If you like your Navy SEALs or frogmen big, brawny, stoked to the eyeballs on steroids, and filled with comic-book bravado, then Captain Ed Bowen will disappoint. His size inspires nicknames like "Peanut" or "Li'l Bit" in our shared home state of Georgia. I don't know if people in Athens ever called him by those names. I haven't asked him.

But what I have asked him over

The Bull Frog























...OR GET UP THESE PHONES - I

















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Unfair Potter Matt Potter ("City Lights," November 30) should be ashamed of himself for passing on part of a draft state-

ment that suggests San Diego

LETTERS

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader

Green Eggs And

If I were a music lover

who knew zilch about rock in Spanish, I would be very cur-

ious to sample the sounds of Tercera Cuerda after reading

Brizzolara's insightful article.

Brizzolara's insightful article. He writes about a fresh, positive band and the willing-ness of a club owner to show-case true talent.

Open for a pair of years now, Over the Border has been a venue known for featuring huge rock in Spanish bands. I am proud to say! was three on opening night as an eager music lover who was fras-trated by the lack of venues in San Diesen shor feature.

San Diego who feature Span ish-language bands. Just Java on Third Avenue

Just Java on Third Avenue in Chulo Vista has also featured some fantastic, original rock en español and world-hokat bands. However, the comfortable coffeehouse is not the choice when liquor and a roating crowd are desired. I applaud the Reader for printing an article that preflects open-mindedness and musical savuy in its descrip-

musical savvy in its descrip-tion of the rock en español

emergence. On another point, I am

surprised bar owners north of

surprised bar owners north of Chula Vista are not trying to cash in on the Latino dollar by having bands like Tercera Cuerda and Dukkah play at their establishments. Yeah, so your clientle is mostly white! They don't want to discount to spansh rock! Well. "Sam didn't like green eggs and ham until he tried it and was pleasantly surprised. You

and ham until he tried it and was pleasanly surprised. You got to try it and see what happens. Middle San Diego is void of any real rock in Span-ish venues except for maybe Cafe Sevilla in the Gaslamp. It would be sound business if we had Spanish rock bands playing in all ready established clubs around town. There's muche dinero and some may been musica being made for your pleasure. L. Guerreno.

City College has "one of the worst records for transferring students..." First of all, as provost of Revelle College, the oldest at UCS an Diego, for 18 years, I have seen numerous students from City who have come to UCSD and done well here. This includes one woman who graduated as one of our top biology majors last year. She is currently a first-year medical student at UCSD. You may phone them in by calling 619-235-3000, ext. 460; address them to Letters to the address them to Letters to the Editor, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803; e-mail them to letters@sdreader.com; or fax them to 619-231-0489. Please include your name, address, and telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. medical student at UCSD. Second, it is arrogant of any one to single out university transfer as somehow the crit-ical function of City College, or any community college, or any community college. These important partners in higher education play too many roles and provide too many services to be treated so unfairly. Spanish Rock Re "Good Cheer" by John Brizzolara (Pop Music, Decem-

Provost Revelle College

Irrational Fat Horror Jill Fehlman's letter (in the December 7 issue) criticizing Anne Albright for feeding her children "rich casseroles" and slathering butter on their "slathering butter on their toast" is ignorant and misin-formed. Not only does she want to limit how many children Albright should have; she also wants to control their disc. Behind her apparent concern, she evinces an irrational hor-ror of fat and loathing of far dence suggests that putting, children on diets actually in-creases the possibility that creases the possibility that they will grow into fat adults. Fehlman apparently cannot hear the mention of "rich" food without the prudish food without the prudish reaction that it might lead to weight gain. I sincerely hope Albright ignores this irrational, though unfortunately prev-alent, attitude and continues to feed nourishing meals to her children.

Kearny Mesa

Expertise In Failure Here's a short response to the chap who wrote in com-

chap who wrote in com-plaining that he's out of work because he isn't Mexican, isn't bilingual, is over 40, and this is an "evil" city ("Let-ters." November 30). When my wife was dying of cancer at an early age, she often said, "Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry and you cry alone." While more than the said of the said of the problems, it indicated she still problems, it indicated she still had a handle on reality. had a handle on reality.

She left me with sole custody of a profoundly disabled child with major medical problems, at a time when I was being laid off during the big General Dynamics collapse. Oh, and I was over 40 too. Job searches are always tough, even when the economy is good like it is now, But sometow if never occurred to me to find blame for my difficulties. I think is expertise in the search was not a support of the control of t

culties. I think his expertise in finding excuses for failure is

Reader

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Our Frugal Tongue gets an extra rib

To make good wine, you have to get your arms dirty



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Developing debt Developer C. Samuel Marasco, whose controversial \$192 million plan to develop a commercial complex and pedestrian bridge across the San Ysidro border into Tijuana was hastily approved by a lame-duck city council late last month, has been named in a latest hastily approved by a larne doctor content to the content has been amend in a lawsuit seeking to solice a multimillion-dollar debt. The case was filed by fean E. Hardy, it at multimillion-dollar debt. The case was filed by fean E. Hardy, it at his was the fean of the country big shopping certain was the developer of most of the country big shopping certain the content of the country big shopping certain content of the country big shopping certain the content of the country big shopping certain content of the country big shopping certain content of the country big shop in the country and the country big shop in the country and operated by Marasco and Hahn's son Ronald. According to a copy of the note attached to the case, both Ronald Hahn and Marasco were responsible for the debt, but Hahn's not named in the suit. Aran John Hansen, a member of the 1985 New Zealand America's Cup team that beat San Diego, has been found quilty of having sex with teenage girls, reports the Evening Post of Wellington.

Gore Funds Vice President Al Gore's recount committee has taken in \$3.5 million to pay for all those legal bills associated with his staken in \$3.5 million to pay for all those legal bills associated with his Boah, Big Gore doors include Meering States (South Boah) and the Gore W. Boah Big Gore doors include management on the list billionate Qualcomm founder Irwin and the state of the state o Gore funds Vice President Al Gore's recount commit

ceerge Schuttz, and Dick and Lynne Cheery... When San Diego Spinbiotics acquierd the canine sperm business of a Pennsylvania ge netics company back in 1996, they had frozen seme samples from 2400 dogs. Now, reports the New York Times, the Symbiotics sperm col lection, stored for pet owners who want to artificially inserminate, is up to 4000 and growing. The company collects sperm from 50 clin-cis around the wife.

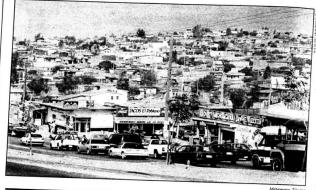


is a sround the country.

Mobster's holiday Boston's infamous Irish mobe enforce James "Whitey' Bulger, who has been placed on the FB's length of the Barbon

Contributor: Matt Potter

The Reader offers \$25 for news tips published in this col-umn. Call our voice mail at 619-235-3000, ext. 440, or fax your tip to 619-235-3096.



Mr. Bandstand Snarled in **High-Tech Tiluana**

By Matt Potter

he never-aging Dick Clark, who began his career 44 years ago in Philadelphia as the host of that TV teen dance party, vicen dance party, his name and that of his shows, including Bandstand and New Year's Rockin' Eve, for use by state lotteries and slot machines in Las Vegas.

Lately, the company has lumped into the restaurant humped into the restaurant bands with a chain of "Dick Carlis" and Carlis an

throughout the Midwest, where Clark has long had a fierce fol-

ners, who once swi

lowing of

female baby-wooned

as the host of that I American Bandrand, and its forever-popular "Bardrand and its forever-popular "Bardrand and its forever-popular "Bardrand and its forever-popular "Bardrand and its forever-popular and its forever-popul towing of female baby-boomers, who once swooned one over his move debut as an in-mediate of the control of the con-trol of the

ards. Clark's Burbank-based company also cranks out game shows like Greed and Your Big smows the Greed and Your Big Break, variety series like Prime Time Country, so-called "real-ity" shows for the Fox Network, such as Who Is the Smartest Kid in America? and Beyond Belief, and the syndicated Donny and Marie daying talk shows

and the syndicated Donny and Marie daytime talk show. Clark's firm is also respon-sible for such video gems as TV's Bloopers and Practical labor talkers. Jokes, television movies like The Good Doctor: The Paul Fleiss Story, about the father of Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss, and Elvis and the Colonel: The Untold Storm nostalgic Dick Clark's Rock, Roll,

northwest Mexican cities of Ti-juana and Mexicali, Baja Cali-fornia."

So far, though, their efforts have been dogged by falling stock prices, lawsuits, allegations of stolen securities, and questions raised by the involvement in the venture of Carlos Busta nante, a Tijuana busi whose wealthy family is linked whose wealthy family is linked to faller San Diego financier Richard Silberman, his ex-wife Susan Goldling, and their one-time friend, ex-California Governor Jerry Brown. The official groundbreaking, Lubic says, is set for later this month next to a Bustamanter-owned maquiladora plant in the neighborhood of Matamoros on the east side of Matamoros on the east side of Matamoros on the east side of Tijuana.

"We're going to do a pro-motion with Dick Clark with a hard hat on standing by all this equipment, because it's the new equipment, because it's the new millennium, changing from rock and roll to broadband communication and adjusting from the old-style entertainment to the new style. That'll be the lead story," says the genial, fast-talking Lubic, interviewed by telephone from his office at a tiny Tehachapi cable company he and Clark's new company,

he and Clark's new company, called InfoAmerica, own on the edge of the Mojave Desert. "We'll do that promotion in Spanish and English to differ-ent news organizations, because we always have to go out and raise money. It's the classic story, But with Dick Clark we get on CNN, CNBC, MSNBC, Mexican stations, reserved. CNN, CNBC, MSNBC, Mexican stations, news magazines, news-papers, the whole works," says Lubic, to whom Clark's Burbank office refers calls regularing the venture. "I'm going to Europe at the end of the week. I gotta go to about ten different cities, to visit investors and raise more money."

up approximately \$25 millior



already, and we've raised ap-proximately another \$10 milaircady, and we've raised ap-proximately another \$10 mil-lion," Lubic claims. "And then we're always constamtly raising money with investors in Europe. — most of our investors are in Europe. And then what we'll do is probably an offering. As soon as we get 5000 or 7000 or maybe 10,000 subscribers on cable in. we'll go back into the stock ma

Tide Turns for Shellfish Maverick

CITYLIGHTS

By Suzy Hagstrom

ost everyone who hears about Don Gilbert's proposal to replenish San Diego's coastal waters with abalone is are struggling to survive.

White abalone are likely to
be added to the federal government's endangered-species list
next year, said Peter Haaker, an
abalone specialist for the California Department of Fish and
Game. Other varieties — red,
pink, green, and black — have
also declined as the result of
overfishing and disease, said

captivated by the idea. Even of-ficials for the California Department of Fish and Game and the City of San Diego agree that increasing the state's de-pleted abalone supply would be

beneficial.

After spending 22 years
wading through bureaucratic
red tape, rule changes, requests
for more paperwork, and government skepticism, Gilbert is
close to making his repopulation project a reality. On April
25, the boat-dwelling, selftaught marine biologist retaught marine biologist re ceived the final okay he need from the state to release abalone larvae into the Pacific Ocean ear Point Loma The tide seems to have

The tide seems to have turned, but Gilbert is caught in yet another tangle of regula-tions. The entrepreneur must now persuade city officials to rent him part of the ocean floor. Such a lease would be the first of its kind, said Will Grif-fith, director of San Diego's real-estate assets department. real-estate assets department which oversees tidelands extending three miles from shore The city's environmental cor cerns and queries for financia data could delay or block the state-approved seeding pro-gram at a time when abalone

collect abalone provided they don't use air tanks, thus forcing reliance on snorkels and lung power.
To get their supply, restau-rants and fish markets depend on California's aquaculture farms, which raise abalone, and on imported shellfish from Australia, Mexico, and elsewhere. With wholesale prices at \$40 a pound and retail prices as high as \$80, abalone — considered a delicacy by many — is an expensive menu item.

also declined as the result of overfishing and disease, said Haaker, who has joined efforts to place white abalone on the state's endangered-species list. In May 1997, California out-

lawed commercial harvesting and sports-diving of abalone

south of San Francisco. North-

ward, a ban on commercial

harvesting has been in place

since 1945. Sports divers in Northern California may still







fied Gilbert's lab to be free of

sabellid worms, a parasite

traced to South African abalon

imported in the mid-1980s, By

the mid-1990s the worms had

on nearly all of California's 18

on nearly all of California's 18 aquaculture farms, which had traded infested stock. Meanwhile, a bacterial infection called "withering foot syndrome" decimated black abalone in the wild and infected

other varieties. The malady firs

appeared in the mid-1980s in shellfish near the Channel Is-

lands near Santa Barbara and

What distinguishes Gilbert's operation from other licensed abalone farms dotting the coast, Hulbrock said, is that it would be the state's only "open-ocular to the coast."

be the state's only "open-ocean ranch." The millions of larvae Gilbert plans to set free near Point Loma between the Ocean

Beach pier and Cabrillo Na-tional Monument would fend

for themselves at depths rang-

ing from 18 to 80 feet. In con

trast, businesses such as the

Abalone Farm in Cavucos

north of Morro Bay: Abalone

International in Crescent City International in Crescent City, near the Oregon border; the Cultured Abalone in Santa Bar-bara; Monterey Abalone Co.; and U.S. Abalone in Davenport, north of Santa Cruz, confine the shellfish they raise in underwa-ters cause or tank on Jan.

ter cages or tanks on land. "I think it's unlikely Mr.

Gilbert will be successful," Hul-

brock said, "but that's not a rea-

son to block his plans. Who

knows? He might surprise us.' At the Fish and Game Com-

At the Fish and Game Com-mission's urging, the depart-ment negotiated an agreement giving Gilbert special harvest-ing rights after he shows a fifty-fold increase in abalone." It's an unusual project," Hulbrock

Gilbert, 54, once made a lu

crative living as a professional abalone diver based in San

abalone diver based in San Diego. While growing up in North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia, he rarely went to the beach but was fascinated by rivers and creeks. He became obsessed with the ocean, Gilbert said, during the late 1960s, while serving in the Ma-rine Cornsat Camp Pendleton.

rine Corps at Camp Pendleton. He learned to scuba dive, stud-

ied marine biology, and began collecting abalone during the

early 1970s. From four days of

ork, he took home \$2200 after

work, he took home \$2200 after expenses. By the late 1970s. Gilbert was finding two or three abalone in spots where he used to gather two or three dozen." I was really troubled on seeing the demise," he recalled. "I requested a moratorium on white abalone back in 1983." Gilbert then divine through 1984 to

kept diving through 1984 to supply his research and to fi

nance his plans to start an

abalone farm, called Maritech

Ocean Ranching. "I thought mariculture would be the wave

In April, to the astonish

In April, to the astonishment of many, the California Department of Fish and Game gave Gilbert, a permit to release abalone larvae into the ocean. It is the only such "stocking" permit in the state, said Bob Hulbrock, the agency's aqua-culture coordinator, Gilbert

culture coordinator. Gilbert also has a "collecting" permit

— one of five — that allows him to catch abalone for breed-

ing. He fertilizes eggs in the state-licensed laboratory

aboard his boat, the Mariteci

aboard his boat, the Maritech, docked in a small marina on the harbor side of Point Loma. Gilbert bought the 1961-vin-tage, 48-foot-long Navy motor launch in 1979 for \$15,000. State inspectors recently certi-

of the future

said. "The commission wanted o provide the opportunity fo Mr. Gilbert to demonstrate hi

Mr. Gilbert to demonstrate his techniques. Abalone are in bad shape. The commissioners were willing to push the envelope," Although the concept of "open-ocean ranching" may sound far-fetched, said Mia Tegner, a kelp forest ecologist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, the method has been tested since the 1980s in scientific "enhancement" programs in Australia, Mexico, and New tralia, Mexico, and New Zealand. Hand-planting of larger baby abalone has been tried, most notably in Japan. Tegner said, but it is labor in-tensive and expensive. "The probability of an individual larva surviving is very, very small. But because they are so cheap to produce, the hope is a very small survival rate of large numbers of larvae outplanted would still have a significant impact at a relatively low cost Tegner said, "To date this at



uld be wonderful. His hear

ment and wait for a year before getting data. We're set up to do he same thing two or three the same thing two or three times a week in much, much larger volumes." David Leighton, abalone-production manager for Carlsbad Aquaram Inc., is enthusiastic about repopulation efforts based on his own experience and his more optimistic interpretation. Leighton, who earned his doctorate in marine biology from Scripps, tried larvae and handscripps, and handscrips, tried larvae and handscrips. Scripps, tried larvae and handplanting juveniles near La Jolla during the 1970s and 1980s. "In my follow-ups with larvae, could never be sure the little abalone were mine. Conse-quently, Leighton would like to track larvae that he could more easily identify. Eight years ago he submitted a scientific pro-

continued on page 9

O

strangers to Tijuana. A mid-'90s effort by the pair to build a dig-ital-communications system there with links to universities Bandstand

continued from page 4 ket. Right now you don't want to go into the market, but in the spring or early summer. There is also debt-financing and bankfinancing. Right now we don't money." Clark and Lubic are no

and hotels almost immediate and hotels almost immediately ran into trouble. Instead, it spawned a series of bitter law-suits and nasty charges and countercharges between Clark, Lubic, and their one-time La

lolla and Mexican partners, who claimed their deal collapsed because Lubic and Clark did not come through with millions of dollars of financing they had allegedly promised. "Dick Clark and I formed a Mexican company called Astrovision," explains Lubic, "and Astrovision bought licenses in Mexico from

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a group in La Jolla, and the La Jolla group turned out to be not nice people. They misrepre-sented a lot of things. They sued us, and we went to federal district court in New York and we By 1997, Clark and Lubic had met up with Mexican ty coon Bustamante, formed an

phone, and high-speed data ser-vices to an expected 250 to 300,000 customers by 2000," re-ported Multichannel News Incontinued on page 8

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maquiladora plants to a giant airliner-repair facility they built at Rodriguez Field, the city's air-

oort on Otay Mesa. Bustamante was also a friend of Richard Sil-

berman Until his 1991 crimi

berman. Until his 1991 criminal conviction and federal imprisonment, stemming from an FBI drug, money laundering sting, Democraf Silberman was one of the state's most powerful political operators. During the 1970s and early 1980s, his close business and fundraising ties to then, governor Jerry Brown and his father, ex, governor Edmund G. Brown, made him the man to see for those

Clark and Lubic announced

to host a reception in honor of Lubic says he doesn't know Silberman but has heard of him

"Didn't he get convicted of something? I've never met him. Carlos has never mentioned Carlos has never mentioned him. But I know from reading stories he got involved in some-thing. He was married to the lady mayor, right? I think he went to prison, but I don't know what it was for. I guess he's out

traded over-the-counter that, until Clark and Lubic came upon the scene, had been based in Fort Collins, Colorado, and engaged in an unrelated business. After purchasing the shell, Lubic says, he and Clark merged into it their holdings, namely, Country Cable, the 2000-subscriber Tehachapi cable: TV system. Bustamante contributed tem. Bustamante contributed his Tijuana-based Cable Cali-

> excited about the merger with our friend and business asso ate in Mexico, Carlos Busta ican market represents a tremendous opportunity, and along with a burgeoning His

growth."
As part of the deal, the trio
also picked up some new shareholders with interesting backgrounds. According to Lubic, a
Los Angeles investor named Byron Lasky "brought the shell to

then-invincible PRI, the coun **Bandstand**

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ternational in May of that year

ternational in May of that year. "Mexico really has been very backward in the sense of having the old-style cable without upgrading," the publication quoted Bustamnate as aving. Lubic says he first met Bustamatte through Orange County developer Donald Koll. "Carlos Bustamanten and Don Koll were on the board of Atlas Hotels in San Diego, and I kneep the Carlos and I sheep card in the Carlos and I sheep cards and the Carlos and I be Carlos and I be Carlos and Carlos and I be Car Carlos, and Carlos and I be ame friends and he became a partner. Don Koll owned a ho

tel in Cabo San Lucas, and Car-los owned a hotel in Tijuana." Bustamante and his family with strong ties to Mexico's try's ruling political party, had long owned Tijuana's cooking and heating gas-distribution monopoly and over the years diversified into everything from

doesn't like to pay for a hotel." According to the Times story, Bustamante was said to

mento.

Bustamante figured prominently in a March 1979 frontpage exposé in the New York
Times, in which it was alleged
that Bustamante had made unreported contributions to the
substantial campaigns of gubernatorial campaigns of Jerry Brown and extended Brown special hospitality when the governor trayeled to Mexico. "Jerry goes down to Tijuana, he stays at Carlos's house. I was there," the paper quoted a close Brown family friend as saying. "You know how frugal he is. He

be seeking help in a series of state decisions involving his business in Mexico, including in ocean-front power plant to

of surfing

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seeking influence in Sacra-

be built with SDG&E. Gray Davis, who was then Brown's chief of staff and is now California governor, was quoted as saying there was not "the slightest connection" between the ernor's actions and the in-sts of the Bustamantes.

After Brown left office in 1982, Silberman and Busta-mante remained close, and Busmante remained close, and bus-tamante showed up on wiretap records of Silberman telephone records of Silberman telephone conversations made during the FBI's money-laundering sting. In February 1989, according to the wiretay logs, Silberman said he "talked to Bustamante that weekend. Bustamante told R.S. about his deals, and in two weeks. "Inamuri" (a wealthy ceweeks 'Inamuri' [a wealthy co ramics tycoon | is coming to town. Inamuri is pushing the idea of a twin-plant so he can

bring his buddies in."

That same month, a caller identified as Bustamanate was recorded as saying. "I turn over the factory on the past day of the month. It's about \$400,000 plus the contract." Later that day, the taps showed, Susan Goldine, then a county super-Golding, then a county super-visor married to Silberman, was

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their latest cable-TV deal with Bustamante in August 1999. They acquired InfoAmerica, a so-called "shell" company traded over-the-counter that

fornia in exchange for stock in the venture, Lubic says. "Dick Clark and I are very

ate in Mexico, Carlos Busta-mante," said Lubic in an In-foAmerica news release. "We be-lieve this new venture will allow a rapid expansion of fiber-op-tical networks throughout Mex-ico and provide high-speed telecommunications of voice and viden to businesses and repanic population in Southern ia, we anticipate strong

CITY LIGHTS CITY LIGHTS It's a cable TV company, a digital-data company, an Internet carrier, and overything else you capture. "And then we have a group of marketing vans. They are will go up and down the street with video platforms on them so the people can see the kind

me. I've known him 20 years. He was involved in the begin-ning, but he's no longer in-volved. He is a shareholder now, I think. He has restricted

think. It is has restricted shared.

I think like has restricted shared.

The years, Lasky has of controversial ventures, the years of controversial ventures, the casino and a feeling that the properties of the years of the ye

ermment and set for demointand doned. Security is a security and a

Just by coincidence, Lube says, he and Clark own a cable TV concession in the Domini-can Republic.

TV concession in the Dominican Republic.
According on an InfoAmerican Republic.
According on an InfoAmerican Republic.
In new release dated Coxber with the recent increase and heavy few weeks is a direct result few weeks is a direct result few weeks in a direct result with the recent increase and heavy few weeks in a direct result few weeks in a direct result few weeks in a direct result few womans and in the second of the second of

the market and get cash back."
That may take a while, though, if present trends continue. As of Tuesday, InfoAmerica was trading at 63 cents a share, down from its high of almost \$53 back in May, But Lubic says he has no doubts that the venture is destined for glory.

"What we're building is a broadband fiber-optic network, with high-speed networks go-ng from one place to another.

Tide turns osal to release a hybrid he has

of pictures and programs they'll get, and they'll have mu-sic on it and announcements. And they will have doorhang-ers to look at. They can walk right up to the marketing van and order the service. You got to market that way in Mexico-town know. You got to go door ltivated from green and red cultivated from green and red abalone. "I've never gotten much support from the De-partment of Fish and Game, so I share some of Don's frustra-tions dealing with regulators," you know. You got to go door to door."

said Leighton, who still awaits a

CITYLIGHTS

said Leginon. "What Don wants to do needs to be done, but no one has broken ground on it." In 1997, California deputy attorney general Randall Chris-tison helped the Fish and Game Commission draft a rule change aimed at advancing Gilbert's plans. Before, state law

required that farm-raised abalone poured in the sea be tagged or marked, an impossibility of microscopic larvae. "The degree the sea of the sea

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vironment. "If anything, Don Gilbert is certainly tenacious. I think there are equal doses of skepticism and excitement about his chances for success." The commercial aspect of

Gilbert's proposal and the pref-erential harvesting rights granted him by the state may

pose another barrier, "To be

perfectly honest, if it were

Scripps, it would be easier, Griffith said, distinguishing be tween nonprofit scientific "en

hancement" programs such as Leighton's and for-profit aqua-culture farms. "Mr. Gilbert is-

n't doing this for just altruisti reasons. He's got to make som money. Because this is a busi

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ontracts.
In dealing with regulators,

Gilbert insists on special har-vesting terms and a low-rental

rate for the sea bottom. That

would help him recoup more than \$200,000 in expenses thus

far and cover future costs of

Hulbrock said. "It would show there's no doubt that enha ment would be the result of Mr. Gilbert's efforts, and it could lead to restoration of abalone, not just in California but around the world. If he could increase the population just tenfold, we feel that would be a Griffith and Gilbert have

far and cover future costs of population surveys required by the state. Turning a profit is un-certain despite the high price of abalone. Assuming Gilbert dra-matically boosts abalone stock, Griffith and Gilbert have been at odds for many months. Griffith wants assurances of the project's economic viability, including an independent feasibility report, business plan, cash-flow analysis, financial statements from Gilbert, and letters of commitment for financing. Without knowing the cost of renting eight source. matically boosts abalone stock, he could, under his agreement with the Department of Fish and Game, collect the pink and green species measuring 4.5 inches, or 1.5 inches smaller than the former legal limit. It would take about four years for surviving larvae to reach that size. "A fiftyfold increase as very hard measure to meet," cost of renting eight square miles of ocean floor from the city, Gilbert counters, it's diffi-cult to make absolute projec-

tions over five years. Without having a lease or knowing its terms, he says, investors can' evaluate the enterprise's prospects. "Cash flow? I've had a negative cash flow for two decades," Gilbert said. "I've invested my life into this."

Marie Wolf, a financial

Marie Wolf, a financial planner for Scott, Rowe & As-sociates in Scripps Ranch, said she decided to invest in Gilbert's business after learning about it from one of her clients in 1998. Wolf, who makes a liv-ing advising people about their investments, acknowledges the outlook for earning money outlook for earning money from Maritech Ocean Ranching is speculative. Nonetheless, she would like to contribute to reviving abalone in California

"Here's someone trying to do something good for the environment, and I want to be a part of it," Wolf said. "I can't be ieve the runaround Don is get-

lieve the runaround Don is get-ting from the city."

Last summer Gilbert capu-tured the interest of City Cou-cilman Byron Wear, a former lifeguard. After touring Maritech Ocean Ranching's laboratory. Wear facilitated a meeting between the en-trepreneur and city officials. Griffith stresses the city must proceed cautiously although he acknowledges the notion of estoring abalone is appealing. Decisions would require public hearings and approval by the mayor and city council. "Mr. Gilbert is asking us to have

faith, but I'm acting on behalf of the public trust. I can't bend the rules," Griffith said. "Eight square miles of the ocean flor public now and in the futu

public now and in the future without a lease encumbering it." Real-estate assets departi-has not negotiated a sea-bot-tom lease, and there is virtually no demand for such contracts. In 1933 California granted the City of San Diego authority to rent the ocean floor, but appar-ently both state and city offiently both state and city offi-cials at times have forgotten about that transfer of author ity. On letting abalone larvae loose near Point Loma in the early and mid-1980s under De partment of Fish and Game leases. Gilbert was told he had been misinformed — that he needed to rent from the city

instead.

Gilbert spent nearly four years — from 1987 to 1991 — wrangling for an ocean-floor lease. In a report dated January 16, 1991, the city manager's office advised against it because restoring abalone might force the city to reduce pollution from its waste-water texturent. plant in Point Loma. The cost of purifying the plant's water to meet shellfish standards would be too prohibitive, the report concluded, far exceeding any

Talk of the plant's runoff tainting fledgling abalone has emerged once again. Unlike clams, mussels, and oysters, abalone are not filter-feeders—meaning they don't strain vest amounts of water to obtain food, Gilbert said, Instead, abalone chew on kelp, and they don't concentrate toxism in the muscle that is eaten by humans, Gilbert said, repeating the same explanation he gave ten years ago, "That's a fiducious hypothetical concern. People go out there and fish every day. So, and they are they have they are they have they are they have they are they have the have they have the have they have they have they have they have they have the hard the have the many decades people harvested lone from Point Loma and

seafood broker in Poway, wa surprised to hear Gilbert is sti surprised to hear Gilbert is still jumping through bureaucratic hoops. Toon has been fighting an uphill battle, pouring his own time and money into this. I don't know how he lives. Frankly, I'm amazed he's still working on this, but he has overly focused mind, 'said ery,' focused mind, 'said ery,' focused mind, 'said ery,' focused mind.' Said ery,' focused mind. Said ery,' focused mind, 'said ery,' focused mind.' Said ery,' focused mind. Said ery, focused mi (When the commercial har vesting of abalone was banned in 1997, the committee disbanded and was replaced by the Recreational Abalone Advisory

"The basic problem is Don does not come from academia. The scientists consider him a lay person. Nobody knows

thetical concern. People go out there and fish every day. For placed it on the market. Ther were no outbreaks of anything. Maurice Camillo, a retired

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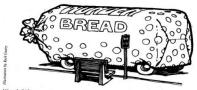
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wizard of Auce.

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Who does this, how often, and how much?

— Ray "I wanna ride a bus with my picture on it" Vance, in transit

Hope you save a lotta coin by taking public transport. To put your big inputs fee on the ide of a bus ain't cheap. Officially, bus condoms are called bus wraps. They're pieces of preprinted afheise variety of the own of the condoms are called bus wraps. They're pieces of preprinted afheise variety of one way such one way such one way such one save such to you can see out but you can see in If you want to who can be a such as the such

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MATTHEW

Re: Speeding on the freeway Please shut up. Best regards.

Please shut up. Best regards.

If you're rearing down 1-5, chuckling to yourself as you melt the paint off the city police unit of sheriffs car in lane 2, don't be surprised when you get a ticket. And don't try whining to the judge that the copd don't have jurned can. If a 'san old were't also that only the CHE and the city and on a freeway. On the past of the past, don't but at a red light on a city street, then wave at the watching CHP officer, figuring the distribution of the past, don't but at a red light on a city street, then wave at the watching CHP officer, figuring the officer's peoply included limits, you're busted. And by state agreements, CHP can chase you be officer's peoply included limits, you're busted. And by state agreements, CHP can chase you. If you're looking for some good bettime reading, in: "Section 830 (reg.) of the California Penal Code. It defines who 'a peace officer and generally what they're empowered to do. I saw dowing of the time I got to the end, but if I understand it correctly, you could be driving along transporting suppaisors, these in your trunk and be pulled over by an officer of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

- A. Miracle, San Diego

Some clouds are flat on the bottom. I'm pleased to apparently be the first to tell you that there is a X-rated formation (well maybe FG-13) called mammatian clouds II. Latin. having breasts? I'd hat is associated with formadors. Pockets of cold, dampar is nik from the bottom of a bindichread and form what looks very much like the effect achieved by a hundred topless dancers. bindichread with the state of the state

Dear Matt: What is ear wax, and where does it come from?

- M.S.G., San Diego Ingired by your question, Ma Alice, always looking for a fast buck, is saving earwax in a little jar. Once she has of stough, she plans to make candles and sell them at the swap meet. She's also found out that it will perform the she will be shown to the she will be some venture capital hoping to put Turtle was out of business. It's got to save up the she will be shown to be shown and carnable wax, so it should be shown to be shown and carnable wax, so it should be shown to be shown and carnable wax, so it should be shown to be shown and carnable wax, so it should be shown to be shown and carnable wax, so it should be shown to be shown and carnable wax, so it is should be shown to be shown and carnable wax, so it is should be shown to be shown and carnable wax.

work.

Ear wax is actually a cousin to sweat. At any rate, it's enuded by modified apscrine ower iglands (cremmons glands) located in the outer ear canal. Its purpose in life is to protect the seathern room to be used as the result of the purpose in the growth of the purpose in the growth of the purpose in the growth purpose in

night in a 1900 paint surviving, you school on himmon who obsects pure observe your nair caunes on me Got a question you need answered? Get it straight from the hip. Write to Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, P. O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or fax your questions to 619-231-0489, or e-mail to heymart@cts.com via the Internet.



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trey, Mait. Settle a bet. My friend claims that nobody hus a Highway Patrol officer can stop you on the freeway for speeding. I claim you can be stopped by police officers too. I even volunteered to ride around with him until we found a opon the freeway so he could prove his point. So far he hasn't taken me up on it, but he still insists he's right. I hope you can shut him up.

Memo To: Don's friend. From: Matthew Alice. Re: Speeding on the freeway Please shut up. Best regards.

Please shut up. Best regards.

It wull "en auriting down 1-5, chuckling to yourself as you melt the paint off the city police unit or sheriff's car in lane 2, don't be surprised when you get a taket. And don't try whinings to the indge that the copidath have unside, ton. It's anold where 1 dath anoth the CIPE can taket wow on a freeway. On the flip sade, don't bust a red light on a city street, then save at the watching CIP order, figuring would be home free because our in ento on a state highway. Whatever road you're on, if you're whinin the officer's sporgaphical/political limits, you're busted. And by state agreements, CIPP can chase you so miles into Arzona. too.

St miles into Arzona, too.

If you're looking for some good bedrine reading, try Section 8.0 (et rog) of the California Penal Cole (et defines who's a pace officer and generally what they're empowered to do.1 was dozing off bet letting for to the end, but if understand it correctly, you could be driving slamp strapparing supplianse, those in your traink and be pulled over by an officer of the Department of Common Affairs.

Be careful out the activity of the control of the Common Affairs.

- A. Miracle, San Diego

Some clouds are flat on the bottom. I'm pleased to apparently be the first to tell you that there is an X-rated formation (sed, made Fix-13) called mammatine-decode (Latin, Thomps breasts) that is associated with formadors. Prockets of cold, damp arisin from the bottom derived and form what looks very much like the effect achieved by a hundred topless dancers that the theory was the like bottom on some other types of clouds mark the lowest altitude at which the preparature is low enough to cause the air's water vapor to concleme and become visible in the form of a cloud.

Dear Matt: What is ear wax, and where does it come from?

- M.S.G., San Diego

Inspired by your question. Ma Alice, always looking for a fast buck, is saving earwax in a little jar. Once she has oftough, she plans to make candles and sell them at the swap meet. She sha so found out that it will put a simple plan to the she will be some venture capital hoping to put Turtle Wax out of business. It's a possible she shall be shared by the she was the shared with the Sheward and cannable wax, so it should work.

work.

Ear was is actually a cousin to sweat. At any rate, it's estuded by modified apscrine sweat glands (careful in the outer ear canal. Its purpose in life is to protect the eardrum from the bogs, and anything small enough to wander in these by trapings in the gunnry liming. Ear was reported to the property of the gunnry liming. Ear was a more or less constant are might and for each of a generically.

So the next time you have a round for each of a generically.

So the next time you have a round to for each of a generically.

So the next time you have a round for each of the generically and the produced at a light it. If you plan carefully, you could be finished with desert not before your har caches on fire for a mustion you need anomated first it revisible term.

Got a question you need answered? Get it straight from the hip. Write to Matthew Alice.

(Jo the Reader, P. O., Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or fax your questions to 619-231-0489,
or e-mail to hymnth@ts.com with the Internal.



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Journey Community Church Address: 8363 Center Drive, La Mesa,

Address: 8363 Center Drive, La Mes 619-464-4544 Denomination: nondenominational Enrollment: 300+ Staff size: 100

Class time: Sunday, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Journey Community Church in La Mesa is like an evangelical village, where 1400 people attend two morning services and 300 children attend its 20,000-square-foot Sunday school. Journey employs three Sunday school directors — two full-time, one part-time — who oversee 30 teachers and more than 70 assistants. "It really takes three people just to work

Bob Nelson, one of the directors.

At a little after 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, the chil-dren start arriving. As soon as they reach the front door, they squeal maniacally and dash toward their classrooms.

"As you can see, I'm having my breakfast," says director Debbie Morton, clutching

miniature Snickers bar and several pieces of

1

"A big electronic box

the child's number. It's

an effective system."

a minature Snickers bar and several pieces of red licorice. The need the energy, the fight, airy, tidy. At the door of each sits a volunteer with an attendance list and a box of index cards. "We're organized," says Morton. "We be also be Each child is assigned an attendance number and an 1D card that has the attendance number on it. When the parents drop of the child, they take the 1D card with them.

After services, we don't release the child unless the adult presents the ID card. These days, you know, there can be cur tody issues, that sort of thing. Sometimes par-ents get upset, even angry. They misplace the card, they can't find it, we can't

they can't find it, we can't letter kid go. We'll make them present some kind of identification. We've even called children's homes to make sure we knew what was going on. We make sure that the adult who dropped off the child is the same adult who dropped off the child is the same adult who dropped off the child is the same adult who dropped off the child is the same adult who dropped off the child is the same adult who dropped off the child is the same adult who dropped off the child is the same adult who dropped off the child is the same adult who dropped off the child is the same adult who dropped off the child is the same adult who dropped off the child is the same adult who dropped off the child is the same adult who dropped off the child is the same adult who dropped off the child is the same adult who dropped off the child is the c the child is the same adult who takes the child. That same ID is used to let parents know

if they need to leave the service to check on their child. If a child gets sick, or starts cry ing or misbehaving, we punch the child's num-ber into a keypad and a big electronic box in the sanctuary displays the child's number. It's

an effective system."
Morton estimates that about 30 percent of the children who attend Journey's Sunday school come from families with little or no religious background.
"Our program is geared toward helping children establish a personal relationship with Journal of the control of the cont depends on the child, the sophistication, the understanding of sin. I know of a four-year

old girl who was able to really understand what it means to sin. She told her mother, 'Mommy, I've sinned. I want to ask Jesus into my heart.' Then, of course, we probably have children in our high school program who haven't yet made a serious commitment to

Christ: Journey's Sunday school curriculum was developed by Willow Creek Community Church in Barrington, Illinois. Around 14,000 people attend Willow Creek's Sunday services, and its organizational strate-gies and philosophy have been adopted by other evangelical mega-churches around the con

"It works like a flow-chart, warMorton. "The kids arrive, they get worship,
a craft activity, a large

group activity, and a snack. Depending on the lesson, the snacks can actually be quite elaborate. If they're studying Passover, for example, they'll get foods associated with Passover. The

large group activity is usually drama." Morton and Nel son usher me to a class room where a we

in a scarf and floor

I a scarf and floor-length aqua robe performs a monologue based on the life of the Virgin Mary. With a toroid wave of her hand the woman standard wave of the standard wave of the lesus, and he was my son! "That's a large group activity. Parma," says Morton. Over in the junior high classroom, 60 kids are having a "snowboll right" with wads obserated hypers. Eselves, a worth pastfor

selves, a youth pastor introduces the morning's guest speaker, a in the sanctuary displays

young man with vivid red hair who starts to work the room like a stand-up comic. The room is larger than many church sanctuaries and at its rear stands a bank of six large color televi-sions used for video games. Next door, another youth pastor, standing

atop a chair, delivers a sermon to a group of around 50 high schoolers. The room they're sitting in, with its stage dramatic lighting, elaborate snack bar (donuts cramatic lighting, elaborate snack bar (donuts, candy, corn chips, potato chips, coffee), feels a little like a nightclub. Although Journey is nondenominational, the youth pastor seems to be warming to an essentially Calvinist

"On a one-to-ten scale, where are you in terms of pleasing God?" he asks.

"I'd say a five," says one boy.
"Six," says another. "I'm pretty definitely

a six."

The youth pastor hops down from his chair. "Look, it doesn't matter where you are. chair. "Look, it doesn't matter where you are. To God it's all the same. There's nothing you can do to make God love you more. He always loves you fully. It doesn't matter how much you fast or how much you pray. No matter what you do, you can't earn your way into heaven."

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Dear Aunt Trudy,

I am doing Optifast, which is a medically super vised diet, wherein you drink five shakes per day. The shakes have all the vitamins and minerals one needs. I chose this weight-loss method because I need to lose 100 lbs., and it is fast and healthy. I truly have never felt better. I have lots of energy and much more time to do things, because I am not thinking about, preparing, eating, or cleaning up after eating. Here's my dilemma: When I tell people I'm on this program, they feel compelled to share their opinions about how unhealthy it is, how it'll probably give me gall bladder trouble, heart trouble, how I'll probably gain all the weight back and more, yada, yada, yada. Everyone has input, none of which I'm interested in hearing, and none of their alarmist comments are true. I don't care to debate or discuss the merits of what I am doing. Can you think of a brief, pithy retort that is not unfriendly, yet clearly invites them to dummy up?

Dear Optifaster,

I'll take I on faith that this diet is safe, that the supervision is scrupulous, and that you obtained more than one doctor's opinion before embarring on this program. I haven the expertise to evaluate Optifast is safety, and neither do your solicitous, non-frends. You have a right not to spend all your newly freed-up time defending your decision to it by this weight loss method. And I would humbly point out that if you were 100 its solice have, then the health anagers of that level of obesity might outweigh, so to speak, the peris of your blender repeats. You're having to deal with the fact that most people have all kinds of covert neuroses about food and eating.

