

TUNES

MERRIWEATHER POST PAVILION

by *Animal Collective*

Over the past decade, New York-based Animal Collective has wowed underground audiences with its malleable mishmash of hot-blooded funkiness. The prolific pack is again earning critical acclaim with their ninth studio album.

Founded in Baltimore, the auditory adventurers have evolved from folk to techno and everything in between, yet they always keep it indie and poppy enough to offset the experimental commotion. It doesn't seem like howling could be commercially viable, but their primal melodies, glistening grooves and trippy tribal beats transcend cultural barriers.

The synthesized dance party is a syncopated salute to neo-hippies everywhere. Animal Collective is like sonic foreplay that flirts with minimal, ambient textures before striking its prey with free-wheeling audacity. From the holographic cover art that plays tricks with the eyes to the drum circle left spinning around, *Merriweather Post Pavilion* is a psychedelic circus not to be missed.

Take a trip over to www.animalcollective.org



PAGES

TELL ME NO. I DARE YOU!

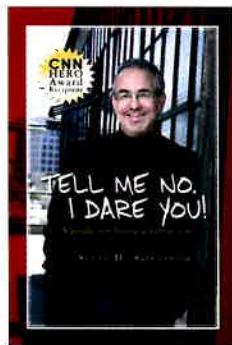
by *Scott H. Silverman*

Part memoir, part how-to book, this is the heartfelt story of a rebellious young man on a self-destructive path. As he enters high school, his life becomes littered with drug and alcohol addiction, daredevil impulses and repeated suicide attempts.

Through the often mean streets of Turkey, Israel and Amsterdam and across the deserts of Southern California, he finally finds the inner voice to project from a place of poise, not shame. This inspiring book will encourage readers to find their calling, achieve success and alter that which is limiting their potential.

Local author Scott H. Silverman was named a 2008 "CNN Hero of the Week" for his own tale of faith and fortitude. It's hard to believe that this community crusader once considered leaping out of a 44th floor window. Silverman is also active in the non-profit sector, helping San Diegans turn their lives around through his Second Chance program.

Learn more at www.scotthsilverman.com and www.secondchanceprogram.org



THE TOP NINE

WAYS TO TURN UP THE ROMANCE THIS MONTH ACROSS THE COUNTY



ONE / CORONADO

What's dreamier than drifting through the Coronado Cays in a Venetian gondola? Special Valentine's packages are available for private cruises from February 11-16 through Gondolacompany.com.

TWO / DEL MAR

Picnic in the countryside before toasting a bottle of the bubbly over the Pacific coast in a hot air balloon. Check out Sdflights.com.

THREE / JULIAN

Stroll through apple orchards, ride a horse-drawn carriage and stay the night at one of the mountain town's cozy bed and breakfasts.

FOUR / ESCONDIDO

Skip the Temecula trek and check out reasonably priced wine tasting tours from San Pasqual Valley to Escondido.

FIVE / CARLSBAD

Nearly 50 acres of Giant Tecolote Ranunculus flowers bloom each spring. It's only open from March 1 until the end of May, so make plans this month.

SIX / BORREGO SPRINGS

Hike to the natural spring oasis of Palm Canyon and lounge like a lizard at Borrego's most romantic retreat, La Casa Del Zorro.

SEVEN / BALBOA PARK

The park is swimming with fountains, flowers and secret gardens. Get lost in a museum, ride the carousel and dine on the patio at The Prado.

EIGHT / LA JOLLA

La Jolla Cove offers the best of fine dining and marine interactivity whether your pleasure is watching seals, snorkeling or spelunking through caves.

NINE / MISSION BAY

Get a sunset serenade at Tangier, the Bahia Hotel's Moroccan piano bar, and cap the evening on a moonlight cruise aboard the Bahia Belle sternwheeler.