812.

CARLSBAD. \$3700. 3 bedroom plus office, 3-1/3 bath. 2-story. Move-in special! Hardwood, granite, stainless. 2-car garage. Built-ins. 7345 Paseo Capuchina. 858-514-8201.

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COLLEGE AREA/SDSU. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath house with pool. \$1600. Garage, laundry hookups. Available early February. 5171 Rincon Street. Agent, 619-260-1368. View at <http://sevilentgmt.com>.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1900. 3 bedroom, 1 bath house, 2-car parking included, refrigerator, stove, yard, approximately 1100 square feet. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

POINT LOMA. 2 bedroom, 2-3/4 bath house, \$2800, 3240 Lowell Street. City/bay views! Great room! Cathedral ceilings. New carpeting, 2 fireplaces. Built-in bar. Garage. Yard. Pets OK. About 2900 square feet. 619-435-0387.

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ALPINE. 2 bedrooms. \$1290. Private garages, fireplaces, vaulted ceilings. Resort-size pool and spa. Call for special! Alpine Woods, 1829 Arnold Way. 619-445-1341.

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BALBOA PARK. \$925. 1 bedroom, 1 bath charming cottage available. Across from Balboa Park. No pets. 528 Olive Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

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BANKER'S HILL. \$800. Garden View studio. charming gated building with laundry, barbecue, community view deck, parking. 128 West Maple. 619-234-1994.

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BANKER'S HILL. \$890. Newly remodeled 1 bedroom. Well-kept, classic building designed by Gill. Stove, refrigerator, gas included. Laundry onsite. Near bus. 619-236-0452.

BANKER'S HILL. \$1625. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with partial view. Great location, modern style, fireplace, central heating and air, washer/dryer in unit, porch. Nonsmoking unit. Under 25 pound pet with \$500 additional deposit. 1-car garage, 2930 Columbia Street #B. CCPM, 619-296-6699.

BANKER'S HILL. Will go fast! \$800-\$900 per month. Deposit \$800-\$900. Spacious studios in secured vintage building with great views. First Avenue/Hawthorn. Full size kitchen and bath. On-site laundry. On street parking. Cats only with \$200 deposit. 619-325-7332.

BANKER'S HILL. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo, covered parking, pool, near Balboa Park/Downtown/Hob Nob. 2244 2nd Avenue. \$1150. 714-323-9317.

BANKER'S HILL. \$2250. Extra nice 2 bedroom townhouse with den. Open and bright! Garage, fireplace, large storage. Cat OK. 2235 5th Avenue, Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

BANKER'S HILL. Two large studios, main floor. Both have hardwood floors, \$795 with \$500 deposit. OAC. Avenue. Call 619-549-9726.

BANKER'S HILL. \$895. Large studio, wood floors, full kitchen, private patio. Cat OK. 2271 4th Avenue. 619-885-5915.

BANKER'S HILL. Move-in special: Half off first month's rent! \$1495, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$1695, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Immaculate community, luxury apartments, corner unit, underground parking. New carpet, blinds, granite counters, cabinets and more. Close to all. 140 West Kalmia. Open house 1/26, 11am-3pm. 619-231-1059.

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CHULA VISTA. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Gated, central air/heat, dishwasher, balcony, laundry, off-street parking. Section 8 OK. No pets. \$1125. Deposit \$800. 619-425-6511.

CHULA VISTA/OTAY RANCH. \$975. 1 bedroom with full bath, kitchenette and living room. Private entrance. Air conditioning/heater. Utilities included. Microwave, refrigerator. 619-656-3652; 619-253-4786.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Pools. Gym. Laundry. No section 8. Gated community. Near freeway/shopping/downtown. Cats OK. Lease. Susan, 619-588-2370.

CITY HEIGHTS. Cute 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 2559 Fairmount Avenue. Small gated building close to freeway. \$700/month, \$700 deposit. Se habla espanol. Call Victoria, 619-994-7071.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$675 rent, \$600 deposit. OAC. 1 bedroom duplex. New carpet. No pets. At 4331-1/2 41st Street. 619-299-8515.

CITY HEIGHTS/NORTH PARK. \$795. Very spacious, well maintained upper 1 bedroom available 2/1. Recently remodeled. Ceiling fan, reserved parking, gated, laundry. No pets. 619-276-5520.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$895. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Downstairs, new floor, canyon view, water/sewer/trash included. 2840 39th Street #10. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. Two 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 600 square feet, \$750. Near SDSU. 4316 52nd Street. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$850. Half off first month! Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Close to busline and freeway. Laundry. No pets. 4061 37th Street. Agent, 619-298-7724.

CITY HEIGHTS. Small 1 bedroom with private patio and recent improvements. \$625, \$500 deposit. Secure and convenient, laundry, nonsmoking and quiet. 619-521-2050.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$725. 1 bedroom. Upstairs unit. Updated/clean. Parking and laundry onsite. No pets. 2617 Highland. Agent, 619-820-2584.

CLAIREMONT/KEARNY MESA. Wexford Manor. Large 1 and 2 bedrooms in beautiful complex with pool, spa, laundry, air conditioning, dishwasher. Sorry, no pets. \$995-\$1295. Photos at www.WexfordLiving.com. 7870 Stalmer Street. 858-277-4843.

CLAIREMONT. Free daily continental breakfast. HBO, concierge service, maid/linen service! 6-12 month lease discounts! Furnished studios from \$395/week; \$1195/month! Corporate housing available. Utilities included! Microwave. Mini-refrigerator. Laundry. Pool, spa. Central location. Garden surroundings. Parking. No pets. California Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. 1-888-475-7147. www.sdreader.com/rent/2035.

CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. "Unbeatable move-in Specials!" Up to \$250 off move on select units. Newly remodeled 1, 2 bedrooms. 1 bedroom starting \$1085, 2 bedrooms starting \$1300. Air conditioning. Movie theatre. Pet deposit. Gym. Yoga. Pool. Coral Bay Canyon, 3309 Cowley Way. Toll free: 1-877-585-1146. www.CoralBayApartments.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/1031.

CLAIREMONT. \$1195. Upstairs 2 bedroom, 1 bath canyon triplex. Overlooking peaceful canyon. Beautiful views. New carpet. Deck. Laundry. Walk to Clairemont Square. No pets. 619-286-3400.

CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. Up to \$250 off! 1 bedroom, 1 bath for \$1085. 2 bedroom, 1 bath from \$1300. Dishwasher, microwave. Tennis, basketball. Movie theatre, pool, gym, yoga lessons. Pet with deposit. Available now. Monday-Saturday, 9am-6pm. Sunday, 10am-5pm. Coral Bay Park, 3309 Cowley Way. www.CoralBayCanyonAndParkApartments.com. Call: 1-877-585-1146. www.sdreader.com/rent/1070.

CLAIREMONT. \$1550. Wonderful 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in Bay Ho. Upgraded unit, large balcony, pool, 2 parking spaces. Available 2/1/2008. Westbourne Realtors. 858-488-4800.

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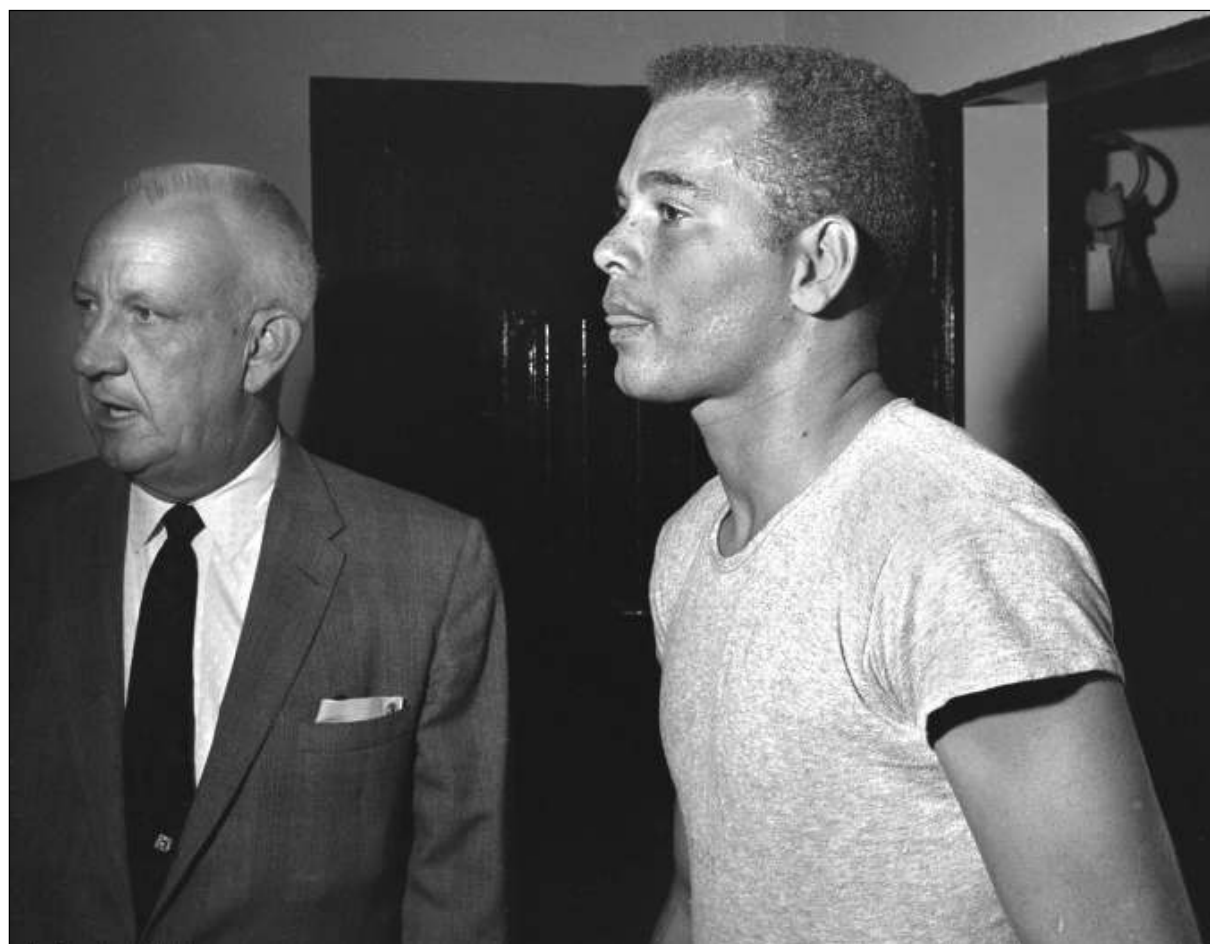
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Hoobler served as police chief from 1971 until 1975.