I thought your letter did a succinct job of articulating how you feel. There was nothing in it you need be ashamed to say. If you want other approaches try this: "I know this plan might sound radical or risky, but I'm being supervised by a great doctor who's an expert in the field and whom I really trust. As you can imagine I'm completely burned out on this topic! Surely we can find something more interesting to chat about than my eating habits..." (give a friendly little chuckle here) "How're the kids? / How's hat big venture capital deal coming along? / Did you see that awful Jim Carrey Grinch movie vet? / Do you think we'll ever have a new president?" If you can cook up a few diet-related jokes, that'd be helpful. Jokes are the greatest tension dispeller on the planet. You always have the right to say you don't wish to talk about something. Reroute the discussion. Switch the focus from what you are or aren't ingesting to the person who's trying to force-feed you unwanted advice, which definitely isn't on your

Dear Aunt Trudy,

It's holiday party time again, and I'm dreading it. An acquaintance is hosting a soirier whose guest list reads like a who's who of my past friendships and flux pas. No-showing is no option. How do I cope without copping out! My fear is I'll cower in a corner or announce my anxious apology. Is there a safe middle ground for such social apprehen-

NO SILVER LINING IN GOLDEN HIL

Dear Silverless,

Ugh. I know just how you feel. There was a period of time about ten years ago when it seemed as if every party I was invited to involved running some gauntlet of ex-husbands and their ex and current wives. I know you said noshowing is not an option, but I just want to whisper something in your nervous ear. If you're really going to be abjectly miserable at some of these shindigs, if it's going to be nothing but wall-towall people you've lilted or been jilted by, mixed with other assorted ghouls, then do consider inventing a last-minute case of poison ivy, a toxic spider bite, a bad allergic reaction to the previous night's eggnog, or walking pneumonia. You CAN say no.
If you're determined to be

brave, then bring along a sympa thetic friend who is totally clued in. This ally in the lion's den will talk to you if no one else will and laugh about it with you later. You can lean on them during your socially difficult holiday obligations and do them the same service later. Make sure not to drink to excess when in the enemy camp (a lesson I've had to learn the hard way). And remember: once you've shown your face you can leave at any time. Don't fee you have to prove something by staying till the hostess begins to empty ashtrays and vawn

Write to Aunt Trudy c/o the San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803; call her at (619) 235-3000 ext. 413; fax her at (619) 881-2401; or e-mail to



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hen Danielle first went to college, shortly after the end of the Vietnam War, she found herself sharing a dorm room with two other girls. At home Danielle had always shared a room with her sister. Danielle's two blonde roommates rose from their beds every morning and slid their long legs into tight blue jeans. In the evenings, when they undressed for bed, they were casual in their nakedness.

Salt "I can knead my stom-ach like bread dough," Danielle said to herself when alone. She grabbed her dimpled bottom and squeezed so hard she left bruises. She beat on her thighs with her fists. She hid in a stairwell donuts. She ate sacks of pretzels and boxes of caramel corn.

Attention: Whoever Is Retching in line." Hand-lettered signs started appear-ing in the stalls of the bathroom Danielle shared with 20 other girls who lived on her

cal Counseling, Call the Crisis Hotline." by MAX NASH Danielle thought she'd been quiet. She needed to find a method that "moved things along" with less noise. She remembered reading somewhere that mothers gave glasses of salt water to children who swallowed poison. She went to the supermarket and bought a box of salt. She stirred two tablespoons in a glass of warm water and drank it. When she came back from the bathroom, cold sweat beading her forehead, she lay on her bed and studied the box of salt sitting on her desk, "When it rains, it pours," if said.

The little girl on the box of salt wore a vellow pinafore and held a large umbrella. The little girl's legs, Danielle noted, were thin. When Danielle was a little girl her mother would buy pretty dresses that were too small for Danielle to wear. She would hang near her room and ate boxes of sugar-glazed them in Danielle's closet. Danielle's sister spent her summers sunbathing in a bikini in the backyard. She rubbed baby oil onto her shoulders and shins. Danielle stayed Here, You Need Help. Call the Crisis Hot- inside the house and watched television. She knew she had to wait, wait just a few more years, and she would be able to leave home.

At college, the months dragged on.

beside her bed. The thin-legged little girl was the first thing she saw when she opened her eyes in the morning. Before Danielle left for class, she gave the box a shake to make of warm salty water in her hand, she looked sure there was enough salt inside. She felt that her clothes were fitting her better. When she grabbed her belly, it felt like there was less to hold. Her trips

to the bathroom left her feeling that her breath smelled odd to chew gum, to gargle repeatedly and thoroughly with mouthwash. She did everything to hide the smell. It seemed she always tasted salt on

her lips. The taste made her think of one word, "thin."

In her junior year she took a part-time job so she could afford to live off campus. She found a cottage that sat behind an old says, basically it's all a matter of attitude woman's home. The cottage was the first floor, "Attention: If You Need Psychologi- Danielle kept a water glass and a box of salt place Danielle could call her own. The old back," she says.

oman had hung lace curtains in the windows. The bathroom had porcelain fixtures and yellow tile walls. It was the prettiest bathroom Danielle had ever seen. One night as she stood at the porcelain sink with a glass around and said, "No. Not here. This is my place. This bathroom is too nice, this house is too nice. I'm not going to taint them.' She never did.

Danielle no swims every day. On weekend mornings she takes long walks instead of staying in bed. She wears slacks and dresses that show off her figure. Women admire her. They ask her how she stays so thin. She tells them

that she had been a fat little girl. She has a well-rehearsed monologue about eating right and exercise, about the importance of what she calls "making peace with food," But, she The women eye her warily. "I don't look









he Bauhaus artist and teacher Josef Albers said, "To distribute material things is to divide them. To distribute spiritual things is to mul-

A nice progressive sentiment, and partly true. I think. It can be argued that the distribution of spiritual ideologies has caused more than a little divisiveness, but, to be fair, Albers was thinking more about cultural than dogmatic ideas. Any way, the first half of his adage is inarguable. I maintain that a good deal of human suffering stems from an inability to reconcile our belief in what Albers says with our habitual consumerism. I for one, think my covetousness stinks.

Which is not to say that I'm tortured by it I may still carry around a residue of Marxism from my grad-school days — I believe, for instance, in historical materialism, that our experience of a social and object-filled world shapes our consciousness - but I'm no ascetic. My shame at a recent trip to the new IKEA store off Friars Road was brief. The sea of colorful sofas, avant-gardish chairs, and curvaceous table lamps repulsed me, but I felt much better when I discovered that the brown particle-board bookcase I purchased there cost less than the brown particle-board bookcase at Salvation Army. In other words, I fret about the false sense of need that the store creates in its visitors, but I have yet to join a fight club.

The truth is, objects have a storied place in my family history. My paternal great-grandfather, a busy doctor and amateur engineer, built a machine shop behind his Hartford house so he could construct his own microscopes, not trusting anyone else with the task. He also built miniature steam and internal-combustion engines, shaping the fine steel parts on lathes and presses. Though functional, at least two of these engines were mounted on wooden bases, presumably by their maker, and so turned into machine-objects that sat idle but lus trous on the mantles and tables of my childhood



homes. The doctor's son, my grandfather, was a notorious collector of knickknacks and accouter ments - silver lighters and cigarette cases, watches, knives, cars. He defined himself with these objects to an uncommon degree. Many of my grandfather's follies, in fact, involved material things; like the ante-bellum sharpster who counted on shiners and convexes — coin-sized metals polished so that they would reflect the faces of cards being dealt — he was fond of clever objects: flashlight pens, nesting cups, stiletto canes. My maternal grandfather, though also obsessed with objects, had almost opposite aspirations. He was a chief surgeon who wished he were a mechanic. Imagine this: he ouldn't let his grandchildren operate his lawn tools. He preferred to remove the malignant weeds and thickets from his sprawling New England property himself, even after he turned sick and old. He prepared for the job with a precise ritual, each time lubricating the moving parts of his electric hedge clippers and mowers with drops from a dirty crimson oil can with a squeaky pump.

Maybe it's that the passage of time has ren-dered the habits of our ancestors quixotic, that our patrimony is an anxiety of influence, or maybe it's that objects today aren't as enchanting as they

once were, but whichever it is, my brother and I have not been able to practice as charming a kind of materialism as our forefathers. I've tried collecting things, but all I have to show for it is a few rocks with peculiar stripes.

What has managed to inspire obsession in each of us is skis. We grew up skiing in Vermont, and skis - their make, color, and length and the implications of their name and logo — were integral to the competitiveness among our boy-hood friends. The best skis, of course, were racing skis, preferably slalom. Recreational skis were shameful. My brother and I first revered our Rossignol ST

Comps, then our Käs- For one day we tle RX National Teams. We skied on the latter pair for far too many years, growing increasingly proud of their obsolete technology, a symbol of nothing other than the backwardness

were Phil and Steve Mahre again, blazing down the Maine of Vermont, which we

had come to miss. Last slopes. year, in a moment of weakness, we decided to demo some new Austrian skis that had been getting good press -Atomic Beta Ride 10.20s. For one day we were Phil and Steve Mahre again, blazing down the

Maine slopes, laughing and skiing out of our bodies. We've both taken to visiting the Atomic website (www.atomic.at) and searching for reviews for skis online. The company has created a monster and knows it, describing its new skis in pious prose. It is, we are told, the "ultimate Atomic innovation for the whole mountain. Cutting edge technology and top performance for cruis ing in all types of terrain, carving on groomed slopes riding on ungroomed terrain and powder surf-ing." The technology is nothing other than "space



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vorld's largest fibre manufacturer." Hyper carbon "assists the skier with rapid transmission of impulses when initiating turns" and "aggressive edge grip due to higher torsion values.' The "unique Titanium Beta Profile runs from the tip to the tail of the ski and from edge to edge. This innovative element permits a precise response and perfect control. In addition to excellent torsion values, the shape of the Beta profile guarantees optimal transmission of power impulses over the shell to the edges. The top models for all the target groups were developed to

optimise the power flow in the centre of the ski." Reviews corroborate the manufacturer's claims. "Jumps from turn to turn," an author at Epinion (www.epinion.com) writes "like it's coming out of a slingshot." Ski magazine says, "This is a serious candidate for Ski of the Year, Made the crud feel like butter. Totally stable and smooth. Sadly, the going rate

for the Beta Ride 10 20s is

age" and "high-tech"; it was upwards of \$800. For now developed by Toray, "the my brother and I must be content with reverie. Just the other night, it turns out, we both dreamed about the skis. In my brother's dream he's spending his first day on his new skis. He stops for lunch on the slopes and, as is his custom, separates his skis to make them more difficult to steal. Veggie burger in belly, he emerges from the lodge. The skis are gone. His little ruse has failed. He falls to his knees, tries to clutch fistfuls of powdery snow, and moans at the sky.

My dream began with my brother and me riding up a chair lift at a European resort. The terrain is wide open, bowls and pistes all around us. Courchevel maybe. We traverse to a trail that begins with a steep run leading to a lip, beyond which lies blue sky. Confident on my new Beta Riders, I push off. I hit the lip and soar. I can't land. For hours it seems I fly through the air, following the contours of the mountain with out ever touching it. I awake just moments before I slam into the lodge. .

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were tough questions about his new command, the Phil Bucklew Naval Special Warfare Center in Coronado, where the notorious Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUDS) course has devoured more than 5000 trainees during the past ten years and many more thousands since it started over three decades ago. As a measure of the training's ferocity, only about 30 percent of those who enter its hellish arena survive to graduate and enter men's houses known as "The Teams."

The Bull Frog

But all has not been well lately at BUDS or within the special warfare (SPECWAR) community of some 2200 SEAIs that depends on BUDS for new blood. Two highly critical Government Accounting Office studies in the early 1990s identified cruel and counterproductive practices that had resulted in serious injuries and unacceptable risk of death even in a Navy-sanctioned, high-risk environment. Two training deaths followed the GAO studies and — according to statistics provided by BUDS public affairs officer LTIG Tom Greer — the historical graduation rate of 30 percent plummeted to an absymal 17 percent for the six classes that began training in 1999. Class 227, which graduated in February 2000, numbered only 10 of an original 88 men, for a grim survival rate of 11 per-

What makes these figures particularly alarming—apart from the waste of taxpayer money—has been an unprecedented failure of former SPECWAR leaders to retain experienced SEALs during the past few years. The Teams have reached a manning crisis at the same time BUDS has experienced a meltdown of its reactor that generates new SEALs.

Enter Easy Ed Bowen, who took command of BUDS hard on the heels of the 1999 disaster and midway through the massacre of Class 227. Bowen arrived in his 34th year of active service that began when he entered the Nays as a teneage in 1995 to each the Booding tide of the Vietnam War. Bowen graduated from what was then called UDT Replacement Training with Class 38 in 1996. He served three combat tours with SEAL Teams One and Two that brought him Presidential Unit Clattains, Bronze and Silver Stars, and an officer's commission. Bowen's longerity in SPECWAR makes him the Bull Frog'te tholdest Star Lepsemby on active duty. A recent holder of this title before his retirement was Rudy Boesch of Survivor Fame. Although Boesch and Bowen express themselves in vastly different idioms, they share one overarching trait what you see is what you get; neither man has a careerist or decettiful bone see is what you get; neither man has a careerist or decettiful bone see is what you get; neither man has a careerist or decettiful bone

in his body. I come to this conclusion after having known and worked closely with both men during my own meager 16 years as a SEAL.

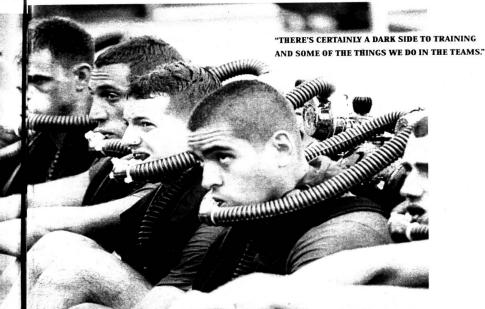
Captain Bowen and I meet in the center's conference room for our accound of several talks on the state of BUDS. That I'm meeting at all with the head of BUDS is noteworthy over the years I've written articles critical of BUDS excesses and SPECWAR peraletal tragedies. The former SPECWAR leadership, therefore, had never in my ten years of reporting granted an official interview. Heaven that if you didn't have anything worshipful to say about America's Roughest Toughest Mennest Mothers, then SPECWAR didn't rat you to say anything at all. But the new SEAL boss, Rear Admiral Eric Olson, and Captain Bowen have abandoned the old bander mentality: they've given me — and consequently the public — extraordinary access to BUDS for this article.

Captain Bowen gets right to the point: "Look," he says in a soft Southern voice tinged with an Appslachian twang." Id on't have anything to hide. I've read your articles and I can't find a single inaccuracy. There's certainly a dark side to training and some of the things wed oin the Teams. I'm trying my dammedest to do things right. I can't explain all the sins of the past. Since I graduated with Class 38 I'd never had a tour at 8 UDS until I became commanding officer. Aithough I served in SEAL Teams One and Five not more than a couple hundred yards from here, I had no real idea of what went on in training. This place was like a black box to me that produced men for the Teams. And I was always astisfied with the product. I quite frankly was not concerned with the process. Now that I'm responsible for what goes on her I'm kenyl concerned about the process. To that end, I've focused on the key relationship between instructor and student."

Bowen's use of terms such as "process" and "instructor-student relationship" reminds me that during his limited free time he







ainees await pool co

is chasing a Ph.D. in educational leadership at USD. These abstract terms also remind me of a nasty, concrete example of the instruc tor-student relationship that ook place a few months before Bowen arrived at BUDS. A retired SEAL and former instructor recounted the following incident to me. While a dwindling number of trainees (the old-fash-ioned word for students) were in the throes of Hell Week on a deserted beach opposite the A-8 Anchorage, an instructor ordered them into the 57-degree water of the bay for a round of what is known as "surf torture." Although the surf was negligible, after 30 minutes or so the trainees were sufficiently "hyped" — suffering hypothermia — that they were prepared to do almost anything to end the pain. The instructor ordered them from the water and as they stood trembling



before him — said he would stop the torture provided they chose one of their number for a successful treasure hunt. The hunt, he explained, would be to find a treasure of "corn" and "peanuts" in the reeking pile the chosen

would squeeze out on a piece of driftwood. Each trainee would examine the pile and sound off if he encountered a treasure. The trainees eagerly complied and to their great relief discovered

enough treasure to satisfy

the instructor

I don't have the heart

to confront Bowen with this

incident of which I'm cer-

tain he hasn't a clue. I instead

draw on an example from

my own distant training past

that speaks of this tradi-

tional fascination a very few instructors have had with bodily fluids and functions. I recall an instructor for my class in 1966 who delighted

recall an instructor for yelass in 1966 who delighted in pissing on trainees during sneak-and-peck exercises as they crawled along the beach. Lunderstand the practice had endured at least until two years age. A corpman who'd received the golden shower photographed in living color—told et al. living color—told et al. living color—told et al. living color—told et al. living the properties of the threeabouts. How does this manifestation of the studentinstructor relationship strike you?

"Of course I don't con-

Of course from Condone such 'extracurricular' activities. I don't believe anyone in a leadership position here at BUDS would. The problem is finding out about these aberrations and stopping them. You probably know more about some things that go on here than I do. But our instructors for the most part are overwhelmingly professional, and while changes need to be made, what you describe isn't the norm."

Do you know about the first phase Hammer Award? "Tell me about it."

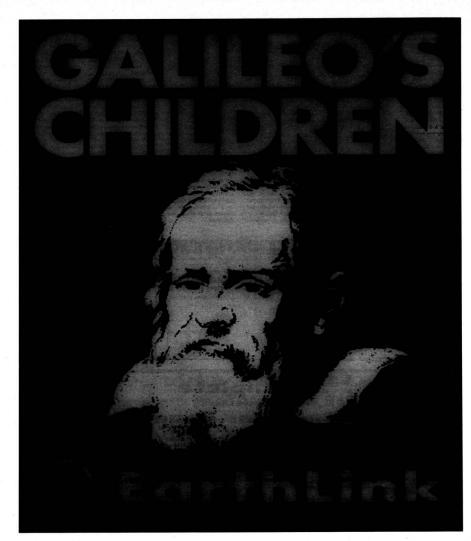
Students at the end of first phase select the instructor who has been the meanest sonofabitch, the one who has brought the most pain, and give him a trophy with a hammer mounted on it.

Bowen makes a notation on a pad in front of him and says, "That practice doesn't appeal to me at all. That doesn't fit my view of what SEALs are about or what instructors should be doing. The type instructor who exemplifies what I want to see is not the one students know as 'The Hammer,' but the instructor who, when the students are going on a five-mile swim, jocks up and goes with them. I want a positive instructor attitude - not an attitude









9

that says, 'I went through hell to become a SEAL and by God I'm going to make sure my trainees do the

"My take on human nature is that no one is born good or bad but with a clean late, a tabula rasa. It's life experience that makes a man what he is. It's up to us to build on what the trainee brings through the door. Some men are definitely not meant to be here, but I'm convinced the majority not 30 percent — have the physical and mental abilities to complete the course. Our job is not to deselect until we have only those few students remaining who can eat the most shit, if you will.

Bowen's sudden use of profanity — so common in the Teams, even among some senior officers — is startling and all the more effective because he seldom

curses. "When I first got here,"



he says "I put out a little blurb on my philosophy and what I expected of staff. My thing like this: 'The most important aspect of this cen ter is the instructor-student relationship. That relation-

ship is grounded in my funlamental belief that you lead by example,' I'm not terribly impressed by the spectacle of an instructor standing on the beach with a bullhorn velling at students to do things the

instructor has not demon strated a willingness and ability to do himself. I expect instructors throughout train ing to motivate in a posi tive rather than negative manner. And that includes Hell Week."

When is Hell Week? "Third week of first phase. Before first phase we workup period called Indoctrination. Here, let me give you an overview of training and the changes

We spend the next several minutes viewing a Power Point presentation on the familiar scheme for BUDS training as Bowen has amended it to reach his goal of an attrition rate of no more than 60 percent. He puts it in positive terms. "I see no reason why for every 100 students who enter the pipeline we can't push at least 40 out the other end."

The slides reveal that training, like Gaul, is divided into three parts. The first, or conditioning, phase lasts five weeks, during which a typical trainee day — except for Hell Week — looks like this: 0330 reveille followed by cleanup and preparation

for inspection; muster at 0400 for mile run to com bat-training tank and onehour swim: 0515 to 0545. breakfast followed by run back to barracks for inspec tion; three hours of calisthenics and run after inspection with perhaps 45 minutes of class on such things as rubber-boat repair, first aid, or "core values" (no kidding). The remainder of the day until chow at 1730 s spent on various physical pursuits such as the obstacle course, ocean swims, log PT, and surf passage with seven-man torture chambers called IBSs (inflatable boats small). Night exercises and cleanup often delay rack time for the trainees until past midnight.

Instructors swarm like killer bees around all this activity ready to light on any est letup. The instructors do not lack targets and the sting of mass punishment



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follows swift and sure. Surf

torture is favored. What most strikes terror in the trainee during first phase is the prospect of Hell Week. This fabled rite of passage is an agoniz ing five-day gut check with virtually no sleep during which trainees must time launch their IBSs through freezing surf to paddle up and down the San Diego coast When they're not in the IBS they're running 12-milers in their boots through soft sand, doing impossible numbers of push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups, good morning dar lings (leg openers), and just generally laboring at tasks that seem beyond mortal nan. Most trainees who qui hang it up during Hell Week.

changed little of what goes on during first phase, at least through Hell Week. "This period," he says, "is designed to select out those students

who do not have the men tal or physical toughness to be a SEAL. And let's face it, not everyone who enters training is suited for the Teams. This is not to say we should think less of this per son or that he should think less of himself. We'll find that student useful employment elsewhere in the Navy On the other hand, those who survive Hell Week should complete the course And if a Hell Week graduate doesn't complete the course I'm going to want to know why and will personally examine each case."

C'mon, Ed. You know

Hell Week is not the end of an instructor's running shi down a trainee's neck. Each sage to deep six those the thy of the Teams. In second phase it's pool harassment and at San Clemente Island during third phase it's the weapons practical test and

"I'm aware of that and it will change. We've already done away with obstacle loading - who needs to learn about clearing WWII beach obstacles when what we got to worry about now

are mines? And the weapons practical is no longer a reastudents will still have to demonstrate their ability to field strip and reassemble the Sig Sauer (pistol), M-4 (carbine), and the M-60

(machine gun), but failure - especially while on the clock — will simply be noted and remediated. This is not to say training will become a piece of cake after Hell Week: the student will still work under often exhaust

ing to hide." Bowen moves quickly through the slides covering second and third phases Second, or dive, phase last seven weeks and prepares the trainee for ship attacks, harbor sabotage, and com mando raids. Trainees begin diving with open-circuit. double-hose scuba, then shift to the rig the Teams use — a German rebreather manufactured by Draeger Draeger is the same co

pany that designed and built

the plumbing for places like Belsen and Buchenwald. Or

he needs to know in the Teams about how to shoot,

move, and communicate.

Training will be closely tied

to operational requirements.

As for pool harassment,

which for obvious reasons

we prefer to call pool com

petency. I invite you to come

on. Like I said, I've noth

with me this afternoon and see for yourself what goes

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so instructors tell trainees. This little-known lore does not show up in the slide

Third phase is ten weeks of land warfare, with the final, nonstop five weeks at San Clemente Island, where the trainees learn patrolling, demolitions, and weaponry The course ends with a series of field exercises. Many trainees believe the Island is tougher than Hell Week.

Comparisons are odious but inevitable. I found first phase differed little from what Captain Bowen and I endured in the '60s, except for a much greater empha sis placed on safety. (This emphasis now exists throughout BUDS, unlike in the bad old days.) Second phase is more complex today because the trainees dive a more complicated rig and must negotiate consid erably more difficult under warfare during third phase s light-years ahead of the little we learned about this crucial skill before we plunged into the cesspool of Vietnam. The reason for the improvement is simple

before Vietnam the instruc tors had little combat expe rience, with the notable exception of Korean War frogmen. But since Viet nam and the awful lessons learned there, BUDS has become about as good as it When the slide show is

over, I ask the fate of what's called the "roll-back policy," which many SEALs, including me, believe has been indispensable for getting enough students through training to keep the Teams at least marginally manned. Captain Bowen and I had alked briefly about the policy earlier by phone. If a trainee is hurt or fails a required test he "rolls back" to the start of the phase, not

to day one, week one. When Bowen and I you faltered either through injury or performance you went to the fleet where you were haze gray and underway for at least a year. I still recall a trainee in our class named "Deep Divin' Diecks' who classed up with us two years after having been injured near the end of train. ing. We marveled at the man

around, but I doubt he's been the same since. "We still have the rollback program," Bowen says, "but I've greatly reduced it."

and thought him mad. He

made it the second time

How can you do that and graduate 40 percent? Without rollbacks, Class 227 would have graduated 10 instead of 26.

I show the captain a photo of the infamous class divided into four groups: 10 from the original class, 12 from Class 226, 3 from Class 225, and 1 from Class 224. He glances at the photo

and says, "Class 227 is not a good example because the changes had not taken hold. First, we still have the program for medical rolls. That's the same. But performance rolls are rare, because I want the emphasis to be on get ting the student through the first time - especially after Hell Week I want the student to graduate in 28 weeks, not 35, 50, or whatever Heck, we've had trainees here for a year or more BUDS is not an installment

"On the other hand.

I've made it a lot harder to drop a student. Under the old roll-back program it was just too easy for instructor and student to disengage from training: the instruc ership challenge or perfor

tor would get rid of a leadmance problem by rolling the trainee; the trainee would think, 'Hey! I got two rolls coming! I'll get it right next time.' Now, everyone has to bear down. To this end I've stressed that instructors are mentors, not hardasses. Their job is to push trainees through with patience and motivation not chase them out with

screams or worse." Mentoring is not a word one associates with training

"No. and attitudes developed across 30 years will not change overnight But I'm determined to do my best. I've recently started a five-day course for instruc tors taught by an old frog. Retired Admiral Howard Roop, who teaches corporate leadership at USC. The admiral graduated with Class 7.

Bowen tells me the course uses the case-study how best to instill the key values of honesty, integrity, self-discipline, mental toughness, trust, and teamwor I struggle not to laugh, but a smile creeps out

"I'm dead serious," Bowen says in a way to show he means it. "I know what you're thinking: 'Yeah, right. An instructor is going to teach the trainee about men tal toughness by putting him face down in the sand and jumping up and down on his fucking neck.' That's how you and I got taught, but we have to change that How's the case-study

method going to drive the lesson home?

"Admiral Roop has several scenarios keyed to each value. He presents the scenario to the instructors and has them describe first how they would teach mental toughness to students hav ing, for example, a difficult time on a beach run. An instructor might say something like 'run the bananas in and outta the surf a few times hauling logs until they learn it pays to be a win-ner.' Then the admiral guides the conversation

until the instructors come up with something more progressive.

Could I sit in on a scenario or two?

Captain Bowen looks truly troubled when he denies my request. "I'd like nothing more," he explains, "than to have you go in there with the instructors and the admiral and just be a fly on the wall. But, well, given who you are I just don't think that would be possible. We need the instructors to be completely honest and express their attitudes. Otherwise, we won't have the opportunity to reason with them and show such attitudes may not be the best way to instill the values.

Had much resistance to these sea changes?

With resignation play ing across his face. Bowen replies, "Oh, sure. But I'm downright evangelical when it comes to the new program. I'll talk to anybody anytime about the changes and why they're necessary. I'll talk to the board of direc tors - the captains and admirals in the commu nity - the Teams, instructors, students, even old frogs

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all but that's a new one. For me, also. The

slushy is a galvanized tub on rollers out at the Island that students fill every da with crushed ice. They wheel t to wherever training is taking place, like the rifle or demo range. If a student errs, an instructor orders him to 'hit the slushy!' This goes on all day...or it used to. I had the phase officer

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stop it. My policy is not to let punishment interfere with training. If a student makes a mistake, I want instructors to take him aside him up to his neck in crushed

Did the instructors take "Most. I did get complaints that the slushy was traditional. I said: 'I'm the Bull Frog and the authorit on tradition. The slushy is not tradition. Get rid of it.'

I thank Captain Bower for sharing his policy and insights. We agree to meet that afternoon for poo competency.

To kill time before pool comp, I drop by the Café Madrid coffee cart in Coro nado to knock back a double espresso or three. Sit ting at a sidewalk table I go over notes and listen to the tape of an interview I did a few days earlier for an article on what it's like to be young, married, and poor in the Navy. I interviewed the wife of an enlisted man who was also one of the happy few who had graduated with 227. We talked at the couple's duplex in I.B.

Autumn Brown has shoulder-length hair, an expressive face, and a trim figure unusual for even a young mother of three. As she spoke about the challenges of making ends mee when her husband, Rodney, was a lowly E-1, she drifted into a painful rec-

ollection of his four attempts at Hell Week.

"Rodney classed up initially with 209 in July '96," she said, "and made it to Wednesday of Hell Week. He aspirated seawater and the doctor said it had eaten away a lot of lung tissue. They rolled him to 210, but that only gave him three weeks to heal and it wasn't enough. When he started vomiting

I'd gone to the Amphib Base to see if I could catch a glimpse of him on his way to chow. One of the support people saw me and said dney had been hospitalized. It took another two hours of getting the runaround at Balboa before I finally located him. He had an oxygen level of, like, 60 percent with blood just saturating his lungs. He was

AITHOUGH HE DOESN'T QUITE WEAR HIS HAIR HIGH AND TIGHT, HE HAS THE SOUARED-AWAY BEARING OF SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN IN THE CORPS.

blood on Wednesday the doctor said the stress of training had revived the lung infection. Rodney rolled to 211 and that was the scari est experience. He made it again to Wednesday. Then he almost died.

"I didn't find out he was at Balboa in intensive care until Thursday and then it was through dumb luck.

hooked up to IVs and when he recognized me wanted to know where I'd been. "Now, BUDS had an

ombudsman who was supposed to let family know if a son or husband had been hurt. I was furious because no one had contacted me. I called BUDS to complain. They just brushed me off. Said it was the ombude

man's prerogative whether to notify next of kin if the situation wasn't life or death. I'm sorry, but in my opinion if the Navy admits somethat's a life-or-death situation. The people at BUDS didn't want to hear it."

What was Rodney doing between Classes 211 and 227?

"He left the Navy and we returned to Alaska. He stayed in the reserves and after two years decided to try training a fourth time. I was nervous, scared even, but if Rodney still wanted it then I wanted it for him. We had three children and if he finished training, the extra pay he'd get in the Teams would really help." This time he made it?

"Yeah, but he had some close calls that really worried us because the new CO shut down the roll-back program. When Rodney first told me about the change I saw his anxiety level on a scale of 1 to 10 shoot up like from 5

else that didn't thrill me either, although Rodney will probably get mad. We spent a lot of money on plaques. presents, and booze for the instructors. It was always something: \$30 for this, \$40 for that, \$50 to buy kegs for the instructors. Third phase alone cost us close to \$600. Sure we're making more money now that Rodney's an F-5 netty officer, but we also have three kids. The amount of money we paid for everything was just

"I'll tell you something

That's a big change from when I went through train-ing in the '60s. We didn't buy the instructors anything, and I think the Navy paid for our oraduation party

Autumn laughed. "Oh the parties!" she cried. "Every time I turned around the class was having a party: a class-up party, a party to begin Hell Week, a party to end Hell Week, a phase party, a graduation party. Parties

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That may have been a failure to communicate. I've heard Captain Bowen hasn't canceled the program — especially medical rolls — but has cut back on it to emphasize getting trainees through the first time

"Well, all Rodney knew was that two classmates got dropped in third phase and had to start all over again day one, week one. I felt really bad for him because he told me he just didn't know if he had the mental or physical ability to struggle with Hell Week a fifth have to find out."

Did the ombudsman do a better job of keeping wives

informed during 227?
"I never met an ombudsman Don't think there was one. When Rodney passed out and fell face down on that slab of concrete they call the grinder I found out about it from another trainee. Rodney had several stitches to sew up his face and they almos

Autumn warmed to the task as she recalled the hemorrhaging of money all this frivolity caused. "I remen ber parties with nothing but kegs of expensive beer. No food, no sodas, just kegs of Heineken, I'd have to walk from the beach back to the BUDS main building to find a soda machine.

Were these phase parties? "These were all parties. I never saw anything but booze. Like the graduation party at McP's in Coron-You paid \$20 or so, and all it bought was beer Some food might have been available at first, but it was ne by the time we got

"I complained to Rod. ney. I mean, when the class went to the Island for third phase, they had to buy, like, eight kegs for the instructors I told him, 'I'm sorry, but I don't care if the instructors want eight kegs. I'm not sure I want you hanging around a bunch of drunks with

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Autumn laughed. "I'm sure they do. I was just burned about paying so much money for booze. But all's well that ends well and Rodney couldn't be hanpier. Which makes me happy."

Hoo Yah. If you could

make one change at BUDS. what would it be? Fewer kegs:

"No. I guess that's just the Navy. I would most like to see BUDS appoint a car-

man who would make sure wives, girlfriends, and fam ilies know what's going on and especially make sur they know if someone they love is injured."

meet Captain Bowen at the center and we drive to the combat-training tank on the bay, or dry, side of the base across Highway 75. During the ride I tell him of Autumn Brown's

"I share her concerns and have others as well. Students must spend far too

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much of their own money and not just for parties, plaques, and presents. Laundry has been a big expense, particularly for unmarried students. Too many uniform inspections were the cause. Fail an inspection and the student would have to hit the surf, which meant he'd have to break out a new set of greens for the next day. I stopped most of these inspections. Now instructors check student uniforms only on Mondays, Uniforms

do not have to be starched.

No one fails if his uniform

is clean and pressed.

"Another unnecessar cost for students has been buying food supplements and over-the-counter medications. My medical department can provide those items free. Some students don't think what we provide is as good as they can buy from pharmacy - expensive ointments, for example, that students believe will pre vent and heal chafing. I've told medical to find out what the students want and get it for them."

"So be it. As for the par ties, there's not much I can do about that if the class decides to have them. I tried to get the Navy to pay for the cake, cookies, and punch at graduation ceremonies, but legal told me that would be against regulations. I'm not sure why, but you know how lawyers are." Uh-huh.

"Kegs for instructors is news to me. I'll have to check and get back to you on that. BUDS does not have an ombudsman, but I'm

one to fill that critical position. I personally call next of kin if a student is hospitalized. In fact, I called a father recently with the bad news his son had back and neck injuries after he fell from the slide for life on the obstacle course. I live every day with the concern and fear one of my men instructor or student — may be hurt. I make sure family members know exactly what has happened if someone is injured. I've also

arranged to fly parents out

presently searching for some-









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here if necessary. When I'm not around, my executive officer, Commander Rick Bernard, does the calling. A BUDS doctor calls to explain the medical aspects.

Our chaplain is available. We've arrived at the combat-training tank, which is enclosed by a high opaque fence to thwart the curious The tank is somewhat mis named: it's an oversized Olympic pool that drops off from 4 feet at one end to 15 feet at the other. As we ente the enclosure I see pool comp is underway. Trainees with scuba crawl along the pool bottom. Instructors snorke ling without scuba hover above, ready to flash down like sharks to tear at fins face masks, weight belts, and air hoses. The GAO report described the looming may hem like this:

masks and fins, crimp or tie knots in air hoses. No safety observer is nearby to provide oxygen in ar emergency. Students ometimes pass out] from lack of oxygen. Diving and medical authoritie view this as dangerous because it can lead to drowning or air gas embolism [air bubble forming in the blood of a diver who ascends without exhaling the com pressed air in his lungs arteries and block blood that carries air to the brain!. Secondary danrs include pneumonia and pulmonary edema...

That only one trainee has died in the pool since the start of BUDS is testament to the instructors' ability to take trainees to the edge and then vank them back. I've been told hardly a class goes by without trainees passing out on the pool bottom sometimes losing control



of their sphincters.

Despite the possibility of fatal or near-fatal conse quences, all seems tranquil as we stand on the deck and gaze across the water. I find it strangely soothing to watch and listen as shimmering globes of air from exhala ion hoses rise to roil the surface with the burbling lacuzzi. The pleasant sound belies the tension and some times terror that is surely

taking place below the bubbles.

Two officers approach and Captain Bowen intro-"We have safety pro

situation develops. We have a very good safety record — especially for high-risk

duces me to the head of second phase, Lieutenant John Morris, and the over all director of training, Lieutenant Commander Stephen Wisotzki. Both men are as lean and fit as the long-dis tance runners they proba bly are. Lask LT Morris about the dangers of pool comp.

training."

What about air gas A slight pause, then: "I'm not going to mislead you. I've had seven or eight embolisms during my two

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years here and I don't want to see another. We're geared to rush the student into a recompression chamber but you just never know what the outcome will be We've been lucky and good so far.

Lask LCDR Wisotzki about the high failure rate for pool comp: I understand Class 227 had 20 failures out of 27 trainees, although most passed on their last of three tries. And the class included

D-1 college swimmers who were pretty comfortable in

"As I'm sure the captain has told you, we're putting more emphasis on teaching the student what to expect before pool comp. We now to dirt diving with wooden bottles before the students hit the water. And we give them several attempts over three days to get it right This reduces a lot of the anxiety."

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Through pressure-proof windows we watch a kind of balletic chaos playing out in slow motion. At center stage an instructor rides the back of a trainee as he yanks the trainee's mouthniece loose and ties a Gordian knot in the inhalation hose. No air. The trainee begins the anoxic process of saving himself by ditching his air bottles.

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Across the pool bottom another trainee completes the task of untying his bottles and weight belt. and giving a thumbs up to the instructor. The instructor returns the sign and the trainee slowly surfaces. Cheated death again. Off to my left I see a

trainee without his bottles kiss the bottom of the poo to show the instructor he is lucid and ready to free ascend. The instructor, dissatisfied with the kiss, grabs the trainee's neck and shoves his face into the concrete. I see a pink blossom bloom around the trainee's nose and then dissipate as he heads for the surface, exhaling all the way.

Bowen studies another inee off to the right who is methodically handling all the instructor has thrown at him for the past several minutes. The trainee has ditched and donned his gear.

The trainee ignores the face mask and weight belt as he works his hands back along the hoses toward the where the air valve is located. The trainee lifts his hand

HE'S YANKED A TRAINEE OUT OF FORMATION AND HAS HIS FOOT ON THE TRAINEE'S NECK WHILE THE TRAINEE DOES PUSH-UPS.

but the instructor does not signal him to the surface. Instead the instructor again turns off the trainee's air, tears off his mask, and releases his weight belt

from the inhalation hose about halfway back and grabs the valve. Half-turn to the instructor shakes his head

'no" and orders the traine

to surface. The trainee has failed but we don't know why. Bowen says: "Damn! That's a good kid. I've been watching him. I don't know what he did wrong."

Bowen abruptly leaves the viewing area and goes topside to talk with LT Morris. I trail behind but do not eavesdron I notice, however, that a senior instruc tor has called the trainee to the side of the pool and is patiently demonstrating how to work his hands all the way along the hose to the valve. Mentoring at its best. Bowen seems pleased.

On the way back to the center we discuss how pool comp has changed. In the old days it was a lot simpler. You either pan-

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icked and failed or didn't and passed. We dreaded pool comp but didn't lose many trainees because of it. "Well, we've been drop-

ping or rolling students far too often in recent years some for supertechnical reasons like you saw today without giving the student extra instruction. But with the new emphasis on preparing and mentoring the student, the success rate for pool comp is way up." We reach the center

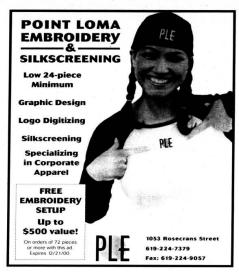
and Ed drops me off in the parking lot. He says as I get out: "I'm going to the Island next week to watch 228's final field-training exercise before graduation. Want to

I eagerly accept, because









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the center has a policy against allowing reporters access to San Clemente, where a lot goes on. I've heard the policy against reporters stems from a media circus a fev years ago when that aging Barbie doll Paula Zahr descended on the Island. Paula and her entourage demanded staged events for a TV extravaganza that disrupted training.

The friendly and ever-efficient BUDS public affairs officer, LTJG Tom Greer, calls and tells me the trip to the Island is on for the fol lowing week. I'm to meet Captain Bowen at the North Island air terminal for the short flight aboard Evergreen Airlines to San Clemente. Berthing and messing are on the Navy, but I pay 176 bucks for the flight.

In the meantime I con tact an old friend and long time source to hoist a few cool ones at the Plank in I.B. We're going to talk about Easy Ed Bowen and his cosmic revamping of training Jake, has known Bowen longer than I have. Jake is retired but continues to do piecework for special war fare, as do many old frogs and SEALs. The Teams ar a gift that keeps on giving Jake was a former instru tor, and his contract labor keeps him close to the puls of BUDS. We sit at an outdoor patio off the bar area. The sound of surf drowns out the pulsing music of a Technicolor jukebox in the bar turned up too high.

So what's the word fron the mess decks about the old man's sea changes?

Jake pulls at his longneck Corona and replies: "The higher up the chain of command you go the stronger the support. But there's discontent among some of the troops. Their attitude is: 'We've seen reformers come and go and nothing changes for keeps. We'll wait the old man out. He's only got two years, and when he's gone things will return to normal. Training ain't never gonna get easier.' I even heard a delegation went to him and com plained, said they wanted to give him some 'feedback. The captain listened, then said, 'That's not feedback, that's whining.

