

Walter
Mencken's



SD ON THE QT

The News You Won't Find Anywhere Else

Legoland California Gets Topical for Summer, Updates Exhibits to Include Somali Pirates and Katrina-Ravaged New Orleans



Katrina-Ravaged New Orleans

High School Musical Opera

Local Private School to Make High Art from High Crime
"Don't cry for me, La Jolla."

BACKSTAGE BY THE MAKEUP TABLES, FOUR FLOWERS THEATER, LA JOLLA — On the evening of June 10, theatergoers here saw the final staged reading of La Jolla Country Day School band director William Reed's *Affair of Honour*, a semi-pro musical based on the story of the duel between American politicians Aaron Burr and

Alexander Hamilton in 1804. On the morning of June 11, Courtney Flanagan, holder of an endowed chair in theater at La Jolla's Bishop's School, announced plans to stage *Oh, the Cunanity!*, a semi-pro opera based on the multi-state killing spree perpetrated by Andrew Cunanan in 1997, which resulted in the deaths of fashion designer Gianni

Versace and Cunanan himself.

In her announcement, made during a press conference held in the Bishop's School teacher's lounge, Flanagan noted that "Reed told [KPBS *These Days* guest-host Tom] Fudge that the Hamilton-Burr conflict was 'a true story' that still 'has all the elements of, you know, a classic Greek tragedy or a Shakespearean tragedy.' Who knows — he

may be right. But to find out, a person would first have to figure out how to stay awake during a story about the secretary of the treasury who crafted our banking system writing snippy letters to the vice president who invented American parliamentary language. Be still, my heart."

She went on to say that "*Cunanity!*, on the other hand,

has all the elements of great opera front and center: forbidden love, bloody murder, and, thanks to Versace, fabulous costumes. And it's a hell of a lot more local." (Cunanan was a 1987 gradu-

ate of Bishop's and attended UCSD before heading north to San Francisco's Castro District, where he made money by prostituting himself to wealthy older men.)

An early draft of the libretto, obtained by *SD on the QT*, contains songs such as "Horrid and Florid," in which a young Cunanan rages against the aesthetic injustices brought on by his Filipino-Italian heritage; and "Bashing the Bishop," a euphemism-laced screed directed against perceived homophobia at the Bishop's School. The clear showstopper, however, is "Miami Beach Blues," in which the quicksilver murderer lays bare his heart and embraces his destiny:

*First Trail and then Madson, Miglin, and Reese
I've always been wanted, just not by the police.
Now I'm off to Miami to hunt down Versace*

1. Klondike bars
2. Pop Tarts
3. Butter
4. Oreos
5. Frogs' legs
6. Chocolate-dipped pickles

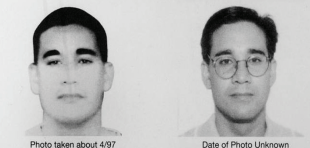
Hey, kids! The San Diego County Fair is under way, and this year's theme is "Taste the Fun!" Get in the fair-going spirit by guessing which of the following foods is NOT available as a deep-fried treat up in old Del Mar! Yummy! And remember: you're not fat; you're big-boned!

This is why you're fat?

(Answer: 6)

WANTED BY THE FBI

UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION - MURDER SECOND DEGREE



ANDREW PHILLIP CUNANAN

Move over, Pagliacci?

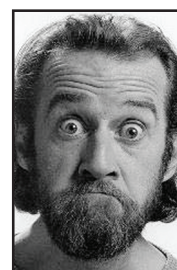
I'm guaranteed famous; you can't help but watch me!

After shrieking that she would "cut off" certain portions of this reporter's anatomy if the early draft were made public, Flanagan settled down enough to say that "Andrew Cunanan has a lot to teach us — even just 13 years later — about celebrity culture and the dangers inherent in being young, beautiful, and privileged. He had the life everyone dreams of, and yet, somehow, it all ended in tragedy. We're looking at a possible collaboration with the CW [television network, home to shows such as *Gossip Girl* and *The Vampire Diaries*]."

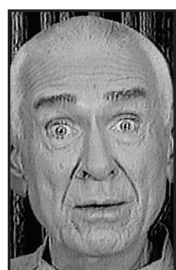
Asked about the rumor that Elton John had been approached about collaborating on the score, Flanagan refused to comment. The debut of *Oh, the Cunanity!* is slated for Spring 2012.

WHO PLAYS WHO

NOTORIOUS EDITION



George Carlin gained notoriety for defying societal norms with "Seven Words You Can Never Say on Television."



Marshall Applewhite gained notoriety for defying societal norms with mass suicide in Rancho Santa Fe.



The A-Team takes a tank for an unorthodox ride through the friendly skies in *The A-Team*.



Shawn Nelson took a tank for an unorthodox ride through Kearny Mesa in desperate frustration with his life.



Dean Cain played Scott Peterson, a San Diegan who headed north and was eventually convicted for murdering his wife.



Andrew Cunanan actually was a San Diegan who headed north... (See adjacent story.)