—by Robert Mizrachi

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PEKINGESE, Bichon mix, neutered, 16lbs., all white, 4 years, housebroken, friendly, shots, license, microchip, \$100. No small kids. 619-466-0426.

POODLE PUPS, standard, healthy, beautiful. Born 11/5/07. Tails docked. Black, cream, apricot. 3 males, 3 females. AKC registration. \$1500. San Diego area. 619-944-6245. E-mail higarden@aol.

Fresh paint. New tile. New appliances. Cats OK. 619-997-1133.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Bright, corner studio, \$940. 9' ceilings, three closets. Ideal location. Charming, secure, quiet building with laundry. 1534 Front, near Beech Street. 619-233-7428.

DOWNTOWN/CORTEZ HILL. Panoramic city/bay view. 2 secure parking. Large 2 bedroom plus office. 1348 square feet. 2-secure parking. Washer/dryer. Crown moulding, balconies. \$2300. 760-436-1962.

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DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Great location! 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 baths lofts \$1750. Banker's Hill, 2 bedroom with washer/dryer \$1650. Available now. Call 619-255-0526.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. Newly remodeled rooms available for weekly/monthly rentals, \$495-\$600 plus \$300-\$400 security. Controlled access, shared bathrooms/kitchens. Full size beds. Laundry facility. Patio area. Palms Hotel, 619-233-0408.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. \$99 moves you in! Live/work lofts. Penthouse, 1546 square feet, \$2750. Loft, 1463 square feet, cement floor, \$2425. Loft, 1163 square feet, carpeted, \$1720. Pets OK, parking available, keyless entry system, laundry facility, high speed internet capability, central air/heat, high ceilings. Penthouse extras: granite kitchen countertops, Brazilian cherry wood floors, stainless steel appliances, 9 French doors. Toll free: 1-888-241-3523. www.sdreader.com/rent/2145.

DOWNTOWN/CORTEZ HILL. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, bay view, hardwood floors, stainless appliances, washer/dryer, balconies. Underground parking. Walk to Balboa Park. \$2795. 760-579-9619.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Bright, corner studio, \$940. 9' ceilings, three closets. Ideal location. Charming, secure, quiet building with laundry. 1534 Front, near Beech Street. 619-233-7428.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Rooftop penthouse, 900 square feet, \$1495. 1 bedroom, 360-degree windows, 9' ceilings. Charming, secure, quiet building with laundry. 1534 Front Street, near Beech Street. 619-233-7428.

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DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Move-in Specials. Live/Work Lofts in the heart of the Gaslamp! Roof decks with barbecue. Laundry on every floor. Parking available. Seven locations Downtown. Select pets OK. Visit loft leasing office: 315 Fourth Avenue. 619-231-1505 x12. www.trilogymanagement.com. Also visit www.sdreader.com/rent/2064.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Rooftop penthouse, 900 square feet, \$1495. 1 bedroom, 360 degree windows, 9' ceilings. Charming, secure quiet building with laundry. 1534 Front Street, near Beech Street. 619-233-7428.

EL CAJON. \$775. 1 bedroom. New carpet, refrigerator, air conditioning, Barbecue, pool, laundry, parking, gated. 718 South Magnolia. Ask about move-in special! Section 8 OK. 619-312-0606.

EL CAJON. \$695. 1 bedroom. Fabulous pool/courtyard complex. Super clean apartments. No pets. \$895 moves you in! 314 Wisconsin Street. T.P.M., 619-742-7600. www.palmetates.info.

EL CAJON. \$900/1p. 2 bedroom, 1 and 2 stories. Amenities. Pool, park-like grounds, parking. Near town, shops, bus. 743 South Magnolia Avenue. Call 619-579-0174, 619-464-1818.

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EL CAJON. \$1195. Now offering 1/2 month free, off the first month's rent. The \$1000 security deposit can be paid in two installments (\$1097.50 to move in). Beautiful, 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhome. Air conditioning. Parking. Backyard. New carpet/paint/tile/appliances. On-site laundry. Parking. No dogs. Credit check. 1236 Persimmon Avenue. 619-938-3242.

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ENCINITAS. \$900 & up. Sick of room-mates? Cozy beach trailers in quiet park. Near beach, Coaster, restaurants, shops. 152 North Coast, Highway 101. 760-753-4101.

ENCINITAS. \$1195. 1 bedroom, \$1410. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Balcony or patio. Sky-light. Small complex. Assigned parking, laundry. New paint. Bright and airy. Garden setting. 1-1/2 blocks to beach. Close to shopping, freeway, Coaster. No pets/smoking. 1353 North Vulcan. 760-929-1950.

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ESCONDIDO. Call for specials! Spacious 1 bedrooms from \$835, deposit \$400, 2 bedrooms from \$995, deposit \$500. Great floor plan. Pool, spa. Covered parking. Laundry. RV parking. Cats are welcome. 640 West Lincoln Street. 760-489-8989.

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HILLCREST. Hillcrest Palms. Senior complex. 55+ living! \$900. 1 bedroom apartments. Gated community. Convenient location. Near hospitals, restaurants, shopping. No pets. 4042 Albatross Street. 619-574-0784.

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HILLCREST. Studio, \$835. Great location, quiet area. Off-street parking, laundry, Cat OK. 4166 4th Avenue. 619-298-7868. hilltopterrace.rasnyder.com.

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KEARNY MESA. \$1,800. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Spacious. Washer/dryer, dishwasher, microwave, air-conditioning, 2-car tandem garage. Pets considered. Non-smoking. Tribeca at Spectrum. ilitar@cox.net. 619-838-9065.

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LA JOLLA. Studio. Amazing location. One block to Starbucks, beach and bus. Prospect Street. Kitchen with appliances. Walk-in closet, laundry. \$1195-\$1450, includes utilities. 858-336-0252.

LA JOLLA. Condo. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse. \$2495/month. 1 year lease. All appliances, 2 car garage. Call for appointment, Michael, 858-597-6100 x321.

LA JOLLA. \$1290, utilities included. Sunny, spacious 1 bedroom. Paid parking nearby. Laundry on-site. No pets. Available 2/1. 1241 Prospect. 858-459-6219 or 858-459-8161.

LA JOLLA. \$995, studio, \$1520, 2 bedroom. \$300 off first month! Garden setting. New windows. Laundry. Walk to shops. No pets. 7555 Herschel Avenue. 858-459-1102.

LA JOLLA. Studio available. Fully upgraded with many extras. Gated, parking, walk to beach and shops. \$1500. No pets. 935 Genter Street. 619-334-6781. www.poseidonproperty.com.

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LA JOLLA/UTC. \$895. Studio, 1 bath apartment, parking included, new paint, minutes to beach/village, near cave. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

LA MESA. \$1400. Quiet unfurnished 2 bedroom, 2 bath end unit condo. Or furnished inquire. 2-car garage. Available now. Aztec Drive. Near park, SDSU, all. Washer/dryer. Patio. Pool. Jacuzzi. No pets. 619-260-0752.

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LA MESA. \$795 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. Large 1 bedroom detached cottage. Open daily 3:30-6pm. No pets. At 4859 or 4861 Jessie Street (east of 71rd). 619-299-8515.

LA MESA. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, upstairs, 1-car detached garage. New carpets/paint. Washer/dryer hookups. Shared yard. Nice tile/cabinets. 6102 Horton Drive. Corey, 619-295-6862.

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LA MESA. \$760. Studio. \$1025. 1 bedroom, 1 bath with garage. Laundry. Cat OK. 5027 Guava Avenue. Call 619-980-0238. www.kandroperties.com.

LA MESA. \$870. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Dishwasher. Pool. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 5436 Vincetta Court. Call 619-462-8896. www.kandroperties.com.

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LA MESA. \$750. Studio. Clean, quiet, secure. On-site laundry. If you can find one better, rent it. 7240 El Cajon Boulevard #19. Rachael, 619-804-1044.

LA MESA. \$1195. rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse duplex. Patio. No pets. Open daily, 3:30-6:00pm at 4857 Jessie Street. 619-299-8515.

LA MESA. \$1095. Extra large upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath, extra large balcony, stove, refrigerator, air conditioning, laundry, off-street parking. Pet negotiable. 6006 Lake Murray Boulevard #E. 619-804-3325.

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LA MESA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1200. Ask about move-in special! Upstairs. Free credit check. Pool, saunas. Off-street parking. On-site laundry. Close to downtown La Mesa, trolley, shops and freeways. Cats welcome. Crestview Apartments, 4515 3rd Street. 619-465-9934.

LA MESA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1100 square feet, balcony. Quiet community, near Grossmont, I-8 and Highway 125 and trolley. Off-street parking, 24-hour laundry room, air conditioning and pool. \$1375/month. 619-464-5557.

LA MESA. Huge 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1250. New carpet, air conditioning, covered parking, laundry. Available now. 5430 Lake Murray Boulevard. Agent, 619-260-1368. View at www.sevillermgmt.com.