"What really pisses

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some guys off is the captain's emphasis on leadership by example." Jake gig-gles. "I mean, let me tell you about the run the cantain went on with a class during Indoc. He shows up unan-nounced ready to join a few instructors and the trainees for an easy four-miler down to the North Island fence and back. No big deal. Lots of COs do that. What they don't do is what Bowen did at the end of the run. He asks the instructors what's next and they tell him it's time for the trainees to hit the surf and cool off. Bowen says, 'Fine. Let's all hit the surf and cool off.' So in everybody goes. I mean, can the ass those instructors must have had getting surf tortured with the trainees?

lake's giggles turn to ughter. He laughs so hard he blows beer bubbles

lake wipes the beer from his face and continues "Another time the captain shows up on deck after pool comp and notices trainees in the deep end treading water without using their hands. They're in full gear including weight belts. He asks why this added exercise after a tough day of pool comp. Jus a little competition, he's told. The trainee who treads water for five minutes can secure.

"Now, trainees have a nasty habit of passing out during this competition and shitting themselves. The

captain says he never had o tread water like this when he went through training Says he'd like to see how many instructors can do it

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One or 2 out of maybe 12

can hack it. So Bowen says

no more treading water with

gear on for the trainees after

pool comp. Lead by example.

thing else: Captain Bowen is just like Charlie How's that? "He don't surf." Meaning?

"When the captain goes

to the beach it's to check on

trainees and instructors, not

to see how the waves are

something."

Christ, the instructors fill that slime with roadkill: skunks, rabbits, snakes, cats, dogs. Hope Ed's tetanus shots are current.

tain is going to crawl through

the mud in the demo pit

Hell Week. That oughtta be

"Yeah and consider how absolutely humble the guy is to do something like that. I mean, senior officers too often wall themselves off from the mess decks, to say nothing about trainees, who are lower than whale shit.

Bowen is almost Zen like with his absence of ego, which is all the more remark-able given the distorted egos sometimes find in our

-called community. I think I've heard him tell maybe one very low-key war story and not one about his own training. Plus his official bio doesn't list his Silver and Bronze Stars or Presidential Unit Citations. Doesn't list any

"How special is that in special warfare? I've never heard him talk about his own training either, but I've heard him tell a few inter esting stories about when he was leading those brokedick VN mercenaries for the CIA in the U Minh Forest.' An evil wood if ever there

was one "You got that right,

mate. The captain said he had to pay close attention to what the mercs were up to.



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Said he inspected them ever time they left a village to make sure they didn't expro priate anything. Once he saw a feather sticking out of an M-60 ammo can. He ordered the merc to open the can and there was a live duck stuffed inside. You know how small those ammo cans are. But somehow this VN got a whole goddamr

duck in one."

Ed told me about the time he and his SEAL Two platoon recovered bodies from a downed helo. He said of al the missions he had in-country this was one of the worst hauling those putrefying bodies of his warrior brothers ou of the mud and blood of the paddy. After that the SEAL had to blow the helo in place but didn't have caps for the demo haversacks. Said they used fusing and caps from their hand grenades, then ran like hell after pulling those

five-second delays. "Know what I've noticed? Guys like the captain from the Vietnam era who saw a lot of combat almost never talk about training as if it were the be-all and end-all instead of just the beginning, just the schoolhouse. On the other hand, Vietnam-era Team guys who had little or no combat run their mouths constantly about how tough training was and tell story after story. Guys like Jim-Jesse Janos-Ventura

The hyphenated special warrior? The UDT-SEAL?

"The very same." We laugh and bang our beer bottles together. The bottles sound a satisfying

I join Captain Bowen at North Island, and within the hour our flight is wheels down on San Clemente Island — home to the third and final phase of BUDS. As we roll into the chocks near the small terminal, FA-18s shoot noisy touch-and-goes on the active. No NIMBYs out here to threaten military

Chief Warrant Officer Jim Locklear meets us in a four-wheel-drive pickup for the short trip to Camp Al Huev at Northwest Harbor. The camp is also known as "The Rock " Locklear runs training on the Island and is a former Marine. Although hair high and tight, he has the squared-away bearing

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of someone who's been in the Corps. A good example

The first question Bowen asks is, "What's the water temp?"

The Gay Priest Problem

NewsNotes

While Locklear gives a toasty warm figure and talks about the coming field-train-ing exercise (FTX), the ghost of Petty Officer John I. Tomlinson haunts me. Tomlinson was about to complete BUIDS in 1988 when he died of hypothermia on a 5.5mile swim off San Clemente not far from our location.

When I read the investigation report of that death my blood ran as cold as the 57-degree water that killed Tomlinson, A senior Navy

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wrote the report. He found that trainees on the swim hood. He cited Navy exposure tables that required a full wet suit for even shortduration dives in less than 60-degree water. The investigator determined Tomlinson had been in the water

3000

officer who was not a SEAL

nearly four hours when he the end of the swim at North-Instructors pulled the

comatose trainee from the ocean and hurried him to a recreational sauna, where they ran the temperature up to rewarm Tomlinson. They also called for a Medevac helo. San Diego was only a 30-minute flight away, but no helo was immediately available. Tomlinson, fast slipping away, arrived at UCSD Medical Center about two hours after the first dis tress call. During the flight, the corps man attending Tomlinson could not com municate with the pilots over the engine noise. The pilot could therefore not relay crucial medical information while inbound to the hospital, John J. Tom

out regaining consciousnes

The investigating offi-cer noted this was the only death among some 2000 the swim since 1966 but failed to recognize that the distance for many years had uary 1988. Instructors had rushed both trainees to the emergency room at Coronado Hospital, where doctors revived them.

The SEAL admiral who reviewed the investigation

WE HAVE NO MISTAKES AND NO INSTANCES OF WHAT SEALS CALL "BLUE ON BLUE." OR CASUALTIES FROM FRIENDLY FIRE.

been only four miles. He did note, however, that two trainees on much shorter swims had been pulled from San Diego Bay in hypothermic coma during the three years preceding Tomlinson's death. The most recent incident had happened three

report, Chuck LeMoyne, refused to accept the inves tigator's implication that BUDS had not provided Tomlinson with enough rubber for the cold water The Navy tables, he said. were for divers and not sur face swimmers.







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LeMovne also minimized the incidents of the hypother mic trainees who almost died in the bay. He said those incidents differed substantially from "the circumstances of the case at hand." But he added that these incident were "relevant to demon strate...hypothermia musi always be considered in ocean As a former trainee

LeMoyne must have learned that instructors are lay experts on the effects of hypothermia. They've always used hypothermia to torment and test those in their charge.

We've arrived at "The Rock."

The camp is a collection of squeaky-clean buff buildings arranged around an equally clean grinder — the SEAL term for what might otherwise be called a parade ground. Old Glory flaps in a constant wind that blows by the flagpole anchored in the center of the grinder The buff buildings have color-coordinated blue metal roofs. Martha Stewart would be pleased. The compound overlooks Northwest Harbor and the Pacific less than

could well pass for a Club Med. But we know differently Captain Bowen tells me the camp was built in the early '90s at a cost of about \$3 million. When I suffered through my five weeks on the Island, we slept in wooden shacks with wire-mesh screens. The shacks, or "hooches," were set on concrete slabs. All the rest was sand. Trainees shared a single, cold shower and a few outdoor shitters. But what the hell? We weren't in camp

200 meters away. The place

all that often anyway. Bowen and I stow our gear in spacious officer quarters complete with phone and TV. Then he shows me around. We start the tour at the medical building. where the treatment room is dominated by what looks like an enormous hot tub This," the captain says, "is our rewarming pool. Med-ical can immerse a hypothermic trainee in carefully con trolled 104-degree water to return his temperature to

You mean you don't just toss the guy in a sauna, crank 'er up, and hope for the best? that's not the way we do it.

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to be done.

"I didn't know that " Trust me. Any other measures to prevent and treat hyped trainees?

"We no longer have the 5.5-miler out here. Several years ago we moved the wim off the Strand between Coronado and I.B. Our doctors and corpsmen are always on hand when students are subjected to prolonged immersion in cold water. Medical staff monitor core temperature and check for other signs of hypothermia f a student is hypothermic he's removed and treated We also have cold-water exposure tables to deterine if students need full wet suits on swims, but I'm not satisfied with these tables We still have too much hypothermia. I've asked Navy physiologists at the Point Loma lab to reevamine the tables."

As we walk from the rewarming pool a thought intrudes: If Ed Bowen had been CO in 1988, Petty Officer Tomlinson might be alive today serving his coun try as a SEAL. And if someone like Ed Bowen had been in charge of the Army's Ranger School a few years ago, maybe the four men who died there of hypother-mia would still be alive. Ifs and buts

We next inspect the comfortable trainee bar-racks complete with washers dryers and plenty of hot-water showers. We look in on the instructors at their recreation bungalow. The bungalow, which is called the "Hell Box" after the name of an old-fashioned TNT detonator, is equipped with pool table, fridge, wave, and a big-screen TV that gets more than 300 channels. The film library is well-stocked with movies for all tastes. A trainee does not want to be summoned to the Hell Box. If he is, it will not be to watch TV.

We check out the chow hall, which serves two entrée and has milk, ice cream, and soft drink machines, a fruitand-salad bar, and a machine that brews boiler-room coffee 'round the clock, Captain Bowen cuts the tour short to link up with Mr. Locklear for a visit to the outlying pistol, rifle, grenade, and demolition ranges. We also visit the target for tonight's FTX. The target is

on a small bluff overlooking a large offshore rock that resembles a castle. The target area appears to have been a radar-tracking station of some sort. The area is spot ted with make-believe SCUD and SAM missile launchers. A few hastily built wooden hooches and disabled vehi cles complete the scene. The vehicles are ventilated with hundreds of bullet holes. The FTX uses live fire — a harrowing but necessary reality I did not have to face until I'd become a SEAL.

5 OFF

land warfare training.

We return to camp, eat, and settle in for the briefing to see if Class 228 has their poop in a group for the FTX. The room is tiered like law school classrooms. The patrol leader and his assistants use maps, a sand table, and five-paragraph order. In the old days we briefed off a pic nic table and used a portable blackboard to display our plan. Christ, how did we ever survive Vietnam? Those of us who did, that is.

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operation is straightforward, as all SEAL ops should be. The KISS (keep it simple, stupid) formula never goes out of style. The 20-man class will be divided into scouts, secu rity, base, and maneuver elements. They will insert by swimming in full com bat gear across the beach from boats anchored 500 meters offshore. They will point near the target and prepare for the assault. At the target, the base element will down fire with their M-4 rifles. On signal, the base element will shift fire and allow the maneuver element assault the target. Once the area is secured, the demo men will place haversacks on the missile launchers. They will pull double primed, 15-minute delays and vell "I see smoke!" when the fuses ignite. The trainees will then withdraw through what they call "outs" marked with green kem-lites. Once they've cleared the target area, the trainees will form up and patrol back to camp Instructors may ambush the

patrol at any time. So far so good, I thought. We'll see how the practical work goes tonight, especially the live fire. Even experienced SEALs some times shoot and even kill each other during these exercises. The trainees will be using .223-caliber rounds in their M-4s. Although not much larger than the .22 rifle bullets boys and girls use when they learn to hunt squirrels, the .223 can have a devastating effect: the round is designed to tumble, tear. and shred when it strikes

I once saw the results of a single 223 round that had entered the buttocks of a 19-year-old pregnant oman. Within 15 minutes she and her fetus were dead after the bullet had ripped through intestines, umbilical cord, veins, arteries, ganglia, and God knows what else. We were supposed to capture the woman who was the leader of a VC youth group. When she ran, a SEAL in my natrol chased her. He said he'd stumbled and fired accidentally. Anyway, the woman was wear ing a Ho Chi Minh medal around her teenaged neck I think one of us kept the medal as a souvenir.

As I meander down memory lane, Captain



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Before Bowen removed scully demolition from BUDS. trainees feared this exercise

more than pool comp. And buddy with a K-bar knife for good reason. Instrucin a flailing attempt to cut tors would sometimes place the line. Instructors made the scullys in much deeper water than the Japanese ever mutilated bodies. The next did. Trainees had to free day was to be business a dive and load these obstausual until a trainee named cles with 20-pound haver-Bob Kerrey told the instruc sacks. Sometimes the trainees tors the class was standing would pass out from lack down to mourn of oxygen and float belly-

Much more recently in 1996 a trainee would have McCall and McGaughen if an alert instructor name Matt Goodrich hadn't risked scious trainee from an entan gling line. Goodrich received a medal for his heroism. A year later the admiral respon

sible for the present SEAL manning crisis was hound ing Goodrich out of the heroism and outstanding 12-year career that included combat deployments to the Gulf and Somalia. But the ordeal of Petty Officer Goodrich is another story for another time.

Last light. The trainees line up at water's edge for a final gear inspection. Two instructors work their way down the have the right equipment ready for use. Ed Bowen and I observe off to one side. The instructor closest to us.

Petty Officer John Wied-Bowen frowns but remains mann, checks knives, flares, radios, and other combat We don't see Class 228

His approach is thorough

rects mistakes and makes adjustments. He wears a

bush hat, as SEALs have worn

in the field since Vietnam

He has camouflaged his face

like the trainees with green

The other instructor

orking on trainees farther

down the line wears a ball

vanked a trainee out of for-

mation and has his foot on

the trainee's neck while the

trainee does push-ups.

ain until around midnigh at the target area after they've the assault. To prep the assault, the base element decorates the darkness with red tracers from their M-4s As the tracers dart over the ocean toward Castle Rock. recall tracers of another color decorating the darkness of another country.

The instructors tightly for how long the trainees have no mistakes and no instances of what SEALs call

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up to the surface. Some

times the trainees wouldn't

make it. Two men named

McCall and McGaughen in

Class 42 became tangled in

and drowned with their faces

McGaughen repeatedly

slashed himself and his

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with a grand finale as they enter camp. Instructors into the night sky from the fire long bursts of machine gun blanks. Festivity is in the air. The event has the feel of a fireworks show afte a Padre game.

The next morning I'm on the grinder waiting for Captain Bowen to begin our trip home. Trainees amble about after a leisurely breakfast and engage in various chores. Many are undoubtedly looking forward to the phase party tonight with all Brown detests.

I talk with several trainees to get their take on instructors. I've done the

be mistaken about his Classes 225, 226, and 227, I'm changes not taking hold during Class 227 and I certainly conducting an informal poll among trainees to learn saw change at work during the FTX for 228 Bowen ask me what I know of 227. I tors first and hard-asses second. Among the names I've tell him the story of the trainees who couldn't shoot heard most often are instruc tors Ekoniak, Stearns, Wiedstraight. mann, Hall, Deal, Rodriguez,

Soland, Locklear, Perez,

Burns, Lee, King, Peterson,

Favero, Rhodes, Rector, and

Nielson. The trainees can't

think of any instructor who

was just a hard-ass. I attribute

this to the Stockholm

un and Mr. Locklear takes

us to the airfield for our

flight. During the flight we

talk above the drone of the

engines. I tell Bowen he may

Captain Bowen shows

Class 227 had to fire qualifying scores with the Sig Sauer pistol at the Island. Four trainees couldn't hit the broad side of the proverbial barn. Rather than throw them in the slushy, an instructor named Stearns took the trainees aside and gave them 30 minutes of nationt work on such key factors as front sight focus measured breathing, and trigger squeeze. All trainees qualified and three earned

The same trainces said

the proctor for 227, Pett Officer Ekoniak, gave indi vidual instruction and encouragement through out third phase "Fron " one trainee said, "only beat us once, but we deserved it." A beating in trainee parlance refers to a series of seemingly interminable physical exercises often punctuated by episodes of surf torture or otherwise getting "wet 'n' sandy.'

After I tell Bowen what I'd learned from 227, I change the subject and ask what it had been like to lead CIA mercenaries on ops in the U Minh Forest. The mercenaries were for the most part Vietnamese thugs

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instructors ambush them



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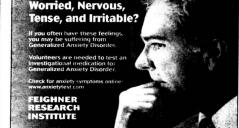
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former VC. The CIA organized the mercs into a force with the benign-sounding title of Provincial Recon issance Units, or PRUs. The CIA paid the PRUs for verifiable results on a bounty system. How results were verified depended on the tastes of those in charge Enlisted men from SEAL and Army Special Forces that operated independently by VC and NVA. The movie Apacalypse Now drew upon real and imagined exploits "PRUs," Bowen says,

"were a peculiar bunch. If they respected you, they would go most anywhere you led. If not, you wouldn't hast long. I saw my team chief do something once that seemed to sum up the PRU mentality.

"We were walking out of a fortified hamlet in the U Minh - one of those set tlements surrounded with stands of bamboo and thorn bushes - when the chief stopped the column. He'd noticed a beautiful yellow and-blue songbird trapped among the thorns. He care fully reached in and freed the struggling bird. He held the bird lightly in his hand and stroked it. The bird stopped struggling and nes tled deeper into the chief's hand. Then the chief dropkicked the bird in an explo sion of blue and yellow feath ers. The PRUs laughed like

Not long after I return from the Island I stop by the train ing center at the Amphib Base to talk with Commander Rick Bernard, who is Bowen's executive offi cer or XO I served with Rick during the late '70s in Underwater Demolition Team 11. Rick was enlisted at the time and had just graduated BUDS as honor man for Class 98. We meet grinder, where instructors put trainees through daily burnout PT.

Although he's come long way in rank, the XO is still built like a downsized nose tackle. He is affable yet decisive. Perhaps he picked up some of his decisiveness while he was an exchange officer with the elite Ger-



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Rick recalls the first time we met at a kegger on Gator Beach after a monster mash: three hours of run-swim-runs enlivened with a tour through the obstacle course and log PT. "You asked me what an honor graduate was doing in an Underwater Demolition Team. Said I should be in SEAL One. I told you I'd always wanted to be a frogman and not a SEAL." What did I say?

"You laughed and welcomed me aboard. Said I'd be a SEAL sooner or later You were right."

Rick pulls a photograph from his desk drawer. The photo is of his UDT 11 pla-

toon. I recognize most of the men including the pla-toon leader, Bill Davis, who would later lead one of the nost daring and successful SEAL missions ever: the rescue of Governor Genera Scoon during the Grenada invasion. I also recognize Ken Butcher, who would die in a botched, needless parachute jump at sea off

I hand the photo back and ask the XO how special warfare has reacted to Captain Bowen's innovations.

Grenada

"Admiral Eric Olsor who is in charge of all SEALs. supports the captain 100 percent. The commodores and commanding officers are

I've heard some lower inking officers and senior enlisted men are less enthusiastic. They believe training is getting easier.

"We've had our doubter and critics, but the captain has been very good about explaining the reasons for change. The XO pauses. "We've offered other employment for those who just can't see

I thank Rick for his time and leave. Good XOs are always busy.

Just as I'm ready to wrap up, the story swerves from its comfortable progression I receive a late-night phone call from an active-duty SEAI sely associated with BUDS He tells me he's heard I'm

writing a glowing account of Bowen's changes because I've been given such wide access to training and because Bowen used to work for me He wants to ensure the article is balanced and contains another side to the story. We agree to meet at a down own coffee shop and I accept his condition that I not use his name. I'll call him Joe. Joe is the usual fit spec-

T-shirt that shows off the guns of a weight lifter. He's been in the Navy for several years and seen duty in

hot spots around the world loe doesn't mince words: What Captain Bowen is doing is crazy and violates all rules of leadership."

Joe is particularly critical of what he calls the cap-tain's "snapshot" approach whereby Bowen shows up unannounced at a training evolution, takes a quick look at what's happening, and steps in on a trainee's behalf o overrule an instructor This undermines the instructor's authority and credibility. Joe says instructors who work with trainees daily over several weeks are in a much better position to judge performance and fail-

ings than Captain Bowen

Joe adds that Bower

has devastated morale by "spying" on instructors. "The captain tells the instruc tors he's going to leave but hangs around behind a building or something to check them out. Once an instructor saw him lurking behind parked cars to watch trainees on the obstacle course."

I suspect I know why Bowen is concerned about the "O" course: two trainees have recently fallen from the 30-foot slide for life and been hospitalized - one with cracked ribs and another with partial paralysis from which he eventually recov

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ered. The slide for life is near the end of a course that assaults the upper body, and especially the arms, with such torments as the cargo net climb, the high wall, the low wall, the skyscraper, the monkey bars, the belly robber, and the dirty name. Bowen suspects an instructor may exhaust the trainees with a few hundred push-ups before they even begin the gauntlet. He believes this practice may have contributed to the falls from the slide for life.

loe also tells me the new deal at BUDS allows students who are safety risks to continue training. "I heard about two students who shit themselves during pool comp but weren't dropped. Now what does that tell you?"

That they stayed down too long trying to untie knot-ted air hoses, passed out, and lost control of their sphincters?

"Nope, it shows they shit themselves because they were scared. I checked with

a doctor. Don't want peo ple who shit themselves like that in the Teams."

But what angers Joe and many others most, he says. is a two-page instruction Bowen has published that defines the student-instructor relationship. Joe gives me a copy and I see he's circled two of the most offending paragraphs. The first prohibits instructors from punishing students except through the chain of com

unauthorized surf torture lengthy calisthenics with Draegers on just before a dive, or push-ups before the obstacle course Instructors will write chits to document performance and attitude lapses. A student with a given number of chits will appear before a review board to

determine his fitness to demerits and you don't earn remain in training. the Ranger shoulder tab. I recognize this proce The distressing thing about dure from my days at Army the Ranger demerit system is that you don't know for Ranger School three decades ago. Ranger School is the sure until the end of the

Army's nine-week, nonstop ordeal if you'll get the tab. Many SEALs disdain Ranger gut check at Fort Benning. in the Appalachians of north School, but it gave me all I Georgia, and through the wanted and more. swamps of the Florida Pan-The second circled parahandle. Unlike BUDS instruc-

graph of the controversial instruction prohibits "negative reinforcement" after Hell Week and emphasizes "Instructors will utilize pos itive reinforcement for post-Hell Week students to enhance the learning environment." What Bowen has done here is follow the lead of Army Special Forces and

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other elite units such as the Australian Special Air Service: he's established a de facto selection process that ends after Hell Week when the operationally ori ented phases kick in. I men-

"Some selection pro cess," he says. "You can't judge for sure how mentally and physically tough a trainee is after 13 days: that's how long it is from the start of training until the middle of Hell Week. Instructors have been told to lay off trainces after sunrise Wednesday."

What about the five

weeks of Indoc? "Watered down to

where it's a joke." What would you do to

solve the dilemma of falling graduation rates and piss poor retention? "BUDS has a historical

graduation rate of around 0 percent. You need at least 900 trainees through the door to provide the 300 or so the Teams need each year. Focus on recruitment make it every SEAL's duty to sign up men from his hometown or college. Reward SEALs who are successful.

"lob satisfaction drives etention. I don't know any SEAL who wouldn't gladly deploy to places like Yemen. Bahrain, or Kosovo and stay as long as it takes. But too often we're sent on missions like teaching 13-year-old Filipinos how to fire wornout rifles. Before platoons deploy overseas for six months, they have an intense one-year workup period that takes them away from home most of the time Again, nobody complains if the deployment justifies the sacrifice. But too often that's not the case. Nobody in authority wants to say 'no' to any exercise, however worthless Experienced SEALs just get burned out with all the bullshit missions and leave. What's going on in BUDS is driving some of us

You resigning? "I'm so short we can't

get into a long conversation." The next day another experienced SEAL calls and voices concerns similar to loe's about BUDS. The SEAL instruction has been bootlegged to the Teams and the negative response has been loud and clear. So much so, he adds, "that a

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witch-hunt is underway to find out who e-mailed the instruction "The SEAL asks that I not use his name. I'll call him Doc.

Doc is troubled over criticizing Captain Bowen: 'I feel bad about doing this because I've always sup-

ported my CO, even when disagreed with him. But the captain is just going too far, and instructor morale is terrible. I know two instructors who are resigning this week. I've heard retention is running better than 90 per cent, but that's hard to

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

Doc is also concerned about trainees who are going through under the new pro gram, because he believes they'll be marked men wher they get to the Teams. "I've had some students ask if they can do push-ups or hit

them that's not allowed." I ask Doc if he thinks expanding pretraining to five weeks was a good idea.

the surf, and I've had to tell

"I think so. It gives students more time to get in shape before first phase and Hell Week. But instructors don't like Captain Bowen's approach to getting student slowly acclimated to cold water. And they sure don't like having to sit in the surf with the students. It's as if the captain wants the instruc tors to go through training with them.

"Instructors are also demoralized because the captain doesn't pay much attention to his chief petty officers. For example, if a student has a disciplinary problem - say he gets drunked up in Tijuana and misses quarters — the student has to appear before a recent boards have recommended the captain drop

students and he's refused. Doc ends by saying it's all a numbers game: "Get 'em in the door and push 'em out the other end. Don't sweat the quality."

The only ground rule Cap-tain Bowen laid down for our interviews was that he wouldn't respond to anonymous complaints. I call him anyway to provide the opportunity and check on

"You know," he says in

door is always open to any SEAL active or retired, who lack in the Bottle sometimes accompanies the coffee. Fine But I'm just not going to cigars show up too. address complaints from people who won't identify themselves I will tell you however, I've been disap-

"I've come across stu-

dents preparing gourmet coffee for instructors, pol-

ishing their bicycles, and

a bag the size of a small whale

that students had left on the

hull of a ship after a dive.

The bag contained cans of

that gourmet coffee instruc

Hilton

ometimes leave pornographic magazines, cookies, and milk pointed to discover dur to curry favor with a few instructors during room ing my walks around the area that students are doing work as servants for a few "I didn't know that, instructors. either

What do recent graduation numbers look like? "Class 229 was a disappointment. I'm not sure vhy. We started with about

Our friend Jake tells me

70 and only 16 graduated. "We've imp numbers with Class 230, and Class 231 is on pace to graduate 42, or 37 percent of those who started.

I'm particularly interested in 231 because this is the first class to start and finish training under Bowen's revised program. I ask if I can attend their graduation. "Sure. You and any

other old SEALs or frogs are always welcome.

lust a few final auestions: Why put up with all the appravation and controrsy that true change brings? Why draw fire? Why not just

kick back and enjoy your twilight cruise? A lot of us do. "I'm just not built that way," says the Bull Frog softly.

"I didn't know that." I awake to a morning sky He also said trainees

the color of bruised fruit. I shower, shave, dress, and head for Coronado to attend the graduation of BUDS Class 231. I reach the bridge summit and see thick purple clouds piling up in the west. San Diego is about to receive an infrequent cleansing. Rain already splatters my windshield with fat drops that course upward on squiggly tails like spermatozoa eking snug harbor.

Damn! Rain means the mony will be in the dark, cavernous base theater nstead of outdoors on the BUDS grinder. My photog rapher is going to be pissed. I pick the photographer

up at Bay Books in Coron ado and head down Highway 75 to the Amphib Base. Much to my surprise, the gate guard tells me gradution will in fact be on the grinder. Another first for the Bull Frog: graduation in the rain. What could be more appropriate than trainees having a wet and learn Bowen has even more velty in store for us

Chairs for family and

zle. A tent shields VIPs, but the official party will be seated on an unprotected stage. Senior Navy officers

I'VE BEEN TOLD HARDLY A **CLASS GOES BY WITHOUT** TRAINEES PASSING OUT ON THE POOL BOTTOM.

friends have been set up on two sides of the grinder. in chairs under a light drizin their white uniforms will soon be as wet and chilly as the trainees. Just how wet and chilly remains a surprise

A giant U.S. flag deco-

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rates a wall behind the stage. I half expect to see General Patton striding forth to utter those immortal lines: "Your job is not to die for your country, but to make the other poor bastard die for

I meet an old SEAL One teammate as I wait on the covered passageway for the show to begin. Roger Moscone is a barrel-chested man with the comfortable girth of some one not overly concerned about cholesterol levels.

Roger was the first true SEAL hero in Vietnam. On a patrol through the Rung

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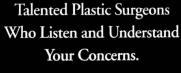
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Roger doesn't talk much about the op that killed Billy - the first SEAL to die

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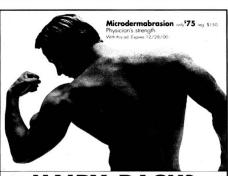
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in Vietnam — or any other of the many ops he survived in the Rung Sat. Instead, he likes to spin stories of his days in Da Nang, where he and other SEALS trained mercenaries for the Cla. The SEALS terrained mercenaries for the Cla. The SEALS ferrained the mercs up north in PT boats called Nastys for raids above the DMZ. Nastys precipitated the Tonkin Gulf incident when the USS Turner Joy mistook them for North Vietnamese torpeds obats about to attack

"First thing I did when I hit Da Nang." Roger is saying, "I built a small but comfy
club in our CIA compound.
Seabees actually built it in
return for K-bar knives, VC
and NVA battle flags. Stuff
like that.

"I found the storekeeper in charge of ordering and delivering booze to the Da Nang officer and enlisted clubs. He told me he really wanted an M-2 carbine one of those .30-caliber jobs with a selector switch to fire

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

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"Yeah, but the SK didn't know that. He wasn't going to use it for combat anyway. So the SK gives me two pallets of truly fine booze for the carbine. I throw in 10,000 rounds of ammo for two more pallets. Then I come up with an AK-47 and he really takes care of me.

you know, corporation on the stock exchange. Guy "All drinks at the club were 25 cents. Beer was free. Of course, well others share in our good fortune for any of the stock exchange. Guy When he leaves a few months later he sells his shares back and takes home a rand or and takes home a rand or

so."
Roger falls silent as a
ship's bell rings. The ceremony has begun and follows
a familiar script a sailor rings
the ship's bell as individual
members of the official party
mount the stage; uniformed
guards with rilles parade the
colors; a band alongside the
stage plays a robust national
anthem; a chaplain gives the
invocation. Roger and I are
disappointed the doesn't offer
up the SEAL Psalm: Yea
though I walk through the
Valley of the Shadow of Death
I shall fear no evil, for I am

the meanest motherfucker in the Valley. The drizzle momen-

slightly higher prices. I only tarily stops while Captain had one rule: no drinking until the sun had dropped Bowen gives a short speech and introduces the guest below the vardarm. Oh veah, speaker - retired SEAL Captain Rick Woolard. Woolard and no screwing the cleaning girls. Do that and they'd is a Vietnam vet and has a stop working at the jobs I'd son in Class 231. Roger and I have heard hired them for. Would have to fire them.
"I ran the club like a, and seen all this before. We

move to a far corner of the covered passageway and con-tinue our conversation in hushed tones near a table covered with T-shirts for sale. One of the shirts displays six trainees holding a 200-pound IBS above their heads at extended arm carry. Writing on the shirt innounces: "The Only Easy Day Was Yesterday!" Another shirt shows a sniper and his spotter dressed in camouflage ghillie suits hunched over a .50-caliber rifle beneath the title, "671 grains of diplo-macy." The title refers to the load for a .50-caliber round that can reach out and touch

ing goes.
Suddenly a flight of FA-18s thunders low overhead teasing the sound barrier. Roger and I duck as if we hear incoming. The flyby is another first for a BUDS

someone at 1500 meters.

One shot one kill, as the say-

graduation. But Bowen has saved the best for last.

After the trainees have received their graduation certificates and the chap-lain has intoned the benediction, Bowen invites the official party, VIPs, and instructors to join the students in the surf zone not more than 100 meters behind the grinder. Captains, commanders, and lower-ranking officers and chief petty officers sprint toward the ocean. Only a few instructors hustle from their chairs to take part.

As the merry band streams back in soaked, see-through whites plastered to hairy bodies, I spot the XO. He waves and a wide grin creases his cheery face: "I thought this would happen," he yells, "so I wore my skivvies!"

Real SEALs and frogmen don't wear skivvies!

He laughs. "This one does today. I got the dignity of my office to consider."

To paraphrase the late Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Ed Bowen seems to have put the zest back into going to BUDS. At least for now. • — Bill Salisbury



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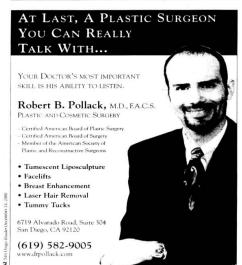
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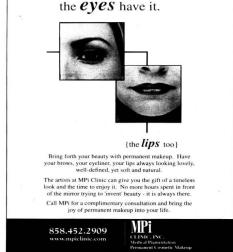
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the real reason nobody wants to hire him. If I were an emyer, I wouldn't. Name withheld by request

Illegal Teachers Lonzello and Name Withheld (Letters, December 7) give me the opportunity to explain to them that by getting a job one does not earn dignity. I defy anyone to find an occupation

anyone to find an occupation with dignity from the Pope on down when dignity includes honor or principle. Let them explain how their occupations include both honor and principle. Bersin lights") offers an excellent opportunity to discuss one of the most dishonorable and unprincipled occupations, that of teacher. La Sierra U library loaned me Aspy and Rochuck. Pro: Pont Like. Ten thousand teachers were asked to comment on the stateasked to comment on the state ment "I have a headache." Only 100 could manage con-structive comments and thus 9900 or 99 out of 100 could 9900 or 99 out of 100 could not and these are the type of teachers who cannot help students learn or are plain harmful to their students. I wonder if Bersin has any teacher training going on to put more than 1 helpful calcater of the students. I will be supported by the students of the same privilege to him or send him a photocopy. (Illegal?, so are 99 abottoopy. (Illegal?, so are 99 are supported to the same privilege to him or send him a photocopy. (Illegal?, so are 99 are supported to the same privilege to him or send him a photocopy. (Illegal?, so are 99 are supported to the same privilege to him or send him a photocopy. (Illegal?, so are 99 are supported to the same privilege to him or send him a photocopy. (Illegal?, so are 99 are supported to the same privilege to him or send him a supported him a photocopy. (Illegal?, so are 99 out of 100 teachers who retard

Escondido

God Created San Diego I read this letter (Novem-

learning.)

I read this letter (November 30) a few days ago and must admit I am having a hard time not thinking abrad time not thinking abrad time not thinking abrad time responding to a story in "Grublights" from the November 22 issue of the Reader. I finally decided the only way I would stop thinking about the letter was to respond to it. the letter was to respond to it. I want Mr. De Jong to know he is both right and wrong. As introversial as that sounds let me explain why it is true

First of all, the city is not evil; however, the citizens that evil; however, the citizens that compose the city, and the social society as a whole, are evil, God created one of the most beautiful, temperate, and fascinating places on earth when He created San Diego. I am from the southern part of the United States, having resided there up until a year ago, when I found myself in San Diego. Where I am from, there are few affluent citizens and a deezer moral obligation, there are few affluent citizens and a deezer moral obligation. and a deeper moral obligation to care for your neighbors and the downtrodden. It is



This year, I'm at the top of my list...

LIPOSUCTION

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anatomy

be done to get them on their feet again is much more humane. Judging them harshly is uncalled for and only goes to show the ignorance and lack of Christianity of the person passing judgment. I cannot speak for those who do drugs, drink, or refuse to be employed — those are a whole different store, But I can speak for those like Mr. De long and myself, who the property of the pro ly is uncalled for and only thank anyone giving them a helping hand out of.

dition of duress and what can

Upon arrival in this beau-tiful city, full of "Beamers," million-dollar homes, and "high-paying jobs," I began looking for work. I, too, found myself being told 43 was too

What was that? I was not ever asked what I would take! An job is better than no job at all. I tried hunting jobs in persor on my own at first. Added the Internet next, and finally went through the agencies last. I was fortunate to finally land a temporary job that runs out in three weeks. As it took me months to land this one. I fear for what will happen when this one is over. Although even the agencies told me I was too overqualified and experienced for what they could collect for what they could collect for the took of the collection of the collection

the agency charges the em

wages!!! I would have been

thrilled to have been paid half

of what the agency bills the

nent. What is wrong with that picture? Where I come from,

picture? Where I come from, persons with management, computer, finance, payroll, and benefits experience of my stature are in high demand. Not so here. This is part of the problem. For every position of any stature open out there, at least 100 people are fighting for that job. Employers can

employer and been perma

old, I was too overqualified, empensation. That is why the minorities and younger generation fill more of the or "with your experience we cannot afford to pay you."

Next, due to the huge amount of citizens living in Southern California and moving into the area on a daily basis, the cost of and availability of housing is absolutely out of hand. If you don't make \$15 an hour and have perfect credit, you can't even get an apartment to rent. My new husband retired from the U.S. Navy about four year ago, after 20 years of service. Shortly after leaving the ago, after 20 years of service. Shortly after leaving the service his marriage fell apart. This I am told happens often to retirees. And like many servicemen, he married a foreign woman. This woman, who after 15 years still refused to accept U.S. citizenship, was quick to use the courts for her service married and the service are and cleaned his pity party and cleaned his clock. No, he didn't hit her, drink, or run around on her. They simply were not used to being under each other's feet M65 days a year. Because of his divorce, he found himself bankrupt and going from the best credit you can have to the worst. I came from a total inancially disastrous marriage, through no fault of mine. (That is not taken into account by the credit reporting agencies, and there is nothing that can be done about it.) We have found ourselves at the mercy found found for the f 365 days a year. Because of his found ourselves at the mercy

employment for the same reasons I did. Although we are both temporarily employed now, with what he is forced to pay the ex (and this I cannot understand as she makes more money with part-time employment than he does on full-time employment!!), inexpensive housing is mandatory. Even with my income thrown Even with my income thrown into the picture, we cannot find anyone willing to rent to us. I find it ironic that two 43-year-old persons with no children and only one small dog cannot find a place to live. We are God-fearing Christians and do little else but work, church, and home. I am amazed at themople, and we we cannot. I am certain we were we cannot. yet we cannot. I am certain many of those I see outside the apartment complexes are no better off than we are, but they are minorities, and the government has programs for them. Our society has created temporary basis and no shot at employment at all.

of a family member who has

iffluent cannot be buthered by us. The churches and social agencies have their hands full with more critical cases. Cheap labor will give may to trained labor, housing authorities can afford to be selective, and ford to be selective, and prover, and influence to make needed changes cannot and will not be bothered. How unfortunate. No, the city is not evil, but the bugs affluent population is. I wish the best face a very uncertain future and the propulation is a selective for the control of the co every day of my life. I would load up and go back to where load up and go back to where the people are more carring and understanding of the things that can happen to the human life, where things are simpler and everyone is treated the same. But my retired Navy hubby loves this city with all his heart. Even if it is kicking him in the teeth. So some-how, through the grace of God, we will survive. At least we are better off than many, who have no one to even help. who have no one to even help them with a place to stay on

the scourge of the earth and

C. Harris

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Calendar

Grazer Gifts

At the Zoo, Every Day Is Christmas

earning of a white Christmas? Or a watery one?

An opportunity to do some Christmas caroling by kayak is offered by the Agua Adventures Kavaking School in Mission Beach this weekend. Co-owner oreg Knight will play his acoustic guitar and is practicing Christmas songs for the occasion. Eggnog, hot chocolate, and cookies will be served. You'll paddle cookies will be served. You'll paddle around the bay and sing, and if you don't have your own kayak, Knight will lend you one. It's something he's heard of other people doing — "having Christmas

LOCAL

page 67 EVENTS Classical Music

went trick-or-treating "boat-to-boat for Halloween. In Escondido, there's a beach

theme at the annual holiday open house. sponsored by the city's recreation Art Museums lenartment and Friends of the Library. & Galleries They're calling it a Sizzlin' Santa's They're calling it a Sizzlin' Santa's Workshop, Workshop, You're instructed to wear "your favorite beach attire" and come prepared to enjoy" a beachcomber buffet. (Actually, it will be "a continental breakfast" — donuts, bagels, muffin, juice, and coffee, donated by local businesses.) Kids will make crafts — banners, candy Santas, Christmas palmpage 83

Theater page 84

Pop Music

Local Events

page 81

page 119

Restaurants page 130

aloha-style, he thinks he's going to be If you're more traditional and cray If you're more traditional and crave a glimpse of snow, head for Balboa Park. Instead of "going to the snow," the snow comes to the polar bears this weekend and next. It's part of the zoo's "lungle Bells" activities for the animals and for

tree magnets — and have a chance to visit with Santa. St. Nick will sport a

California, savs Escondido Recreation

Hawaiian shirt, the better to keep cool in

"Before the bears go on exhibit, very early in the morning, we blow 12 tons of manmade snow in there," says supervisor Amy Shipley. "Usually Santa would get so warm, but this year, dressed tons of manmade snow in there," says Stacy Ellis of the zoo's public-relations office. "We use huge, huge blocks of ice. That's put into a machine, and we blow it into giant mounds. So a portion of the exhibit will be completely blanketed in snow. The keepers will hide food treats and toys in the snow, so the bears will come out and immediately start diseine. They love to

me out and immediately start digging. They love to crawl up to the top of the mounds and slide down. The snow really does inspire in them a kind of behavior that you don't normally see."

At other times, says At other times, says Ellis, the bears are content in their arctic-tundra habitat — the Polar Bear Plunge — that simulates a place where the snow has thawed, with sparse vegetation and water that's chilly: about 55

Greg Knight and Jennifer Kleci "And in that environment, they're always playful, always in the water, playing with balls, playing with each other. But the snow is special. It's cold. They eat it. It's fun for them. It feels

They eat it. It's fun for them. It feels crunchy under their feet. "It's called "animal enrichment."

At the zoo's Outdoor Log Theater, Mrs. Claus and Ruby Hippo ("a costumed character") will belp children make gifts for themselves and family. These include real beeswar candles and bracelets on a reindeer theme. At the Children's Zoo. the "Il make bracelets on a reindeer theme. As the Children's Zoo, they'll make "enrichment" items to be given to the

One of these is a Santa to be made of paper and camel hair. The hair come courtesy of the zoo's own camels. Keepers will put these Santas into enclosures with the black jaguar and some of the larger cats. "The cats will interact with them — miff around," because they II find them pleasantly odoriferous. They'll also enjoy tearing them apart.

Another enrichment item kids will make is a "brosse" wreath. Rosemary, eucalyptus, acacia — "and other kinds urtesy of the zoo's own camels.

browsers among the zoo population— "leaf-eaters that pull stuff off trees and bushes." A giraffe is one, distinct from grazers, like caribou. "We worry about maintaining animals in captivity and keeping then

animals in captivity and keeping them happy and healthy," says Ellis. "Enrichment keeps them stimulated, gives them mental challenges, and opportunities for physical exercise." Zoologists believe enrichment contributes to successful in-captivity

breeding. "The zoo employs a whole staff to do nothing but work with keepers to find interesting ways to help the animals exhibit natural behaviors." The Santas and the wreaths are only seasonal examples of what the enrichment team does daily at the zoo, where, apparently, every day is Christmas. every day is Christmas.

"Christmas Caroling by Kayak" Friday, December 15 6:00-9:00 p.m. Aqua Adventures Kayak School 15:40 Quivira Way (near Hospitality Point) Alission Bay Free 619-523-9577

Sizzlin' Santa's Workshop Open House Saturday, December 16 8:30-11:30 a.m. East Valley Community Center 2245 East Valley Parkway Cost: \$6 for children over 2: free Cost: \$6 for children for children under 2; \$3 for adults Includes food, crafts, and visit with Santa Advance tickets reco

"Jungle Bells"
Saturday December 16,
Sunday December 24
9:00-4:00 p.m.
Polar bears' snow romp: Saturday and Sunday, December 16 and 17 and December 16 and 17 and December 23 and 24, 10:00 a.m. San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park \$18 for ages 12 and up; \$8 for ages 3-11 (waived with a new, unwrapped toy); free for ages 2 and under 619-234-3153





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BAJA

Río. For more information, call 011-52-66-87-9600. (TJJJANA)

Marathoners Beckoned, the 35th annual marathon event — along with a 10k — starts at 8 a.m. on Sunday, December 17, at the Centro

Cúvico. For more details, call 011-52-66-82-9068 (MEXICALI)

Hike to San Diego County's High Places to take advantage of Decem-ber's characteristically clear air. From spots such as Cuyamaca Peak in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Wooded Hill in the Laguns Mountain Recreation Area, and Boucher Hill at Palonar Mountain State Park, vistas stretching a hundred miles across the Pacific Ocean are not uncommon at this time of year. Look orthe dark profiles of Santa Catalain and San Clemente Islands, lying northwest and west of San Diego respectively. LISTINGS

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MANUAL TO Holiday Decorations, enjoy the deorations at the Hotel Del and around orations at the Hotel Del and around the city on this moderately paced, flat walk around Coronado, sponsored by Walkabout, Friday, December 15, 9:45 a.m., beginning at the city li-brary on Orange Avenue, between Sixth and Seventh. Free, 619-231-

animals and discover the environ-ment they live in. This hike is guided by a member of the tracking team of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

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TRIP

MARCH 17

and is scheduled for Saturday, De-cember 16, from 7:50 to 9 a.m. Meet at the ranch house; from the Mouse; from the Mouse from the Mountain Rook during right on Mountain Rook, turn right on the Mountain, left at the first light on Canyon Park Drive, park in the ball fields, and walk to the ranch house. Free. 858–484-3219. (RANCHO PENASQUITOS)

Trail Improvement, help the rangers keep the trails ship-shape at Mission Trails Regional Park. The next event is set for Saturday, December 16, at 8 a.m., beginning at the visitors' cen-ter, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. 619-582-7800. (MSSION GORGE)

Birding the Marsh, the birds of Sweetwater Marsh are the quarry for this guided hike, Saturday, December 16, beginning at 8 a.m., spon-sored by the Chula Vista Nature Cen-

Mountain Hike, this four-mile hike includes some steep hills, but if you're game, the air will be fresh and clear. It's sponsored by the San Die-

guito River Park and is scheduled for Saturday, December 16, from 8:30 to 01:30 p.m. Meet the guide in the staging area 5.3 miles cast of the San Diego Wild Animal Park, on the south side of Highway 78. Free. Please call for reservations, 858-674-2275 x5. (SAN PASQUAL)

The Rocks, Plants, and Animals of Daley Ranch will be discussed by guide Jack Pomeroy on this moder-ately strenuous five-mile hike, which will include the narrow Crest Trail. It's set for Saturday, December 16, at It's set for Saturday, December 16, at 8:30 a.m. Meet the guide at the ranch parking lot on La Honda Drive. Free. For details call the ranch events line at 760-839-4680 or the Dixon Lake ranger station at 760-839-4345. (ESCONDIO)

(ESCONDIO)

Fosall Deposits of the Imperial Formation can be seen on this strenuous desert hike led by the Canyoneen of the San Diego Natural History Museum, Saturday, December 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You'll be exploring the Wind Caves in the Coyote Mountains of the California Desert Conservation Area.



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featuring Nathan Fry refreshments will be served Holiday Plants, Gifts, Christmas Trees and Gift Certificates

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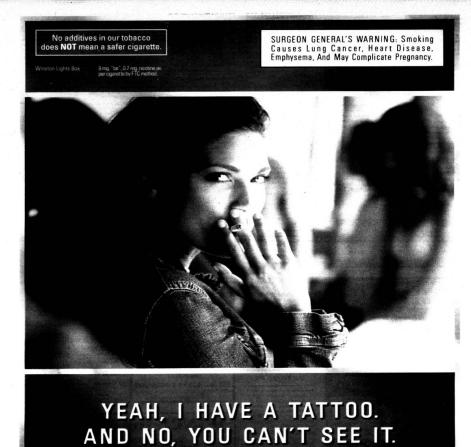
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Poinsettlas, a favorite of backyard gardeners, are now exhibiting their scarlet, petal-like bracts, just in time for the holidays. The onset of 14-hour-long nights triggers their be-havior. In San Diego this condition is met just before the date of winter sol-stice — December 21.

Ripening Palm Fruit, hanging in Ripening Palm Fruit, hanging in great clusters on California's native fan palms (Washingtonia filifera) can be seen (and tasted) this month. The black, pea-sized fruit consists of a deliciously sweet but almost paper-thin skin surrounding a hard seed. (These are not "California dates"— (These are not "California dates"—
the fruit of cultivated palms introduced into California's deserts from
northern Africa.) Our native fan
palms can be seen in their natural
habitat in about two dozen canyons
within Anza-Borrego Desert State
Park. They have also been planted
widely elsewhere in California, including allong the main strests of cluding along the main streets of Palm Springs.





BULL

Watch the Birds or just enjoy na area of the salt marsh habitat at Famosa Slough, Saturday, Decem-her 16, at 1 p.m. Meet the guide at the kiosk at the intersection of West Point Loma Boulevard and Famosa Boulevard. Bring binoculars, if you-have them. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of Famosa Slough. 619-224-4591. (LOMA PORTAL)

Mistletoe and Holly (California holly, that is — a.k.a. toyon) can be seen growing along the path of this 2.5-mile hike to the waterfall and back, led by naturalist Pat Watkins, Saturday, December 16, beginning at

rve. Meet at the kiosk at the in Village Drive, Free: 858-484-3219. Coastwalkers, Christmas, Coror

Coastwalkers, Christmas, Coronados...join Coastwalk on Sunday,
December 17, for an evening walk
through the streets of Coronado to
the Hotel del Coronado to view the
tree, returning to the ferty landing in
time to watch the parade of lights on
San Diego Bay. Join the group at
4.30 p.m. at the ferry landing in
desergous. Son Diego the delevature downtown San Diego; the adventure starts in Coronado at the ferry land-ing at 5 p.m. Bring a flashlight, money for (optional) snack, bus, money for (optional) snack, bus, and/or ferry fare, 619-283-3026.

(COROADO)

Kumeyaay History, the ethnohistory of the Kumeyaay tribe is the subject for this guided hike in the area of Bernardo Bay, Sunday, December 17, 9 to 11 a.m., sponsored by the San Dieguito River Park. For his easy-paced 3.8-mile walk, meet at the Bernardo Bay Natural Area, West Bernardo Road, Please Call Corrections: 838-674-2275 x5. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

Visit an Oasis, the San Diego Natu ral History Museum Canyoneers will discuss the vegetation and bird and animal life in the area of Mountain Palm Springs in the Anza Borrego Desert State Park. This is a spring-

fed oasis with fan palms. The hike is scheduled for Sunday, December 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. From 1-8 at Octofillo (Imperial County), take route \$2 north about 15 miles to the Mountain Palm Springs Campground sign, near mile marker 47. Park in the campground lot and meet the guide there. Allow two hours' driving time from \$an two hours' driving time from \$an ground. Wear hiking gear and bring water and lunch. 858-484-3219.

(OCOTILD)

New Campground, come see the newly opened Kumeyaay Campground in Mission Trais Regional Park. Enjoy interpretive wagon rides, animal tracking, gourd crafts, and other events, Sunday, December 17, noon to 4 p.m. The campground is located at the north end of Mission Trails Park, off Mission Gorge Road and Bushy Hill Drive. Free, 619-668-3275. (MISSION GORGE)

Caspian Way. Bring binoculars if you have them. It's free. 619-575-3613. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

Winter Solstice, the moment when the sun reaches its southernmost

fed oasis with fan palms. The hike is Hemisphere and the beginning of

(ESCONDIDO)

The City Ballet of San Diego, with the San Diego Civic Youth Orchestra, has scheduled five performances, under the direction of Steven and Elizabeth Wistrich: Friday, De and Elizabeth Wistrich: Friday, De-cember 15 (7:30 p.m.); Saturday, De-cember 16 (2 and 7:30 p.m.); and Sunday, December 17 (1 and 5 p.m.), at the Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broad-way. Tickets: \$26 and \$32, 858-272-863, (DOWNTOWN) then quickly sinks toward the DANCE

8663. (DOWNTOWN)
On Saturday, December 16
(8 p.m.), and Sunday, December 17
(1 and 5:30 p.m.), the California Bal-let Company, under the direction of Maxine Mahon, will offer the first of A Bunch of "Nutcrackers," it's that ime again. There are four different productions to enjoy. The first of our performances by the San Diego 11 performances. This weekend's are at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road. Tickets: \$24, \$29, \$34, \$39, and a children's price of \$15, 858-560-6741. (POWAY) ertz Morgan, is scheduled for Friday. December 15 (7 p.m.); Saturday, De-cember 16 (2 and 7 p.m.); and Sun-day, December 17 (2 p.m.), at Man-deville Auditorium on Muir Drive Swing, the San Diego Swing Dance on the UCSD campus. Tickets are \$26 adults, \$16 children 12 and

Swing, the San Diego Swing Dance Club meets twice weekly for lessons and a dance. The next intermediate-level event is on Friday, Decem-ber 15, at 7 p.m. Beginning class is Sunday, December 17, at 3 p.m. at the Naval Training Center, through younger; senior, military, and stu-dent discounts available. For these Mandeville shows, call 760-788-1112. (LA JOLLA) Sunday, December 17, at 3 p.m. at the Naval Training Center, through Gate 3, off Rosecrans Street; \$7 619-491-1808. (LOMA PORTAL) The Moscow Classical Ballet returns for its seventh annual appear ance, accompanied by the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, Friday Contradancing, this week's dance, sponsored by San Diego Folk Heritage, features the Old Twine String Band and caller Johann Koppany, Friday, December 15, 8 p.m., with beginners' (sessons in New Englandstyle dancing at 7:45. Meet at Trinity

range \$20 to \$50. 1-800-988-4253.

United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. Please wear soft-solec shoes. Admission \$6, 619-283-8550 (NORTH PARK) "Nutcracker"-ette, the Performing

"Nutracker" - ette, the Personning Arts Workshop offers selections from the popular Christmas ballet. Chore-ography is by City Ballet principal dancer Oleg Dedogryuk, with per-formances by Jennifer Holibaugh and Candace McChord and th workshop and junior ballet student worksnop and junior basier students. This annual offering is set for Satur-day, December 16, 2 p.m., at Truax Theatre, El Camino High School, 400 Rancho Del Qro Drive. Tickets are \$10 advance, \$12 at the door, \$2 age five and under. 760-753-2671.

Dalya Dallal is the next offering at the Folk Dance Center, Saturday, De-cember 16, 7:30 p.m. They've also declared it "Crazy Hat Night," so wear something inventive on your head. And bring a snack to share. Members \$4; general \$5. The center is at 4569 30th Street. 619-281-5656. (NORTH PARK) The Swango? Swing dancers mingle

Rrookes and Walnut. Lessons start a 8:15, then dance to swing, tango, and salsa until midnight. Admission \$6 general, \$4 students. 619-291-7722. Clogging, the Raylin Cloggers Club Clogging, the Kayim Cloggers Culo holds a dance fest every Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m. in the rehearsal hall in Balboa Park. There's instruction for beginners. The next event will be De-cember 17: \$3 members, \$4 non-members. For more information, call 619-444-2166. (BALBOA PARK)

The Cajun Beat of Texas and Louisiana is the tempo when the Bons Temps Social Club gathers for a bon temp, Tuesday, December 19, from 7 to 10 p.m., at Tio Leo's, 530, Napa Street, between Morena Boule-vard and Linda Vista Road. Dance Lessons hancen at 2, if you need they have a hotline: 858-496-6655.

FII M

"Me Myself I," this 1999 Australian film tells the story of Pamela, ar award-winning journalist who be-moans her fate until she's given the chance to live her dreamed-of lifestyle Rachel Griffiths stars. Pip Karmel di rected. It screens on Sunday, December 17, at 2 p.m., in the auditorium of the San Diego Public Library, 820 I Street. Free. (DOWNTOWN)

"High Fidelity," Stephen Frears's filming of the Nick Hornby novel is a furny ride through the male psy-che. Record store owner Rob Gor-don (John Cusack) ranks everything

with girlfriends. It screens as part of the ongoing Film Forum at the San Diego Public Library on Monday, December 18, at 6 p.m., 820 E Street. Free. (DOWNTOWN) "Fiddler on the Roof" is the next

75 Dove Lane, Free, 760-602-

the contemporary bestiary. Learn about what really goes on in the world of Wolves in the new IMAX film at the theater.

Fourney to exotic places in Wild California, illustrating how the beauty and the majesty of the state's

eauty and the majesty of the state's call 619-238-1233, (BALBOA PARK)

LECTURES

"Fools Rush In," artist Alexis Smith

Romantic Meeting, the local chapter of the Romance Writers of America

will be meeting for lunch, to discusgram information: 619-464-6340. (MISSION VALLEY) CPR and First Aid, a certification

class by Save-a-Heart are offered Tuesday, December 19, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express, military, and foster parents), call 619-445-4569. (LA MESA)

Pointsettias, are the subject for Ruth Kobayashi of the Paul Ecke Ranch, who will be speaking at the next meet-ing of the local chapter of Ikebana In-

Scholarly Meeting, San Diego Ind

IN PERSON

"Italian Pride: 101 Reasons to Be **Platian Pride: 101 Reasons to be **Proud You Are Italian' is a new book to local writer and college professor **red Moramarco and his son stephen. Fred will be reading from the book and discussing why it's great to be Italian (as if the food

"Kwanza Time," this African American cultural celebration is presented by the Motojave Arts Institute for Youth, Friday, December 15, at 7 p.m., at the City Heights Library and Performance Annex, 3794 Euro mount Avenue. Khetia Semia is the

Third-Base Coach on a Boat, Tim

R R 100 MH Gift certificates available! Stretch Navigators Oinner Packages Promision Packages Promision Packages

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tional information, call 619-234-9153 x128. (DOWNTOWN)

9183 (128: (ODM/TOM))

Books and Music, enjoy three free concerts this weekend at Barnes & Noble at 1075 Westview Parkway. On Friday, December 15, at 8 pm, Ashley and Sarah Kura offer selections on voitin and harp. Sturday, Palan Blayers, a string quarter, entertains. And on Sunday, December 12 1 pm, enjoy the Lou Guo Enrily, a 11 pm, enjoy the Lou Guo Enrily, a string trio. Free. 858:831-0446. Speedy Shakespeare, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare

touring company of theater students and alumni from Cai State Long Beach, Get a quick classical education when they appear on Friday and Saturday, December 15 and 16, at 8 p.m., MiraCosta College's Little-Theater, in room 3601 on the compus at One Barnard Drive. Tickets are \$10. For information call 760-724-7318. (OCEANSIDE)

theme. He'll be appearing at Bazaar del Mundo in Old Town on Satur-day, December 16, at noon and I p.m., as part of the ongoing music, dance, and entertainment programs at the Bazaar this weekend and next. It's free. (OLD TOWN)

"A Family Christmas Celebra tion," this Broadway-style revus

tion," this Broadway-style revue includes everything from Dickens and parodies of "The 12 Days of Christmas," the music of Irving Berlin and a little rock and roll. Raymond Saar, Danne Ketchie, and Soott Harlan, all veterans of stage and television, are the featured players. Performances are scheduled for Sautoday, December 16, at 730 p.m., at the East County Performing Arts Center, 210 East Output Performing Arts Center, 210 East Main Street. Trickets range from \$15 to \$26, Call the box. range from \$16 to \$26. Call the box office at 619-440-2277 or Ticket-master at 619-220-TIXS. (EL CAJON)

Fantasy Author Dennis McKiernan makes a personal appearance at Mys-terious Galaxy bookstore, Saturday, terious Galaxy bookstore, Saturday, December 16, at 2:30 p.m. His classic fron Tower Trilogy has been reissued in a single volume. The store is at 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, suite 302. Free. 858-268-4747. (KEARNY MESA)

group, Women of Note, the Baylanders, and Badar and the Bijns appear in oncnert under the auspices of the San Diego Community College District. The performance of music editor, the performance of music editor, and the substitution of the substitution of the performance of the set for Saturday, December 16, 7,30 p.m., in the auditorium of Patrick Henry High School, 6702 Wandermer Driver, editorium is a district of the Saturday, December 16, 25 of the Children 2 to 12, under 2 fees. References are provided to 12 fees. References a Trombone Virtueso Michael

Trombone Virtuous Michael Dessen, agraduate student at UCSD, is the featured player in the Michael Dessen Quarter. The group offers a jazz contert on Saturday, Street Forum, 301 Spruce Street Dessen has performed and recorded with such names as Yusef Lateef, George Lewis, Anthony Davis, Mike Wolfford, and Commologic, Tickets are \$12 general, \$8 students. 619-295-0001, pmt.CME31) The Nature of Fiction Writing and

The Nature of Fiction Writing and publishing will be the subject for "casual discussions" when Efrem Erricon Books hosts a joint publication and release reception for What the Fuck Technology and the 2000 Fiction International with the theme "madness" on Saturday, December 16, at 5 pm. local writers including Harold Jaffe, Lida Yuknavitch, Immy Jazz, and Michael Hemmingson will read from their Hemmingson will read from their work. Free, Find the shop at 1039

(IOOM/IOW)

"A Time for Christmas," the Pacific Beach United Methodist church of fers this dramatic musical productors and the productor of th

If You're a Seeker in a Hurry, then If You're a Seeker in a Hurry, then lordan S. ("The Barefoot Philoso-pher") Metzger's Lightning-Fast En-lightenment: A Journey to the Secrets of Happiness is the book for you. He'll be discussing it at the Brokers Build-ing Gallery, 402 Market Street, on Sunday, December 17, at 3 p.m. There will also be art, music, and effersh-ments. 619-540-6316, (DOM/TOWN)

Jazz Jam, it's for players, vocalists, listeners, dancers, and anyone who enjoys jazz. It's sponsored by the Jazz Artists Guild the third Sunday of ev-Artists Guild the third Sunday of ev-ery month at the Musician's Union Hall, 1717 Morena Boulevard, Hugh Friedman and Route 66 are the hosts. The next jam is Sunday, Decem-ber 17, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. It's free to all musicians and vocalists; \$5 for union members; \$8 for nonmem-bers. 760-721-8251. (BAY PARK)

"Legacy of Valor" is the newest novel by led Babbin. In it he deals with questions about the current

ing man. The novel's central charac-ters are a Navy SEAL lieutenant and his comrades, all professional sol-diers. Babbin is a Washington lawyer and a political commentator for White House Weekly.

He'll be discussing his book and signing copies on Monday, Decem-

signing copies on Mongay, personal ber 18, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Bay Books, 1029 Orange Avenue. Free 619-435-0070. (CORONADO)

Holiday Poetry, bring your fa-vorite poem to read — about Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza, or Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza, or the New Year. Or any special day, for that matter. Mary Leary and Risa Goldberg provide the sea-sonal music. Poet Merle Fis-chlowitz hosts the event. It's set for Monday, December 18, 7 p.m., Borders book store, 1072 Camino del Rio North. Free. 619-295-2201.

Filipino/Asian American Poet Sex Reyes writes with sharp political fo-cus about his search for "home." He

Coast Bike Ride, the San Diego Cyclo-Vets pedal an easy 40 miles (14 to 16 mph) every Friday morn-ing, from the In-N-Out Burger at

the corner of Mission Bay Drive and Damon Avenue (north of Gar-net), with a stop in Solana Beach for coffee, then return. The next jaunt is set for December 15, be-ginning at 8:45 a.m. sharp. For more information call 619-584-0087. (PACIFIC BEACH)

"Silent (stroke) Night (stroke)"" it's an art, it's a sport, it's caroling by kayak. Voices carry very well over water, you know. Aqua Adventures Kayak School sponsors it. Paddle around the marinas in Mission Bay and spread some Yuletide cheer. and spread some turefue cheer. Bring your own kayak, or use one of the school's (free). Enjoy cookies, hot chocolate, and eggnog back at the dock after the event. Who could

It's scheduled for Friday, De-It's scheduled for Friday, De-cember 15, from 6 to 9 p.m., begin-ning at the school at 1548 Quivria Way, near Hospitality Point. (Quivria Road turns into Quivria Way on the south side of the Quivria Basin.) And during the month of December, Aqua Adven-tures offers free two-hour kayak renials, 9 am. to sunset: If you need directions or details, call 619-523-5577, (MSSOR BAY)

Gulls Hockey, Oklahoma City skates Gulls Hockey, Oklahoma City skates into town for a pair, Friday, Decem-ber 15, 7:35 p.m., and Saturday, De-cember 16, 7:05 p.m., at the San Diego Sports Arena. Tickets are 55, 510, 512, and \$15, 619-224-4625. [SPORTS ARENA]

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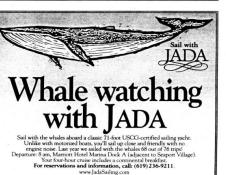
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breeds, plus one loquacious parrot, plus a rehabilitated (not for long) Cruella De Vil

("Please, call me Ella"). A higgledy-piggledy incoherent mess, busy enough and loud enough to distract the little ones, and dismay the bigger. Glenn Close, Ioan Gruffudd, Alice Evans, Gerard Depardieu; directed by Kevin Lima. 2000. directed by Kevin Lima. 2000.

(CAMME, MOUTAIN, CINEMA STAR GALANY, CINEMA STAR 10, CINEMA STAR 13, CINERAMA 6,
DEL MAR HIGHLANDS, FASHIDN VALLEY 18,
GASLAMP 15, GROSSMONT TROLLEY, HARBER
DIRVE IN, MISSION VALLEY 20, PALM PHOMENADE 24, PARIMAY PLAZA 18, POMAY 10, RAY
CHO DEL REY 16, TOWN SQUARE 14)

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Studies assignment — "Think or an itea change our world, and put it into action!" — takes it very seriously indeed, action!" — takes it very seriously indeed, and initiates a grassroots movement that spreads like wildfire. His idea: do a really life favor for three different people, and rather than ask them to pay it hack, ask them to pay it forward, doing favors for three people of their own. If this vision of to that.) And it enables director Mimi Leder, working from a script by Leslie Dixon, to explore her more feminine, more nutruring, side. More, that is, than in the dueling doomsdays of The Peacemaker and Deep Impact. With Helen Hunt, Kevin Spacey, Haley held Osment, Jaw Mohr, James Caviezel, Jon Bon Jovi, Angie Dixk-inson, and Itoo britely! Kalthein Wilhotte. son, and (too briefly) Kathleen Wilhoit

Proof of LIFE — Reviewed this issue.
With Ming Spain, Russell Crimer, David Mirror, David Carson, and Parmella Revel diMirror, David Crimer, and Parmella Revel di**(CAMPA, MODITARE, COLAMA STAR GLASS,
**(CAMPA, MODITARE, CAMPA, MODITARE,
**(CAMPA, MODITARE, CAMPA, MODITARE,
**(CAMPA, MO

Marquis de Sade, with Kate Winslet, loaquin Phoenix, and Michael Caine, di-rected by Philip Kaufman. HILLCREST CINEMAS LA JOLLA VILLAGE:

Red Planet — After some rubber-kinfe stabs at human interest, techno-babble, and metaphysics, this space opera settles down to the nuts and-holts business of the first manned mission to Mars, in preparation for the wholesale exacutation of Earth in the

failed to produce a breathable atmosphere. Why? There is an enticing mostery element what happened to all that alage! (And latershow, in the absence of the alage, are the armonauts able to breath on Mark after all!) There is also a renegade robot named AMIL: a sort of mobile and perhensile HAL. There is none, however, of the pre-tentionness of African is Marie in out to mention its prototype, 2001), and very little of the sckiness of Alien and its ilk. In short: for addicts only. They will likely be disap-

Fresh and A Price above Robersysches Immedite produced rerus Brush-hermet [Tap-Cause Carmons Tale Cit.], for a Disneyfied Common Tale Cit.], for a Disneyfied Common Tale Cit.], for a Disneyfied Control Cont

Fresh and A Price above Rubies vokes him

Jingle Bell Ride, this annual event sponsored by the Bicycle Section of the local chapter of the Sierra Club begins with a toy drop-off at a local charity, then an easy social ride south around San Diego Bay, with a stop at the Hotel Del to admire the tree. It's scheduled for Saturday, Decem-

"POSSIBLY THE BEST AMERICAN MOVIE THIS YEAR!"

The New York Times Raves:

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The San Diego Union-Tribune Raves:

★★★★! A REMARKABLE AND **UNASSUMING TRIUMPH!"**

USA Today Raves:

'LET'S HOPE OSCAR' DOES NOT OVERLOOK LAURA LINNEY AND MARK RUFFALO!"

Newsday Raves: '★★★!"



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Gem and Jewelry Show, see all the glitter at the Del Mar Fairgrounds ac-tivity center, Friday, December 15 (noon to 7 p.m.); Saturday, Decem-ber 16 (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.); and Sun-day, December 17 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.). 1t's at 2260 Jimmy Durante Boule-rard; \$5 parking fee. Call for addi-tional details 858-793-5555, (ptg. MAF)

NSSA Explorer Surfing, two days contests are scheduled for this we end, Saturday and Sunday, Dece

ber 16 and 17, beginning at 6:30 a.m. at Harbor Beach, the south jetty, at

Third Annual Jingle Trail 5K Run/Walk and Santa's Little Helper

Run/Walk and Santa's Little Helper It begins in Rohr Park, Saturday, December 16, with day-of-race reg-istration at 7 a.m. and the first event off at 8 a.m. Admission is \$10, a can of food, and a new unwrapped to. The event benefits Toys for Tots and the San Diego Food Bank. The park is located at 4548 Sweetwater Road. 619-479-5975, (BONITA)

619-479-5975. (BOMTA)

17 You're 50-4 and care to admit it, join with the Fifty-Plus Fitness Association on its monthly third-Saturdy wall/run/kate events over a four-mile course. The nest event will be below the course The nest event will be below in Figure 18-15 are, at the south end of Fanuel Street on Sail Bay, Free, 619-273-5272 or 619-558-1398. (FACRIC BEACH)

Is It Dance Yet! Not quite. But it will be in January. To prepare for a "per-formance sculpture" to be "built" in conjunction with the staging of a show called Wireless City, Eveoke Dance Theatre and Palomar College Dance Theatre and Palomar College are seeking donations of "useless technology" — technojunk that doesn't work anymore or is outdated or otherwise just taking up space. Drop off old 8-track tapes, the com-puter you played Pong on, broken phones, and floppy disks that can't

phones, and floppy disks that can't be read by any known machine any-more. Get rid of it, Saturday, De-cember 16, from 8 am. to 2 p.m. In North County, they'll be glad to accept your donations at the Howard Brubeck Theatre on the Palomar campus, 1150 West Mission Road.

campus, 1150 West Mission Road. Call Michael Mufson with questions: 744-1150 x2456. (SAN MARCOS) Down south, swing by 4518-55th Street, near the corner of El Cajion Boule-vard. Call Chris Hall with inquiries: 619-286-0888. (INNERSITY HOGHTS)

1398. (PACINC BEACH)
A Hilly Ride, the San Diego Bicycle
Touring Society will be setting out
for a 51-mile up-and-down loop
through the Lyons Valley on Saturday. December 16. Meet the group
in time for the 9 a.m. start at the McDonald's on Telegraph Canyon
Road, a block east of I-805. 619-4499189. (CHUA VISTA)

619-286-0888, anexistent recognis-La Prosedo Night at Quali Bostnicial Gardens will feature a mariachi band, efreshments, and pintatas, Saturday, December 16, from 5 to 9 pm. 17s part of the gardens' founth annual Garden of Lights, in which the area is decorated with Christman lights on the plants and trees. Gar-den of Lights can be enjoyed mightly from 5 to 9 pm., Friday, December 15, through December 25, and Eagle 18 per 18 pm. 18 pm. 18 pm. 18 pm. 18 pm. 18 pm. Gardens Drive, Admission 18 3 for a It's scheduled for Saturday, Decem-ber 16, at 9 a.m. at the County Ad-ministration Building on Pacific Highway, Bring an unwrapped toy to donate, money for lunch along the way, and \$2,50 for the ferry ride back from Coronado. 619-583-3261.

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adventure is set for Saturday, Dethe Campo tation. There are informational programs and other events
during the role. Once in Teacts
(and the beer factory). Round-trip
tackets are \$40 admits, \$20 children.
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the railway at 619-938-1943. (CAMPO)

lic Library, 820 E Street. Free

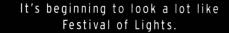
Psychic Fair, maybe you can find our what's inside that big Christman present with your name on it. Hond, there's above tract, palministry, nutract, and the state of the stat

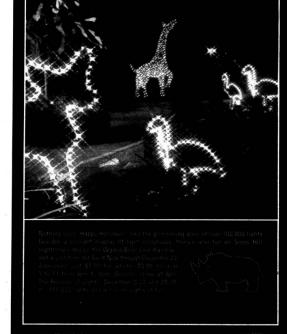
Heddisof Pasty, Stop Off for Achieve-ments (SOFA) has organized a party-with food, dancing, board and card games, and other entertainment on Saturday, December 16, from 6 p.m. to midnight, at 6 Henaley Drive (at Commercial Street, off Imperial Av-enue). Bring a new, unwrapped toy to be distributed to the children of Logan

Dessert and Carols, the MiraCosta College Chamber Chorale and Cam-College Chamber Chorale and Cam-erata Singers perform in the dining room of the student center on cam-pus. Singing waiters and waitresses serve you delicious desserts, at your table, during the candlelight event. It's scheduled for Saturday, December 16, 7:30 p.m., on the campus at One Barnard Drive. Tickets are \$12.

Calling All Cars, this month's Sta-dium Auto Swap, Show, and Sale will feature a Corvette car show. There's a swap meet of parts and accessories, plus classic, collectible, and specialty plus classic, collectible, and specially whiches. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots drive and receive free refreshments. The gathering of motorheads is set for Sunday, December 17, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot. Admission is \$5; with parking

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Holiday Home Tours, this narrated tour, sponsored by Old Town Trolley Tours and the San Diego Historical Society, is a two-hour visit to three special San Diego houses, all deco-rated for the season: the ornate 1880s Villa Montezuma; the Irving Gill classic Marston House; and the Serra

classic Marston House; and the Serra Museum in Presidio Park, a recre-ation of an early California mission-style church.

The tours are offered Wednes-day through Sunday evenings, through January 6. departing from the Old Town Theater (4040 Twiggs Street) at 6 pm. Prices are \$244 for adults, \$12 children 4 to 12. Reserva-

tions are required. Call 619-298-8687. Some of the proceeds benefit the historical society. (OLD TOWN)

MUSEUMS

(Art museums are listed in the Reader's Guide to Art.)

Bancroft Ranch House Museum Historical Society. The home, built in 1863, was registered as a National His-toric Landmark in 1962 and is on a spot where Kumpyay Indians camped more than 1000 years ago beside the spring that later gave the area its name. The museum is found at 9050 Mem-ory Lane; call 619-469-1480 for more information. (\$PRING VALLEY)

California Surf Museum, "Early California Surfriders, 1900, 1940"

honors Doc John Heath Ball, the first surf documentarian, telling the stories of those join powering surfers in the series of those join powers of the photographs, surfboards, and other artifacts have neers been on public disputs before.

In the surfboards and clothing — of local legends Phil 1 devents, John "L.1" that surfboards and clothing — of local legends Phil 1 devents, John "Lin" that vay-cool megastar from Hevaii. Duke Kahanamokii. The museum is located at 212 North Coast Highway. The North Coast Highway. The North Coast Highway.

Chula Vista Nature Center, an inmiddle of Sweetwater Marsh Na-tional Wildlife Refuge. The facility is home to fish and invertebrates that inhabit the mud flats and marshes of San Diego Bay. Visitors can use a Bioscanner to view animals macro-scopically, use a Wentzscope for interact with computerized videos exploring how tides affect the bay in the "Moons, Tides, and the San Diego Bay" exhibit. At other exhibits, visitors can pet sharks and rays, see burrowing owsh and migratory birds, and enjoy the xerophytic gardens. Visitors meet a shuttle bus at the Bayfront E Street Trolley Station or the center's parkine for at the foot

Baytront E Street Trolley Station or at the center's parking lot at the foot of E Street and Bay Boulevard. For more details, call 619-422-2481. (CHULA VISTA)

Computer Museum of America, the museum includes an educational exmuseum includes an educational ex-hibit covering the history of data pro-cessing and the contributions of pio-neers and history-makers in the computer industry. Some of the over 200 historic computing machines and calculators date back to the 1890s.

calculators date back to the 1890s.
Interested in restoring and pro-gramming historic computer equip-ment? The museum hosts workshops for volunteers on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (at 6156 Mission Gorge Road, suite H, in Mission Val-ley). Call for registration and space exhibitive.

Great Gifts

Find the museum on the grounds of Coleman College, 7380 Parkway Drive; 619-465-8226. (LA MESA)

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

Gaslamp Museum of Historic San Diego, glimpse San Diego's colorful past at the museum, where displays past at the museum, where displays highlight Wyatt Earp's San Diego days, the Peg Leg Gold Legend, the first maps and photographs of Old Town and "New Town," early mili-tary history, the naval disaster in 1923 at Point Honda, and more. Find the museum at 413 Market Street

(between Fourth and Fifth Avenues 619-237-1492, (GASLAMP QUARTER)

Heritage of the Americas Museum, the museum features art and artifacts from South and North America, con-centrating on the utilitarian and dec-orative artistry of crafts workers from ancient cultures. A mural by Mona

maca College campus, 12110 Cuya-maca College Drive West, 619-670-5194. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

John DeWitt Historic Museum and Library, operated by the Alpine His-torical Society, it is located in the 1897 home/office of Dr. Sophronia Nichols. She was the first doctor in Alpine and the first female doctor in

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the East County. On exhibit are In-dian artifacts from the Kingery fam-ily. The museum is open on the last Saturday and Sunday of every month from 2 to 4 p.m., at 2116 Tavern Road. For information, call 619-659-8740. (ALPINE)

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through January. The show includes his pink square guitar and a 1991 Stratocaster that Diddley customized by adding a large wooden frame to house an electric drum machine and house an electric drum machine and an equalizer. These two historic in-struments are part of a larger exhibit honoring the early days of guitar, such as several Fender and Gibson solid-body guitars. The museum's five major ex-

577-531-5976, (Dent-poster)
Powey Museum, an interpretive wall, replicas of the early post office and general store, and a school room are part of the newly renovated museum. A mural painted by Michael Strong depicts six periods of Poway's past. Find the museum in Old Poway Park, at 14134 Midland Road; 619-748-1700 or 619-68-5064, (pow8-68-686). hibits span 100 years of music making in America, with more than 450 vin-3700 or 619-486-3064. (POWAY

try. Find the museum in the corpo-rate headquarters of the NAMM — International Music Products Asso-ciation, at 5790 Armada Drive. For

hours and other information, call 877-551-9976. (CAPLSBAD)

Find it all at 645 Main Street. For more information, call 760-789-7644. (RAMONA) war," the Korean War was fought be-tween 1950 and 1953, with 39,000 Americans losing their lives in the ef-fort. The permanent exhibit. "Air War Korea: Return to MiG Alley" features the MiG-15 and F-86 Sabre fighters, a 1-47 engine, pilot images, war artifacts, war-era model air-planes, period films, and other his-torical information.

San Diego once called its own

only Western adobe home of French provincial design still in existence), wagons, amigue chibits, and artica rache black and rate a rache black and rate a rache black and rate a rache black and the rate a rache women's clothing and radies with the rache women's clothing and radies with the rache women's lower work of the rache women's lower work and the rache work and Former PSA employees have donated items for the show, including the faitems for the show, including the ta-mous orange with pink trim miniskirt flight attendant's uniform, and other memorabilia. The museum offers exhibits of over 65 aircraft — including a replica

of the Spirit of St. Louis, a Fokke of the Spirit of St. Louis, a Fokker Scourge (or Fokker Eindecker E-III), a World War I Spad VII, the flight deck of the USS Yorkrown, and a Lockheed Blackbird spy plant— related items, and memorabilia from the Montgoffer hot-air-balloon era to the Space Aeg, along with an In-ternational Aerospace Hall of Fame. The museum is located in the Ford Building in the Palisades area. For additional information, call

619-234-8291. (BALBOA PARK San Diego Model Railroad Mutin models belong to collector Gary tin models belong to collector Gary Mocko, and some are rare col-lectibles. "Lionel Trains of the 1950s" from the collection of Dale Roberts are also on view, featuring many of the powerful O-gauge trains that children dreamed of while growing

up in the Baby Boom generation up in the Baby Boom generation.

Examples of steam and diesel
passenger and freight trains are featured in "Fairest of the Fair." This
HO scale (1878 actual size) exhibition features trains the Pacific Beath
Model Railroad Club operated for
the public during the Del Mar Fairs
from 1958 to 1990.

These exhibits continue through

largest permanent operating model railroad and toy train exhibit." The There is a multimedia presentation on railroading, an operating railroad semaphore signal, and interpretive dis-plays on railroads and model railroad-ing. The museum is downstairs in the Casa de Balboa building. For admis-sion and museum hours, call 619-696-

San Diego Natural History Mu

0199, (BALBOA PARK





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contemporary images of bears, along with a collection of feddy bears, video screenings of bears in cartoons, and taxidermy mounts of young and adult gizziles and black bears in displays on bear habitat, food habits, behavior, and life history. No bears were killed especially for this exhibit, on view through Tuesday, January 2

2001.
The museum's permanent exhibits include the Scripps Hall of Mineralogy, the Hall of Ocean and Shore Ecology, and the Hall of Desert Ecology 619-232-3821. (BALBOA PARK) San Dieguito Heritage Museum,

can Avenue. For more inform call 760-632-9711. (ENCINITAS)

Serra Museum, "Treasures Uncov-ered: Trade and Exchange at the San Diego Presidio" features artifacts recovered from the Presidio ar-chaeological site, dating to the first European settlement in California (in 1769) when Father Junipero erra established the Basilica San Diego de Alcalá. "Treasures" in th

sidio site are on view. See the show through summer, 2001.

The museum interprets the Na-tive American, Spanish, and Mexi-can periods of San Diego's history

and contains Spanish Colonial fur-nishings, art, and artifacts. It's lo-cated at the site of the West Coast's first European settlement, found at 2727 Presidio Drive. 619-297-3258.

Stephen Birch Aquarium-Muse celebrate the season of the gray w with educational whale activities hibits, and a variety of whale-watch ing experiences during "WhaleFest 2001," running from December through April 2001. The aquarium's poot plaza, boasting a pan e of the La Jolla shoreline Pacific Ocean, is a great spot for in-formal whale watching.

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"Sea Touch" offers a computer display consisting of five interactive modules through which visitors can

plants and nearly 30 species of local learn a variety of ways that xicentists study the occans from space using satellites, including monitoring cur-ents and occan temperatures, inves-tigating natural phenomena such as upwelling and red tides, and track-ing the migration of fish. The exhibit provides a way to interpret the inter-disciplinary nature of research at Scripps Inditution of Oceanography

pains and nearly 30 species of isolar marine life.

The aquarium is located at 2300 Expedition Way (off North Torrey Pines Road, south of La Jolla Shores Drive). For more information, call

Wells Fargo Bank History Mu-

An aquarium and museum to der one roof, the facility is an educ-

agent Samuel Dorsey at the end of the last century, an exhibit of Con-cord Coach #251, a restored stage-coach built in 1867, and the Davies watch. The museum is located in the

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Jarvard University Press, 2000; 442

wouldn't be Christmas without the 'things." How they came to mean so much, and to play such a promi nent role in America's central hol-iday, is the tale told in this delightful and edifying book. In a style characteristically engaging and erudite, Karal Ann Marling, one of our most trenchant observers of American culture, describes the

of American culture, describes the kind Ann Marling of Maries spectacle that Christ mas has become, showing us the prove-nance and significance of each of tits essential parts the decorated trees and holiday lights, the cards and gifts and wrapping papers, the toy villages and store displays and Macy's holiday parade, Bing Crosby and Santa Claus. Viewing Christmas through the media of mass culture— engravings and lithographs, magazine fiction, pictorial ads, news photos, cards, and movis— Marling lets ho how the blowed Curis-mas tree grew out of a must negative the move of Queen Victorians to grew out of a must negative and turned into the jolly old soul we know; how Charles Dicken's A Christmas Carol bor-rowed from Washington Iraing's in signinging of Wash Christmas rowed from Washington Irving's imaginings of what Christmas must have been like in Merrie Olde England; and how the holi-

Wednesday through Friday and at , 11 a.m., 1, and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Find the theater near the

Meet the Grinch, the Grinch from the Old Globe production of How the Grinch Stole Christmas! will be on

day, balancing between the private and public realms, conferred a central and defining role on women.