LA MESA. Lovely 2 bedroom, large bath condo. Near Village. New carpet/paint. Fireplace, washer/dryer. Enclosed parking. No smoking. Cats OK. \$1250/month. 619-749-2867, 619-922-1307.

LA MESA. Spacious 1 bedrooms \$900. Lower units in court yard setting. Air conditioning, patio, stove and refrigerator. On site laundry and parking. Colonial Apartments 4747-4757 Jessie Avenue. 619-634-5772 or 619-460-8011.

LA MESA. Very large apartment homes in a lush garden complex. Lot of storage space. Near all. No Section 8. 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$925, 2 bedroom, 2 bath \$1195 upstairs. Community pool. 619-697-3285. For photo, floor plans, map and directions, see website: www.sdreader.com/rent/1035.

LA MESA/CASA DE ORO. 1 bedrooms, \$945-\$995. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1195. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1325. Air/heat. Huge patios/balconies. Gated access and parking. Small pet OK. Elegant, sculptured courtyards with flower gardens, fountains, gas lamps, park benches. Charming, New Orleans ambience. 3903 Conrad Drive. 866-894-6343. www.sdreader.com/rent/1017.

LA MESA/FLETCHER PARKWAY. Super spacious 1 bedrooms, \$995. \$250 move-in incentive. Award winning community. Pool and spa. Great location. No pets. Open Saturday 9am-5:30pm. 5500 Morro Way. TPPM. 619-884-7900. www.villageaptslamesa.com.

LAKE MURRAY, SMOKE TREE. \$2200. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath 1700+-square-foot condo, 2-car garage, pool, close to freeway/SDSU. Quiet complex, some view. A&P Realty 619-425-4555.

LEMON GROVE. Newly remodeled first floor 1 bedroom apartment in small, quiet complex. Move-in today! Fabulous location near shopping and trolley. \$920/month. Laundry on site. No pets please! Please leave message, 619-252-5175.

LEMON GROVE. \$800. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Nice, spacious, upstairs unit. Close to all. Laundry. Small backyard. Available now. 3320 Vista Avenue #7. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

LEMON GROVE. \$1450. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, just remodeled kitchen! New counter tops/flooring/paint. On-site laundry and parking. Will not last. If you can find one better, rent it. 3262 Buena Vista #3. Rachael, 619-804-1044.

LEMON GROVE. \$750. Studio with full kitchen and bath. Utilities included. 7614-7620 Pacific Avenue. 619-281-4698.

LEMON GROVE. \$1195. Move-in special! First month's rent moves you in! 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Cottage style apartments. Hardwood floor in living room, carpet in bedrooms. New blinds, new appliances. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Complete remodel. Pool on site. 7459 Pacific Avenue. Call Shawn-Leigh at 619-303-1694.

LINDA VISTA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath townhouse. \$1075 and single level corner unit, \$1125. Deposit \$900. Freshly renovated interiors, some backyards, assigned parking. Great location. Please, no pets and no Section 8. Office at 2451 Ulric Street. 619-249-9585.

LINDA VISTA. \$685-\$1200. Studios with utilities included, 2 bedrooms, 3 bedrooms. Laundry, gated parking. \$400-\$800 deposits! No pets. Astro Vista Apartments, 2249 Ulric Street. 858-565-6400.

LINDA VISTA. \$945. Upper, bright 2 bedroom, 1 bath with balcony off kitchen. Parking. No pets. 6754 Kelly Street. 619-281-4698.

LINDA VISTA. \$1225. Extra large, upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath, large private patio, appliances, new carpet, vinyl, paint. Laundry. Across from USD. Pet negotiable. 5651 Mildred Street #B. 619-804-3325.

LINDA VISTA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Totally remodeled, new kitchen/bath, washer/dryer, shed for storage. Pet allowed. 2717 Wheatstone. 858-277-1760. housing.molamini.com.

LINDA VISTA. \$1295. 3 bedroom, 1 bath two-story townhouse. Brand new custom paint and carpet throughout! Parking and laundry onsite. No pets. 6504-10 Kelly Street. Agent, 619-820-2584.

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MISSION BAY, EAST. \$815 rent. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. \$500 deposit. Laundry. Assigned parking. Cat OK. Close to I-5. 1450 Morena Boulevard. Call 619-890-4340.

MISSION BEACH/SOUTH. \$895. Cute studio, steps to beach, Murphy Bed, parking, utilities paid, year round rental. 2826 Mission Boulevard. Call 858-488-0690 or 858-488-5463.

MISSION BEACH. \$1095. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Steps to beach. Parking. Partial utilities included. New paint. 1 year lease. No dogs. 858-488-1759.

MISSION BEACH, SOUTH. Extra large 2 bedroom, 2 bath luxury condo. Dishwasher, fireplace, elevated kitchen, washer/dryer, garage parking. \$2300. 821 Balboa Court. 760-634-1746.

MISSION BEACH South. \$825. Utilities paid! Studio with on-site parking. 2980 Mission Boulevard, south of Roller Coaster. Call 714-505-3006.

MISSION BEACH. Large 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhome on quiet bayside court. Recently remodeled, 2-car garage. Long term lease. \$2875/month. 858-488-3539.

MISSION BEACH. \$1225. Clean, cute 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Garage. Steps to the beach. No pets. Year-round lease. 619-234-4621; 858-459-8894.

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MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom. Walk to beach and Bay. Wood floors. 1-car garage with additional parking. 3625 Mission Boulevard. \$1200. 858-568-5081.

MISSION BEACH. \$750. Studio. Steps to Bay! Includes utilities. Excellent condition. No pets. 3264 Bayside Lane. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

MISSION HILLS/HILLCREST. \$1580-\$1690. 1 bedrooms, \$2175. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Central air/heat. Dishwasher. Gas stove. Underground parking. Crown moldings. Vaulted ceilings. Fireplaces. Walk-in closets. Washer/dryer. Internet access. Elevator. Gym. Cats welcome. Mission Hills Commons Apartments, 4021 Falcon Street. missionhills@sbcglobal.net. Please call today, 619-220-0707. www.sdreader.com/rent/2032.

MISSION HILLS. \$1200/up. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry. Parking. Pets OK. La Paloma Apartments. Open daily, 1-5pm. 3911 Dove. 619-297-1134.

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MISSION HILLS. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath duplex. Gorgeous bay/harbor view! Eat-in kitchen, balcony, garage, laundry room. Quiet neighborhood. 3152 Horton. \$1800/month. 619-291-8777, 619-929-7412.

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1150 square feet. Garage. Laundry hookups. Private fenced yard. Quiet cul-de-sac on canyon. \$1950. 619-992-9927.

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MISSION VALLEY. \$1595. Newer 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 2 underground parking spaces, washer/dryer in unit, dishwasher, pool, jacuzzi, gym. Available now. 619-301-9427.

MISSION VALLEY. The Lido. Luxury 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. 1200 square feet. Both bedrooms overlook pool! Assigned gated underground parking. Washer/dryer. Storage. Pets considered. \$2,000. www.the-lido.com. 619-252-7082.

MISSION VALLEY. New-Year Special! From \$375/weekly. Renovated fully furnished studios/suites! Pool, spa. Full kitchen. On-site laundry. Complimentary continental breakfast. Off-street parking. Free high speed internet, cable-80 channels, HBO! No NDSU, Qualcomm, more! Days Inn & Suites, 5343 Adobe Falls Road. 1-800-492-9471; 619-287-1911. SanDiegoHotelsDaysInn.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/2139.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1300. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Quiet, pools, gym, tennis, security. Plenty of parking. Near trolley. Newly renovated. No pets or smokers. Available 2/12. 619-708-8246.

MISSION VALLEY. Brand new 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 3 bedrooms from \$1505. Furnished apartments available. Gated parking garage. Courtesy patrol. Washer/dryer. Fitness center. Movie theater. Pool/spa. Pets allowed. Steps to trolley, restaurants and shops! Village at Morena Vista, 5395 Napa Street. Toll-free, 1-888-571-0840. www.sdreader.com/rent/2153. www.villageatmorenavista.com.

MISSION VALLEY/TALMADGE/Kensington. \$250 off first month. Free application fee. 1 bedrooms starting at \$1115. 2 bedrooms, 2 bath at \$1410. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath starting at \$1540. 3 bedrooms starting at \$1780. Gated community! Pool, spa. WiFi access. Outdoor billiards, barbecue lounge. Fitness center. Computer lab with printer. Laundry center with flat screen TVs! Underground parking. Pet friendly! Mission Pacific, 4454 44th Street. 1-800-372-9146. missionpacific.pacificliving@crossfiremail.com. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/1010.

MISSION VALLEY. \$950. A newly renovated studio condo. Lower level with private, fenced patio. Loads of amenities! 7932 Mission Center Court. Call for appointment, 619-793-4010.

MISSION VALLEY/COLLEGE Area. Ask about move-in special! 1 bedrooms from \$960! 2 bedrooms from \$1400. Minutes to shopping, dining, transit, SDSU. Gated community. Pool/spa. On-site laundry. Fitness center. Carports available. 4929 Collwood Boulevard. 619-287-3020. collwoodpines.rasnyder.com.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1060. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, parking included, fitness center, fireplace. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

NATIONAL CITY. \$750/month. 1 bedroom fully furnished. Low \$150 deposit. No SDGE deposit or hookup required. 624 East 24th Street. Office open daily. 619-474-3787.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$995 rent, \$600 deposit, OAC. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet and paint. No pets. At 4742 East Mountain View Drive #10. 619-299-8515.