A celebration of the visual culture of the season, Merry Christ-

A celebration of the visual culture of the season, Merry Christ-mus! offers captivating evidence that Christmas in America is primarily a secular celebration of abundance, goodwill, and famil-ial identity, expressed in a multitude of material ways.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Karal Ann Marling, on the afternoon that we talked, told me that she was born in 1943 in Rochester, New York, Marling's father was a historian whose area of experience of the control ing was raised in Rochester. "Smoory, Christmany" she said. One of Professor Marling's grandfathers, toward the end of his life, worked for Kodak in Rochester. This grandfather had been a vaudevillan. "Rochester," said Marling, was a great show business jumping off jount for wondeville troops." The various wandwiller "when I was lift." I had a lot of relatives who were vaudeville come." when I was little, I had a lot of relatives who were vaudeville come

As a youngster Marling attended parochial school, with "the nuns, the Sisters of St. Joseph, who were very big on writing and

num, the Sisters of St. Joseph, who were very big on writing and spelling and good grammar and vivid storytelling. Advanting quit high school in Rochester. She explained. "My dad got a fellowship to go to Harvard and dog aduate work when I was in high school. I had come to the end of my tether with high school at that point. It was boring me to tern. So when my dad went to Harvard, so dod I, thanks to indulgent folks at Harvard. They let me go to classes with my dad. I also attended, to fullif requirements, public high school in Newton, Massachusetts. So that was great.

great."

Among the Harvard classes on which Marling sat in were several taught by Howard Muniford Iones. "He became a real inspiration to me in terms of doing cultural lationy the right way. And And guess where I taught Howard Muniford Iones's old Maximon." Have a real thrill."

Marling did her undergraduate work at the University of Toronto with Marshall McLuhan and Northory Frey. Two sthere

during Vietnam, and I had the blue guilts about being out of the

during Vietnam, and I had the blue gulls about being out of the country during he war. So I got into things like at with social meaning and art hat could change the world and all that."
Marling took her BA in art hatory. She intended to go on to expected, changed Marling's direction. "I event to Bryn Mawr. Because, first of all, it was a women's graduate school. The first degree garanting Ph.D. institution for women in the world. I thought hat was really coal. And people in a thiotory when I really admired that was really coal. And people in a thiotory when I really admired that was really coal. And people in a thiotory when I really admired that was really coal. And people in a thiotory when I was the world in as a social phenomenon.

Marling received her Ph.D. in 1971. She then taught at several institutions before going in 1977 to the University of Min-nesota in Minneapolis, where she now is a professor of art history and American studies. "For years," Marling said, "I had wanted to go to Minnesota. Ever since I read Sinclair Lewis, when I was about

go to Minnesota. Ever since I read Sinckair Lews, when I was about 2.1 thought Minnesota sounded like a swell place. The University of Ninnesota revent had a good football I carm — at least it did in those days. It also had the only journ appointment in the United States, in those days, in art history and Anternan studies. "when the states is those days, in art history and Anternan studies." would deduce from looking at Marser. Misboesterners are very polite, and they'll tolerate virtually any eccentricity. When I started doing pops culture studies, this was an erefield. The notion that you, would approach art from the point of view of popular art was verberin most places. But they did he even that are eye here at the University of the popular of the popular and they are the studies. They are when the started exclaim logs courses in things like 'They far of all Valid Diancy; they didn't have much as register a protest."

Marling is author of more than one dozen books, including As Seen on TV: The Visual Culture of Everyday Life in the 1950s, Going Home with Elvis, and The Architecture of Reassurance: Building the

Ever Heard of Auntie Claus? She's

Disney Thome Parks.

In Merry Christmas's seventh chapter, "Somebody Else's Christmas Hot Christmas, Black Christmas, Farway Christmas, Marling writes, "Because Western Europe had been the most immediate source of influence on American Christmas isonogeraphy, the wintertime symbols of Germany and England had crossed the Atlantic in the form of evergreen trees and the snow of evergreen trees and the snow landscapes of pictorial Chris mas cards." Marling goes on to note that "in the 1930s, when

most Californians were only a generation away from howling Midwestern winters, the solution was lots of fake snow.

I asked Marling about that fake snow.
"Snow envy," she said, and went on to explain, "Snow, snow "snow envy," the said, and went on to replain, "snow, snow, snow, snow. For one thing, snow makes the world pure and clean and holy again. And it's a wonderful disguise for the everyday, and it's almost as though—at least in New Highland, anyway, and in the East—nature puts on something beautiful for Christmas, It's almost like the straighing lapper in a furniy kind of way. So I think that is part of the everapping paper in a furniy kind of way. So I think that is part of the Olde I regulard. 'And just as we advocted Choice and Danie. Member we callows had a neady feeling that our Christmas continues the distribution of the property of the continues of the straight of the strai

American households wrap their Christmas present age of 37 gifts per home, muffled in printed paper and wads of

Scotch tape."

Marling confessed that she'd always been fascinated by wrappings. That's one of my favorite parts of the holiday, whether it's and keep if or the following year. I used to be fascinated by the way ng gradmothers did up wrapping paper too. Because well into the 1950s, they were still wrapping up packages in white itssue year gradmothers did up wrapping paper too. Because well into the 1950s, they were still wrapping up packages in white tissue paper and that or to spect oppose genetic with straight proc.

Journal of the part o

"That's really what my work is about. I look at things that are around us, that are closest to us, instead of the things that are far away. I would much rather study a tract house than I are far away. I would much rather study a treat house than I would a Frank Holyd Wright building. I'm not going to live in the Frank Lloyd Wright building, but I may someday live in the suburbts. That's what I'm trying to encourage my students to think about too. What i'the quality of your everyday life! What's invested in the things that you have around you! They aren't just moved in the thing that you have around you! They aren't just nevel to be able to think about and talk about to. What is the property of the proper

tant feelings that you need to be able to think about and talk about."

The role of domesticity in our lives, said Marling, sin't necessarily all that plain to us. "I think that we tend to think that the important parts of our lives are lived elsewhere and that Christ mas reminds us that the absolute bedrock of our existence is the home. And still, today, no matter how many gay men trim Christmass trees and however many fathers may have learned to use Sociol, togs. Christmass still is something your mother does, and to the proposed of the social bond very strongly. And we forgot, during the wome bond very strongy, and we torgot, during the women's inwement, somehow, when women put on business usits and marched off to the job, that they were really containing to do two obs. Those maternal feelings and instincts are absolutely erused to who we are. We need to honor them and recognize them:

"Merry Christman's footness show that Marling used old."

magazines and newspapers. I asked about her research materials for the book.

"Since I was interested largely in forgotten things, it was very difficult to write this book from conventional documentation. There isn't a book out there somewhere that, for instance, says how wrapping paper came to be invented, or even how it was used. So I refled very heavily in his book on pictorial material. I went back into early 19th-century picture magazines and used them right up through the 20th Century. And offentimes I would be a supported to the control of the cont want you to be puzzled by what's in the picture. They want you to see the world as it actually is.

want you to be puzzled by whal's in the picture. They want you to see the world as at actually as to example, how wrapping paper worked. Nobody sat down and for example, how wrapping paper worked. Nobody sat down and roots a lengthy daugr entry—or of they did, I never found it — that began, 'Oh, today I wrapped the Christmas presents, and the trapping papers were two centimeters long.' Also, because this stuff is largely women's work and domestic, it doesn't come up in the largely women's work and domestic, it doesn't come up in the largely women's work and domestic, it doesn't come up in the largely women's work and domestic, it doesn't come up in the largely women's work and domestic, it doesn't come up in the largely women's work. See that the largely women who give the large largely and the largely and who give the measured by the largely and least known works, which are the short stories she wrote for ladies' they agazone. Those magazines were one of my major sources! A speria also of time at the Davton Corporation in Minneapolis, booking at their corporate records, to figure out how stores decaded what they were going to put in their wandows and all of that. Set was they were going to put in their wandows and all of that. Set was they were going to put in their wandows and all of that. Set was they were going to put in their windows and all of that. So it was absolutely fascinating. I was never bored for a second."

Lasked Marling what she would do for Christmas. "I'm going to my parents house in Rochester, where my broth will be baking his Christmas cookies [about which Marling writ in Merry Christmas!], as he does every year. My parents are no particularly well, and we try to make Christmas for them the wa

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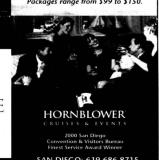
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SAN DIEGO: 619-686-8715

"Spirit of Christmas" is the city of "Sprit of Christmas" is the city of Lakesteds's celebration, which will include Santa, elves, and a ginger-bread house, a car show, smowland, a petting farm, and lots of activities for kids, Saturday, December 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Parkside Street and Maine Avenue, 619–561–1031.

The Story of Hanukkah" And next Thursday, December 21, at 10 a.m., parent and tot story time features Roni Schotter's Hanukkah! Both events are at Barnes & Noble, 10775 Westview Parkway. Free. 858-831-0446. (MBA MESA)

Stories of the Season, hear stories

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A Guide to Unexpected San Diego and Beyond • By Jerry Schad

A Guilde to Unexpected
Serenely insular amid the spreading
suburts of Los Angeles. Chino Hills State
Park spreads across some 13,000 acres of
times counties. Orange. Riverside, and Sain
funds were expended in the 1980s and
190s to purchase and protect these rolling
its and wooder anviers. Immery used for
sheep and cuttle grazing. The park remains
one small driver in campinground, an
equiestrain staging area, and scattered
one small driver in campinground, an
equiestrain staging area, and scattered
point tables. More than 60 miles of trails
unpawed access roads and jeep trails from
the ranching days.



d San Diego and Beyond e

Tender new grass bilades climb through the
bear the remaints of the previous
bear than the previous
the landscape appears monochromatically
the landscape appears monochromatically
green. Afterward, as disgright ingellens and
the heat returns, a yellow wave of dying and
the heat returns, a yellow wave of dying and
the heat returns, as yellow wave of dying and
the heat returns, as yellow wave of dying and
grassy hillstoles, leaving behind greenpackness of live oak, sycamore, and native
plack water these park from San Diego (a
two hour drive), head north on interstate 15
to Corona, go west on Highway 91
(Riverside Freeway) for 55 miles, then go
north on Highway 12. After seven mess on
Turn left (west) and continue 1.0 mile to
Dirivard Drive. Turn left there, left again after
0.2 mile, and then smendadely right on the
Dirivard Drive. Turn left there, left from Hills
State Pair. "After two miles the
Three's in requestion's stoping
No
as no a sivent to the right, and
as koss on the left, where you
LLS

from the entrance road toward a knoll designated "McLean Overtook" on park maps. The first 0.4 mile of steep ascent is followed by another 0.4 mile of gentle ascent to the overtook. Your view encompasses rolling. Your view encompasses roiling, grass-covered hills flanking a shallow valley lined with tall sycamores. In spring the hillsides are tinted blue by liqueb abossons and accented by yellow bands of wild mustad. The clayey soils of the State Park at 9097806222.



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Borders, 1072 Camino del Rio North. 619-295-2201. (MISSION VALLEY) from 2 to 5 p.m. They'll get to interact with a variety of animals and learn how Animal Lovers Club, the next three-hour learning adventure for kids 6 to 10

ward Animal Center, 6401 Apajo Road; \$20. Call to reserve a space: 858-756-4117 x318. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Wacky Science Sundays features Ms. Frizzle and the Magic Schoolbus, De-cember 17, at 11 a.m., or 1, 2, or 3 p.m., San Diego Natural History Museum. This month the topic for young kids is — lions? No. Tigers? No. Bears! Oh my. It's free with museum admission. 619-232-3821. (BALBOA PARI

African Music and Culture Classe African Music and Cutture Classes for children and families are being conducted by Nana Yaw Asiedu Mondays through Thursdays, December 18 through January 2, 10:45 a.m. and 1 p.m., at the World Beat Center (2100 Park Boulevard). Admission is free. Call 619-230-1190 for details. (8AL00A PARK)

"Mooseltoe," find out how a moose gets ready for Christmas at Ine next story time, Wednesday, Decem-ber 20, at 7 p.m., at Barnes & Noble, 12835 El Camino Real. Free. 858-481-4038, (DEL MAR)

and 30.

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A Dramatic (and Nonmusical) Ver-sion of Beauty and the Beast is being presented by the Theatre School at presented by the Theatre School at North Coast Repertory Theatre through Sunday, December 17. Tick-ets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children. Find the theater at 987-D Lomas Santa Fe, for show times and reservations, call 858-481-1055. (SOLANA BEACH)

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some of the traditions celebrated at this time of year, Saturday, Decem-ber 16, 5 p.m. On Sunday, Decem-ber 17, also at 5 p.m., hear holiday classics like *The Polar Express* and

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"L'homme armé." A mass without such an iden-tifiable, pressing tune embedded in it is called Misu sime nomme!" without a name!", which of course does not imply that the composition to of less meaning or values even that it sounds, dif-tered in the control of the control of the control of the In order to identify themselves, groups of four string players have traditionally taken a more or less arbitary aneu, usually referring to a person ("Tatich," "Alban Berg"), a place ("Budapest," "Cleveland," "Itoliyowod"), or an art-related "Cleveland," "Itoliyowod"), or an art-related ing to do with how they actually play: the Alban Berg Quartet does not make all music sound like Berg Quartet does not make all music sound like Berg's, and the Hollywood Quartet's style does not suggest movies. So, in taking the name "Sine mine," the youthful Swiss quartet was merely following tradition (albeit with some originality), not making an aesthetic declaration.

First Lesson

he USD Chamber Music Serise began its season with a splendid program by the Quartet Sine Nomine. Whence this name (or namelessness)?

Renaissance polyphonic masses are usually based on a preexisting theme. Laken from a motet or a popular terms. Laken from a motet or a popular terms. Laken from a motet or a popular form a motet or a popular form of the series of th

individuality in the music they were playing. Their Haydn was exquisitely Haydnesque; their Janacek was tormentedly Janacekian; their late Schubert projected the soul of the composer, untainted by any distinctive manner or interpretation of their

own.

The resulting musical experience was, paradoxically, vividly memorable. In their modest way, the Sine Nomine musicans captured the listener's consciousness by an acute attention to of the east rightness of a humorous pause or a varied phrase-repetition in the Haydn (the superbly inventive Quartei in 6, 0pps 33, No. 5), the soul-grating expressiveness of the sulf pontacelip susages in the Janabek (the Quartei No. 2 Intimate Pages"). The widdle glompos of triggic subtless in the modifie of a lovely, cherrial tuner in

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the Schubert work (his last quartet the G Major, D. 887). Yet all these details were perfectly integrated into performances remarkable for their balance, untouched by ex aggerations that excite for the moment but that ultimately frag ment the musical discourse

punctuated by a repeated, violent out cry from the first violin and viola in eerie octaves. All this is so uner pected, and the rising two-note outcry is so agonizing, especially when it persists obsessively in G Mi-nor while the other instruments nor while the other instruments have changed key, that performers are naturally tempted to undefine the drama with as much emphasis as they can, sometimes to the verge of hysteria (Janaček regulatly offers the same temptation). The Quantet Sine Nomine. The compass of the compass of Schubert's late style, where externe formal and emotional contrasts are held together as complementary expressions of the

together as complementary expressions of the

ment the musical discourse.

Let me give an example of this from the astonishing second move ment of the Schubert. After the first, lamenting, quiet andance theme in E. Minor, there is a disconcerting fand extremely Schubertian) modulation to G Minor and a cataclysmic change of mood. All at once, the tender lyrickins is replaced by loud, wild ferocity, with relentless dotted rhythms and sweeping ascending scales, culmiand sweeping ascending scales, culm nating in menacing tremolos that are



Quartet Sine Nomine Mandeville Auditorium (UCSD Chamber Music Series)

The passage, as they played it, may have had somewhat less direct impact than in some more overheated performances; but its function in the overall meaning of the movement (and of the work as a whole) was communicated more clearly



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of human suffering, Schuber tells us, does not come out of nowhere. It is an inevitable par of life, as much so as blithe renity and ecstatic joy. Pair serenity and ecstatic joy. Pain explodes in the midst of normal living, but it is not — unfortunately — an alien presence. Schubert's late music ("late" means composed in the last few years of his 31-year life) interested in the last few years of his 31-year life) interested in the last few years.

grates pain into happiness in a unique way, and the Quartet Sine Nomine seemed to un-derstand that and to convey it with remarkable poise. With



Arport Transport / Holiday Parties Kids' Birthdays Anat Limousing

brought out the expression of this integration in the boister-ous, almost tarantella-like theme of the final movement. theme of the final movement. There, where we expect G Ma-jor, the very first measure after the upbeat proclaims G Minor (reinforced by a single sforaundo like the stab of a knife), which then immediately slips into the major key as though nothing had happened. It is pure Schu-bertian genius—and, perhaps because they are unencum and perhaps the same of the stable of the stable of anything special, the Ouartel anything special, the Quartet Sine Nomine knew exactly how to make the audience hear this moment in its full truth. CLASSICAL

what wonderful subtlety they

LISTINGS HOW TO SEND US YOUR

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 8 pm. Finday the work prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the pricise address where six no leading neighborhoods), a combet change register date including neighborhoods.

Toy Pianos, the next performers in the Short Attention Span Chamber Concert series at the Music Library at UCSD will be Scott Paulson and Linda Kernohan, the Giesel Library Toy Piano Duo. They're joined by Jose Jesus Paredes in the premiere of low lesus Parceles in the premiere of a work by Nicolas Ignacio Carcigal. Following the 15-minute recetal, you can learn more about the library's toy pano collection and the literature and compositions that exist for this for Friday. December 15, at 12-25 pm. in the lower level of the Giesel Library on the UCSD campus. Kir free, but you'll have to feed the parking meters. For outil have to feed the parking meters. For outil have to feed the parking meters. For other 1865-544. 8074. (LA 20LLA)

Traditional and Contemporary Iraditional and Contemporary Christmas music is the program for the adult, youth, and children's choirs of the EL Cajon Wesleyan Church in three performances: Fri-day, December 15, through Sunday, December 17, 47 pm, at the church at 1500 East Lexington Avenue (at Third). Free-will offering, 619-440-4452. (EL CALON)

Pipe Organ Concert, Los Angeles organist Freddy Lu McGinnis is the performer on Friday, December 15, at 7-30 p.m., at the First Church of Christ, Scientist, 8262 Allison Av-enue Free 619-442-8201, da Mesai

"Messiah," the San Diego Chamber Orchestra and San Diego Master Chorale will perform this boliday Iz-vorite in four venues this week. Two of the performances will be of the

enue; (\$22, \$25) (DOWNTOWN); and Wednesday, December 20, at 7 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Es-condido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard (\$8 to \$25) (ESCONDIDO). The Christmas oration can be heard on Saturday, December 16, at 7 p.m. at \$1, lames by the Sea Ensis-

heard on Saturday, December 16, at 7 p.m., at St. James by-the-Sea Epis-copal Church, 743 Prospect Street. (\$22, \$25) (the JOLLA); and Sunday, December 17, at 3 p.m., at the Church of the Nativity (\$22, \$25) call 760-848-7326 x7 or 888-848-

College Master Chorale under the di-rection of Randall Tweed performs a Christmas concert on Friday, Deember 15, at 8 p.m., at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 13208 Lakeshore Drive; \$10 admis-sion 619-644-7254. (LAKESIDE)

All-Russian Program, the La Jolla Chamber Music Society's "Revelle Series" continues with a restal by pi-anist Christopher O'Riley. He will perform Predude and Fugue in FMa-jor, Op. 87, No. 13, and Predude and Fugue in FLid Minor Op. 87, No. 14 (Shoutakovich), Sonata No. 35 (Serabim), "Apollon Musagere (Strawinsky), and Sonata No. 37 (Prokoffes). The consents see for Iriday, December 15, 8e pm., in the auditorium of the Musagere auditorium of the Musagere

"Messiah Sing!" The 110 piece La lolla Symphony and 130-voice Sym-phony Chorus invite the audience to sing along. Conductor David Chase gives the audience a brief rehearsal

and some tips on choral technique, then everyone launches into the mu-sic. The event, a tradition for more than 25 years, is scheduled for Sat-urday, December 16, at 2 p.m., at 81. Elizafish 55 ton Church, Alga Road and El Fuerte. Tickets 512 general, 58 seniors and students. 858-534-4637. (CARLSBAD)

4637. (AMS.SIAD)

Concert Band, traditional and contemporary Christmas music, plus an audience sing-along, is on the program for the 12th annual holiday concert by the San Diego Concert Band, directed by Warren Torns. They'll be appearing in Crall Auditorium of Foint Lorna Nazarene Collego, 3000 Lombland Drive, on Sattle, and Control of the Control younger, available at the door. 619-284-0818. (POINT LOMA)

Brass and Choir, the Mission San Diego de Alcala Choir and Classic Brass offer their 24th annual Can-Free-will offering, 619-449-1587

Cantata, The Winter Rose is offered by the chancel choir of the Christ United Methodist Church, 3295 Meade Avenue, Sunday, Decem-ber 17, 10:30 a.m. 619-284-9205

Organ Recital, lared lacobsen is this week's guest organist in the free sunday afternoon concert sponsored by the Sprockels Organ Society, December 17, at 2 p.m., at the Sprockels (Argan Pavilton, (BALDIA PARK))

"A Little Advent Music," Hugo Dis-tler's retelling of the Advent story is tter's retelling of the Advent story is the centerpiece of the annual Advent choral concert by the choir of the First Lutheran Church, Sunday, De-cember 17, 5 p.m. It is scored for choir, narrator, soprano soloist, flute, oboe, violin, cello, and organ. The choir is directed by Jared Jacobsen

The church is located at 1420 Third Avenue (at Ash). Free. For de-tails call the church at 619-234-6149.

Readings, Anthems, and Hymns, in the tradition of the King's College Readings, Anthems, and Hymns, in the tradition of the King's College (Cambridge) Lessons & Carolis, the handbell, adult, and boys' chors of St. Michael's by-the-Sea Episcopal Chursh will offer holiday fare, Sun-day, December 17, 7 pm. The church is at 2778 Carlsbad Boulevard. Free-will offering, 760-729-8901 (CARLSBAD)

Holiday Music for Soprano, Flute Holiday Music for Soprano, Flute, and Harp, "Sparkle, Glitter, and Gleam" is the name of the holiday program of the Pleasure of Your Company Music Series at the Scripps Ranch Public Library. The ensemble Camarada consists of Ann Chine, sopramo, Beth Ross-Buckley, Bate, and Flena Marshkovtese, Japan Jir Scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, at 7 nm. in the library's community.



ART LISTINGS

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 nn. 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) at contact 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 ART, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186. Or fux to 619-881-2401. You may also www.SanDiegoReader.com by licking on the events section.

GALLERIES

"Mayan Rainbows — Images of the Architecture, People and Culture of MesoAmerica" is a show of color photographs by Tim O'Rielly. It can be seen through January 31, at Cafe 976, and over the color of the color of the color

Line Drawings by John Matsch can-

ART MUSEUMS

California Center for the Arts Mu-

process are also on view.

"Recent Work (Obra reciente)"
by Eloy Tarcisio demonstrates the
artist's continued use of organic materials in a variety of applications. In
these two-dimensional works, the these two-dimensional works, the Mexico City artist combines materials such as blood, rose petals, and mole with conventional media such as acrylic and oil paints. The 25 figurative and abstract paintings are jux-taposed by Tarcisio to convey his ex-plorations with themes of suffering,

Death Comes to Everyone: Participatory Offering. The installation consists of more than 100 wooden crosses, clay bowls — filled with grains, beans, and other organic materials symbolic of Mexico's pre-Hispanic past — and votive candles, which viewers are invited to light. Additionally, Tarcisio has created a core installation inside the museum new installation inside the museum entitled Memoria del hombre (Mem-ory of Man), reflecting on the five-year history of this work at the

All of the shows close on Sunday, December 31. Find the center at 340 North Escondido Boulevard (at Valley Parkway); 760-738-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

Other exhibits explore the over-all history of Coronado, Navy and Army, Tent City, and the Hotel del Coronado. Find the museum at 1100 Orange Avenue. Call 619-435-7242 for further information. (CORONADO) Mingei International Museum o Folk Art, the art of pottery making is Japan is an unbroken tradition span ning more than 5000 years. "Ceram

tion, as well as an equal number from

museums and private collection

Objects from the permanent col-

through December.

The Mingei is located on the

square with the San Diego Museum of Art and the Timken Museum of Art. For additional information, cal 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

Museum of Contemporary Art, Downtown, surveying the depth and range of the museum's holdings, "Cross Section: Works from the Per-manent Collection, 1962-2000" fea-

of media. The show boasts impor of melia. The show boasts impor-tant paintings, sculptures, and pho-tographs acquired by the museum and includes many works not re-cently seen. This opportunity con-cludes on Tuesday, February 20,

The site-specific installation blackandblue by Brazilian artist Nuno Ramos is on exhibit through De-cember. The pieces are three massive

inonumentality and temporality, are ating "a sense of exuberance and physical fragility." Find the museum at 1001 Ket-tiner Boulevard (at Broadway), di-rectle across from the Santa Fe Rail-road Depot, adjacent to the America Plaza Trolley. Transfer. station, a19,234. 1001. Bookstow.

n 19.2.5. 1001. powedown.

Museum of Contemporary Art, La

101a, the influence and impact or the
temporary action expression in the
America's is explored in "Ultraturingue. Appects of Post Latin
American Art. The exhibit presents
a critical evaluation of the Buroque
and its use as an important cultural
metaphor in contemporary art, feametaphor in contemporary art, fea-

metaphor in contemporary art, fea-turing le young artists working in the Americas Ioday whose work is well known in their own countries and abroad but may not have been seen previously in the United States. British fashion designer Zandra Rhodes debuts her costume drawings

for the San Diego Opera's 2001 pre sentation of Mozart's Magic Flute in

sentation of Mozart's Magic Fule in an exhibition including 30 of her sketches and drawings, including costumes for Mozart's comic Pa-pageno and Papagena and the evil Queen of the Night. Both shows close on Sunday,

January 7, 2001. Find the museum at 700 Prospect Street. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

(IA JOLIA)

Museum of History and Art, the inaugural show. 'Obras del Corazón:
Works from the Heart of Alfredo
Ramos Marinez, 1934-1944, 'continues through Tuesday, February 6,
2001. The exhibition includes 17
paintings and works on paper executed in tempera, oil, pastel, and
charcoal, Born in Monterrey, Mex-

ico, Ramos Martínez spend many years working in Southern California.

Museum of Photographic Arts, the multifaceted relationship between multifaceted relationship between husband and wife when the couple is also artist and muse is revealed in the photographs by Baron Adolph de Meyer, Alfred Stieglitz, Edward We-ston, Harry Callaban, Emmet Gowin, Lee Friedlander, Masahisa Fukase. museums and private collections. Shimaoka has "worked hard to make the technique of rope-impressed in-lay truly my own." See the results of the artist's hard work through Sun-day, February 4, 2001. Copects from the permanent con-lection make up the pieces in the ex-hibition "Artes de Mexico." The show includes works by several renowned 20th-Century folk artists including Oaxacan potter Teodora Blanco and included in "The Model Wife." The imagery and photographic history of artists who portrayed their wives during a period of many years is ex-plored in the show, revealing the nu-Oasacan potter Teodora Blanco and Jalisco's Rosendo Rodriguez, along with architectural pieces by Cande-lario Medrano and woodcarvings by Manuel Jiméne. All regions of Mex-ico are represented, with selections ranging from objects of daily use to those of ceremony. Enjoy the exhibit through December. ances of marriage and the influences such a partnership can have on artistic production. Many rarely seen and unpublished images are featured along with classic, well-known im-ages. See the show through Sunday, January 21, 2001. Find the museum in the Casa de Balboa building, at 1649 El Prado. For information, call 619-238-7559. (BALBOA PARK)

Oceanside Museum of Art, "Dou-ble Feature" includes a four-decade survey of work by Faith Ringgold and a traveling exhibition of 19 contem-porary quilts entitled "Yardworks" by the Manhattan Quilters Guild. by the Mannartan Quitters Guild, Ringgold, an author/painter/quilt artist, transforms contemporary art through real life stories and historical events. See the show through Sun-day, January 28. The museum is loated at 704 Pier View Way: 760-721San Diego Museum of Art, drawings, his most famous paintings, photographs, and 322 Satrose photographs, and 322 Satrose Perming Post covers are included in "Norman Rockwell: Pictures for the American People." Rockwell is best remembered for his ability to acquire Americana and everyday occurrences, but many of his works also addressed the controversial social and pollutal sugar of his times. rary California Art. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

Timken Museum of Art, "Every Pic-ture Has a Story: Looking at History Through Art," chronicles the journey of six art masterpieces. In addition to the six paintings, the exhibit feature addressed the controversal social and political issues of his times. He was a supporter of the "Ban the Bomb" movement, a promoter of civil rights, and an early advocate for the Peace Corps. What is Rockwell's importance in chronicling American history? You make the call; the show

what has been learned by researching these paintings helps to place them in their historical context. The show closes on Sunday, February 18, 2001.

The museum's permanent collection includes European masters, 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. For information, dial 619-239-5548. (BALBOA PARK) closes on December 31.

The museum's permanent collection includes Italian Renaissance paintings, Spanish old masters paintings, American art, 19th-Century Eu-

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The Best Christmas

The Best Christmas
77Pageant Ever
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the rowdy Herdman kids taking
over the Sunday school Christmas
pageant. Linda Yamada directed. VIRA MESA THEATRE GUILD, THRO DECEMBER 23: FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M.

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SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE

A Christmas Carol
San Diego Rep's 25th version of
Dickens's classic ranks among its
linest. Scrooge is still Scrooge, Various ghosts urge him to get a life.
But there's a difference. Bob
Cratchtit's a clowen. Jacob Marley
dresses like Harlequin. And

"An unrehearsed

night of non-stop



Comedysports Improvisational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is diffi-cult enough, Years go, however, Keith Johnstone throught if d be through the spot of the spot of the three years of the week of the spot of the week of wee ComedySportz the show, three San Diego comed ans played a "challenge match" against players from the San Jose franchise. Using suggestions from the audience, they played "Emo-tional Sympathy," "Shakespeare," "Blind Line," and "Freeze Tag. "Blind Line," and "Freeze Tag." with judges awarding points to the best scenes. San Jose won 27 to 22 in, as jock pundits say, a game closer than the score would indicate. Klunkers and groaners got boo'd, quick wit, rewarded (one of the most refreshing aspects of the contest failure is acknowledged, abundantly, then foreotiern). If

A Christmas Carol

Johnstone's Theatreepports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like "rugby with Ameri-can football"), resembles more an athletic event than an improv. Teams wear uniforms and compete on Astro Turf. The night I caught the show, three San Diego comedi-

Comedy Codependents
The Improv comedy troupe performs the first Friday of every
month at the Creativity Centre in

First Night
Thirteen years ago, on the lookout
for a non-holiday holiday show,
the North Coast Rep staged Jack
Neary's comedy. It worked then,
and works today, as a warm and
funny clash between unrealized potential and the nagging limitations,
of actuality. For 20 years, Danny
Elemmine has lowed Meredith O's

Angels Among Us
The Coronado Playhouse stages
Leigh Scarritt's musical about "the
strength of family, the power of
love, and the presence of spirit."
CORONADO PLAYHOUSE. THROUGH DE

A Christmas Carol

Scrooge runs a circus. The concept is loan Schrife's (who also directed). I don't know if her take on the material's unique, but it's certainly special. Scrooge, as nigmaster, cracks his winp, and veryone performs on stills, jugging, dancing, acrobatics, wallowing words. Dickens's Scrooge is a prosset unique of the still be used to be a considered to the control of the control o

Carol into a circus story sounds dubious, from afar. Jacobs and Schrife have integrated it so well it feels natural (and sheds unexpecte light). The show not only pays homage to Dickens's tough and tender story, Schirle gives it visual tender story. Schirle gives it visual analogues, in the circus, with roughhousing roustabouts and astonishing moments of buoyant. Magritte-like poetry. The shapes of Scrooges past have had an anemic look, as if he's been eating the gold he worships. Mike Genovese gives him a body (old Scrooges are just angry; this guy might act on it) and makes him a swashbuckler who hasn't lost his heart. He just dis-connected it decades ago. And when he reconnects, old Ebeneezer New Year's Eve gets back in touch with his inne

Critic's pick. THROUGH DECEMBER 24, TUESDAY AND SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M., WEDNES-DAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (AN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22) AT 2:00 P.M.

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Emilia's Sugarplum Nightmare Talent to aMuse Theatre Company presents a "whimsical dream com-edy." by George Weinberg. Harter and Gail West-Halverson, in which

the Three Wise Men feel Sa the Infect was Men teel Salita's hogging "too big a share of the Christmas picture." WESTMINSTER THEATER, 3598 TALBOT STREET, POINT LOMA, THROUGH DECEMBER 17: FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT FORMATION CALL 619-233-940

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production

Dramatic Society's Production of A Christmas Carol Pine Hilb Lodge & Dinner Theatre stages David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Ir.'s comedy about the FAHETGDS ladies mounting "another assault" on Dickens's tale. PINE HILLS LOGGE & DINNER THEATRE, OUGH DECEMBER 16: FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, DINNER AT 6:30 P.M., CUR TAIN AT 8:00 P.M.

First Night of actuality. For 20 years, Danny Flemming has loved Meredith O'-Connor from afar — safely afar, once she became a nun. Now she stands before him, unfrocked, open, free, and eager to recipro-cate. Danny stops cold. Is he afraid to live his dream? Or, as he puts it,



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Added Thursday & Sunday Shows in Dec. (619) 544-1600 www.mysterycafe.net nuns on the rebound from the Son of God." Opening night was a tale of two acts, and kinds of acting. At first Jessa Watson and Patrick McBride had their characters lation booths. In act two, they nected, fed off each other, and nected, ted off each other, and jelled. NCRTs design work sparkled from the start. Marty Bunett's set — a video store replete (thanks to Maggie Thompson's props) with hundreds of video boxes — has a checkerboard floor. boxes — has a checkerboard floor which underscores Meredith and Danny's many moves and counter-moves. The lighting, costumes, and sound provide subtle enhance-ment: all point to the intersection where dreams deferred meet the

THROUGH DECEMBER 31: THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUN-DAY AT 7:00 P.M.

The four harmonizers in search of plaid sport coats are in their fourth year (they recently set a new record, with their 1500th consecu-tive performance). Joseph Camp-bell urged exervone to "follow your bliss." Even if the tight harmonies bell urged exercise to Tollow sour bluss. Twen of the tight harmonic bluss. Twen of the tight harmonic particular blus II needed a quick for of One and Hurdins after heart programmer. The dark to be square The cross on he as of hearing a lob but put life tight harmonic bluss of hearing a lob but put life tight harmonic bluss of hearing a lob but put life tight harmonic bluss of the square There cross the program of the "Stu until Eves Ross, which conceived directed, and choreographed the original New York version, directed the Cold ended to the control of the square the state of the control of the square of the Backstage at the Aubergine, which offers brunch, lunch and dinner

BACKSTAGE AT THE AUBERGINE. AUBERGINE RESTAURANT, 500 FOURTH AVENUE (FOURTH AND ISLAND), DOWN TOWN, OPEN ENDED RUN, TUESDAY THROUGH FRODAY AT 8:00 P.M. SATUR DAY AT 5:00 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M. SUN-DAY AT 3:00 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY AT 3:00 P.M.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

How the Grinch Stole Christmas We now have two Grinches: the Old Globe Theatre's and the new movie's. I haven't seen the latter, but judging from the manic trailer on TV, it looks as if it's traded Dr. Seus's unwarnished poetry for baroque excess. The stage version, now in its third year, seems simnow in its third year, seems simplicity personified, though Guy Paul's Grinch could use a freely joil of mans. He wait ploning the order of the person of the person of the person of the dad a dutil of person was to be a design of the person of the person

SDGE

Time War

City Ballet's Nutcracker with the San Diego Civic Youth Orchestra Robert Gilson, Conductor Featuring Oleg Dedogryuk former principal dancer of the **Bolshoi Ballet** "A plum of a Nutcracker" ---Friday, Saturday, & Sunday 5 Performances Dec. 15-17 Tickets: '19, '26, '32 Free Matinee "Best Nutcracker"

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Joey and Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding The Culy Theater hosts "no

Joey and Maria's 25th Anniversary Party Dillstar Productions presents a se-quel to its interactive dinner the-ater show Joey and Maria's Commity

Lamb's Players Festival of Christmas: The Perfect Christmas Young Shirley Marie got a diary for Christmas, 1951. Though she isn't supposed to begin until the new



Christmas card, framed by giant ones above. George Flint merits special mention. He plays Grandpa as a lovable foil to Darlenc Trent's as a lovable for to Darrice Fren.
controlling Grandma. It's fitting
that Flint concludes 2000 on a
stage, since he made it unforget
table by founding the Renassance
Theatre Commun. and producing revious Christmas's and experiences the present one, which com-bines good cheer with the Weisser family's many imperfections. Kerry Meads has written so many Lamb's day tradition. Her script, "A Per ing for Godot. Worth a try. LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, THROUGH DECEMBER 30, TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:30 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 4:30 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M.

bel? In Paul Rudnick's gay, revi-sionist look at the Bible, Eden's

"falls" because he just needs to know things. The play is un-abashedly irreverent and not for the faint of tolerance (the Bible holds the answer to everything, says a character, to which Pharach asks, "Even stains?"; when Adam and Steve discover their nakedness Steve looks at himself and shouts, Steve looks at himself and shouts, "I have to get to a gym"; angels, we learn, are "just Prozac for poor people"). Fabulous is nonstop funny. It's also about four different plays rolled, not always success-fully, into one. For Diversionary, director Tim Irving assembled an director Tim Irving assembled an excellent cast (everyone contribute splendidly) and, with aid from designers Linda Gilbreath (set), Karis Filijan (lighting), Mary Larson (costumes), and Bret Young (sound), has staged one of Diversionary's best, and best looking. sionary's best, and best looking, productions in some time. The ac-tors don't always make Rudnick's hasty motivational leaps (especially in Act two, which changes tones about every ten lines), but all com-municate an infectious relish for

who invited Brenda Socrates, co metics mogul and Petals's wors that all about? Not to mention lof-frey and Sperus, behive-bouffanted event-coordinators (Petals likes theme events, like "Grief A Fu-neral"). Turns out these folk arenj-just ten kinds of whacko. The phones are down, a storm's out-side, and they're suspects in a mul-tiple homicide. Each has enough Edwards, in parts ranging from Pharoah to a disgruntled Santa Claus, is so outstanding he merits tiple homicide. Each has enough motivation to make you question not who — but who didn't — dunit. Mystery Cafe Dinner Theatre's latest has a relatively loose script latest has a relatively loose script ranging all bits. James Pascarella, one of the funniest people in San Diego, again reigns supreme in multiple roles (audiences be warned: Tink you're witry! This gury's all prob. Her hair an orangish end not found in nature — maybe

619-544-1000.

special mention.

Worth a try. UARY 21. THURSDAY THROUGH SATUR-DAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M.

Murder on the Trail

Murder on the Trail
"The Wild West was never this
wild," in a dinner-theater whodunit starring Sophie Tyler and
Granite Hardpiece. Dinner includes barbecue or caffish.
TYLER'S TASTE OF TEXAS, 7868 EL CA-JON BOULEVARD, LA MESA, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FOR

Octad-One Productions presents the world premiere of a drama, written and directed by Wayne Alan Erreca, about an elderly cou-ple and an unexpected guest who changes their lives forever. OCTADOME PRODUCTIONS, THROUGH DECEMBER 23, TRURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 800 P.M. MATINEE SUN-DAY AT 200 P.M.

nana, the loser a "forfest." Some tempts went nowhere (I repeat: prov is tough; I did it in my, as hindsight reveals, callow youth).

on Mars - Diane Thrasher's a on Mars — Diane Thrasher's a scream as Petals, who never met a situation she didn't yearn to con-trol. Gerry MacKinnon, William Fredrick, Megan McLeod, and Crystal Verdon (whose middle name should be "Talent") keep the show rolling, even when the script

The Array of Part Array of Par Others made amazing twists and turns. The group is talented enough (and know when to black-

La Pastorela de Esperanza Teatro Mascara Magica's popular Christmas pastorela celebrates its tenth anniversary with a show that includes, along with shepherds and Lucifer and archangels, Harry Pot-ter, the Retales, gladiators, and castaways from Survivor. William Victoria diversity castaways from Survivor, William Virchis directed. SAN DIEGO LYCEUM SPACE, THROUGH DECEMBER 23; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY (AND WEDNESDAY, DECEM-BER 20) AT '230 P.M. MATINEE SATUR. DAY (AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17) AT ulls. Worth a try. MYSTERY CAFE, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRI-DAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. FOR INFORMATION CALL 619:544-1600. Swans Over Charlevoix Shotgun Wedding Anniversary, or, Who Wants to Murder a Multimillionaire? Let's get this straight: Basil and Petals Wilcox - Smythe will renew their wedding vows on their 25th anniversary? Hey, call me daft, bu do they even like each other? And

out best) to make the hits more frequent than the misses. Their guru, Keith Johnstone, has written one of the few brilliant books (Impro) I've ever read about making theater. And they put his pearls to good use. Their motto: "Remem-ber, when it's not funny, it's art." her, when it's not funny, it's art.

Worth a try.
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Due to popular demand, the Hor
ton Grand Theatre hosts a reprise
of this comedy about three inept
performers. Hugh Butternut's
done his lounge act at the Triple
Espresso Coffeehouse 20 years to
the day. While patrons sp not
the day. While patrons sp not
the house blends — "Grape,"
"Scandinassian Bizzard". e house blends — "Grape," candinavian Blizzard," or dokoko Cocoa Mocha" — Hugh ays '70s tunes on the piano. He di his companions, here to cele-ate Hugh's anniversary, got stuck the '70s. The trio used to be axwell, Butternutt, and Bean, a

faxwell, Butternutt, and Bean, a omedy group that never went far, hey're "losers," they admit, but ot "ordinary" ones. And hey, theis cunion could help them face sear-gs issues from their mediocre asts. A formulaic story line? Yep. Straight from Forever Plaid. There also the Forever Plaid problem: the three comedians are far too tal-

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8:00 P.M., SATURDAY AT 1:00, 5:00, AND 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 3:00 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M. FOR INFORMATION CAU 619-234-9583.

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America, half a decade beyond World War II, on the cusp of TV'S onslaught, and half a decade from Elvis. Mike Buckley's set, Grandma Weisser's living room, is a Midwest

Maxine Mahon, Director

The Nutcracker

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CHOROLOGICAL CHOROLOGICA CH

CHOROLO

The Technomania Circus debuted last Saturday with some changes prescribed by San Diego's

some of our clients," said the center's Susan Upchurch. They read the

article to me where

Journal by Bashing Light bulls. That's in poor taste. It makes I trakes I t overreaction. But certainly we don't want to break down any bridges before we even

build them. Cartier said he wants to stage his performance art show again, so he took out the offending scene where

"Instead of a seizure, we will replace it with the paparazzi shooting each other. Does this mean we're now going to have gun advocates against us?" Cartier's unusual show, inspired by the annual Burning Man fest, uses such exotic instruments as the didgeridoo and djembe

reflect more of a positive statement," said Cartier. "We

apologize and no offense was meant. But in San Diego,

culturally, we seem to be fairly repressed. This kind of overreaction doesn't help the

creative art scene. The art has

Diego so as not to offend any subgroup. Our freedom of expression and creativity is getting confined with every calendar year. We're going backwards."

to be watered down in San

anything to do with political orrectness. It's using a neurological disorder as

don't think it has

paparazzi scene reinforced the stereotype of the grand mal seizure. "There the grand mal seizure. "There are so many other types of seizures. It's not the most common type."

"In the long run, it would have perpetuated misunderstanding of seizures, and in the short run it would have offended," said Upchurch, who says she has a

esponsibility to 28,000 local

identified with epilepsy. "I

clients who have been

Lask her if enacting a ctments of reality, like rder or the Holocaus

enactments or result, sue muscler or the fully, sue muscler or the fully sue have no value," she responded. You try and remove as many wrongs as you can, even though there are a fullour can do," "What's next," asked Cartier. "Do we have to post she that the chart of the chart with a chart of the chart o microphone?

Cartier said he is planning another Technomania Circus February 2 at the Anza Borrego Desert (www.geocities.com/technoma macircus) S.com/technoma Cote

When they play local pubs like the Kraken in

"We only play at our friends' garages...or the Cox Arena," joked Chris Cote of the Cardiff band Kut-U-Up about their New Year's Eve gig with

blink-182. Mattson was at a loss to

passist/keyboardist/singer Last year their buddies in

blink-182 asked them to open

"The big difference is etting boos in a stadium ersus boos in a bar," said

Surf).

Cote, Mattson, and drummer Brendan Raasch all attended San Dieguito High School. "Blink used to play at our school at lunch time." said Cote. "Eddie Vedder was the See did Mario. went there. So did Mario Rubacaba, drummer for Rocket from the Crypt and Black Heart Procession There is something called eucadiacore. We always had Leucadiacore, We always hac these great bands like Heavy Vegetable, Boilermaker, and Three Mile Pilot play at our backyard parties." Kut-U-Up appears Dec. 31 with blink-182 at SDSU's Cox Arena. GARAGE BAND OPENS FOR BLINK 182

-Ken Leighton

"I really figured Whitey [Conwell] and the state of t

gonna get it. I was walking around in the audience, and one So I went and sat down somewhere, a nervous wreck, and then they called my name. I couldn't believe it. It made

me cry."

It's been a good year for in North Park and works as a freelance graphic designer. She moved here from Reno in 1997. In 1999, Lundeen formed Blues Streak and began performing in loca clubs. This fall, her band ived a San Diego Music rds nomination. Then, i

chosen to represent San Diego at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis next year. The Blues Foundation started the International Blues Challenge as a way to cultivate new talent.

Cardiff or Surf and Saddle in Solana Beach, Kut-U-Up pulls their fans from the surfing/skating industry (Cote is editor of *Transworld* Nationwide chapters conduct runoffs during the year, says Lundeen, "and the winners from the local competitions can go back and compete in this International Blues Challenge for \$20,000 worth of paid gigs and services and that kind of stuff." To the winner will also go the title
"Best Unsigned Blues Band,"
and a guitarist will be selected
to receive the Albert King

> The local playoffs were The local playoffs were sponsored by Blues Lovers United, the San Diego affiliate of the nonprofit Blues Foundation. In all, a total of 27 blues bands competed during six weeks of completed.



"They picked five finalists including the Blues Brokers. Whitey Conwell, Buick Wilson, and the Boogie Men], and they all competed November 11 at

Humphrey's," Lundeen says Lundeen will perform all original material for the original material for the judges in Memphis. "I'll do my 'I Need a Dog' song, probably," she says. She sings a couple of lines: "I need a



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dog to walk around the block / I need a dog, I don't need no one to talk / You can bark and growl and be my bodyguard / But you better bury that bone of yours, honey, in my backyard." She laughs. "Sometimes I bring dog biscuits out to the gig Guys actually eat 'em outta my hand."

-Dave Good

"We used to hold events in undergre storm drains," said

years as a promoter. "We used to get into abandoned buildings and throw shows. We were doing what they now call raves. We didn't call it a rave. We just called it a party. We'd get ten kegs of beer, a sound system, and make flyers. We'd get a local business to sell our tickets."

Brasiley 28 said many of

Brawiev, 28, said many of his punk and metal shows were held in abandoned buildings without on. "We did three at the El Cortez Hotel. We never got in trouble. The laws are so much different now.

Now a legit businessman, Brawley owns Club Xanth, the new all-ages club in North Park located in the North Park located in the space that formerly housed the old all-ages Empire Club. "The building was vacant when I stepped in three months ago. I think everybody has a dream about owning their own business. Mine has been owning my own nightclub."

From 1996–98 Brayley.

From 1996–98 Brawley said his promotion operatio

was based in the World Evolution Loft, the now-closed multimedia cooperative on Broadway in

last Saturday was his first booking. He said he has rented Xanth to rave promoters every other Friday I'm not into the rave scene I'm going to do more alternative [music] and

alternative [music] and performance arts. It's a music assist crowd." He said the kids he used to throw shows for are different than some of today's kids. "They weren't so exists opiniented." Brawley said his efforts to serve coffee, soda, and snacks had become a red tape menagerie, involving the city's health, building, mechanical, and plumbing departments.

downtown where creative types lived and worked. "I put on over 300 parties. I did really well as a promoter with raves, Goth and punk. I left under very violent ircumstances. I had to deprogram myself after leaving there. That place was almost a cult.... They had

be happy. If there's one thing I don't like it's being told what to do. If I'm sad or depressed, I don't want to be

depressed, I don't want to be told to be happy."

After working as a construction worker for a Hollywood production company, Brawley came back to San Diego to launch Club Xanth.

"I have rented it out. I want to see what other people have to offer. I'm a performance artist."

The Technomania Circus last Saturday was his first

departments.

And most ominous, he

says, is a widely held opinion that the city is against mixing live music and an under-21 crowd. "I have heard all these rumors that the city and vice want to stop 18-and-up venues. I went to city meetings. I didn't hear or see anything in writing, but I keep hearing they would want to make my place 21 and up. Sgt. Larry Wilkins of the SDPD vice department said Brawley's concerns are

unfounded.

"He's being pessimistic. If
a business doesn't create
problems for the neighborhood, normally you don't
have to worry about it."

—Ken Leighton

3

GARAGE-DWELLING
"TALK TALK" COMPOSER
song called "Come On In."
received initial airplay in the
San Diego area. "Then KRLA
[in Los Angeles] flipped the

record over and 'Talk Talk'

glove?" someone shouted from the back of the crow

"You still got your black

just took off.

"There wasn't any 'slam-to-the-brain' roc 'n' roll before us," Sean Bonniwell told the audience

of 30 that managed to squeeze into the Entertainment Exchange on Adams Avenue in late November for the singer/songwriter's first live performance in 16 years. Bonniwell, now 60, and

Bonniwell, now 60, and his garage-punk band the Music Machine, were famous for the song 'Talk Talk' ("My social life's a dud / My mame is really mud") lad in 1966. The five members featured dyed black hair in a Beatle cut, black clothes, black instruments, and—pre-Michael Jackson — one glove. glove. Bonniwell performed

mostly new songs on acoustic guitar, some of which reflected a recent turn toward Christian religion. Though he did not elaborate, he told the rowd, "The Lord saved my life at least five times." Bonniwell reminisced

glove came just before the band's first appearance on TV's Where the Action Is. Though the band was costumed in black, "I felt it Angeles from South Carolina in 1965, After several years with a folk act called the Wayfarers, Bonniwell says he Wayfarers, Bonniwell says he was looking for a way "to bury the five-string banjo. I wrote 'Talk Talk' in 12 minutes because I was pissed off in high school." Nine months later, he says, "I could hear myself on the radio with the Music Machine."

Bonniwell points out that costumed in black. "I felt it still was not enough. I told our manager to get us some black glows." When the guitar player couldn't chord with glows on both hands, one was removed. "From then on, we were stuck with it." Bonniwell says. "The glower swoodl only, last two shows," Bonniwell continued. "You'd perspire in it, take it off, then it dries! Wow!"

Machine."

Bonniwell points out that
"Talk Talk" was originally the
B-side of the band's first
release. He says the A-side, a

"Smelled as bad as OJ's!" a fan called out. After his appearance in San Diego, he attended a record show in Buena Park, then returned to his home Porterville, California. "I still live in a garage," he smiles. "Now isn't that poetic

-Randy Hoffman

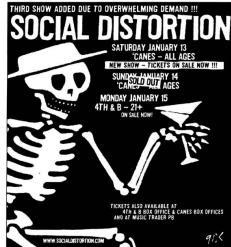
Just south of Market

Street in San Diego's Gaslamp, one performer distinguishes himself by kneeling on the sidewalk in front of a rubber dairy cow and a pile of plastic manure — a picture of the Heaven's Gate cult leader, Marshall Applewhite Marshall Applewhite, dangling from his neck. His breath fogs his spectacles as Indian music mixes with the cold night air. The "sacred cowpie" is









TICKETMASTER: CALL-FOR-TIX TOWER RECORDS . ROBINSONS-MAY . WHEREHOUSE MUSIC . RITMO LATINO TICKET MASS AWAILABLE AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND IN TIJUANA. MEXICO FROM TICKET MASS AWAILABLE AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND IN TIJUANA. MEXICO FROM TICKET MASS AWAILABLE AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND IN TIJUANA. MEXICO FROM TICKET MASS AWAILABLE AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND IN TIJUANA. MEXICO FROM TICKET MASS AWAILABLE AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND IN TIJUANA. MEXICO FROM TICKET MASS AWAILABLE AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND IN TIJUANA. MEXICO FROM TICKET MASS AWAILABLE AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND IN TIJUANA. MEXICO FROM TITLE AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND IN TIJUANA. MEXICO FROM TITLE AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND IN TIJUANA. MEXICO FROM TITLE AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND IN TIJUANA. MEXICO FROM TITLE AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND INTURNAM AZTER AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND INTURNAM AZTER AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND INTURNAM AZTER AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND INTURNAM AZTER AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND INTURNAM AZTER AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND INTURNAM AZTER AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND INTURNAM AZTER AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND INTURNAM AZTER AT THE SDSU AZTEC CENTER & COX ARENA BOX OFFICES AND INTURNAM AZTER AT THE ATTER AT THE SDSU AZTER AT THE SDSU AZTER AT THE ATTER ATTER AT THE ATTER ATTER AT THE ATTER ATTER AT THE ATTER AT THE ATTER ATTER AT THE ATTER ATTER ATTER ATTER AT THE ATTER ATTER ATTER ATTER ATTER AT THE ATTER ATTER A

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just one of many skits performed by the man who calls himself Rade Zone. I find Rade set up between a cigar shop and the Field, an Irish pub, on Fifth Avenue, and I cautiously enter the Rade Zone. He is singing Neil Diamond's "Cracklin' Rosie" through a "Cracklin' Rosie" through a headset — like you'd see at Burger King. It's plugged into two speakers. Upon making eye contact with Rade, a passing blonde quickens her

e. A stack of Rade's brochures list various prices to rent him for "formal events, backyard barbecues, and stripper conventions." On the bottom is written in pencil, "To be eccentric takes noney, but it takes talent to be weird." Midsong, Rade be weird." Midsong, Rade begins to recite Scarlett O'Hara's lines from Gone with the Wind ("Oh, if I just wasn't a lady, what wouldn't tell that varmint!") while waving a gold metal fan about the size of a drink coaster.

Among the items in Rade's suitcase I find an alien abduction skit, a plastic chicken leg, plastic cockroaches, and two Yoda shaving cream cans. "Later on in the evening, I

do my Star Trek bit I have the actual sound effects for "Did you put the tape order up to the TV?" "The Santa Monica library had a CD of Star Trek

Rade gives a demo of his Star Trek bit. Strapping a

visor to his head that holds a dangling plastic model of the starship Enterprise, he clutches a plastic action figure

Golding."
"I haven't had too much

luck doing my own stuff. Some nights I might do \$30, Some nights I might do \$30, which is not bad, but Thursday night, nobody has any money — they haven't got paid yet... I work a couple pert-time jobs. I work fast food during the week, and sometimes I work on the weekends for Staff Pro."

Rade says he is often



RADE BEAMS DOWN TO PLANET EARTH sled by passing citizens

and the police.
"Do the women heckle you too?"
"Yeah — gangs of roving women in their bridal party

"Do you think that because women have been historically oppressed by men, they might see a lone man with hand puppets as a chance to recoup some

clutches a plastic action figure in each hand — one of William Shatner and one of Leonard Nimoy. Leaning toward a trio of suited businessmen, Rade lets loose a stream of Trekkie babble. After the businessmen pass, I ask him. "Do you have any bits about the stalled ballipark development! If you got a bunch of padding and a moppy black wig, you could colding." FOR ME TO GET DELINK

California, women are a little bit more up front.... I've learned that my anti-heckling device, 'Son of Godzilla,' is

"It scares them away." Rade says he feels it unfair hat performers are squeezed nto the limited commercial istrict south of Market. There's a lot of street performers, and the guys who have better sound systems kind of blow me out of the

kind of blow me out of the water."

Asked who his biggest competitor is, Rade says, "Bob Dylan guy. He plays guitar... He always gets that corner spot on Fifth and Market and plays really loud."

loud."
"I bet you'd like that spot, wouldn't you?"
"Well, yeah, I was there for a month this summer and I kind of enjoyed it. Me and him have had our words

nim have had our words exchanged and we've gotten into it with the owner of the wig shop, because the owner of the wig shop doesn't like





Dylan guy strumming "Blowin' in the Wind" in

front of the wig shop. Asked what he thinks of Rade, he

says, "He's crazy. The thing

about entertainment is you either like it or you don't — and I don't care for his act." "Rade wants your spot," I

looking up from his guitar.

It isn't easy to promote a white reggae band in San

NO MATTER HOW

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

4TH AND B THEY

CD review: Michael Bliss Band, Sit and Watch It Spin, Grab A Mic Records Ten, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, sixty, seventy, eighty, ninety...oh, pardon me, I was counting potaters. That can wait. Let me tell you FIVE THINGS about this

1 first cut opens with the sound of an elephant.

2...lotsa funny hats, or
maybe not funny, just
functional.

3...both a Jef and a

Jeffrey. 4...riff on the second cut familiar — where's it is quite familiar — where's it from? where the hell's it FROM?

is dedicated to Mike and Beverly Bliss, but THERE IS NO CUT entitled "Now

NO CUT entitled "Now You're Gone." Ninety, eighty, seventy, sixty, fifty, forty, thirty, twenty, ten...the "classic review," and this is a prime example, should be symmetrical. —Richard Meltzer

the fact that he's there every night at 6:01. in Oregon in July. They played for 35,000 at the Hemp Fest." Before leaving, I walk two doors down and find the Bob

Baga Tricks had jammed locally since June 1998 at Winstons, Buffalo loe's, and Brick by Brick. The band's

Brick by Brick. The band's performing ended October 10 when drummer Mike Robinson died in a motorcycle accident.

"He had a seven-year-old daughter." said Guerrero.
"He was a very good parent. He was a responsible kind of guy. That's why it was very strange the way he died. He was heine a little bit reckless.

was being a little bit reckles About 400 people came to his The other members

The other members weighed their future.

"They didn't want to split up. But you really have to have a special talent to play reggae drumm. You have to have a really good sense of rhythm. There are not that many good reggae drummers a couple of different bank, but he was always dedicated to Baga Tricks." An elementary schoolteacher in the South Bay who used to sing backup for Baga Tricks. When that conflicted with her day job, Guerrero opted to serve as their manager. The members were from Florida except bassist and lead singer Felix Hansen. "He was born in lowa, but when heave, little he moved with he was little he moved with his parents to a commune in to Baga Tricks."

naica. Guerrero said Hansen's guitarist Ryan Wilson, rapper case with the Jamaican accent helped him connect with some reggae purists. "Some fans would say, 'Oh, you're a lay Hooks, and Hansen decided to move back to Florida





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Harp Sounds Sedate Wolves

"For some reason, harp is very popular with eye-care professionals."

Gathering is a weekend retreat of harp music in a grove of Ponderosa pines. Ev-ery August, workshops in folk music and crafts precede the final night's concert. The Gathering campsite is described as a family reunion. Buffet-style

LOCALS

ent cabins.

Coordinator Susan Raimond says the event Coordinator Susan Raimond says the event attracts harp lowers from as far away as Maine to the Mt. Lagina site (located at the 26.5-mile marker of Surrise Highway at the Al Bahr Shrine Camp). Raimond has organized the Cathering for almost all of the 12 years that the group has met. The event was originally started by Fire Cheli Retty Truit, who passed the torsh (as it were) to Raimond, also a firefisher.

Raimond says fire fighting and harp playing are the "antithesis" of each other, but her motivations for both overlap.

motivations for both overlap.

"I decided to get emergency medical training when my neighbor had a massive stroke and I didn't know CPR or how to do anything to help save him. I didn't even know he was having a stroke when I got to his house... He died." Raimond says the EMT training was on the same night as the fire fighting class — so she took both.

she took both. Now owner of Pet Pause, Music to Soothe the Savage Beast, a harp therapy company (perpunce,2000@pubno.com), Ramond believes that harp music has a healing effect on animals, including humans.

"Harp is being used for alternative medicine more and more, Raimond says." When the vibration from the sound of the harp hits the

skin, good hormones are released, a biochemical reaction takes place, and cell matter is changed," she says.

In support of this statement, she faxed the

following from The Somatic Sensory Syste following from The Somatic Sensory System (1997, editors Pures, Augustine, Fitzpatrick, Katz, LaMantia, McNamara), Nothing was highlighted, so in searching the four pages, the most applicable to her claim appears to be the following: "Bestiman corpuscles [found in your skin]... have a lower response threshold. These attributes suggest that [they] are involved in the discrimination of surface textures or other

moving stimuli that produce high-frequency vibrations of the skin...[and] probably detect vibrations admitted to the skeleton. Structurally similar endings found in the bills of ducks and geese and in the legs of cranes and herons de-tect vibrations in water; such

endings in the wings of soaring birds detect vibrations produced

birds detect vibrations produced by air currents."

And also this: "The slowly adapting nerve fiber associated with seed Merkel's disks [also in the skin] enlarges...into an ending...contaming weighted that apparently release peptides that modulate the nerve terminal."

Searching Medline and other scientific databases, nothing came up when crossing "harp music" and "cell matter." However, in the National Library of Medicine (Medline) database, there was the following: "In this study, Western music was tested for its effectivenes western music was tested for its effectiveness in reducing postoperative pain in 38 Taiwanese patients... Subjects from Taiwan were similar to subjects in a previous study in the United States...but fewer Taiwanese found the music calming, and they had different choices: more chose harp music and fewer chose jazz."

chose harp music and fewer chose jazz."
The BioWhitaker Institute, U.S. Army Medical Institute of the Research of Infectious Disease, and Secientia Centers for Animal Welfare have all invited Raimond to their facilities feets the harp on animals. "BioWhittiker is the largest producer of live cells, and it's where pharmaceutical companies buy live cells to develop medications," Railway Medical Companies of the C

I was invited to provide enrichment for their animals like their monkeys and donkeys. Then I went off-site to a farm where I played for sheep and bulls." While at BioWhittiker, producers from Disney taped Raimond's work for their series Peterburg USA, which airs on the company's Animal Channel.

company's Animal Channel.
Raimond recalls, "We observed the effects of harp music on four violent thesus monkeys and saw a 90% reduction in violent behavior. Three settled into a resting state, and the fourth put his hands in front of him as though he were praying, then rested his head on them like a child going to sleep," asys Raimond. She had



Event: Christina Tourin harp recital
Venue: McCrea Music Company, 8361 Allison Avenue, La Meu
When: Friday, December 22, 6 p.m.
Cost: Free
Phone: 619-698-7272

wolves. "Many of the wolves went to sleep in

wolves. "Many of the wolves went to sleep in the middle of the afternoon, which is not sus-ally their resting time," says Raimond. "Even the alpha male relaxed.," Melissa Morgan, another harp player at the Gathering, is also a believer in the healing ef-fects of harp music. She calls herself a "full service" harp performer — playing both at a service" harp performer — playing both at service "harp dispute several funerals. She has the service "harp dispute several funerals. She has the service "harp dispute several funerals." She has the service and ordical companies. "For your Sun Systems, and optical companies. "For some reason, harp is very popular with eye-care pro-fessionals." Morgan is also a volunteer who plays harp at the neonatal intensive care unit

at Children's Hospital.
"Harp is the only instrument allowed," says José Smith of Ramona, who also volunteers at the hospital. "It's part of the healing arts pro-gram where they have storytellers and artists

come in."

When I ask Raimond why the harp is more healing than other instruments, she tells me, "When a harp string is plucked, into only vibrates that string, but other strings around it wibrate sympathetically. Each note is actually sounded, but there is a whole series of tones and overtones that are then created—in essence a layering effect of harmonics. Obvi-

— like dog whistles — but they do exist. Also, the harp is unique in that their notes have the longest sustain phase of any instrument. When lab analysis was done on a harp being strummed, it most closely resembled the wind blowing, the sound of water. Those sounds, found in nature, have been used by many of the ancient schools of healing during the last several thousand years.

"and the structure of the structure of the structure of the district of the structure of the structu - like doe whistles - but they do exist. Also

This year people played harp, hammer dul-cimer, and violin. Raimond sang the Scottish



music with the group at an "open mike" session that precedes the featured performers.

cimer, and violin, Raimond sing the Scottish national anthem, one fellow plucked a saw. Alex Kasader, an 11-year-old boy from San Diego, played two selections on harp.

"I felt really nervous in front of all those people," Kasader said. "I don't think I want to play lharpl professionally, but I think I'll play forever. I want to be a plit when I grow up."

The participants of the Gathering are, for the most part, the folks you'd find at the Renastive of the participants of the Gathering are, for the most part, the folks you'd find at the Renastive of the participants of the Gathering are, for the most part, the folks you'd find at the Renastive of the participants of the Gathering are for the restriction of the folks of the first participants of the first partic







Don't be grinchy. Give 'em some goody.



Death of a Virgin

Imagine those adagios coming into the living rooms of cultivated Germans as the freight cars rattled their cargo to Buchenwald.

since my tante Erika was kind enough to walk me through some of the great performances by German conductors showould have listened to on the radio as a girl through those appalling Nazi years, it hought for deserts he had control a pile of Bruscher.

Symphonies conducted by a favorite of hers, Sergiu Celibidache (pronounced chuh-lee-bee-DATCH-eh). It seems that Erika at one point in the '80s heard the great Romanian conduct Bruckner's Symphony

conduct Bruckner's Symphony
No. 8 right here in California
and enjoyed one of the great
musical experiences of her life.
Gelibidache was news to
me, but a little research reman had been among the
world's most renowned conductors for half a
century. In fact, Erika probably heard him
conducting the Berlin Phillarmonic from
1945 (when he took over the baton from
1945 (when he income to the philharmonic and, incidentally, Erika

AUGUST Ki

harmonic and, incidentally, Erika AUGUST KLEINZAHLER came to America. Celibidache, born in 1912, would have been only 33 when

came in American de Induadres confe 3 when he took over this most prized of conducting roles in the world of music.

Principal among the reasons that I (and perhaps you) have not heard of Celibidache is that the properties of th career and recorded exclusively in the studie until his death in 1982, making use of advanced techniques of splicing in order to retain the best portions of any performance and eliminating the possibility for "accidents."

Celibidache believed that the correct temp

Celibidache believed that the correct tempo of a piece "cannot be determined by a metronome marking but, rather, depends on the other criteria in the score and, of course, on the acoustics of a particular hall. This tempo fluctuates according to the complexity of the notes played (and heard) and their epiphenomena." What Celibidache means by What Celibidache means by epiphenomena is "the secondary sounds resulting from the division of the main note after being played on any instru-ment." Therefore, the more notes played, the more epiphe-nomena and the more time for

Anton Bruchore

Anton Bruchore

Anton Bruchore

Anton Bruchore

The Coording (of a concert) will

ever capture anything like the

range of all the epiphenomena, the sound will

ever capture anything like the

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range of all the epiphenomena, the sound will

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ever a control of a concert will

ever a control of REVIEW hears in any re cording is a dis-tortion of the actual

performance. Well, this is a most uncom Well, this is a most uncom-promising position to take, particularly among Celibidache fans. However, on the recent death of the conductor, his wife and son decided to release the sound archives to various record labels, most prominently EMI Classics and Deuts, the Grammophon, and let them sort through them all and re-lease the greatest performances. Lends to Celi-bidache, or that belt necessary regard it as a complete betrayal, since those sound archives were made (and very carefully made at that j) in

were made (and very carefully made at that) in the first place.

Regardless, we are the fortunate beneficia-Regardless, we are the fortunate beneficial-ries. It is as if the performances conducted by Hans Richter or Willem Mangelberg were sud-denly resurrected with crystalline state-of-the-art digital remastering. Thus, we are now able to hear Celibidache conduct, among oth-ers, his beloved Bruckner symphonies with both the Munich Philharmonic and the Stuttgart Ra-dio Symphony Orchestra, both of which Celibidache brought up to levels of performance they hadn't known before or since, as he would also do (from 1964-71) with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra in Stockholm. For Celibidache "the facts of Bruckner's ex-

istence is God's greatest gift." Bruckner is an odd duck, even as geniuses go; and it follows that his life and and it follows that his life and musical career were curious and rather sad. He was born in upper Austria to a family of schoolmasters and became one himself, holding teach, holding teach, schools (as did Wittgenstein, incidentally) from 1841 (at age 17) until 1885, at which point he went to Vienna to study harmony and counterpoint. harmony and counterpoint Bruckner, young and old, was preternaturally shy, also insecure, which resulted in his allowing musical advisors far inferior to himself to make

inferior to himself to make damaging changes to his scores, scores that would not be published in their original forms until 1930. He was hope-les with women; whatever passes he made were ruliculous and doomed. He seemed to have fan-cied 'pretty' little girls' in their early teens, which didn't sit well his known Catholiculous his known cat

regardless, and littl known outside Ger many except as an organist of enormous cirtuosity and inven tion. And in the latter his career somewhat resembles that of anresembles that of an-other great organ-ist, I.S. Bach, whose complex polyphony Bruckner assiduously studied for years. In fact, Bruckner didn't really complete his studies and commence tions until he was nearly

with his own compositions until he was nearly 40. In 1865 he attended the premiere of Wag-ner's Tristan und Isolde in Munich and fell under

Something about Bruckner's symphonies is

Something about Bruckner's symphonies is deeply appealing and nourishing for my tante. She is describing each movement in detail, where a few bars of a folk motif are played on the flute, then taken up by the clarinet and so forth. She is in heaven with Bruckner and the woodwinds,

Psydecar

Soulful Reggue Funk

which Celibidache can manage as no one else, in her regard. Of other conductors who have tried their hand at Bruckner, Celibidache has been quoted as saying, "These camel-drivers haven't understood a thing about the Bruckner was a rustic, a deeply religious

man, always uncomfortable among the sophi ticates of Vienna, Personally, he was difficult, unhappy

he was difficult, unhappy, withdrawn, at work almost perpetually on his symphonies and choral music.

To me, even his clebrated Symphony No. 8, which Celibidache called the 'Zenith of symphonic writing,' sounds like the film score to a Heidi movie I saw on TV as a child in the 'Doctor and the sum of the saw on TV as a child in the 'Doctor and the saw on TV as a child in the 'Doctor and the saw on TV as a child in the 'Doctor and the saw on TV as a child in the 'Doctor and the saw of the saw horns und da verks. But this is philistinism on my part. German Romanticism isn't one of my great enthusiasms, though Mahler, who was deeply influenced by Bruck-ner, can on occasion leave me breathless.

But Erika is left breathless by these Celi-But Erika is left breathless by these Celi-bidache-conducted Bruckner symphonies, and I am delighted that she is. She claims that part of it is because she is a Bavarian, with whom the Austrians share a number of things, like the Alps and Roman Catholicism. But I also think it is something deeply embedded in the Gen-tion of the Company of the Comp man soul, and music that she was steeped in during her girlhood, listening in the evening to

the only entertainment available in those days. the radio. Imagine all those tremblingly beau the radio. Imagine an those trembingly beau-tiful adagies coming into the living rooms of cultivated German listeners as the freight cars rattled their cargo to Buchenwald and Auschwitz and millions of hopeful young men were dying face down in the mud and snow.

Bruckner: Symphony No. 6 Munchner Philharmoniker Celibidache (EMI 7243 5 56694 2 1) Bruckner: Symphony No. 8 Munchner Philharmoniker Celibidache (EMI 7243 6 56696 2 9) Bruckner: Symphony No. 9 Munchner Philharmoniker Celibidache (EMI 7243 5 56699 2 6)

The Young Celibidache (EMI 7243 5 5669)
The Young Celibidache-Vol. II (TAH 273
S. Celibidache conducts Beethoven &





The Celibidache Edition SWR Stuttgart Radio Bruckner: Symphony No. 6 Munchner

the thrall of that composer, although not show-ing much of Wagner's influence in his own work, except in the massive scale of the

S. Celibidache comunitarios Rahms (TAH 27) Celibidache conducts Bruckner Symphonies No. 5 and No. 8 and Brahms: Haydn Variations (Exclusive EX92T44/46) Bruckner Symphony No. 4 Munchner Philharmoniker Celibidache (EMI 7243 5 56690 2 5 Celibidache-Volume 3-Bizet-Debussy-Roussel, The Art of Sergiu Celibidache (ARL 157)

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2. At the next prompt, press the

EXTENSION 4000 THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

TONIGHT, THURSDAY

Venice (432) and Eve Sells (410): Belly Up Tovern, tonight, Thursday, December 14, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedios Avenue, Solano Beach, 858-481-8140 or

The And/Ors, Freedom for Saturn, and Transit Aural Assault: The Cosbot, target, Thursday, December 14, 8, 30 p.m., 7501 Kettner Boulevard.

"Jingle Ball 2000" with Bon Jovi, the Barenaked Ladies /435/, Smashmouth, Pat Benatar /465/, Fisher, BB Mak, and Steve Poltz /815/: (as Arene, Finday,

Common Sense /736/and Munkafust /308): Belly Up To

The B-Side Players /649/ and Freeway Planet: The Casbob, Fre

rinday, December 15, 143 South Cedios Avenue, Solano Beach, 858-481-8140 or 519-220-8497

FRIDAY

Robert Walter's 20th Congress /692½ Winston's, Friday, December 15, 1921 Bocon Street, Oreal Beach, 619-227-6822. Agent Orange (247), Skipjeck, Bay One-der, and Losing Balance: The Epicente, Findor, December 15, 7:30 p.m. 8450 Mira Mesa Boxlevard, Mira Mesa. 858-271-4000

December 15, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Ketther Boulevord, midrown, 619-232-4355.

SATURDAY

Frank Block, Stimy, and Adam the Gimbel: The Costoh, Saturday, December 16, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Ketmer Boulevard, micrown 6:19-232-4355 or 6:19-220-8497.

Type O Negative /202/ and Simon Says /265;t (anes 8ar and Gell, Schurdoy, Becember 16, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.

34 Below (437) and Swerve: Belly Up Toven, Sohurdoy, December 16, 9-15 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 859-481-8140 or 619-220-8497.

The Michael Dessen Ensemble

SUNDAY

"Cashoh Christmas Party" with Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys (343) ord James Intveld: The (ashoh, Sunday, December 17, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettine Boulevald, midtown. 619-732-4355.

17, 5 p.m., 3105 Oceon Front Wolk, Mrsson Beoch. 858-488-1780.

The Incredible Moses Leroy /102/, the Starlight Mints /206/, and the Mediums: The Cosboth, Nondoy, December 18, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Boulevard, metrown: 619:232-4355.

TUESDAY Gary & the Gnats, Fleetwood Milk, and Cover Me Bodd: The

WEDNESDAY

Teacher's Pet, Le Shok, GoGoGo Airheart /136/, and the Peppermints: The Cosboth, Wednesday, December 20, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Keitner Boulevard, midtown, 619:232-4355.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

DECEMBER Tristeza /300 E Belly Up Tovern, Thursday, December 21, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solono Beach, 858-481-8140 or 619-220-8497.

Gitane Demone and Frank the Baptist / 108 k. The Casbah, Thursday, December 21, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown, 619-232-4355.

Solomon Grundy: Winston's, Thursday, December 21, 1921 Bocon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822. Ozomatlii /254): Belly Up Tovem, Enday, December 27, 9:15 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solano Beach, 858-481-8140 or 619-220-8497.

Honey Glaze /497_L Ghetta Scheist, Furious IV /107_L and the Lavelight Shine: The Casbah, Friday, December 27, 8:30 p.m., 7501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619-237-4355.

Buck-O-Mine (739), fluf (493); Agent 51, and the Classified: The Epicente: Friday, December 22, 7:30 p.m., 8450 Mars Mesa Boulevard, Mara Mesa: 858/271-4000.

Steel Pulse /757/: Belly Up Tovern, Wednesday, December 27, and Thunday, December 39, pp. n. 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858 481-8140 or 619-220-8497. Behind the Scene, Off the Record, Makeshift Three, and Pound Foolish: "Cares Bor and Geil, Thursday, December 28, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.

Pinbock, the Block Heart Procession (179), and White Falcon: The Casbah, Saturday, De 23, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kether Bouli midrown, 619-232-4355.

Karl Demson's Tiny Universe (681): Belly Us Tovern, Saturday, December 23, 9:15 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Salana Beach. 858-481-8140 or 619-220-8497.

The Cheop Leis: The Cosboh, Tuesday, December 26, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Ketmer Bouleverd, midtown. 619:732-4355.

Corrugated, Pillowhead, Vertibird, ond Ideal for Dynamitis: The Casboh, Wednesday, December 27, 8-30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Baclevord, midtown. 619-232-4355.

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Coco Montoya and James Harmas Belly Up Tovern, Saturday, December 30 9:15 p.m., 143 South Cedas, Avenue, Solana Beath, 858-481-8140 pr 619-2208497.

Dave Alvin & the Guilty Men and Teddy Morgan & the Pistolas: The Castori, Saturday, December 30, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Boulevand, midtown, 619-232-4355 or

The Young Dubliners (438): Belly Up lovern, Sunday, December 31, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solono Beach. 858-481-8140 or 619-220-8497.

blink-182 /158), Weezer /184), New Found Glory, Lefty, the Grim, and Cet Yee Up: Cax Acens, Sunday, December 31, SUSU compus, College Area. 619-220-8497.

The B-Side Players /649 £ 'Cones Box and Gill, Sunday, December 31, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780

Convoy, fluf /493/, and Forever Goldrush /1692: The Caston, Sunday December 31, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtsen, 619-232-4355 or 619-220-8497.

JANUARY

Queenly: The Costoth, Thursday, Januar 11, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Boulevard, restrown, 619-232-4355

downtown, 619-220-8497 or 619-231-4343.

Rocket from the Crypt /237 and the Lazy Cowgirls /439 the Cosbot, finday, Ianuary 12, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kether Boulevard, midrown. 619-232-4355.

John McCutcheon (772): Son Diegu United Methodot Churth, Fridey, January 12, 7:30 p.m., 170 Calle Magdalena, Encintos. 858-566-4040.

Rocket from the Crypt /237 and Clowhammer: The Costah, Saturday, January 13, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619:232-4355.

Mudhaney (260) and Fireballs of Freedom: The Casbah, Sunday, January 14, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midrown. 619-232-4355.

HIM and the Causey Way: The Cosboh, Tuesday, January 16, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettree Bouleverd, midtawn. 619-232-4355. Social Distortion: 'Cones Bor and Grill, Sunday, January 14, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mysson Beach, 858-488-1780.

Social Distortion: 4th & B, Monday, January 15, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343.

19, SOSU compus, College Arec 519-220-8497 The Rugburns /263 the Cashah, friday later 19 and Saturday later

Ian Moore /500): The Castoh, Wednesday, January 24, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619-232-4355

Blue Öyster Cult /477 h 4th 8 8, Sunday, January 28, 345 B Street, downtown 619-720-8497 or 619-231-4343.

nd Koyhon Kolhor: Mondeville udronum, Wednesday, January 31, UCSD mpus, La Jolia, 858-534-4559.

FEBRUARY B.B. King: 4th & B. Wednesday, February 7, 345 B Street, department

Heil Sedaka: East County Performing Arts Center, Sunday, February 11, 210 East Main Street, El Cajon, 619-440-2277 or 619-220-8497. The Neville Brothers /4942 4th 8



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Friday, 1215, Anxiety Bay, Oliga, Tragic,
Louis Standay, 1216, Parkiffer and Tau
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in a while. 2228 Bacon St. (619) 222-8131

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Iwewire Krans Partassasayil' Saturday,
12/16, it's a holiday hoedown with The
Scramblers and Tammy Faye & the PTL
Two-Wheel Tuesday brings you punk
holiday tures, wisk and the first decorated holiday tunes, vids and the first decorated motorcycle parade. Wednesday, 12/20, DJ Ratstar, this season's Mr. Mistletoe, cuts up his fave holiday records into a festive funk, jazz and hip-hop jam. Stop by this week; it's sweeter than a stuffed stocking. And save a few bucks for last minute shopping; these's newsers are set in the stocking and save as few bucks for last minute shopping.