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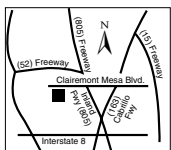
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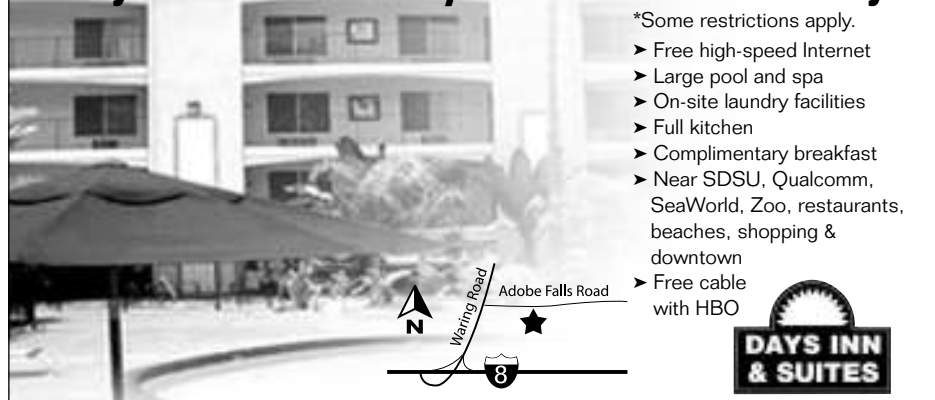


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plus bonus room. Attached 2-car garage. Gated. Laundry onsite. No smoking/pets. \$1750 plus deposit. Available now. 4454 Cherokee Avenue, 92116. Agent: Barbara, 619-405-9493.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$600. Small 1 bedroom. Large living room. Convenient location. Quiet neighborhood. Reserved parking. Walk to Adams Avenue. Available now. No pets. 619-210-4651.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1250. Nice, remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath nonsmoking triplex. Gated courtyard. Attached storage. Porch. Laundry. Garage. Cat/tiny dog OK. 4461 32nd, #1. Call 619-283-8359.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$725. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. No pet. Refrigerator, stove. Close to shopping on Adams Avenue. 4681 35th Street #5. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. New paint. Ceramic tiled floors. Gated. Laundry on-site. Available 01/15/08. 4582 39th Street. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry onsite. Available 2/10/08. 4669 Cherokee Avenue Unit D. www.cethron.com. (619) 295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1000. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Clean, quiet. Parking, gated laundry. Available 1/15/08. 4382 Utah Street #10. www.cethron.com. (619) 733-9033.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1095. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Private patio. Parking. Laundry. 4744 33rd Street. Xilarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1095. Downstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath corner apartment. Berber carpet, air conditioning, parking. 4527 39th Street. Xilarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, \$1050. Large kitchen, new paint, 2-car garage. On-site laundry. No pets; nonsmoking. Mr. A's Property Management, 619-697-1888.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$695. Studio. Gas, water, trash paid. New cabinets. Ceramic tile floors. Laundry. No pets. 3355 Madison Avenue. www.SeeTheUnit.com. Agent, 619-298-7724.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1100/month, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Quiet, clean building with laundry and off-street parking. Available in February. Call 619-282-6910.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, remodeled kitchen, new vinyl. On-site laundry. Garage parking. Gated com-

munity. 619-255-0382. www.sdaprtbrokers.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750. 1 bedroom. New paint. Downstairs unit. Laundry on-site. Pet on approval. 4560 Boundary. Agent, 619-820-2584.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750 1 bedroom, 4263 42nd. \$795 1 bedroom, 4670 Cherokee. \$925 2 bedroom, 4133 37th. Very nice, on-site laundry. No pets. 760-672-0425.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$775. 1 bedroom. Brand new paint and carpet! Completely renovated. Single-story complex. Laundry. Parking onsite. Cat OK. 3064-68 Adams Avenue. Agent, 619-820-2584.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 4774 33rd Street #6. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Dishwasher, air conditioning, and washer/dryer. Off street parking. No pets. \$1050/month, \$1050 deposit. www.timecassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$695. Large studio with separate kitchen and bath. 1 block south of Adams. Near shopping. Quiet upper unit. 4578 32nd Street. 619-692-0234.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet/paint, parking, upper unit. 4563 38th Street #6. Agent, 858-560-1178.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$795 includes utilities. Cat OK. Large yard. 4687 Hamilton Street. Agent, 858-560-1178.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$850. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, approximately 650 square feet. Built-in storage. Quiet, gated complex with short walk to exciting dining and shopping! Cats welcome. \$250 off first month's rent! Ready for move-in now! Water and trash paid by owner. 4663-1/2 30th Street. Cogan Properties, 619-283-3934.

NORTH PARK. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Garage plus one parking. Fireplace. Air conditioning. Washer/dryer. Dishwasher. Pets negotiable. \$1900/monthly. 619-518-2005.

NORTH PARK. \$825. Movein bonus! Nice 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Gas/water paid. Pool. Gated, quiet, no pets, onsite laundry. 619-281-1714.

NORTH PARK. \$825. 1 bedroom, upstairs. Laundry onsite. Cats OK, no dogs. Available 1/15/08. 3952 Iowa Street #21. 619-339-4311.

NORTH PARK. \$835. 1 bedroom. Cute cottage in well-kept complex. Convenient location near freeways and shops. Wood floors. Call Jon, 619-756-4009.

NORTH PARK. Large studio \$925. Includes gas/electric. Newly built, modern, private, airy, upstairs, garage below, laundry on-site. Walking distance: supermarket, bus, Morley, restaurants. 718-499-0010.

NORTH PARK. \$1350. Nice 2 bedroom, 1-3/4 bath condo. Garage plus 1-assigned parking. Fireplace. Washer/dryer. Gated complex. Small pet ok. Nonsmoking. 619-276-1390.

NORTH PARK. \$950 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New paint. Parking spot. No pets. At 4541 Hamilton Street #2. 619-299-8515.

NORTH PARK. \$950. Half off first month! 1 bedroom with office. Upstairs. Gated 12-unit building. New Berber carpet. Dining area. Off-street parking. Laundry on site. Lots of storage. www.goldenhilpm.com. Agent, 619-234-9553.

NORTH PARK. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs unit. Newer cabinets, carpet and paint. Laundry and parking onsite. No smoking or pets. Deposit \$800. Call for appointment. 619-640-6958.

NORTH PARK. \$1175. Upper 2 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, undergound gated parking, cat OK, dishwasher, balcony, storage, laundry. Close to freeway and bus. Call 619-795-1723.

NORTH PARK. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo, 850 square feet. Section 8 OK. Garage, washer/dryer, water/sewer/trash paid. 3745 Swift Avenue #4. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400, www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

NORTH PARK. \$950. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs. 2 story, Small complex. Laundry. Off-street parking. No pets. Available now. Mission Gorge Realty, 619-229-0231.

NORTH PARK. \$875. 1 bedroom, downstairs condo in quiet canyon setting. New paint, new carpet. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Heat and air conditioning. Tandem parking. Shared deck and jacuzzi area. No pets. Available 2/1. 2044 Robinson. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

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LEAD STORY

— Joshua Hoge, a schizophrenic confined to Washington's Western State Hospital, is claiming at least part of his late mother's estate even though he's the one who killed her in 1999. Washington law prevents profiting from the "unlawful" and "willful" taking of another's life, but Hoge was found "not guilty by reason of insanity," and the legal issue is still unsettled. Furthermore, according to a January report in the *Seattle Times*, it appears that the mother's estate consists almost entirely of the \$800,000 the estate won in a lawsuit against a county health clinic because it was negligent in delaying Joshua's medications, which may have led to his killing her.

Can't Possibly Be True

— Mr. Coll Bell, a New Zealander who invented a composting toilet supposedly superior to a septic system and who wanted permission from the Auckland Regional Council to install one at a campground, said an ARC bureaucrat had queried him on whether the worms he uses would be traumatized by the volume of work required in the annual two-week period of intensive campground use. Coll told Agence France-Presse in December that vermiculture expert Patricia Naidu had assured him that the worms would be "happy."

— Convenience-store manager Carol Mendenhall told reporters in December that among the police citations she had recently received for a disturbance at her home in Dibble, Okla. (pop. 282), was one for allowing her four goats to have sex in her front yard in public view, which was illegal in Dibble. She admitted that her billygoat, Adam, had been attending to three females who were in heat at the same time. The city council has since repealed the ordinance, following a campaign Mendenhall conducted.

Inexplicable

— Police in Mount Lebanon, Pa., said in December that no illegal acts were involved, but some parents still want to know why the nondenominational Christian Mount Lebanon Young Life club had staged a teenagers' social event during which boys wore adult diapers, bibs, and bonnets and sat in girls' laps while being spoon-fed. Said youth minister O.J. Wandrisco, the skits were not "dirty" but "to break down the walls and let [the kids] have fun." A previous skit involved, according to a parent, kids eating chocolate pudding out of diapers.

— In November, accused armed robber Steven McDermott, 49, was captured after leading California Highway Patrol officers on a high-speed

chase in a commandeered taxicab, causing two collisions before McDermott fled on foot. When McDermott was cornered, officers said he reached toward his waistband, leading one officer to shoot him, though the object McDermott was reaching for was a sex toy tethered to his belt loop.

Chutzpah!

— Ingrates: (1) "Get in here and do your [word omitted by the *Allentown Morning Call*] jobs, you dumb [omitted]," said Donald Reidnauer Sr., 56, after summoning police to investigate a BB pellet fired at his house in Richland Township, Pa., in November. "I pay taxes. I am your boss. Get in here and do your jobs or I'll have to kick your [omitted]." Reidnauer then lunged at officers and was arrested. (2) Marjorie Kelley, 50, called 911 in Sarasota, Fla., in January after feeling chest pains, but she requested that no sirens or lights be used by the ambulance. When EMTs arrived using sirens and lights, Kelley reportedly jumped up and chased them down the street, wielding a rolling pin, according to WWSB-TV.