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A.M. Vibe: Surf N'Soddle Adam the Gimbel: The Casheh Agent Orange: Epicentre The And/Ors: The Casheh Anxiety Bay: Dream Street Axes for Xmas: 'Cores Bo

Big Sandy and His Fly-Rite

The Blood Brothers: (hé Cafe

Sake O'Cornel's Pub and Nighthib Boy One-dest Execute Seekfast Superheest Cornel Execute Seekfast Superheest Cornel Execute Me Bodd: the Carbot The Creepy Creeps: the Kennighon Libit Cornel's Bodd: the Carbot Seekfast Soft Nighthib Cornel's Toke See and Gell Evided's Soft Nighthib Cornel's Toke Seekfast Soft Nighthib Cornel's The Cornel's Pub and Nighthib Temminy Fary's and the PTLL: The Fishers of the Cornel's The Cornel's Cornel Seekfast Soft Nighthib Corn

The Fishermen: Dream Street Fleetwood Milk: The Casboh

Cosboh
Freeway Planet: The Cosboh
Gary & the Gnats: The Cosboh
The Giving Tree: Dream Street
GoGoGo Airheart: (he Cafe, The Hatchet Brothers: The

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The Insecticides: The Kensington Club James Intvold: The Cosboh

Denny Lire: Lestor's Coffeehouse Lesing Belance: Epicentie The Mediums: The Coboh Munkorfust: Belly Up Tovern Nemirab: Ché Cafe The Nightmare Syndicate: the Cafe

The Nightmare Syndicate: the Cafe Nortec Connection: Back By Back Olgres: Droon Sheet Panoptice: Back By Back ParkBis: Broon Sheet The Pappermierts: the Casboth Pressure 4-5: Droon Sheet Shadow Drose Dreon Sheet

308

Pressure 4-5: 0 team Sheet Shadow Drop: Diesm Sheet Simos Seys: Cross Sor and Gill Skipjack: Epicente Slightly Stoopid: Nemans Bot and Gell Something: Bland Melons Special Ed: Bland Melons The Storlight Miers: The Caboli

Brick
Superunloader: Wintons
Tou Cetic Dream Sheet
Teocher's Pet: The Eastoh
Terrestre: Brick By Brick
Tragic Ritual: Dream Sheet
Transit Aural Assault: The

389

EXTENSION 4003

The Joey Bowen Band:

and Grill
UPO: "Cones Bor and Grill
Vertibird: Surf N'Saddle
101 ... Wise Monkey Orchestre

ROCK

BLD-CHELONS

441 The Abuse: Dream Street
Carol Ames: Humphrey's
442 Billy Bacon and the
Forbidden Pigs: Em's Poce
Balance: Fageny's Nib
Baywoff: McP's Inch Pub and

Moordagger, Dick's Lest Kesort
The Buzzords: Tile Lee's Lounge
Captain Dirk and the Yacht
Lizards: Hennessey's Tovem
Cash Money: North County
Cash Tilente Madcap Otis: The Vortex Martha's Kitchen: Tike Hour Jeff Moore and the 3014

The Dama Dirty Apes: Winstons
d.Frest: "Cores Bor and Gell
B Jardin: Nermons Bor and Gell
The Electric Waste Bond: Nightcub
The Norm: John Joe's
The Opposition Party: Bird

Family Style: Patick's II Ched Ferror: Winstons

Fith: Bind Melons
fluf: "Cones Bor and Grill
Full Xposure: Second Wind
Fuzzy Reislat: O'Connell's Pub

ord Nightkub
Grove: the Vortex
Here's Olive: Dick's Lost Resor
Hootie and the Blowfish:
(annibal Bor

478 The Hot Heads: Boar Cross'n
547 Hot Rod Lincoln: To Leo's

Lounge 490 Hydroplane: Bub's Whiskey

Ben Johnson: The Vortex Jumpstart: Island Sports & South, Jame's Cocktols

The Late Edition: Dri

Melons
The PH'Ds: Winstons
Positive Approach: Pol Joey's
Private Dosenia: Dick's Loss
Resort
Proof of Burden: Bind Melons
The Rhythm Method: Cayote

Bor and Grill The Rockin' Aces: (roce's Top

The Rockin' Aces: (noce s lop Hot Bor and Gelle Rockole: Combol Bor The Scramblers: Live Wire Eve Sells: Belly Up Tovern Scrious Guise: The Kroken Skindorg: Bland Melons The Sleopwalkers: (noce's Top

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POP/TOP 40

The Disco Pimps: Buffalo Joe's 80's and Gentlemen: Views

The 80z Alistors: Buffolo loe's Higher Ground: Jimmy Love's Jody & Co.: The Metophor

Danny Lopez: The Butcher Shop Makat: Humphrey's Sean McVicker: The Imperol

JAZZ/

BIG BAND

Christopher Adler Trio:

Agua Dulce: Croce's Jazz Bar The B-Side Players: The

The Ray Barrie Big Band:

House
NRG: Jimmy Love's
The New Brood: The Aley
Pacific Brass and Electric:
Humphrey's
Marv Paymer: Top of the Cove
Jack Pollack: Shooters for and Hotel del Coronado Caol Blue: Moxx Cradit Union: Neimans Bar and Grill
Rainmaker: Hatel del Caronado
The Rhythm Dogs: The Alley
Rising Star: Rock Bottom
(Graferen)

(Gaslomp)

Robberecht the Planoman
The Westgate Hotel, Rager's on Roz and the Wrecking

EXTENSION 4005

Casa del Zorio Brigitte Handley: Tio Lea's

644 Hollis Gentry: Coyote Bor and

666 ... Lori Bell: The Sea Lodge Hatel 652 ... Big Time Operator: Canabal

Bor
The Boogle Woogle Due:
Jake Joert Cofe
John Calle: Hotel del Corondo
The Jorge Comberos
Quintet: Croce's Jazz Bor
The Gilbert Castellanos
Hommond B. 3 Trice: Libo
The Chris Conner Jezz Due:
Hadel del Conner

Jo Dark: The Germon-America 642 Cath Eckert: Sheraton Son Diego Four Points Hotel Aubrey Fay: Juke Joint Cafe,

Donnie Finnell and Company East Band: Valentino's lazz Supper Club Glen Fisher con Alma: Croce's

lezz Ber Forward Funk: Geleke Ron Freshmen: Terreyens Grille The Mark Fulton Quintet: Lo

The Hollis Gentry Quartet Croce's lazz Bor Stellita Harris: The Wyndham

Emerald Mazo Angel Hayes and Uncle John's Big Roll Band: Emo' The Hot Club of San Diego

Hotel del Coronado Barbara Jamerson: Hotel del The Jazz Pigs: Humphrey's

Jezzmag: Jimmy Love's Romy Kaye: Mixx Kemau Kenyatta: Loew's Coronado Boy Resort Dick Koenig: Lestal's Tony Lasley: Minocles Cafe, Mocha Market Place Light the Mite: The Rhythm

Liquid Blue: Fogerty's Pub. Liquid Earth: Galaka James Le Vulle: Torreyana

Grile
Tim Maglione: Jimmy Love's
The Majestics: (100e's Top Hot
Bor and Grille
Joe Marillo: (arvers
Chuck McPherson: La Tovola
Jerry Melnick: Fo's Custo Italina Shep Meyers: Torreyana Grille

660 . The Shep Movers Quartet:

Magnusson Dua: Anthony's Star of the Sea Andy Villas-Boas: Torniko Bar & Gill

& Grill
692Robert Walter's 20th
Congress: Winstons

EXTENSION 4006

Brodronz: Brick By Brick Common Sense: Bolly Up

Common Sense: Belly Up Tovern Confrontation: Brick By Brick Mikey Dread: Brick By Brick Psydecar: The Ordex, Winstons The Revealet Vortex, Winstons Semisi and Fulabula: The

Beach House True Roots Reggae: Goloka Warsaw: Winstons

Big River: Firm Springs Inn Calico Ridge: The Del Dios Country Store Cobblestone: The Field Hill Country: Randy Jones Big

EXTENSION 4007

COUNTRY

REGGAE/ SKA

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Restourant
Rick Ross: The Beach House
Salsa Steel: Hotel del Coronado
The San Diego Concert Jazz

Band: Innsuites

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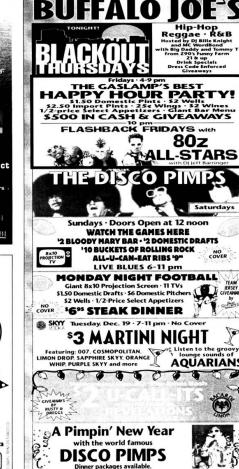
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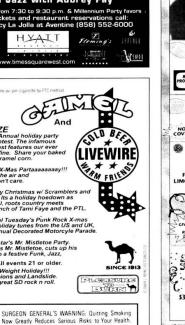


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club to be includent, Jax information to 619-881-2401, attention Scott Ellis, call 619-235-3000, ext. 261, or e-mail scotte@adnc.com, night or day by 5:00 p.m., Friday, the week prior to publication. The listings are free.

Arcadia: Dls Mantis and Tom Fitzgerald spin house, trance, and techno. Wednesdays, the Brass Rail, 796 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest. oformation line, 858-613-9523.

Asylum: Thursdays, DJs spin house, disco, funk, and techno music. Nortl County Sports Dome, 680 West San Marcos Boulevard, San Marcos. 760-744-4120.

BLISS: DJs Kazy, Fingers, and Sandman spin house and progri house: Saturdays, 9 p.m., below Buffalo Joe's, Fifth and Market, downtown, 858-728-1489.

The Brass Rail: Call club for nightly information. 3796 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-298-2233.

The Clockwork Sessions: DIs Frame and Saint spin midtempo breaks. House, drum 'n' bass. Fridays. Aztec Bowl (the Turquoise Room), 435e 30th Street, North Park.

number Bey: Hursdays, 17/ ammsy and weekly special guests spin buse, techno, and disco. Fridays. Ger nur Groove On with DIs spinning op 40, hip-hop, and house. Call club-is Saturday events. 3175 India Street, idtown. 619-296-6789.

Club '80s: DJs Brian P. Richard D

Club Elements: Threidays, Transmission, trance. Fridays, Playhouse, house. Saturdays, El progressive and trance. 1255 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-296-8160.

Club Gasoline: DJ Rite One and the Gasoline family plus a weekly guest spin trance, house, backbeat, and techno; 21 and up. Thursdays, midnight to 4 a.m., Brick By Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue, Bay Park, 619-687-5779.

619-687-5779.
Club Mice Wednesdays, Dance Party with DI Korny, Thursdays, the Hot Spot presented by the Union, DIs St. Rockwell Sattordays, DI Christon and Romwith dance and techno. Doubletter Mission Valley, 7450 Hazard Center Drive. 619-297-3466, 34139.

Club Paradise: Dls Henry Diaz and Jeremy spin deep underground house, vocal, disco, and hip-hop, 21 and up. Saturdays, 10 p.m. to 2 am. the Pirates Den, 2812 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. Information, 619-222-8950.

Club Retro: [1] [Amentia spins '80s, synth-pop, new romantic, new wave,

3-199



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9 p.m. to 2 a.m., the Hole, 2820 Lytton Street, Point Loma 619-465-5827; www.klubs.com

DEEP: DJs Syndo, Wall Kruwier, an MC Skyler Mic anu special guests sp jungle and drum 'n' bass; 21 and up Thursdays, the Rhythm Lounge, 304 Midway Drive, Midway District 619-912-3103.

Epiphany: D) Chan Fortin Monday Blind Melons, 716 Garnet Avenue Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844 Hot Box: DIs Kirc and Tom - spir house. Thursdays = p.m. 6 - a.m.

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Nightfall: DJ Robert and guests spin jothic, synthyop. EBM, industrial, and letrih, 21 and up. Sundays, the frass Rad, 3796 Fifth Avenue, fullcrest, 619-298-2233.

Ole Madrid: Fridays, Club Aura, Dis-Matt Spencer, Tasya, Scotter, and quests spin house, hip-hop, and sance, Saturdays, Mecca with Dls Jose

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Project Cathedral: Fourth Sunday of is month, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., St.

S Cathedral, Fifth Avenue at
meg, Banker's Hill. 619-220-4944.

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BY RICHARD MELTZER

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time on "Keep Christ in Christ-mas," contending it was altitle LATE for that — the Pandora's Box of Americapitalist said OPEN — sorryl Did ne write this sutfit himself? Other celebs known to have dropped acid back when the dropped acid back when probably wouldn't call him straight) — but they didn't exactly talk about it. Not publicly.

of Courte Lemms nopper you are considered in the condens and offer cognet words in behalf of courte of the courte of



JUDY COLLINS

nature tune). I've held her in EXTREMELY high esteem ever since that interview. (To hear a sample of Judy Colline call 619-233-9797, wait for the prompt, then punch in ext. 4822)

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888-688-0412, ext. 402; www.srh.com Tangenti Wednesdays, drum 'n' bass excursions with resident DIs Kojak, Tom B, and SkinnyDip. Open decks 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., no cover before 10 p.m. Dream Street, 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-8131.

Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-8131.
Therapy Special Event: DJs. Haujobb, Velvet Acid Christ, Din Fiv, Bryan Pollard, and DMNR. 21 and up. Saturday, December 16, 8 p.m. to 3.a.m., Brick By Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue, Bay Park, 619-220-8497 or 619-275-5483.

619-225-5488. Therapy DJs Brain Pollard, Crash, and special worldy guests you industrial, EBN Ferning, gother moderated, EBN Ferning, gother moderated, EBN Ferning, gother moderated, at Club Vortex, 5215 Adobe Falls (1.8, cct Waring Road), 619-888-8888, remaining Farliny at the Flame, SEP Farls Roulecard, San Diego, 619-293-418, Ceneral information, 619-465-5827, www.Alubs.com.

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achimo and international guesti spi cep house music. Thursdays, the ske Joint Cate, 327 Fourth Avenue, in Diego. Information, 19-998-5993, 619-232-SOUL.

LOCAL MUSIC

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The Beach House, 2530 South Flighway 101, Cardiff. 760-753-1521. Ferformances begin at 7 pm, except Sunday, 500 pm. Thursday, Sonny and the Rumble Tomes, blase. Firday, Tros do lour, 322. Saturday, the fustin Brothers, acoustic, Sunday, Rick Ress, tax; Wednesday, Semin and Fulubula reggae.

Boar Cross'n, 390 Grand Avenue, Carlybad, 858-729-2989, Friday and Saturday, the Hot Hook, rock



BY WILLIAM CRAIN

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Henifin's Irish Pub, 13314 Poway Road, Poway, 858-486-0764, Friday, Steve White, acoustic blues.

Hennessey's Tavern, 2777 Roosevelt Street, Carisbad, 760-729-6951. Friday, Captam Dirk and the Yacht Litards, rock, Saturday, Andrea's Fault, pop rock.

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Randy Jones Big Stone Lodge, 12237 Old Pomerado Road, Poway, 858-748-1617. Friday and Saturday, Hill Country.

Boulevard, Oceanside, 760-631-4466. Thursday, Lite the Night, jazz. Friday, Tim Muddi, acoustic, alternative, Saturday, Jason Mraz and Carlos Olmeda, acoustic pop. Sunday, Duncan Moore, jazz.

to 1 pm, Jordano, Framenco. Surf N°Saddle, 123 West Plaza Street (Lomas Santa Fe and Highway 101). Solaria Beach. 8:88-755-9474. Friday. Vernbrid. A.M. Vibe. and Evilado. alternative. Saturday, Bone, rock.

Tomiko Bar & Grill, 87 Encintas Boulevard, Encintas, 760-633-3580 Friday, 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Amfr Villar-Boss, Brazilian jazz, Wednesday, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Karen Monrad, classic/Flamenco guitar.

goitar.

Torreyana Grille (inside the Hilton La Jola Torrey Pines). 1099 North Torrey Pines (sood, Del Mar. 888-450
4571. Music is jazz unless otherwise noted. Weeknight performances are from 6 pm to 9.30 pm. Sunday.
10.30 am to 2 pm. Thursday.
Saturday, and Sunday, Shep Meyer.
Friday and Nordos, James Le Vullo. Saturday. Mike Ces. Tuesday and Wednesday, Rom Freihman.

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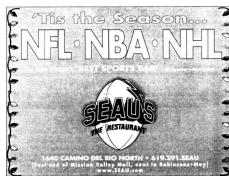
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Albie's Beef Inn, 1201 Hotel Circle South, San Diego, 619-291-1103. Tuesday through Saturday, David Timothy Smith.

Anthony's Star of the Sea, 1360 North Harbor Drive, San Diego. North Harbor Drive, San Dieg 619-232-7408. Thursday and Fi 5:30 pm, the Jaime Valle-Bob (fagnusson Duo, Brazilian-1

Blarney Stone Pub, 5617 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont, 858-279-203 Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Ic Byrnes, folk, Sunday, open mike Tuesday, Irish jam session.

The Blue Agave, 6608 Mission Gorge Road, San Diego, 619-521-3194, Call club for information.

Borders Books and Music, 1072 Camino del Rio North, Mission Valley, 819-295-2201. Friday, 8 pm Zambra, world beat sounds. Sunday

Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Avens Bay Park, 619-275 LIVE, Music is alternative/rock unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 13-A, Friday, Nor Connection, Panaprica, and Terestic Saturday, Velvet Acid Christ and Haujobb, Sunday, Mikey Dread.

Tuesday, Curfew and Strikes and

Buster Daly's, 3112 University Avenue, North Park. 284-2747. Thursday, Tim Quinn & Venus Electric, blues.

Club Bombay, 3175 India Street downtown. 619-296-6789. Fridat 6 pm to 8 pm, Ali Handal, folk. Tuesday, 8 pm, open mike.

Epicentre, 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa. 858-271-4000.

Ing Roll Band, swing.

The Gordon Biersch Brewery, 5010
Mission Center Road, San Diego,
619-688-1120, Music is blues/swing
unless otherwise noted. Frieday, the
Boogle Men. Saturday, Len Rainey and
the Midnight Players. Sunday, the
Robin Henkel Band.

Henry's Pub, 618 Fifth Avenue, downtown, 619-557-0536. Thursday, Jim Templeton.

The Imperial House, 505 Kalmia Street, San Diego. 619-234-3525. Wednesday through Saturday, Sean McVicker, dance music.

Innsuites, 2223 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego. 858-296-2101. Wednesday 8 pm to 10 pm, workshop/concert with the San Diego Concert Jazz Band.

Jolt'n Joe's, 8076 La Mesa Bouleva La Mesa, 619-466-2591, Friday and Saturday, the Norm, rock and roll.

Just's Cupps Coffee, 3823 30th Street, North Park. 619-858-5282 Tuesday, 9 pm to 11 pm, Tony Taravella, acoustic folk.

Kelly's Pub, 6344 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area. 619-286-0400. Friday. Evans, acoustic. Saturday, live music. Wednesday. Tommy Price, acoustic.

The Kensington Club, 4079 Adam: Avenue, Kensington, 619-284-2848 Saturday, the Creepy Creeps and the Insecticides, alternative.

Insectiodes, alternative.

Lestat's Coffeehouse, 3343 Adams
Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-2820437. Thursday, 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm
Peter Hall, acoustic, Friday, 8 pm to
10 pm, the Goliards, medieval.
Saturday, Denny Lina, alternative.
Tuesday, 8 pm to 10 pm, Duk Koenig. Saturday, Denny Lira, alternative. Tuesday, 8 pm to 10 pm, Dick Koen, jazz. Wednesday, 8 pm to 10 pm, 2 Die 4, blues, rock.

Live Wire, 2103 El Cajon Boulevard, Hillcrest. 619-291-7450. Saturday, th Scramblers, rockabilly, with Tammy Faye and the PTL, alternative.

Mixx, 3671 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest 619-299-6499. All performances be

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at 619-235-3000.

O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub, 1310 Morena Boulevard, Bay Park. 619-276-5637. Friday, Bob. Saturda Fuzzy Raisin and F3, rock.

Ollic's Restaurant, 10789 Tierrasan Boulevard, San Diego, 858-560-6677 Thursday and Sunday, Patrick Hill. Friday and Saturday, Ray and Lainie Correa. Monday, Io Treanor. Wednesday, Ray Correa, solo piano.

The Ould Sod, 3373 Adams Avenue. Normal Heights. 619-284-6594. Friday, Lisa Campbell, acoustic. Wednesday, the Hatchet Brothers, alternative.

arternate Allied Gardens, 5147 Waring Road, Allied Gardens, 619-286-7873. Friday and Saturday, Positive Approach, classic rock, swing.

osie O'Grady's, 3402 Adams venue, Normal Heights, 619-284

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7666. Friday and Saturday, live rock and roll.

Sante, 7811 Herschel, La Jolla. 858-454-1315. Thursday, 7 pm to 11 pm, Dean Paul Ratzman, jazz. Friday and Saturday, Bill Beyer. Second Wind, 8515 Navajo Road, San Carlos. 619-465-1730. Friday and Saturday, Full Xposure, rock and roll.

Tutto Mare, 4365 Executive Drive, La Jolla (Golden Triangle area). 885-597-1188. Monday, 6:30 pm. Amorous, string quartet. Wednesday, 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm. the Jaime Valle Bossa-Jazz Quartet. Sham Rocks Shack, 7059 El Cajon Boulevard (1/2 block east of 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-2263. Friday and Saturday, live rock. Quarter.

The Vortex, 5215 Adobe Falls Road.
San Diego. 619-265-7198. Friday,
Psydecar, reggae. Saturday, Grove.
Madcap Otis, Ben Johnson, the Nickel
Project, and Nectarine, rock. Tuesday.
7 pm to 11 pm, Guy Alan, acoustic
blues.

Sherston San Diego Four Points Hotel, 8110 Acro Drive, San Diego. 619-277-8886. Skies Lounge: Friday and Saturday, 6 pm to 10 pm, Cath Eckert, jazz. Tib Lee's Lounge, 5302 Napa Street (at Morena Boulevard), Bay Park, 619-542-1462. Thursday, Brighte Handley and the Sleepwalkers, Friday, Blue Largo, blues. Saturday, Cheap Le and guests. Tuesday, the Bon Temps Social Club. Wednesday, the Buzzards rockshill*.

Top of the Cove, 1216 Prospect Avenue, La Jolla. 858-454-7779. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 pm, Marv Paymer, contemporary.

a una Man's, 4693 30th Street, Normal Heights, 619-640-8822. Friday, Stone Cold Blues. Saturday, Waveless Dave and the No Boards, rock. Tube Man's, 4693 30th Street, Normal Heights. 619-640-8822

Downtown

Blarney Steen Pub, 502 Fifth Avenue, downtown 619-233-819. Thursday through Stunday, and Wednesday, Steve Brewer, acoustic.

Butfalo Jee's, 600 Fifth Avenue, downtown 619-230-1616. Fidsy, the 802 Allisars, pop. Saturday, the Dason Pimps, Sanday, the blass. Tuesday, the Aguarrani. Wednesday, the Revelations. The Casbah, 2501 Kettner Boulevard

the And/Ors, Freedom for Satura, and Transis Aural Assault, alternative Friday, the R. Sale Players, Latin 1222, and Freeway Planet, Saturday, 1822, Markey Standay, 1823, 1824, 182

Croce's Jazz Bar, 802 Fifth Ave downtown. 619-233-4355. Thu the David Patrone Quartet, jazz Friday, Primo, Latin jazz. Satur Agua Dulce, Latin jazz. Sunday Hollis Gentry Quartet, jazz. Mo

The Field, 544 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-232-9840. Sunday, 5 pm to 9 pm, Cobblestone and the Boxry Band, Irish music. Flo's Cucine Italiane, 801 Fifth Avenue, downtown, 619-234-346; Friday and Saturday, 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm, *Jerry Melnick*, jazz and contemporary piano. Croce's Top Hat Bar and Grille, 8

Fifth Avenue, downtown, 619-233-4355. Thurday, the Majerice, swing Friday, Fuzzy and the Bluemmen, blo Saturday, the Mike Reilly Band, jazz Sunday, the BelFonks with Wing, Monday, the BelFonks with Wing, Conwell and the Tone Kings, blues. Tuesday, the Boogse Men, blues, jazz Wednesday, the Boogse Men, blues, jazz Wednesday, the Fileppuilker. 4th & B, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343. Thursday, 8 pm, jazz concert. Sunday, 8 pm, Nei and the Makaha Sons, Hawaiian music.

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Lilo's, 1125 6th Avenue, downtown. 619-231-1969. Music is jazz. Friday,

Redflah, 731 Fifth Avenue, San Diego. 619-234-7226. Friday and Saturday, Under Your Skin, rock and roll.

Roger's on 5th, 835 Fifth Avenue, downtown, 619-702-0444. Thursday and Saturday, 6 pm to 11 pm, also, Friday and Wednesday, 7 pm to 11 pm, Robberecht the Pianoman.

Sevilla, 555 Fourth Avenue, downtown, 619-233-5979. Latin music, call club for information

Tsunami Beach Club, 802 Sixth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-231-WAVE. Call club for information.

U.S. Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway,

Jame Valle and Equinoc, Latin jazz.
The Westgate Morel, 1055 Scoond
Avenue, downtown, 619-238-1818. Le
Fontainebleau Noorm. Monday
through Friday, 11:30 pm to 2 pm,
Robbercht the Phanoman.
And Saturday, 8 pm, Fran
LaCosta Friday, Monday, Tuesday,
and Wednesday, 5 pm to 7 pm,
Robbercht the Jamonson. Also,
Tuesday and Wednesday, 7 pm to
11 pm, Karen Gorgip, pana and

Wocals.
The Wyndham Emerald Plaza, 400
West Broadway, downtown. 619-2394500. The Sidebar Lounge: Thursday
and Wednesday, 5 pm to 7 pm, Joe
Tarrantino, jazz piano. Friday, 5 pm
to 9 pm, and Saturday, 6 pm to
10 pm, Stellist and Joe Tarrantino.

South Bay/Coronado

Cafe La Maze, 1441 Highland Avenue, National City, 619-474-3222. Friday and Saturday, piano bar, featuring Sandy Chappel, Sammy Canonizado, and Burnett Anderson.

Di-mond Jim's Nightclub, 773 Third Avenue, Chula Vista. 619-585-7323. Friday and Saturday, Night Shift, rock and roll.

Heatel del Carmond, 1500 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 190 - 456-4611. Baltone & Suny, Thuralley, Sundey, Baltone & Suny, Thuraley, Sundey, Friday and Saturday, 430 pm to 12-30 am, Barbare Jameron, 2012. Host, Friday and Saturday, 830 pm to 12-30 am, Barbare Jameron, 2012. Host, Friday and Saturday, 830 pm to 12-30 am, Barbare Jameron, 2012. Starting, 530 pm to 12-30 am, Jeney Partner, Sunday through Wedeneday, Sunday, monto to 12-30 am, Jeney Friday and Saturday, 530 pm to 10-30 pm to 10-30 pm, Deve Unit 5-30 pm to 10-30 pm, Deve Unit, Saturday, Sunday, monto to pm, Deve Unit, Friday and Saturday, 830 pm to 10-30 sp not 10-30 pm to 10-30 pm, the Chart Carmon Supplemental Carmon Saturday, 830 pm to 10-30 pm to 10-30 pm. the Chart Carmon

Avenue, Chula Vista, 619-426-5172. Friday and Saturday, 6 pm, and Sunday, 5 pm, Gordon Kohl, Kjell Holmes, or Vicki Enqat, European and

Janie's Cocktalle, 656 E Street, Chula Vista, 619-420-9951. Friday, Uptown Groove, Saturday, Jumpstart, rock and roll.

Lore's Coronado Bay Resort, 4000 Coronado Bay Rosol, Coronado. 619-424-4000. Cays Lounge Friday, 8 pm to midnight, Tyler & Allen, 1922. 8 pm to midnight, Tyler & Allen, 1922. Saturday, 8:30 pm to 12:30 am, the Coral Thurt Trio, 1922. Azzurs Point: Friday and Saturday, 6:30 pm to 11 pm, Kemau Keryatta, solo piano.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill, 1107 McP's Irish Pub and Grill, 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-5280. Thursday, Swer Blue Onion. blues. Friday, Nitre Express, country. Saturday, Baywolf, rock and roll. Sunday, Faire Way Street, accountic. Monday, Jim Moore, acountic. Monday, Gary Rich, folk. Wednesday, Rom's Carrage, acountic.

Ron's Garage, acoustic.

Mr. D's Cocktail Lounge, 1322 Third
Avenue, Chula Vista, 619-427-4200,
Thursday, 7 pm. David Zabo Friday
and Saturday, 9 pm, Latin, cumbias.

East County

Fannie's, 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley. 619-698-2204. Friday and Saturday, This Side Up, classic rock.

Flinn Springs Inn, 15505 Highway 80, El Cajon, 619-561-3015. Friday and Saturday, Big River,

The German-American Societies, 1017 South Mollison Avenue, El Cajon, 858-273-7283. Friday, 7:30 pm the Ray Barrie 12-Piece Big Band featuring Jo Dark.

Magnolia Mulvaney's, 8861 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-448-8550. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

Tired



Waiting Game

The movie's single most exciting sequence is the one in which the studio fakery is most visually evident.

he annual Christmas logism—
the Yule logism. I guess that would be—is complicated this year by the uncommon number of eleventh-hour releases I have been honestly looking forward to. Not so much Quilltor Gatt Awayor All the Presty Horset, but the Coen brothers' O Brother. When Art Thou? Grantch).

O Brother, Where Art Thou? (natch). David Marnet's State and Main, Ang Lee's Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (I was never in the habit of looking for-(I was never in the habit of looking for-ward to Ang Lee's films before Ride with the Devil), Terence Davies's House of Mirth, Steven Soderbergh's Traffic, Sam Raim's The Gift, Some of these— the last three — are not scheduled to rive in our town until after the first of the year, and maybe that's just as

take them in the order they come, and on a week like this can only twiddle my thumbs.

Vertical Limit chronicles a rescue operation on the upper slopes of K2, where three survivors of an aborted climb are sealed up in a bottomless

well. The others threaten already to cut into one another's space. I can only

mas logiam—

1. I guest hat
mplicated this
on number of
si have been
si have been

REVIEW

DUNCAN SHEPHED

Therefore the state of the s

three, and he is not sought out at tale's end when he could very well have said

crevasse. The clock is ticking - thirty

"I told you so." The movie at least passes the fanny test: something that passes the famy test something that can be sat through without undue wear and tear on the upholstery and the ischium. The suspense mechanisms are well-oiled, and the setting and situation inspire director Martin Campbell to a higher-than-average level of compositional solidity, the bet-ter to record an angle of ascent or depth of above. depth of abyss.

seamlessness of today's computer-gen-erated imagery is such as to cast doubt Somehow, though, mountain Somenow, though, mountain-climbing exploits seem less impressive in the CG age (see, also, Cliffhanger) than in the primitive period of, say, The Eiger Sanction, when you could still believe that Clint Eastwood, sans stuntman, was actually on the even on legitimate stuntwork: we can never believe our own eyes anymor Too, this seamlessness encourages and facilitates a kind of cartoonization of the action, a distortion of physical pos-sibilities to a degree that simply stirs



up further doubt. (Why the hard sell? Why the hyperbole? What is there to hide?) It is food for thought, then, that sporting a Sgt. Preston mustache, cuts an unobtrusively fine figure as the all-business pilot; and Scott (Leatherface) Glenn is an incessant hoot as the toe-less guide with an Apache headband, the movie's single most exciting sequence is the one in which the studio fakery is most visually evident: the dewind-tickled tresses, and transcenbarkation of the rescue team from an dental gaze. But of course, in a strict osteady helicopter nuzzling up to a ountain crag. Temuera Morrison, hierarchy descending down through



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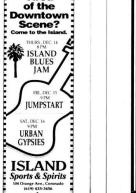
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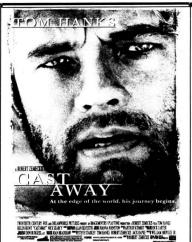
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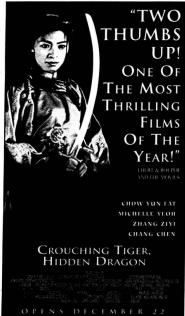
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Calendar MOVIES

a dispensable Paki, and lastly a me-first American millionaire, the people we are principally supposed to care about are the separated brother and sister, are the separated brother and sister, Chris O'Donnell and Robin Tunney, a National Geographic photographer and Sports Illustrated cover girl respec-tively. Hence no call for a body count

at the finish.

Proof of Life details a different sort of rescue mission, on a different sort of time schedule (two, three, four months), that of an American hostage in the clutches of fallen Marxist in the clutches of fallen Marxist money-grubbing guerrillas in the mythical Latin American nation of Tecala. This might have passed the fanny test, too, if the hostage's wife were someone other than Meg Ryan. With her swollen, flattened, pinkpainted lips, her Gorgonian hairdo of braided snakes, her flirtatiously cocked tive and antidote as the meddlesome tive and antidote as the meddlesome in-law, until she is peremptorily sent back to the States to scrape together the ransom and is never heard from again. Russell Crowe, as the pro bono hostage negotiator nursing a heavy crush on the victim's wife, or in other words a pro boner negotiator, matches his characte's nurported expertise. his character's purported expertise with a most becoming and befitting modesty. (Crowe and Ryan, an off-screen

modely (Crowe and Ryan, an off acreo-tion, gove the silker in the audience a chance to twitter when the fleetingly lock lips.) And director Taylor Hack-ford marshals some acceptable action — a long time coming — in the crisply co-ordinated raid on the guerrilla stronghold. Dungean and Dragon, directed by someonic added Courtines Solomon, is a solitorial to the comment of the control of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the control of the same of the control of the control of the control of the cont Irons, destroying any last shred of credibility he once held as an actor), a blue-lipped bald-headed bad guy, a purple-faced three-eved bad guy, purple-faced three-eyed bad guy, a callow vapid fatuous team of good guys, some computer-cartoon mon-sters, a magical scroll, rod, scepter, something. We could complain about the darkness and dishevelment of the image if this weren't overriden by the complaint that we can make out any-

thing at all. None of these, it should go with None of these, it should go with-out saying, can hold a candle to the true-life epic science-fictional suspense comedy-drama known in the media under the name of Decision 2000. ■

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd

Almost Famous — Cameron Crowe's most 'personal' film to date, a nostalgia trip into the rock-and-roll scene of the early Seventies. The names have been changed, to cover up, perhaps, for revisions or lapses of memory, and for ingrained tendencies to sanitize and whitewash. The fif-teen-year-old free-lance rock journalist — Crowe's stand-in — in now called William Miller (the dimply Patrick Fugit, projecting a Howly) Doods wholesomeness); and the a Howdy Doody wholesomeness); and the fictitious heavy-metal band on whose tour he tags along is called Stillwater (Billy Crudup as the Jimmy Page-ish guitarist, Jason Lee as the Robert Plant-ian singer). son Lee as the Robert Plant-tan singer). Crowe has always been content to play to the crowd — and the bigger the better. Or to put it another way: the blander the bet-ter. The upside of this, from certain points of view, is that the music of the period is here dribbled out in eye-dropper doses, and with a slightly skewed bias toward the soft" (Cat Stevens, Steely Dan, Elto John). Earplugs will not be required. And jonn), carpings win not or required. And the parental figure, a single-morn college professor, for all her mortifying overprote tiveness and monpermissiveness (confisca-ing a Simon and Garfunkel album: "Hone they're on pot"), is given a distinctive voice—not to mention, in Frances Ms-

mouth, chin, eyes, everything. Not a straw woman; a strong woman. (Crowe's own mother would surely approve.) A distinc-tive voice of a different generation issues from Philip Seymour Hoffman as the late the work of a different generation issues when the work of a different generation is considered to the state of bathos. We must remind ourselves, after all, that the film is autobiographical, and that the guiding principle of our autobiog-rapher is popularity at any cost. It is harde

creativity at the turn of the millennium: take the title, idea, and structure of a dimly remembered comedy of thirty-three years earlier — the Devil will grant seven wishes, those with a cetch in exchange for always with a catch, in exchange for a soul — and then pour your own cruder gags into it. (To start, make the Devil a de colleté dish.) The basketball segment at least demonstrates that the writers have watched their share of postgame intervi With Brendan Fraser, Elizabeth Hurley Frances O'Connor: directed by Harold

Bost in Show — Christopher Guest's gallery of caricatures of the people at and around the fictitious Mayflower Kennel

Club Doe Show: funny, yet disappointing Club Dog Show: funny, yet disappointing, or in other words: not as funny as his Waiting for Guffman, and lavishly over-praised in the reviews. It gives reviewers a chance to be funny, in turn, by passing along the jokes.) The so-called "mocku-mentary" technique, at least as practiced by Guest, is too inherenthy faulty to meit en-thronement as a formula. The de rigurur in sity, are simply an easy way (a little akin to sity, are simply an easy way (a little akin to voice-over narration) to dispense informa-tion, tell jokes, etc., without the trouble of constructing serviceable scenes and situa-tions. At the same time, or rather at differ-ent times, the hand-held camera is privy to behind-closed-doors activities to which no

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PARKWAY PLAZA 18

cess - and without the responsibility of secess — and witmout the responsibility of se-lecting an angle, setting up a composition, etc. It is a technique that yields more ex-cuses than results. The cast members — Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara, Michael McKean, John Michael Higgins, Michael Hitchcock, Parker Posey, Jennifer Coolidge, Jane Lynch, Bob Balaban, Fred Willard, Jim Piddock, Guest himself, several of whom were also in Guffman — are well in tune

Billy Elliot - Fluffy and forgettable bit of BIIIIy Elliot — Fluffy and forgettable bit uplift about an unlikely lad in Margaret Thatcher's England, who drops out of the local boxing cloth, drops in on the all-girl ballet class that convenes in the same gorn and proves himself into its the untrained eye, which might concede his potential as clog dancer, but rather to his chain-smoking matronly teacher!" good enough "at age elevent to addition for the Royal ballet. School. How nice. How very, very nice. The kid, Jamie Bell, is likably kidlike, and the smoothness of Stephen Daldry's direc stopped short of slickness with a sprir of coal-town grit, Julie Walters, Gary

JOSE FASHION VALLEY TRUE STOWER HIS PALM PROMENADE 24 UA HORTON PLAZA 14

Charlie's Angels - The overhaul of th

Charlis's Angula — The excitation that be seemed in Ye were is in essential of the late Secretic IV is were is in essential to the council after in the expense sequence she're. It is a second to the said of the excitation of the exit of an arborine either and settled down in from 10 at Artican garded down in from 10 at Artican garded garded about the in-light netratianment [T. H. Index in Advier A mother me from an old TV show — I have that"), peels off a set of the extra thing is set out to accomplish. The shicks kick buts, dogle-bullest (running up the walls in Marrix fashion to do so, dish out double-enterance to the mailman. You double-enterance to the mailman. You cleavage, speak in subtitles when they desire privacy, never break a sweat. And their collective tongue, not content to remain in check, is openly and fully stuck out. Any reheated debate — from the glory days of Ige of V. Fararh Brian, and if that — over whether the thing is anti-feminist, quas-feminist, crypto-feminist, post-feminist neo-feminist, or what-you-will, would



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STARTS FRIDAY

HILLCREST VILLAGE

make more sense if our trinity of "Angels" bore any resemblance to human beings bore any resemblance to human beings. Nonhuman equates to nonfeminist, a non-issue. On the plus side, Cameron Diaz does a couple of high-spirited and low-inhibitioned dances. That's the extent of the plusses. Lucy Liu, Bill Murray, Sam Rockwell, Kelly Lynch, directed by McG (no first name, only that fragment of a last name).

2000.

• IDEL MAR HIGHLANDS; FASHON VALLEY 18:
GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT TROLLEY:
LA IDELA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROME
ANDE 24; PANISMON VALLEY 36, RANCHO DEL,
REY 16; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; SWEETWATER 9;
TOWN SQUARE 14; VOGUE!

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole

Dr. Seuze' How the Griech Stole
Christman — Amoro coult. The kiddle
in holiday homily — "Maybe Christman
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CINEMA STAR 10; CINEMA STAR 13; CIN-ERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS; FASHION VAL-LEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; HAZARD CENTER 7; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLE; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24;

PARKWAY PLAZA 18: POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SANTEE DRIVE IN; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; SWEETWATER 9; TOWN SQUARE 14; WIEGAND PLAZA)

Dr. Zhivago — David Lean's vision of Pasternak's novel is designed for filmgoers who are prone to remark "ooh" and "ahh" at wide-screen pictures of flowers, icicles, deserts of snow, fields of wheat, and so

forth. Omar Sharif, Julie Christie, Geral-dine Chaplin, Rod Steiger. 1965. • (KEN, 12/19 THROUGH 21)

Dudo, Where's My Car? — Youth comedy starring Ashton Kutcher and Scann William Scott, directed by Daniel Leiner. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CINEMA STAR 10; CINEMA STAR 13; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS; STAR 13; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARIWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SWEETWATER 9; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 12/15)

Dungoons and Dragons — Reviewed this issue. With Jeremy Irons, Justin Whalin, Marlon Wayans, Zoe McLellan, and Thora Birch; directed by Courtney

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN: CINEMA STAR 10: CIN EMA STAR 13; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGH EMA STAR 1.3; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAN HIGH-LANDS; FASHON VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; HAZARD CENTER 7; LA JOLLA 12; MESSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROME NADE 24; PARRIWAY PAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN-CHO DEL REY 16; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; SWEET-WATER 9; TOWN SQUARE 14; WEGAND PAZA;

The Emperor's New Groove — Disney animated adventure directed by Mark Din-dal, with songs by Sting, and voices by David Spade, John Goodman, Eartha Kitt. David Spade, John Goodman, Eartha Kitt.
(CARMEL MOUTAIN, CHEMA STAR GLASY; CINEMA STAR 10, CINEMA STAR 13, CINERAMA 6;
DEL MAR HORHANDS; FASHON VALEY 18;
GROSSMONT CENTER; HARBOR DRIVE IN; HAZARD CINTER 7, LA JOLLA 12, MISSION VAL
LEY 20; PALM PROMINUE 24, PARKWAY
PALA 18; POWAY 10; RAMONI TWIN; RANGON
DEL REY 16; SWEETWATER 9; TOWN SQUAME 14;
LUCKETOR SEX 14, MISSION PAL
LUCKETOR SEX 1 UA HORTON PLAZA 14; WEGAND PLAZA; FROM 12/15)

A Hard Day's Night — The Beatles' hyperthyroid first film, directed by Richard
Lester with a sense of comic and cimeratic
inventiveness — funny, silly, and stupid, by
turns — that never stops asserting itself for
a minute. 1964.