Injudicious Judges

— In Dhanbad, India, Judge Sunil Kumar Singh has been trying to settle a 20-year-old land dispute involving temples of the Hindu gods Ram

and Hanuman and has become impatient, according to a December BBC News dispatch from Patna. One priest claims the land belongs to him, but most locals say the temples own it, and Judge Singh, exasperated, recently placed ads in local newspapers asking Ram and Hanuman to come to court personally and address the issue.

Least Competent Persons

— Ronald Stach, 41, climbed to the roof of the Canton Station bar in Baltimore on Dec. 11 and remained until Christmas Day, protesting the poor showing of the Baltimore Ravens football team. As such, Stach called attention not just to the Ravens but also to himself, and thus inadvertently alerted his former wife as to his whereabouts so that she could renew her years-long quest for at least \$40,000 in back child support. Kelly Stach said she was especially incensed at a TV interview in which Ronald lamented how much money he had spent on Ravens memorabilia. Shortly after that, a second woman came forward, claiming Ronald also owed her \$12,000 in back child support.

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

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BACK WHEN

In the Reader

Thirty Years Ago

Dear Jonathan Saville:

I have read all your reviews since you began writing for the *Reader*, and I have hated them all. But the one in the January 26 issue on the Carter Centre Stage's production of Chekhov's *The Seagull* is the worst ever.

First of all, you are so horribly *petty*. All of those nit-picking complaints about the way some of the actors fail to pronounce their consonants. It doesn't offend me one bit if American actors in a play about gentry life in old Russia say "Whozzat?" or "I wanneda say" or "I muz' go" or "awready." Sylvester Stallone talked juz' like dat in *Rocky* and he awmost won the Academy Award.

— "TAKE A LETTER," *A Disgruntled Reader*,
January 26, 1978

Twenty-Five Years Ago

You tell me why, what, keeps my stub-toed Frye boot from kicking, jabbing the open-toed lavender sandals, nylon-encased toes; what stays the hand from grabbing the gray-suit lapels, from turning that wood-laminate table over; what keeps the mouth, tongue from yowling, screaming, howling; what holds a person back from breaking out, breaking up, breaking loose. Those paper cups of coffee

with Cremora stirred lazily in; those paper plates holding blobs of beefed-up broths of Beast, gelatinizing and spiked with Viceroy butts, looking like a half-crown of thorns: they would have slipped, slid right onto the endlessly same vinyl-tiled floor

— "MANANIMAL," *Judith Moore*, January 27, 1983

Twenty Years Ago

Last November 10 the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego opened its Command Museum.

All these objects are real and undoubtedly authentic — but strangely mute when they might be screaming. Seeing these soldierly accoutrements is like seeing a skydiver's parachute or a fireman's water hose or a taxidermist's prize-winning collection — the essence of the matter lies elsewhere, far away.

— CITY LIGHTS: "ESSENCE OF WAR," *Mani Mir*,
January 28, 1988

Fifteen Years Ago

He and his beautiful live-in girlfriend, Brandi McClain, were *the* skateboarding couple: they starred in skating videos together, they worked as models together, they even appeared together in a Tom Petty video. Gator gave tips to beginners in *Sports Illustrated for Kids*.

There was a Gator clothing line, Gator skateboards, Gator videos. "I had it all," he says today, sitting in his prison cell.

Despite all he had, on March 20, 1991, Gator beat 21-year-old Jessica Bergsten over the head with a steering-wheel lock called the Club and raped her for nearly three hours. Then he strangled her in a surfboard bag and buried her naked in the desert 100 miles away.

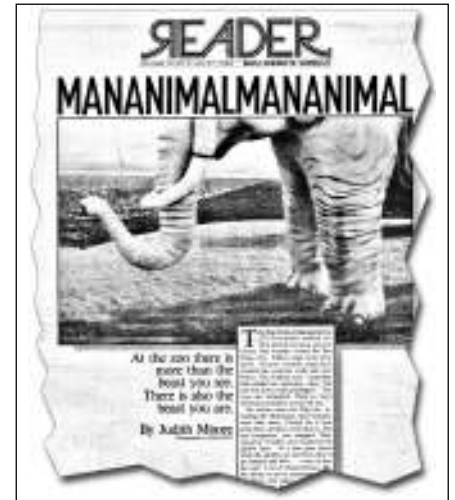
— "DUDE AMPS OUT," *Cory Johnson*,
January 28, 1993

Ten Years Ago

Special Prosecutor Kenneth Starr takes the first snap, completes a short pass to the flat as he wires Tripp and has her record more conversations with Lewinsky. The play goes for an 18-yard gain. Now, Starr hands off for a reverse as he convinces *Newsweek* to hold the Lewinsky story for a week. Starr returns to the huddle, gathers his offensive line — 12 FBI agents and 6 special prosecutors — and blocks Lewinsky in a Virginia hotel room for 10 hours. Starr is on the Clinton 1-yard line.

Starr's touchdown pass is inches too long as Lewinsky refuses to lure Vernon Jordan Jr. and Clinton into incriminating conversations.

— SPORTING BOX: "STARR 35, CLINTON 1," *Patrick Daugherty*, January 29, 1998



San Diego Reader, January 27, 1983

Five Years Ago

Since 1988, I have been a strict vegetarian. A bowl of miso soup, a chunk of tofu, and a plate of steamed broccoli over brown rice were my idea of a perfect meal. I drank only herbal teas or decaffeinated coffee; I used brown sugar or honey for sweetener. Why? Because, daily, great tracts of rain forest were being destroyed so that cattle meant to become McDonald's hamburgers might graze....

— "PIGS' INNARDS, PIGS' KNUCKLES, AND PIGS' CURLY TAILS," *Jangchup Phelgyal*, January 23, 2003

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The Exfactor

We've all done it. It doesn't matter how confident you are, how secure, how much you wear self-love on your sleeve for all to see — if you're a woman with a pulse, chances are you've thought about your lover's ex (and in the worst of cases, wished upon her a lifetime of misery).

I am no different. The "ex factor" has shadowed me, chased me, found me even in the happiest of circumstances. It has become my pattern. In each of my relationships, however loving and monogamous, there she is — her name slips in during a casual conversation, her forgotten belongings lurk in closets and drawers. And her flaws (of which you hope she had many) are stored in your partner's brain — heaven forbid you have one of the same flaws, because right then you might as well be "her."

For some, the ex factor is but a nuisance, an afterthought, a fly buzzing in your ear on a quiet summer day. In my case it led to the biggest heartbreak of my life.

His name was John. We met in dramatic fashion — I dragged myself to an event I had planned on skipping, our eyes met from across the room, and three cocktails and some heavy petting later, I was seeing stars. We became inseparable. Each day blurred into the next, a kaleidoscope of bright flowers, passionate debates, sugary layers of sweet nothings, and the best sex I'd ever had.

I became addicted. To his eyes, his smile, his laugh, his smell, to every damn song on the radio with the slightest mention of that lovin' feeling. I broke one of my ironclad dating rules and dropped the L-word before the six-month mark. He said it back, and with fervor. We were happy, invincible, floating above the mere mortals who populated the daily grind.

Then, and I can't say exactly when, it all started to unravel. There were whispers around the room when he brought me to parties. There were traces of an ex-girlfriend around his house — an old letter here, a lost earring there. And there were the ill-disguised looks amongst his friends when he introduced me to them.

I became curious about her, and after a little research (and by research I mean gossip), I discovered that I had come along at the tail end of a five-year, first-love relationship that had ended abruptly and without closure. Blast. How was I supposed to compete?

Suddenly she was a fixation of mine, a historical figure that needed to be outdone and

outperformed in every way imaginable. I couldn't be the rebound; there were too many feelings involved. He was the love of my life! So I became the super girlfriend: too loving, too giving, too understanding, and too available. He responded so positively that I was sure everything would turn out okay until the day she stormed through the front door of his house.

I couldn't believe it. One minute we were cuddling on his couch and the next she was standing in front of us. The rest was a blur. He was screaming, telling her to leave; she refused. She wanted him back — she'd made a mistake by breaking up with him; she wanted them to get an apartment together. I could barely stifle my laughter. How could she possess so little restraint? How was she not embarrassed? Didn't she see me sitting there?

As if she could read my mind, she suddenly focused her verbal assault on me, spinning a much-thought-out scenario in which she and John were the main characters and I merely an intruder. My head began to spin with the insanity of it all. How could this bleary-eyed, frizzy-haired monster think that she was the primary lover in his life? How could she suggest that he'd leave me and our plans together for a crappy one-bedroom in Hicksville, New York? She couldn't possibly be telling the truth...

Then she dropped the bombshell: They had slept together just a few days before.

I think the pain on my face must have been satisfying to her because she retreated abruptly, leaving me to digest what had just happened. I felt blank, numb, as if I had just watched the night's events unfold as an outsider. Like I hadn't truly been involved.

But I had to know the truth.

After two hours of weak denial, John finally owned up to the infidelity — an admission that shook me to the core, and I silently cursed the ex factor and swore off men indefinitely. "It was a mistake," he said, "a one-time lapse of judgment" that happened only after she'd fed him the tales of her regret and her renewed desire. He swore that it was me he wanted — our future, our plans, our passion — he didn't want to lose it. He couldn't live without it.

I broke up with him.

I drove home in a strange state of half gloom, half amusement, knowing that I had just experienced the break-up from hell, almost the stuff of a Hollywood dramatization, an incident that I would one day be able to write about without wanting to crawl into the nearest crack in the floor. The night was endless.

In the following months I went back to school, graduated, and moved to California — as far as I could possibly go without having to renew my passport or cross an ocean. I was bitter for a long time, but it was not thoughts of him that filled my mind, it was this ex factor. I wondered what she was like, how she dressed, how she laughed, how she moved. What about her had driven him to risk losing our torrid love affair? I dated around but dropped each guy the second there was mention of his previous love life. I was a woman scorned and scarred.

Then I got an email that was more enlightening than it was satisfying. It was from him, saying that he missed me, that he had never stopped thinking about me, that he had also moved away and gained a new perspective on life. Then came the ex factor update. They had tried getting back together, but his feelings weren't the same. After he moved away she dated a buffoon of

a man and had an oversized baby out of wedlock (okay, that part was a little satisfying).

What struck me the most was his explanation for cheating — it wasn't about her. It was about...history. It was about insecurities, and the way that comfort can take the edge off of the demons that we all mask as we trudge through life, pretending to be blissful and unaware of how our problems — our past, our parents, our pain — how it all melts together and threatens the happiness of our future. It was about how one night with a person who offers history, comfort, and security can, for some, be more appealing than a lifetime with a person who offers passion, excitement, and risk. It was about wanting to not be afraid.

I understood.

I never wrote him back; I didn't have to. His email was the closure I needed. More importantly, it took the mystery out of the ex factor. There is nothing alluring about exes. They are old news, stubbornly clinging to the present in hope of making it into today's headlines. The truth is, we are all on one side of the ex factor at one point or another. Some choose to hold on to the past while others embrace the future. Since I came to terms with my own "mother of all ex factors," I know one thing for certain: I will never look back.

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DEL MAR. Yard sale. Friday, January 25, 10am-2pm. Saturday January 26, 8am-1pm. Vista del Oceano, Del Mar.

ENCINITAS. Great big block sale! January 26, 7am-11am, 1819 Autumn Place, cross street Rambling.

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BLOG DIEGO

So I traveled to Miami this Christmas to see my family, mostly to see my mom, who was diagnosed earlier this year with breast cancer and needs all the cheering up she can get.

Two days before Christmas, my dad was throwing a birthday party for his wife, my stepmother. (I only told my father this summer that I'm transgender.) The morning of the party, my brother and I met him out shopping for gifts, and he saw me in a skirt for the first time. He said, "You look shocking! If that's your goal, then you've achieved it. That might be okay in California, but here in Miami, everyone's going to stare at you."

Well, he called before the party for his wife and asked me to "dress appropriately." I told him that the most formal thing I had was a gray skirt I brought, but that he probably didn't want that. He said, "Yes, please don't wear a skirt." For some reason, I agreed. Mostly because it was his wife's birthday party and I didn't know who would be there. It was, like, a work party, with all their business associates. I'm pretty angry that I did what he said. I felt like he wanted to hide me from his friends. He introduced me all night as his son.

I called him the next night and told him how hurt and upset I was about the whole thing. I told him

that if I'm not welcome wearing what I want, then I'm not welcome, and that I wouldn't be coming to Christmas dinner. He said that he disagreed, that I can't do whatever I want, that I can't come naked, that to a black tie dinner you have to wear a black tie. I said that was ridiculous and off topic. He got frustrated and said that he "won't allow [me] to disrupt the family Christmas party," that it's not just about my feelings, and that everyone would be so uncomfortable. I said, "Fine, I don't want to argue, I'm just not coming." He said, "Fine, don't come."

On the morning of Christmas Eve, I realized that it was at my sister's house, not my dad's. I called her, and she said she didn't care what I wore and that I'm totally welcome to come.

So on Christmas Eve, I decided to go to the party. I wore my nice gray skirt and black tights. I drove

to the party with my brother. We were listening to Kimya Dawson in the car, and I must have been feeling emotional because her CD *Remember That I Love You* made me want to cry more than once. I



didn't want to mess up my eyeliner, so I tried to be cool. I was very nervous driving there. I didn't know how my dad would react — yelling, fireworks, him leaving the party, who knows.

When we got there, it was 10 p.m. I thought people would already be drunk and dancing to

Colombian and Venezuelan music. We walked through the house and out the sliding door to the back yard. My brother walked out and everyone yelled his name and cheered. I came out after him and they did the same. All was good. I walked around saying hi, and all my dad said was, "We love you son."

I realize that what I was doing was against everything he'd ever taught me. My whole upbringing was about gender. For my sisters, he bought them cars and paid their credit cards all through college. For my brother and me, we had to pay our own way and learn to "be a man" and "take care of the family." As a Colombian Catholic, my father is far away from accepting me being transgender, but this time, it all worked out.

I'm glad that I gathered the courage to go, thanks to support from my friends and my sister. A lot of queer people around the

world aren't as lucky as I am and spend the holidays alone. This has to be part of why queer communities are so strong; we're trying to build our own world without our families.

I'm also glad that I decided to be myself at family events. A friend of mine had recently told me that she felt stuck in a heterosexual relationship because she wanted to be with women, too. She told me that she was going to see her family with her boyfriend and that all these weird heterosexual rituals are not what she wants. She felt like she was being groomed for marriage after just a few months. She helped me decide to do what I wanted this Christmas and work toward my family accepting me. There are too many people who have to hide who they are from their families. I've decided that I'm not going to let other people's discomfort get in the way of me living my life anymore.

So, I went to the family Christmas party, which I loved. I have all these great memories of dancing salsa, cumbia, and merengue at holiday parties, of my grandmother teaching me to dance when I was little, and my stepsister trying to teach me steps this year. I rarely dance like that, so I enjoy it when I get to. I really love our holiday parties.

TITLE: Techno Tranny Slut | ADDRESS: bang.calit2.net/tts/

AUTHOR: dj lotu5 | FROM: City Heights | BLOGGING SINCE: October 2007

POST DATE: December 26, 2007 | POST TITLE: Being Transgender at Christmas Family Parties

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BED, pine headboard, large twin 30"Hx48"W, pine footboard 22"Hx48"W, pine rails, wood slats, overall measurement 78"x48", mattress 76"Lx45"Wx11"D, pillowtop, rarely used, no stains, \$40. 619-546-4467.

BEDROOM SET, estate quality, solid cherry, king bed, headboard, footboard, rails, 2 nightstands, long dresser with mir-

ror, highboy dresser, armoire, heavy, solid, magnificent set. 619-971-3595.

DAYBED, light brown, good condition, \$75. Table top microwave oven, \$30. Single bed on frame, \$40. 760-599-0249.

DESK, 1 single, 2 double drawers. \$55. Twin bed frame, \$45. 619-741-9062.

DINING ROOM TABLE, 8 matching chairs with black leather seats, Italian black lacquer, brown lacquer wood extension, good condition, \$2950/best. Rene, 858-452-1179.

DINING SET, art deco bistro style, gorgeous, 35" beveled glass top, 41"H, 2 swivel bar-height chairs, minor scratches, sturdy, high-end look, bargain, \$235 cash. 619-299-9151.

ENTERTAINMENT ARMOIRE, Ethan Allen, 84"x45"x22", quality piece, will fit TV to 33"W, excellent condition, 2 CD drawers. Original receipt \$3162; asking \$300. Rob, 619-890-6848.

FURNITURE A DISCOUNT Factory Direct store. Lowest prices. Order from manufacturers' catalogues and save. Solid cherry, maple, oak or pine, American made Vermont craftsmanship or imported. San Diego's best home furnishings source since 1960. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Al Davis Furniture, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. Check www.davisworld.com or email to info@davisworld.com. Call 619-296-1221.

LEATHER SOFA, \$95. Glass top coffee table, \$20. Computer desk and chair, \$25. End table \$10. TV stand \$20, 858-677-9932.

LOVESEAT, Recliner Lazy-boy. Geometric pattern, blue and tan. Good condition \$150. 858-451-1158.

MATTRESS A DISCOUNT store-Mattress World in Hillcrest sells new beds at warehouse pricing lower than regular stores. Student specials, legitimate warranties, fast delivery or pickup, name brands. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Authorized Sealy, Simmons, Spring Air, Aireloom dealer. Also Latex, chemical-free and Swedish style Visco-Memory! Mattress World, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. Check: www.sandiegobeds.com or email to: info@davisworld.com. Call: 619-260-8000.

MATTRESS BOX PILLOWTOP SET. New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

OAK BEDROOM SET, Queen headboard and frame, \$400. 6" dresser, asking \$290. Mirror \$125. Tall dresser \$300. Will sell separately. Like new 619-792-0994

OAK FILING, Large 2 door cabinet, 31"x30". Paid \$180, asking \$70. 619-792-0994.

OFFICE WALL/CORNER UNIT, 7 piece, custom, solid wood, natural finish, 108"H, arrange to fit your space, \$950. Can e-mail pictures. Vista, 760-941-0541.

POLE LAMP, \$10. 760-233-9520.

RED WOOD GLIDER, Paid \$150, asking \$70. Red wood Chair, asking \$40. 619-792-0994

SOFA, dark chocolate leather, excellent condition, 7"Wx3"Hx3"D, \$600. Entertainment center, gray base/body, glass shelves, 3'1"Wx1'8"Hx1'9"D, \$100. Mission Valley. Please call 858-232-2942.

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ADULT DIAPERS, disposable, \$300/case. 760-233-9520.

ARTIST SUPPLIES. 2 handmade, stretched canvases, 36"x60"x2-1/2" and 48"x60"x2-1/2", sized with rabbit skin glue, clear poplar stretcher bars. Anthony, 619-543-0712.

BEDS A PILLOWTOP MATTRESS Box Set. New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

BEER BOTTLES, recappable, sed, clean, 5 cases, \$5 each. 619-447-4117.

BOOKCASE, oak, glass doors, 60"x36"x12", \$100. Card table with 4 padded chairs, Samsonite, \$45. Men's jacket, new, Diesel brand, navy with fur trimmed hood, \$40. 619-282-9581.

BURIAL PLOTS (2) at Greenwood Memorial Park. Lot 21, graves 3/4. Will sell for \$4000 per plot or \$7500 for both. Kathy, 619-262-2497.

CEMETARY PLOTS, Sacrifice, \$3,000-\$4,000 each. El Camino Memorial Park Loma Sista #2, 858-483-9670.

DESK, CHAIR, 6 drawers, 38"Wx78"L, \$50. Wedding dress, hat, shoes, size 8, \$100 all. Off-road tires, 18" and 21", 2 each, \$5 each. Table glass top, \$25. 858-277-7197.

DOORS, 2 mirrored sliding closet doors, excellent satin glid finish, each 24-1/2"Wx78"Hx1" thick, 2 rollers on each, needs track from hardware, \$50. 619-224-4820.

FIREPLACE TOOL SET, like new, \$30. 760-233-9520.

FOR SALE, Moving must go, shoes, lady clothes, best offer. 4 wheel scooter, with medical parts added. Day house phone 619-233-8815.

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ITALIAN TRUNK BASKET, 22"highx31"longx20deep, \$30. Rattan table \$25. Cardinal glide exercise machine \$150. Desk 5'x30", \$30. Pendulum glass lamp \$20. Oscar Schmidt autoharp \$100, 619-421-5822.

LAWN MOWER, electric, excellent, \$65. Garden fountain, 4-1/2", \$85. Expensive Chinese 7x9 rug, \$95. Honda generator, 1400W, excellent, \$395. Tires, 15", \$2 each. Archery arrows, \$20. 858-581-6223.

MICKEY MOUSE OLD PHONE, Collector. New in box. Antique French lord statue 13" pewter, brass teddy bear, \$15. Brass hi-top hat and small one \$15-\$45. 702-334-2350.

MICKEY MOUSE OLD PHONE, Collector. Antique French lord statue 13" pewter, brass teddy bear, \$15. Brass hi-top hat and small one \$15, \$45. 702-334-2350.

MINERAL COLLECTION. Cabs, slabs, cutting rough, crystals, lots of quartz including herkimer diamonds, unusual tumbled, much more. Knife collection, old Kershaws, Schrade's IXLs, others. 619-260-8482.

MISCELLANEOUS. Aluminum extension ladder, \$45. Garden tools, \$7 each. Electric slow cooker pot, \$9. Extension cords,

different sizes, new, \$3-\$25 each. Cash only. 619-582-0096.

MISCELLANEOUS. 2 bikes. Town & Country 8 speed, \$35. Shimano 21 speed, \$45/best. Brickman barbecue, 4 burner with electric-size stove, \$200/best. Baby grand piano, \$850. 619-449-7755.

MODEL AIRPLANE, B-29 bomber, 4 engines, RC, \$95. Still in box, 619-574-7530.

MOVING SALE. Aquarium/stand, refrigerator, washer/dryer, dishwasher, freezer, microwave, TVs/stands, stereo, beds, daybed, dressers, recliner, coffee/end, dining table/chairs, vacuum, bikes. 619-670-7821.

NORMAN ROCKWELL PLATES. Beautiful plates, still in box with certificates. \$15/each. Call Jodi, 619-670-5734.

ORGAN BENCH, oak, 51"L, \$50. Sink new, white, ceramic drop-in, \$30. Toilet, new, white \$80. Radio, tube type, white plastic, plays perfectly, \$30. 858-272-4812.

PALM TREE, fishtail, in 24" boxes over 2 years. Fully acclimated to San Diego climate. Each 7-8" tall, trunk 6" diameter. 10 available. \$275. 760-216-0863.

PLUMBING, Cobra model #99018 cable drum machine for clearing drains, AC power, handheld, \$125. Still in box. 619-574-7530.

POOL CLEANING/TEST equipment, \$60. Built-in electric oven, \$50. Microwave, \$20. Soft luggage for top of car, \$45. 619-339-7318.

RC CAR, beautiful red Ferrari, 1/10 scale, precise, fast, \$95. Still in box. 619-574-7530.

RESTAURANT KITCHEN exhaust, fire protection and replacement air components. Will comply with local and state fire codes. \$1000. 858-566-4231.

SCREEN DOOR, wood, ranch style, brown maple color, 81.5"x36" frame, new, \$80. 619-579-0592.

SPA/HOT TUB. Deluxe 2008 model. Neck jets, therapy seat. Never used! Warranty. Can deliver. Worth \$5950, sell for \$1950. 858-530-0980.

TRAILER, 26', self-contained, live in, travel, cozy vintage. Printer, computer table, desk, 24" TV, chair on rollers, \$5. Microwave, sliding doors, fascia boards, bicycle. \$25. 858-270-0565.

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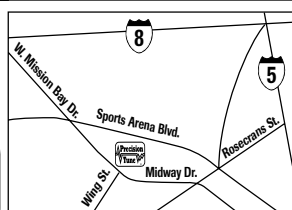


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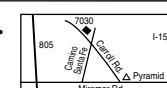
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ALL ANYBODY REALLY WANTS IS TO BE NAKED. Well, there are other things that one might want, but "nude" sits — on a towel, one hopes — proudly at the top of the list. Watch people in your office, at your construction site, or in your gymnasium at 4:50 on a Friday afternoon. Their eyes will barely stay in their heads, staring down the clock for that final ten minutes before "official naked time."

This is why we have girlfriends and boyfriends. As humans we need interaction with other people; we want someone around so we can tell bad jokes. More importantly, we want someone who will watch us strut confidently from the kitchen to the bedroom with our thumbs up while flashing a broad, toothpaste-commercial grin. In a perfect world, this would all be done to Prince music.

This is how people get married. If someone's particularly good at being naked, she doesn't irritate you before she gets naked, and her friends don't mind that the two of you get naked together, then you propose. After that, it's official. You can't be naked in front of anyone else, ever. You have exclusive nudity — it's on the license or in the vows or something, "Thou shalt not sit and watch *CSI* whilst wearing nothing in the presence of any other." Or something like that.

That brings to mind the other rules of being nude: (1) When choosing a new friend to be nude with, you cannot skip over the awkward "what's your favorite color" stage and get right into your pantsless "Purple Rain" stroll. It'll take at least an hour, at most a month. (2) Unless you're of that very weird population at the beach or behind the high gates in those mountain retreats, this is only to be done indoors — at least in polite neighborhoods. You cannot pop off your front porch, wearing nothing but your best hairdo and a quick swipe of deodorant, and hold a glad hand out to a passing Fed Ex driver. Trust me. (3) You are never to point out your nude friend's minor imperfections, as you cannot swivel your head around to see your own. (4) This isn't so much a rule as it is a warning: you can watch as much TV as you'd like, but cooking is generally frowned upon, especially frying.

Bacon is right out.

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH WHILE NAKED THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

ANDERSON COOPER 360
CNN 7:00 P.M.

I, for one, am happy it's an election year. I don't really pay attention to political things. No one's ever really assigned me as a Democrat or a Republican — still waiting on that one. And I'm not sure where I would vote, but I am giddy to once again hear news anchors liberally use the term "caucus goers." I'm thinking of having T-shirts made up.

NFL LIVE

ESPN 9:00 P.M.

Oh, no. It seems that the corporate millionaires from this city have lost in the child's game to the corporate millionaires of New England. Perhaps if we, as a community, had purchased more garish articles of clothing and minutiae

emblazoned with their corporate logo, the millionaires from this city would have won their child's game. Maybe next year. Until then, and since they are headquartered here, I will buy statuettes from Jack in the Box to encourage that multimillion-dollar business to enter a hopscotch championship. Wouldn't that be fun?

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

GARTH BROOKS: LIVE IN LA!
CBS 9:00 P.M.

Surrounded by a dozen onlookers, most of whom are most likely homeless, one of whom keeps flicking bottle caps at Garth and shouting, "Shut up, fat boy! Shut your mouth, fat boy!" Live! In L.A.! It's an extravaganza!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

WILD WEST TECH

HISTORY 9:00 A.M.

My Indian name is "Frappes Reluctantly." My friend Ron's Indian name is "Bicycles with Swollen Coin Purse." It's pretty easy, you just have to include an action and a descriptive property or location. You can also change your Indian name later if you think of a better one. Mine used to be "Jerks Beef at 7-Eleven."



Lost

SUPER BOWL'S GREATEST COMMERCIALS

CBS 8:00 P.M.

If the writers' strike lasts forever, is this all that's going to be aired? Rehashing, dream-sequence episodes, and reruns of things that weren't that good in the first place? That's like being stranded on that proverbial desert island without the perk of choosing your favorite CD, actress, and movie; you're only allowed that "best of" compilation of Conway Twitty, Gary Coleman, and a scratched copy of *Police Academy 6*.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

MY SHOCKING STORY: WORLD'S SMALLEST KIDS
TLC 8:00 P.M.

TLC makes a convincing case for all those end-time prophesies from weird cults. This year, I think I'm going to only watch this channel, so my worldview will consist solely of homunculi, giants, and fish-people lurking under every kitchen table, behind every park tree, or peeking up from every puddle. It should make even mundane trips to the supermarket a real riot.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW
PBS 8:00 P.M.

I'm officially old. The most exciting thing about the turning of the New Year was my credit score went up and I was happy to hear that booze had been banned on the beach. It's too bad that young people these days can't enjoy alcohol without being obnoxious jerks. When I was in my 20s and inebriated, I was witty and a delightful treasure for all those around me.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

CELEBRITY REHAB WITH DR. DREW
VH1 7:00 P.M.

Like I need to see the swollen face of yet another Baldwin. What's with their heads, anyway? Once a Baldwin hits a certain age, his melon blows up like a runaway Thanksgiving-parade balloon. I wonder if they'll ever stop growing. What if medical science affords them an extra-long lifespan and their heads require municipal support such as police and fire patrols and blinking safety lights for aircraft? Are we as taxpayers going to be saddled with the responsibility of maintaining the Baldwins' gigantic melons?

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

HOLES

FAMILY 6:00 P.M.

As much nudity as we've talked about in this issue, with all joking aside, I want a non-nude part in a porno movie. I could easily play "shocked neighbor clipping hedges" or "sales floor manager who leaves young couple alone in stereo comparison room" or — and this would be my first choice — "Fire Chief!" Boy, that'd be cool. I could wear a helmet and everything. (Ugh. You know what I mean.)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

LOST

ABC 8:00 P.M.

Even better titles: *Stupid. Die. Next! Seriously. Quit. Boring. Hot Babe in a Grimy Ripped Sundress. But That's It. Really. Onward. C'mon! So. Done. Honestly.*

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BMW 330ci, 2004, gray, manual, 35,700 miles, free maintenance and warranty until 2010 or 100K, excellent condition, private parties, \$29,500. eldirectorJJ@aim.com or 858-472-0499.

BMW Z3, 1996, black convertible roadster, only 64,900 miles, automatic, excellent condition, black leather power seats, new back window, customized BMW chrome wheels. \$10,500. 858-344-1234.

BMW, 2006 M3. Competition package. 16,000 miles. Black/black leather/suede. Power everything, navigation, Bluetooth. Excellent condition. Always garaged. Barely driven. \$52,999. Serious buyers, 760-390-0732.

BUICK REGAL, 1976. 350 engine, 350 transmission. Burgundy, excellent road manners. Classic style, super clean smog passed. Registered, ready to drive away. \$3500. 619-583-0924.

CADILLAC SEVILLE, 1993, clean, reliable. Blue Book \$3545. Registered until December 2008. 20mpg. Best offer. Tim, 858-273-2956.

CHEVY AVEO. 2004. 4 cylinder gas saver. Original first owner car. 17" rims.

Custom sound system. Great condition. 65K. 5 speed transmission. \$5,000. 760-672-4629.

EAGLE VISION, 1993, new tires, runs great. \$2000. 619-542-1306.

FORD CONTOUR GL, 1997, 4 door, low miles, automatic, air conditioning, power steering, brakes, windows, locks, tilt, cruise, stereo/cassette, premium wheels, must sell, \$2975. 619-838-0779.

FORD FOCUS SE, Compact wagon. 28mpg! White, 67,000 miles. Only 6,000 miles on rebuilt transmission. CD/MP3. Inspections welcome, no time wasters please. \$4,900. 760-487-1995.

FORD FOCUS, 2004. Excellent condition, great deal, 4 door. White, automatic, air conditioning, low mileage, original owner. \$7450. 760-943-3951.

FORD TAURUS, 2003, perfect running, 46K miles, air conditioning, CD, power windows, 4 door, very good on gas, burns no oil, \$5950/best. Cash only. 619-850-4338.

HONDA CIVIC, 1993. 4 door, light green color, all auto, tinted windows, runs well. Smogged, Alpine AM/FM/CD. New

battery, all records, fast, \$19,500. 858-961-6708.

HONDA CIVIC EX, 2001, 4-door sedan, 5-speed manual, good condition, 79K miles, silver, \$7600/best. Kenneth, 719-439-0877.

HONDA CIVIC, 1991. 4 speed, air conditioning, runs good. 148,000 miles, \$980 firm price. 619-200-7596.

HONDAS FROM \$500. Police impounds and tax repos. Cars, trucks, SUVs. Many makes and models! For listings, 800-495-0660 x2180.

MAZDA MIATA MX-5, 1999, 55,650 miles, impeccably maintained, lots of extras, \$8300. Photos and description at www.cardomain.com/ride/2980782. Fantastic car. 858-245-5511 or 858-558-2457.

MERCURY SABLE WAGON, 1997, 3.0L, V6, fully equipped, cassette, roof rack, 3rd seat, runs, looks, and drives excellently, \$3150. Owner will help finance. 619-896-0779.

PORSCHE BOXSTER S, 2000, convertible, midnight blue/tan, 6-speed manual, sport package, cruise, CD, premium sound, premium wheels, low

miles, all records, fast, \$19,500. 858-270-0707.

TOYOTA CAMRY LE, 1998, V-6, original owner, great mechanical condition, some minor cosmetic work needed, air conditioning, power locks/windows, cruise, 116,500 miles, \$5500. 619-294-3267.

VOLVO 240 DL, 1990, 90K miles, 4 cylinder, good engine and transmission, well maintained, good interior, electrical starter problem, \$700/best. 619-464-3755.

VOLVO C70 HT, Convertible, 2001. Dark blue body and top, beige leather interior. Automatic, rollover protection system. One owner. All maintenance records available, \$12,900, 858-531-2201.

VW JETTA GLS, 2002, 4-door sedan, automatic, 4 cylinder, 2.0 liter, blue, tan leather, sunroof, tinted windows, alloy wheels, premium sound, air bags, \$7600. 315-542-7317.

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T.G.I.F.

I am, like Jimmy Stewart in the movie, confined in my movements.

By John Brizzolara

Friday nights here at what I will call the Mayflower Villa Apartments in San Marcos are a far cry from what goes on those same nights in, say, Pacific Beach. I am learning about this place (Mayflower Villa, anyway) from a unique point of view, rather like Jimmy Stewart in *Rear Window* learns about his neighbors — or at least one of them.

The Mayflower strikes my imagination in an unusual way. It is a new low-income apartment complex (a little over a year old) situated high on craggy bluffs of sandstone and clay as if designed with waiting out a siege in mind. No commercial businesses are anywhere near...certainly not within sight. I just sent a friend of my son's — and it is my son's apartment — to the 7-Eleven for a few staples. He will take a bus and at least one hour to return. It is the closest establishment for any kind of supplies. On a Friday night, I thought we all might enjoy some sodas at least; our pooled money would be just enough for a pizza to be delivered, but no more.

I am, like Jimmy Stewart in the movie, confined in my movements. While not in a wheelchair, my busted ankle demands that I stay off of the thing, keeping it elevated when I can. A good place to do this is the small balcony, which looks out onto a courtyard and the identical balconies of nine other apartments. I do not need binoculars to observe a goodly slice of life here among the other residents.

This is not the first Friday night I have spent here. I have, in more able-bodied times, come up for weekends

several times in the past year. One thing I expected to see, especially on Friday nights, was a barbecue. I have seen none. While it is a great staple of relatively cheap entertainment — a time-honored and American common denominator of “the party” — I have come to suspect strongly that such activity is against the rules here. Rules abound at the Mayflower. For example, any guests, such as myself, can stay no longer than ten days or additional rent will be charged. Other conservative and (it strikes me) almost puritanically eccentric rules riddle the lease pages but are beside the point for our purposes here at the moment.

From my perch on the balcony I can see that the only evidence of a sense of Friday evening is among the children. The Mayflower has plenty of children — absolutely no pets — and a good many of them are the children of Mexican immigrants (I am certain every one of them would be legal, being unable to imagine the Mayflower brooking anything less) and so are very well behaved in the way Mexican children tend to be. This fact is an overlooked boon from another country's migrants along with lettuce, strawberries, and asparagus all under \$40 a pound. But it is not my intention to get political. I am just observing.

One child, with wavy golden hair to her shoulders, is named Diane. (Her mother calls to her quietly from a balcony opposite mine.) Diane is Caucasian, I would guess, and she is mounted on one of those stainless-steel-looking collapsible scooters. She has nowhere to go and makes endless loops around building 4D while singing a pop song. When asked by another child if they might not try out the device, Diane surrenders the thing with grace.

Other children in “the yard” of concrete and postage-stamp patches of lawn are named Martin, Edward (Eduardo), Maria, Leo, and Peggy. Those are the names I catch, though there are more kids. A few of them will raise their voices in good spirits, but I hear no shrieking or screaming just for obnoxiousness' sake. The children play unorganized games fueled by imagination and its improvisational offshoots, but there is no mistake: they are celebrating the end of the school week. It strikes me as odd how children have no place to play in — there is no designated playground area with, say, monkey bars and slides. It reminds me of the buildings and “gangways” I played in as a child in Chicago. We, in fact, had more luxuries: nearby parks and small patches of yard in which certain adults might allow us to cavort if they weren't hanging laundry.

I look up from Martin giving Leo a piggyback ride (I think he is pretending to be some kind of beast from *Star Wars*) and look into the open blinds of the apartment directly across from me. A man, no older than early 30s, is moving quietly about straightening pillows on a sofa, adjusting a Persian-type throw rug in a tasteful, orderly, well-maintained apartment (from what I can see). I can see the bottom edge of a Christmas tree against the right wall. While



it is a little late for such a thing, its Italian, soft-white lights lend the room warmth that is inviting. The glimpse of the room delivers a pang of sadness as it reminds me of my own home in Mission Hills some 25 years ago when my son was under ten years old and it seemed to me the world had yet to turn to a kind of constantly morphing hell.

The residents of Mayflower Villa are all — it seems to me *all* — well behaved. They have each been rigorously screened as my son was initially. There will be no Friday-night tomfoolery, horseplay among the adults, no outdoor alcohol consumption, no smoking (inside or outside its walls) no loud television sets no matter what team is playing, no barking dogs, no beefed-up engines revving in the parking lot, no hanging over balconies conducting loud conversations with neighbors (à la Chicago or Brooklyn or even Mission Beach) and it will be this way every night, not just Fridays.

The Mayflower is a kind of colony set down in a sea of rolling and crumbling barren hills — dirt and rock — and while it is no doubt an idea of Heaven on Earth to the kind of people I tend not to know, it strikes me as an anomaly. And as far as any kind of Friday-night celebration, the only evidence of it here is among the children. They provide something very pleasant to look at and listen to and probably that should be enough.

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