** * (RA, HROUGH 12/14; HILLCREST CINLOMS, FROM 12/15)

High Fidelity — Cool-cat comedy cen-tered around the owner of a used-records store called Championship Ymyk, his low called Championship Ymyk, his low clerks. The arcane shoptall will perhaps be clerks. The arcane shoptall will perhaps be or interest to those who can decipher it, but it makes no noticeable effort to engage the outsider. The musical content notwith-standing (including, of course, an oldiera-balen soundtrast), his is a ball-and-chain



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열 7:00 pm 넓 "Victor, Victoria" (1982) Blake Edwards 9:30 pm (1979) Blake Edwards

≃ 2:00 pm "Victor, Victoria (1982) Blake Edwards ₩ 4:30 pm (1979) Blake Edwards

'A MASTERPIECE! THE MOST FUN You'll Have AT THE MOVIES THIS YEAR! law-Droppingly EXHILARATING! CHOW YUN FAT MICHELLE YEOH CHANG CHEN CROUCHING TIGER. HIDDEN DRAGON

"RUGRATS" PACKS APPEAL FOR BOTH KIDS AND PARENTS. "RUGRATS IN PARIS" TURNS OUT TO BE JUST AS CHARMING AS - AND MORE IMPRESSIVELY ANIMATED THAN -ITS PREDECESSOR." "THUMBS UP!__BRIGHT__FUNNY__ Tagests in Parts' is not only fun for its target audience, but entertaining for grown-ups as well tages from CREST 6 BRIDE AND TRE METER "IT'S BETTER THAN THE 1998
"RUGRATS" MOVIE, FUNNIER,
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YOU'T HAVE REGISTED AND THANK. "IT'S A WONDERFUL TRIP WITH LOTS OF ACTION FOR KIDS. G GENERAL AUDIENCES www.rugratsinparis.com | STREAM, CONTROLAD | CANADA | NOW Con the Part (X) CEANED IN

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literary film, a garrulous transcription of a literary film, a garrulous transcription of a first-person confessional novel by Nick Hornby, in which the hero chews our collective ear off in direct address to the camera: "1d have to say that my all-time favorite book is Caub by Johnsty Cash," etc. John Cusack tends to be a bit too conscious of and coay with the camera even under ordinary circumstances, and here he is like dinary circumstances, and here he is like Narcissus in a maze of mirrors. Jack Black and Todd Louiso play the musical nerds as if they want to be sure to be included in any TV-sitcom spinoff. (Each of their charac-ters is allowed to blossom in a manner that prizes crowd reaction over credibility.) The casting of the hero's most recent lover protections reaction over creatingly.

By the all but unknown and unpronounceable Darish actress, Ben Hjøle, a sort of cross between Patrica Arquetter and May Shuart modes— is successful in cutting off any sudience expectations. And the performance total in successful in contending any sudience expectations. The performance total in successful in contending any sudience expectations. The performance total in successful in contending any sudience expectation. The Mosbins, Catherine Petars— in Mosbins, Catherine Petars— parts—— The Mosbins, Catherine Petars— parts—— The Mosbins— (Sarber September —— lead the move the air of the handwagen. Directed by Vippher Irena. 2000.

Con Octoo Control Control, 12/13, 6 P.M.)



Into the Arms of Strangers — Mark Jonathan Harris's documentary on the pre WWII emigration of Central European children, largely lewish, to foster homes in (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Just Looking — Mid-Fifties coming-of-age comedy, the directorial debut of Sein-feld's Jason Alexander. (LA JOLLA VILLAGE, FROM 12/15)

Little Nicky — Starring Adam Sandler. By now, that much — that little — should be a sufficient review. To say that the plays the weakling son of Satan — to say that he plays him as if afflicred with a humpback, a clubfoot, cerebral paby, throat cancer, and imp liteless hare — is just to get mired in minutus. The only real difference between an Adam Sandler connectly and, say, a Pauly Shore comedy is that the first will make

ASHTON KUTCHER SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT Where's my Car VVV COMPRES COM 20 ATTER A VIGHT THEM CANT REMEMBER, COMES A DAM THEM... NEVER FORSET. STARTS FRIDAY The state of the s mountains of money and the second mole-hills. So instead of remaining a bad joke, it becomes, from the standpoint of his back-ers, a good joke, Heh-heh-heh. With Patri-

Most the Parents — A bad-to-worse meet the Parents — A bad-to-worse weekend for a male nurse named Focker (you'll need several sets of fingers and toes to count up the utterances of that name), who accompanies his prospective fiancée to his prospective sister-in-law's wedding. The women, including the prospective mother-in-law, virtually fade into the woodwork, as in-law, virtually fade into the woodwork, as all attention centers around the man-to-man head-butts. Pat and overstated com-doy, but solid, professional, compilant performances from Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro. With Teri Polo, Blythe Danner, Owen Wilson; directed by Jay Roach. 2000.

VE (DEMO STAL D), CEL MM HIGHLANDS:
FASSHON WALLEY 218: GROSSWORT FINGLY.

A CALLA 12: MRSKON WALLEY 20; DALM FROME. NADE 24: PARKWAY PLAZA 18: RANCHO DEL REY 16: SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN: LIA HORTON

Me Mysolf I — The Aussies have a go at the alternative-realities game: the Run, Lola, Run game, the Sluling Doors and Twice upon a Yesteday game, the Smoking/No Smoking game. And it was only a matter of Smoking game. And it was only a matter of time, with so many people having a go at it, that the game would dissolve into cozy convention and frivolit. In writer-director Pip Karmel's version, a go-getter investigative reporter looks around at her loweless life and wonders how it would have been different if she hadn't said no to Mr. Right ferent if she hadn't sad no to Mr. Right httnern year caller. She gest to find out — more or less — when he steps off a curb and directly into the path of a car driven by her alternative self: married, with three children, and a writer of full for a sick women's magazine. Rabell Griffiths were on the me to the while as two apparate to the new till the while as two apparate she will be a support of the state of the parameters. If the and lastic, Armong Gents, Marriel's Wed, dungl, even if here he is a string like a TV sit-com star with a Joga Glolowing she would go com star with a Joga Glolowing she would go the start of the come at which and go the down the with a string the down the and Jasta, Among Guota, Mariel's Wedonly, even if here his acting like a TV sitdip, even if here his acting like a TV sitand a transport of the state of the transport
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c ★ (SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 12/17, 2 P.M.)

Men of Honor — Old-fashioned, devy-cyed salute to the Navy's first "colored' deep-sed deve — a lackie Robinson story. To put it securely in that framework, we even hear a sinjept of play-by-play from a Robinson game over the hero's homerade radio, a gift from his abarceropper father. Nice moment when the smashed radio Nice moment when the smashed radio urans up magainly repaired by the recisit of ficer who mashed it it is tuned to a CAW for the control of t



STEPHEN MEYEETY DAVID MEKADZEAN CARMEN FINESTER """" WATT GVELLUM """" BROCE DAVEY """ JOSH GOLDSMITH & CATHY YUSPA HE DRANE "

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STARTS FRIDAY

ellite Ikon; that it must be fixed in orbit; that it must be fixed in a hurry; that it's quicker and easier to reassemble his old team of Air Force cronies than to retrain the young turks of today, MIT degrees

notwithstanding. And: 'Hell, ye sent up Glenn, didn't yel.' Too, the use of dubbed Glenn didn't yel.' Too, the use of dubbed Lee Jones's, Donald Suberlands. James Garne's, James Cromwell's, in the mouths of physically well matched younger actors, and—white prologue dated 1958. Jones proves to be glannyly out of place in this toward was a street of the property of the pro-tored by the prologue dated 1958. Jones proves to be glannyly out of place in this toward was a street of the property of the pro-tored by the property of the pro-tored by the property of the pro-tored by the pro-tored by the pro-lated by the pro-lemant of the pro-tored by the protored by the pro-tored by the pr notwithstanding. And: "Hell, ya sent up same time, it has many (so to speak) nega same time, it has many (so to speak) nega-tive virtues. Virtues of avoidance and abst nence. No obligatory slo-mo shot of the suited-up astronauts striding shoulder to shoulder toward the camera. No overload of special effects. No walloping musical ac

companiment. No operatic pumping-up and stretching-out of the dramatic cli-maxes. Very much to the contrary, those moments are played with a stoicism and la conism that might best be described as manly. Or synonymously be described as Eastwoodly. With Marcia Gay Harden. oren Dean, William Devane. 2000

alized license plates that read "ASCAP," is explicitly a product of an earlier, more re-mantic cra, and is quite nakedly a stand-in for writer-director blake folwards. Ed-wards of the control of the control of the end of the control as a wronous for "woman." the commiser-ute treatment of a homosecual briefs. The extremels unconvenientle causing of a basis for the control of the extremels unconveniently causing of the control of the co

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BREATHTAKING! ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR! CHOW YUN FAT MICHELLE YEOR CHANG CHEN CROUCHING TIGER. HIDDEN DRAGON

Dude Where's My Can

The Sixth Day — Qualms over human cloning give way to outright glee over car chases, explosions, and endies shootouts featuring futuristic firearms whose laser rays produce a Roman-candle effect upon impact. This effect occurs around four hundred times in the course of the action. (The rights and wrongs of cloning, to say nothing of the hows and whats of fi, get nothing of the hows and whats of it, get short shrift. A rond Schwarzenegger, who short shrift. A rond Schwarzenegger, who has trouble finding roles that fit, splits the seams of the all-American family man, "Adam Gibson." With Michael Rapsport, Tony Goldway, Michael Rosker, Wendy Crewson, and Robert Duvall: directed by Roger Spottiwoode. 2000. • (#ASHON VALLEY 18: PALM PROMEMOE 24). UN HORTON PALA 14)

tion of Darren Aronofsky, the P man, noise quipped with renfold resources, and determined to tag them to the limit. The split screens, the fast motion, the followed entire the restriction of the split screens, the shorthmeast editing offs, the just-kid ding fartases and hallucinations, the Spike Lee style tracking shorts behind or in front of fasting emotibles— all this call and more) injects a playfulness that slightly lightens, without quite altering, the most lared Letts, femnifer Connelly, Marlon Wayans (2006).

2000. ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS, THROUGH 12:14)

Rugrats in Paris — The television car-tion characters on the big screen and on the Continent, directed by Stig Bergqvist

and Paul Defreyer.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN, CINEMA STAR 10, CINEMA STAR 13; FASHION VALLEY 18, GASLAMP 15.

GROSSMIGHT TROLLEY: HAZARD CENTER 7; MIS-SION VALLEY 20; PAUM PROMERADE 24; PARR-WAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAMONA TWIK; RAN

CHO DEL REY 16. SWEETWATER 9: TOWN SQUARE 14)

Space Cowboys — Clint Eastwood's forty-sixth starring role is a sufficiently proper and plausible one for an actor of seventy years of age. Or anyway it has bee made sufficiently so. Ample thought and talk have gone into the script to persuade

ARTS, 12/15, 9:30 P.M., AND 12/17, 4:30 P.M.

itard life of Kurdish tire smugglers on the mountainous border of fran and fraq: in specific, the hard life of a parentless family of five siblings who need some fast cash to afford a life prolonging operation for an in curable crippled brother. Some striking in agery (e.g., those tractor-sized tires steeple on the backs of mules), together with som battering emotional appeals: children cry-ing, children shivering, children slapped, children scared, children crying and shiver-ing and slapped and scared all at one. Written and directed by Bahman Ghobadi.

(HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Unbreakable — M. Night Shyamalan's encore to The Sixth Sense, a hard act to follow. But follow it he dauntlessly does, all the way to a mandatory Surprise Ending. A first the fearsomeness of the task seems to drive him to overdirection, a big show of seing busy: a woozy camera for the 196 ogue, a swiveling camera for a passer ger-car conversation viewed through the crack between the next seats, an upside-down camera for the perspective of a child



comes to suspect that the sole survivor of a Pennsylvania train week is his human op-posite, an indestructible superman destined to serve and protect — yet Shyamalan be-trays no awareness of, much less awkward-ness or embarrassment over, any silliness. And in truth, the grip of the movie depends far less on marative propulsion than on at-mospheric muck. (At least, that is, until the

assume the place of the ghostly appartitions in The Stark Forse.) That might explain why this movie is a bit less gripping than its predecessor, though not less unusual. Bruce Williss to again along for the ride, dragging his foot and enzyoning not a single minute of it. With Samuel L. Jackson. Robin Wright-Penn, and Spencer Treat Clark. 2009.

**CRAINGL MOUNTAIN. CORAMA STAN COLANY. CRAMA STAN 13.

What Women Want (PG-13) Fri.-Thu. (1:15, 1:15) 7:30, 10:30

Atl357-30, 10-30

Mission Valley 20

Is40 Cammo Del Ro North (858-558-2262)

What Women Want, The Emperor's New Groove, Dude, Where's My Car?, Dungeons and Dragno, Vertical Limit Proof of Life, 102 Dalmatians, Umbrakable, Dr. Seus's How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Rugrats in Paris, Bounce, Men of Honor, Indie Sneptics, Meet the Parents.

STATE LINIVERSITY

CINERAMA 6; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HIS CINEMAS; GROSSMONT CENTER; HAZARD CEN-TER 7; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VAL LEY 20; PALM PROMEMADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SQUARE 14; UA HORTON PLAZA 14)

Venus Beauty Institute — Nice idea to set a women's picture in and around a beauty salon. And nice amount of attention to the utopian ambience thereat, the as-sorted products and treatments, and the re-ations among staff and clientele. (An aging lations among staff and clientele. (An aging Bulle Ogier, immaculately groomed, makes a perfect proprietress.) But the heroine's personal story—the pathological promiscuity, the ardent courtship from a younger wild-baired sculptor—is cheaply novelettish. To complement the delusory world of the salon, the personal story needed only to be down-to-earth and true-to-life. Instead it is moundaine. Nathalie Base bestows. be down-to-earth and true-to-life. Instead it is moonshine. Nathalie Bay bestows some intelligence and sensitivity, and there are tiny parts for the great Immanuelle Riva and Edith Scob (fans of Georges Franja will not question the gualifier), and one for Micheline Presle, the mother of the film's writer-director. Tonic Marshall. With Samuel Le Bihan. Audrey Tautou, Mathilde

★ ILA JOLLA VILLAGE, THROUGH 12/14)

Vortical Limit — Reviewed this issue With Chris O'Donnell, Robin Tunney, With Chris O'Donnell, Robin Tunney,
Scott Glenn, and Bill Paxton; directed by
Martin Campbell.
** (CARMEL MOUNTAIN, CINERAMA 6: DEL

* ★* (CARMEL MOUNTAIN, CINERAMA 6: DEL MARI REGILAMDS; FASHION VALEEY 18; GROSS-MONI CENTER: LA COSTA 6; LA SOLLA 12; MIS-SION VALEEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARK-WAY PLAZA 18; PDWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SWEETWATER 9; TOWN SQUARE 14; UA HORTON PLAZA 14; WEGRAND PLAZO.

Victor/Victoria - This Blake Edwards

of his preceding two, S.O.B. and 10: movies that appear to have been made on orders from the director's psychiatris. Derived from a 1933 German movie and a 1935 British one, the premise here deals with, in the words of the mentioned women, "a women pretending to be a ran pretending to be a woman"—or more exactly, an out-of-work character (fuller Andrews) who is in the preceding to the control of the preceding the present the preceding the present the preceding the present the prese of work chanteuse (fulis Andrews) who is given a hincut and promoted as a female imperiorator by an out of work, homoset-chanteus (handle full and handle full * ion, there is much in this Billy Wilder-is mix of schmaltz and vulgarity to kill your interest before you ever get to Edwards's bid for Humanitarian of the Year. This bid is made up solely of liberal postures and attitudes without any solid evidence to back them up. A couple of strategic alterations (too late now) might have given the attempted liberalism a big boost the first, which could easily have been managed by chieflest estimator one seen, would be to which could easily have been managed by slightly revising one scene, would be to have Garner make his first serious pass at Andrews without being at all sure what sex she in fact is (but this would have necessite tated a few additional scene to set up a re-lationship based on more than just dissimi-tar genitals), and the second, a bit less easily managed, would be to cast a make acto. Christopher Walken possibly, and never

ARTS, 12/15, 7 P.M., AND 12/17, 2 P.M.

What Women Want — Nancy Meyers's comic fantasy about a man who can hear women's thoughts; with Mel Gibson, Helen Hunt, Marisa Tomei, Alan Alda.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CINEMA STAR GALAXY, CIN-MA STAR 10: CINEMA STAR 13: DEL MAR HIGH-ANDS, FASHION VALLEY 18, GROSSMONT CEN-ER; GROSSMONT TROLLEY; HAZARD CENTER 7; TER, GHOSSMONT HOLLEY, MAZORO CENTER 7, LA COSTA 6, LA JOLLA 12, MISSION VALLEY 20, PALM PROMERADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SANTEE DRIVE IN; SWEETWATER 9; TOWN SQUARE 14; UA HORTON PLAZA 14; WIEGAND PLAZA:

You Can Count on Mo - A rarefied road count of the A rareled chamber piece for a small-town single mom, her pensive little boy, her nomadic no-account brother (their parents, as we're shown in a childhood prologue, were killed

laint of the brother about his home own — its smallness and narrowness — could easily be turned against the movie as could easily be turned against the movie as whole has tomorhing he says at another some should be also as the same should be also screen to compose in fragments instead of in Scene and Acts, and who is prome to dump an unfair share of the workload onto his muscal selections Bach, Loretta Lymn, a whole heap of Steve Earle, Laura Linney (linked on the soundtrake with Loretta Lymn for no apparent reason except the sameness of their rannes) emerges as a kind of thespian Annie Châley, quick on the ring or and a dead whot, challenging Merry! ger and a dead shot, challenging nevery streep's record for cramming the most act-ing into the smallest spaces. Mark Ruffalo, while well versed in the ways of the slacker ("like totally, man"), is less persuasive as the harebrained brother, held back by his third generation Brandoisms or second-generation Erik Estradaisms, and, through generation Erik Estradaisms, and, through no fault of his own, he his complete physical dissimilarity to Linney, darkly Mediterranean to her Nordic frost. With Matthew Broderick (dependably deft as the persistively bank manager deficient in People Skills), Roy Cullkin, Ion Tenney, 2000.

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

DOWNTOWN

or the theater for missing information Bargain

(1:30, 2:15) 4:30, 5:10, 7:10, 8:05, 9:50, 10:45; Sun. (1:30, 2:15) 4:30, 5:10, 7:10, 8:05, 9:50; Mon.-Thu. (1:30, 2:15, 4:30, 5:10) 7:10, 8:05. [1:10, 2:00),4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:50, 9:55, 10:40; Sun. (1:10, 2:00),4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:50, 9:55; Sun. (1:10, 2:00),4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:50, 9:55; Sun. (1:10, 2:00, 4:15, 5:00),7:00, 7:50, 9:55;

showtimes are in parentheses.

CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14
4665 Clairemont Dr. (858-274-1234)
102 Dalmatians (6) Fri.-Sun. (2.30) 5:05, 7:25; Mon.-Thu. (2:30, 5:05) 7:25; Mon.-Thu.
(0:7-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:50) 7:55; Mon.-Thu. 7-25; Mon.-Thu (229), 5003) 7 (25) pournes. (PG-13) Fri. Sun. (1:50), 755; Mon.-Thu (1:50, 4:55) 7:35, 9:50; Charlie's Angels (PG-13) Fri. Sat. 525, 10.15; Sun. 5:25, 10.05; Mon.-Thu (2:10, 4:45) 7:55, 10:05

Mon.-Thu (2:10, 4:45) 7:55, 10:05

Tr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (PG) Fri.-Sat. (1:05, 3:25) 5:45, 8:00, 10:30. GCI Fr. Sat. 1 (5), 323 5-5, 8-00, 10-30.
GCI Fr. Sat. 1 (5), 325 5-5, 8-00, 10-30.
GCI Fr. Sat. 1 (5), 4-10

on the couch in front of the TV. But soon

on the couch in front of the TV. But soon enough the camera calms down. And Shyamalan, given license by his previous success, again stakes out an unusual area in commercial cinema: moody, bordered on four sides by gloomy, grave, sombler, and morose. The plotline, please understand, is as still yas can be —a comic-book afcionado, nicknamed Mr. Glass for the fragility of his

Call 444-FILM Gaslamp 15

CENTRAL

UA Horton Plaza 14 457 Horton Plaza (619-234-4661)
What Women Want: The Emperor's New
Groove: Vertical Limit; Proof of Life; Billy
Elliot; Unbreakable; The Sixth Day; Bounce;
Meet the Parents

LA JOLLA

Cove 7730 Girard Ave. (858-459-5404) Billy Elliot (R) Fri. 4:30, 7:00, 9:30; Sat.-Sun. 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30; Mon.-Thu. 4:30, 7:00,

La Jolla 12

La Jolla 12 8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2234) What Women Want; The Emperor's I Groove: Dude, Where's My Car?; Du

300. u. 2. Thu. (2.20) 4.45, 7.30, 9.35. Into the Arms of Strangers (PG) Fr. Thu. (1.55) 7:10. but Looking (0, Fr. 14.25) 9:40. (1.55) 7:10. but Looking (0, Fr. 14.25) 9:40. Mon.-Tue. (2:05) 4:30, 7:20, 10:00; Wed. (2:05) 4:30, 10:00; Thu. (2:05) 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

Mira Mesa Stadium 18 10733 Westview Parkway (858-635-7700) Call theater for program information

MISSION VALLEY

MISSION VALLEY
Fashion Valley 18
7027 Frant Road (\$85-558-2262)
What Women Want, The Emperor's New
Hot Women Want, The Emperor's New
Hot Women Utle To The Commission
Show Dungsons and Dragons, Vertical
Limit, Proof of Life 102 Dalmatians, Unbreakable, Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole
Christmas. The Subh Day, Rugaris in Paris,
Neet the Yarents, Bounce, Men of Honor,
Billy Billo, Challe's Angels

Hazard Center

Garden Cabaret University Towne Centre Mall (619-295-4221)

Groove: Dude, Where's My Car?, Dun-geons and Dragons, Vertical Limit; Proof of Life; Unbreakable; Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas; Bounce, Men of Honor, Charlie's Angels, Meet the Parents

Honor, Charite a magnetic transfer of the Market Page 12 (1982) April 2014 Village Cinemas 8879 Villa La Iolia Drive (858-433-7831) Best in Show (PG: 13) Fri. (2:20) 445, 7:30, 9:35; Sat. Sun. (1140) 2:20, 445, 7:30, 9:35; Tuc. (2:20) 445, 7:30, 9:35; Tuc. (2:20) 445, 7:30, 9:35; Mon. (2:20) 445, 7:30, 9:

MIRA MESA

(1:50) 4:25, 7:10, 9:30; Mon.-Thu. (4:25) 7:10, 9:30; The Emperor's New Groove (G) Fri.-Sun. (1:00, 3:05) 5:10, 7:15, 9:20; Mon.-Thu. (5:10) 7:15, 9:20; Vertical Limit (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:15) 4:15, 7:00, 9:40; Sun. (1:15) 4:15, 7:00, 9:35; Mon.-Thu. (4:15) 7:00, 9:35 Ados Adams Avenue (619-283-5909)
A Hard Day's Night, Thursday, Hard Candy and The Disco Dolls in Hot Skin, Friday and Saturday; Ben-Hur, Sunday and Monday; Doctor Zhivago, Tuesday through Thursday

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas 3965 Fifth Ave. (619-299-2100) A Hard Day's Night (G) Fri. (2:25) 4:50, 7:30. 9:40; Sat.-Sun. (12:00) 2:25, 4:50, 7:30, 9:40; Mon.-Thu. (2:25) 4:50, 7:30, 9:40; A Time for

Drunken Horses (Not Rated) Fri. (2:35) 5:10, ::30, 2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:50; Mon.-Thu. (1:30) 2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 8:50; You Can Count on Me (R) Fri. (2:05)

Museum of Photographic Arts 1649 El Prado, Balhoa Park (619-238-7559) Victor/Victoria, Friday, 7. p.m., and Sunday, 2 p.m.; 10, Friday, 9:30 p.m., and Sunday, 4:30 p.m.; Since You Went Away, Wednesday and

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center 1875 El Prado, Balboa Park Wolves: Wild California

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

EL CAON
Parkway Piaza 18
407 Parkway Piaza (81-40)-1450
107 Diamilanus (191-40)-1450
107 Diamilanus (191-40)
107 Diamila

9:50, 10:35; **What Women Want** (PG-13) Fri. Thu. (11:50, 12:50, 3:45, 4:20) 6:50, 7:20, 9:55, 10:20

and looking for a more androgynous a

mind looking for a more analogyinous acress than Julie Andrews, in the principal female role — which is to say, if you can follow, a man pretending to be a woman pretending to be a man pretending to be a woman. 1982.

Rancho San Diego Stadium 15 2951 Jamacha Rd. (619-660-3460)

LA MESA

Grossmont Center 10 Theatres Grosmont Shopping Center (619-465-7100)
What Women Want: The Emperor's New
Groove; Dude, Where's My Car?, Vertical
Limit; Proof of Life; Unbreakable, Dr. Seuss'
How the Grinch Stole Christmas; Dungeons and Dragons

gene and Congress Constitute, 1001, 2002, and 100, 2002, and 2002,

SANTEE

Santee Drive In
10990 Woodside Avenue, Santee
(619-448-747)
What Women Want and Proof of Life; Dr.
Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas and
Unbreakable

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

Cinema Star Chula Vista 10 5th and I Street, Chula Vista (619-687-FILI What Women Want; The Emperor's Ne Groove; Dude, Where's My Car?; Dun-

geons and Dragons; Proof of Life; 102 Dal-matians: Unbreakable; Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas; Rugrats in Paris; Little Nicky; Men of Honor; Meet the Par-

ents
Palm Promenade 24
770 Demory Road, San Dage (858-558-2262)
What Women Want, The Imperor's New
Gioove, Dude, Wheer's New
Little, 102 Dalmatians, Unbreakable. Dr.
Seuss' How the Grinch Sole Christmas.
Rugrats in Paris, The Sirth Day, Bounce.
Little Nicky, Men of Honor, Billy Elliot,
Charlie's Angels, Meet the Parents

Lettle Nicky.

Rancho Del Rey 16 East II Street, Tierra Del Rey (619-216-4702). What Women Want, The Emperor's New Groove, Dude, Where's My Car?, Dungeons and Dragons, Vertical Limit, Proof of Life; 102 Dalmatians, Unbreakable; Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas; Rugrats in Paris; Charlie's Angels, Meet the Parents.

Vogue 226 3rd Ave. (619-425-1436) Charlie's Angels (PG-13) Fri.-Thu. 2:15, 8:15; 102 Dalmatians, Space Cowboys (PG-13) Fri.-Thu. 12:00, 6:00

NATIONAL CITY Harbor Drive In 32nd and D, National City (619-477-1392) The Emperor's New Groove and 102 Dal-matians

South Bay Drive In 2170 Ceromado, Imperial Beach (619-423-2227) Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas and Meet the Parents, Dungeons and Drag-ons and Little Nicky; Proof of Life and Charlie's Angels

peror's New Groove (G) Fri.-Sun. (1:00.) 3:00) 5:00,7:00, 9:05. Men. Thu. (1:00. 5:00) 3:00) 5:00,7:00, 9:05. Men. Thu. (1:00. 5:00) 7:00, 9:05. Proof of Life (R) Fri.-Sai. (1:10) 4:15, 7:05, 9:05. Sun. (1:10) 4:15, 7:05, 9:45; Mon. Thu. (1:10, 4:15) 7:05, 9:45; Rugatts in Paris (G) Fri. Sun. (2:25) 5:06; Mon. Thu. (2:25, 5:05): Unbreakable (PG:13) Fri.-Sai. (1:50) 4:45, 7:50, (1:01. Sun. (1:05) 4:45, 7:50, 10:05; Men. Thu. (1:50, 4:45) 7:50, 10:05; Ver-10:05; Mon.-Thu. (1150, 4451/750, 10:05; Vetical Limit (FG-13) Frt.-Sat. (1:20) 425; 7:15; 955; Sun. (1:20) 425; 7:15; 950; Mon.-Thu. (1:20, 425) 7:15; 950; Mat Women Mark (PG-13) Frt. Sat. (1:40) 4:50; 7:40; 10:20; Sun (1:40) 4:50; 7:40; 10:20; Sun (1:40) 4:50; 7:40; 10:10; Mon.-Thu. (1:40, 4:50; 7:40; Mon.-Thu. (1:40, 4:50; Mo

or's New Groove (G) Fri.-Sun. (1:00

BONSALL

ISONDALL
Cinema Star Galaxy 6
Hisy: 76 and Mission Road, Bonsall
(760-95-8784)
What Women Want, The Emperor's New
Groove, Proof of Life; 102 Dalmatians, Unbreakable, Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole
Christmas

NORTH INLAND

CARLSBAD

La Costa 6 Cinemas 6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga), Carlshad (760-599-8221)
What Women Want; Billy Elliot; Vertical
Limit; Proof of Life; Unbreakable; Dr. Seuss'
How the Grinch Stole Christmas

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Carmel Mountain 12

11:00 Carmel Mountain 12

11:00 Carmel Mountain 12

11:00 Carmel Mountain 13

10:00 Mounta

9.50, 10:35; Mon. Thu. (1:05, 2:10, 4:25, 5:0 7:10, 7:55, 9:50, 10:35; **Rugrats** in **Paris** (G) Fri. Sun. (1:20) 4:20; Mon. Thu. (1:20, 4:20 Unbreakable (Gr 13) Fri. Sun. (1:50) 4:50 8:00, 10:25; Mon. Thu. (1:50, 4:50) 8:00, 10 Vertical Limit (FG 1:3) Fr. Sun. (1:15) 4:35 7:25, 10:05; Mon. Thu. (1:15, 4:35) 7:25; 10

ESCONDIDO

Poway 10 Cinemas

RAMONA

Ramona Twin Cinemas 626 Main St. (760-789-3422) The Emperor's New Groove (G) Fri. 7:00, p. to. Sat. Sun. 1:00, 7:00, 9:30; Mon. Thu. 7:00

SAN MARCOS

Carousel Cinema 6 1868 East Valley Parkway (260: 480: 466 Call theater for program information

11473 Powdy Road, Powdy (RSR 679, 8878) What Women Want, The Emperor's New Groove, Dude, Where's My Car?, Dun-geons and Dragons, Vertical Limit, Proof of Life, Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Rugrats in Paris, 102 Dalma-tians, Unbreakable, Men of Honor, Meet the Parents

Rugrats in Paris Fri. 7:00, 9:30; Sat. Sun. 1:00 7:00, 9:30; Mon. Thu. 7:00

San Marcos Stadium 18 Cinemas

(760-471-3711)
Call theater for program information

NORTH COASTAL DEL MAR

DEL MAR Del Mar Highlands 8 El Camine Real at Del Mar Hinghta Read, Del Mar (88-296 60410) What Women Want, The Emperor's New Groove, Dude, Where's My Car', Dun-geons and Dragons, Vertical Limit, Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Charlie's Angels, Men of Honor; Meet the Parents: 120 Jalmatians

471 S. Coust Highway (760) 436-7469) Best in Show, The Rocky Horror Picture

Flower Hill Cinemas

ENCINITAS

Wiegand Plaza 8 (700 942-5544) Dungeons and Dragons, Vertical Limit, Proof of Life. Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Rugrats in Paris, Charlie's Angels, Bounce, 102 Dalmatians

Proof of Life, Unbreakable, Billy Elliot, You Can Count on Me

OCEANSIDE

OCEANSIDE
Cinema Star Mission
Marketplace 13
Calige Budured and Mission Avenue.
(Avainable 1764 1866 1790)
What Women Want. The Emperor's New
What Women Want. The Emperor's New
Jeros and Dragons. Proof of Life. 102
Dalmatians, Unbreakable, Dr., Sess's How
the Ginich Stole Christmas, Rugrats in
Paris. Men of Honor

Oceanside 16

Persian Nights

ountainous but lush, a land of fruits, flowers, and thick-wooled sheep, a people invented ice cream and sherbet, redolent with the fragrance of Damask roses — even as Europeans were still spear-ing wascally wabbits for dinner. Forget Marco Polo, ing wascally wabbits for dinner. Forget Marco Polo, they probably inwented noodles, too — not to mention balklava — and raught the Turks and the Arabs how to cook. They claim the creation of kabbbs and are the source of the tandoori meats and naun bread that you enjoy at North Indian restaurants. Nestled between the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf, between Mesopotamia (inow Iraq) and Afghanistan, and smack in the path of the Mediseal spice route between Europe and Asia, their realm was the gourmet capital of Planet Earth — not just for a century or two, but over and again from the 7th Century B.C. to the 17th Century A.D., with

7th Century B.C. to the 17th Century A.D., with intermittent time-outs for barbarain invasions and other cruelties of history.

They are the Aryans, albent hardly the Nordic blondes that Hitler had in mind when he perverted that designation. Aryan is the original word for "framan" ("Persian" is a later Hellenic term stemming from the period of Alexander the Great.) And many from the period of Alexander the Great.) And present-day Iranian cooking remains very close to the herb-strewn, hearty but sophisticated fare

at the height of their civilization during the Safavid Dynasty 500 years ago. San Diego enjoys two major Persian restau-rants. Of the two, the La Jolla flagship Sadaf opened roughly nine years ago (say the staff). About five years ago, Bandar opened in a historic building in the Gaslamp and swith the Gaslamp and swiftly seized the spotlight as the city's favorite Middle Eastern restaurant. A year or two later, Sadaf opened a Gaslamp branch one block away, but it has never achieved the recogniblock away, but it has never schieved the recogni-tion accorded to Bandar. Their menus and prices are nearly identical and are pragmatic. Both serve items that are relatively affordable and easy to pre-pare, with flavors that won't frighten the horses— a few hearty stews and a zillion variations of kabobs with rice. (Don't expect such exotica as lamb tongues in saffron cream sauce, quince stew, stuffed leg of lamb, or the sublime Iranian festival dish shire polo, "sweet rice" with chicken, sugar, nuts, and

Given Bandar's remute and Sadaf's relative obscurity, I had to know: Is Sadaf the Avis of local Iranian restaurants? As good as Hertz, just less known? Thanks to Thanksgiving, we had to hit it first on a Saturday evening, usually a bad night for restaurant food because most diners are focused on pleasures other than those of the table. At 9:30, the piano-player shut off his booming drum machine, the restaurant turned into a disco, and our waiter abandoned us (before dessert!) to greet incoming partygoers. Dressed-up girls (American and Per sian) sat with girls and danced with

girls: Iranian boys in shirtslee girts; iranian boys in shirtsleeves ast with boys. Did boy meet gir? We left too soon to know. When we returned on a Monday, all was quiet. Meanwhile, we comparison-noshed at Bandar at off-hours Friday and Sunday, to give them equal

temporal disadvantages.

Three of Sadaf 's appetizers (all part of the "Sadaf platter") couldn't be better anywhere. "Borani" Sadal platter? coaddn't be better anywhere. "Bornar" designates dishes of vegetables with yogurt. The word derives from the name of a medieval queen — actually, a female king — who adored them. Even yogurt haters (like me) may fall in love with the Persaus version, seved to remove excess liquid, emerging with the lausous mouth feel (but not left to content) of crome/plathe. Sadal's spauch beruin the fat content) of crome/plathe.

amy, finely seasoned, topped with a dollop of that thick yogurt to stir in or not. Kashk-e-badem-jan, a soulful, heavy eggplant purée, gains brilliance from a topping of crunchy oven-crisped mint leaves and another dollop of yogurt. Maust khiar combines

d another dollop of yogurt. Maust Nhiar combines gurt with chopped cucumber and mint, like dian ruita, and is always worth ordering as a relish to go with your other dishes.

A more exotic condiment couldn't rescue some less felicitous states. Sumac (a remote relative of the East Coast's infamous "poi-NAOMI WISE

EAZAESTA

son zoomack") is a dark red, tart-salty powder son zoomack") is a dark red, tart-salty powder (from a shrub of the cashew family) that appears at both restaurants in a shaker on the table. Alas, our table's shaker at sdaff had been filled so long ago that the sumac tasted like nothing at all, as we discovered when we applied it to dark reinkel, a soup of neodles, beans, spinisch, parsley, and cliantro, osterubly topped with mint, fried prik, and vyourt. On a busy Saturday, the kitchen may just have skinned the earlies and min! We didn't juste them. skipped the garlic and mint. We didn't taste them and by candlelight, who could see? We shook salt and surnac into the lifeless broth. Still dead. The dobneh

Sadaf 828 Fifth Avenue (between E and F), Gaslamp 619-338-0008 (also 613 Pearl Street, La Jolla, 858-551-0643)

HOURS: Seven days, 11:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m., full

menu at reduced prices until 3:00 p.m. week-days. Friday and Saturday until 1:30 a.m. (disco). ATMOSPHERE: Persian cuisine in a candle-lit. informal Gaslamp hangout, relaxed on weeknight energized with mating-dance tensions on week

end evenings.

PRICE RANGE: Appetizers \$4–\$12; entrées
\$10–\$21; desserts \$1.65–\$5.45.

WINE LIST: Full bar, serviceable wine list in
small print; only house wines (supermarket botlings, e.g. Mentican (Chardonnay) by the plass.

tlings, e.g. Meridian Chardonnay) by the glass. **NEED TO KNOW:** No reservations for groups smaller than eight. Quiet most weeknights; noisy Fridays and Saturdays, even before the Iranian singles-scene disco (free to diners). Heated fenced patio on the Gaslamp's busiest street. Many ver

Ratings are from zero to four stars and are

Hundreds of past reviews are available online from the Reader at www.sdreader.com

(stuffed grape leaves) were disappointing too, mainly ground berf with a little rice and a few soggy yelkow ydip peas, more normal grabe also about one-third meat to two-third starches, parsley, and dill, (Faced with a pair of bilmy-size zucchinis in the garden. I once made a standard Persian dolmch stuffing with a ball pound of lean ground lamb. The split peas made it taste meater. On subsequent nights, the termaning stuffing filled foundates, peepers. Japanese eggplant... We got five dinners for two from that half pound of meat.) Even dipped in the

raita, the grape leaves were still dead dolmeh, R.I.P. Rice has been an Iranian staple since the days of Darius the Great (He's the Mede in the Bible's

\$2 OFF

ANY

Assyria in the middle of Neb uchadnezzar's feast, announcing "mene, mene — our food's bet ter than your food." Well, on ter than your food." Well, one man's Mede is another man's Persian.) Persian rice is a fra-grant, aged long-grain, similar to basmati, that's washed, soaked, boiled, and then steamed until feathery. This preparation is called chelow (or "chelo" or "chellou" and is served with kabobs. Home cooks pride themselves on a crisp golden bottom crust made of ice mixed with saffton and yogurt, but local restaurants don't serve the crust. If a guest they just color some rice with saffton-water and layer a drift of it over the white rice. Mixed more elaborately with herbs, fruits, and/or meats, the rice is called you — the his-torical basis of plaft, pelan, paella, pediow, jambalaya, etc. Combined with nother colden bottom crust made o

fire the grill and prepare the

kabobs." Our waiter (before hi

Book of Daniel who invaded

Persian creation chelow kabobe Persian creation, chelow... kabobs make Iran's national dish," writes Najmieh K. Batmanglij in A Taste of Persia. "...Kabobs are true con-venience cooking: The prudent cook will keep meat marinating in the refrigerator to serve unes pected guests... At dinner time while the chelow cooks, she car I've ever tasted.

fresh fruit - at home, their richerthan-Gates pastries are taken at

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the lamb chop kabob, thin-cut the lamb chop kabob, thin-cut baby loin chops marinated in sweet onions, garlic, and olive oil (judging by flavors), which proved very savory, accompa-nied by fine, buttery chelow. Zereshk polo centered on rice mixed with tart-sweet dried bar-berrise and salfron, accompanying not-too-dry chicken breast kabobs marinated in saffron onions. marinated in saffron, onions and lemon juice. Another nigh we tried albalu polo, a simila dish with (probably canned) sou

cherries.

Fesenjam is one of the glories of Persian cuisine. In its purest
form, it's a simmered duckling
swathed in a thick sauce of
pomegranate syrup and chopped
walnuts. In the U.S., other protein susually substitute for duck:
The worst variation I ever tasted The worst variation I ever tasted was when a cousin abruptly turned vegetarian and served tofu fes-enjan at his Christmas dinner. enjan at his Christmas dinner. Sadaf's menu indicates simmered chicken, but instead, the kitchen flung in a few dryish chicken-breast kabobs, a bad idea. The sauce, however, was a vibrant sweet-and-sour, perhaps the best

vanished) kindly recommended

Iranians end dinner with confection, turns out to be the

bination of rosewater ice cream and rosewater pudding, is to die for, and even after dinner it won't kill you. The boghilanus also a mar-vel of delicacy, less cloying than the Arab version, and bumieh (a finger of soft pastry soaked in honey syrup and rosewater) is exquisite. Zoolbia, an ancient

compare? At both restaurants, portions are enormous — Per-sians consider it immoral to send a guest away hungry. I found Sadaf 's mint-topped eggplant appetizer livelier, but Bandar's sheep are lean (all their fat's behind them). Bandar's lamb had addekous seasoning-rub, and the shank was divided into sev-eral pieces with all excess fat removed. Sadaf's shank was whole, very fatty, and rather bland. The rice was similarly fla-vored with a zesty mixture of dill-weed and baby lima beans classification for the nature fas-(substituting for the native fava beans). Bandar's top layer of sat fron rice was a deeper vellow and tasted more buttery.

and tasted more buttery.
"Home cosked tood in Iran
far outclasses in delicacy and flawor any dishes prepared in the
inns or eating place," writes Forough Hekmat in The Art of Persan
don't have Persan wives to cook
for us, and we have to rely on
restaurants to introduce us to
his fast parties crisine. So is an this fascinating cuisine. So as an "eating place," is Sadaf the Avis to Bandar's Hert? Well, it'll certo Bandar's Hertz? Well, it'll cer-tainly take you somewhere, with some delightful stops along the road. However, for 2700 years Persan cooks have been farmed for their perfectionism. Indiffer-ent cooking or careless presentation is considered nearly a sin. Sadaf.'s suns were several from the elderh sins were several, from the elderly sumac to the fat of the lamb. To reach the status of Avis, they'll have to try harder.



*** **********





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ANY ENTRÉE

areful, now. Mind where you sit. This is Charlie Tennishoes's stool. And that there belongs to Big Rick. Big Rick comes in, better be ready to move. Then, of course, there's Tom's stool, "Would you just tell me

which one it is, so I can kiss it? which one it is, so I can kiss it?" soys Mary-Ann. She has her little zoom camera in her hand. Its zoom is full out. But Tow Cruise's stool is long gone. Two young ladies ran off with that, even though the whole bar tore off down the street after them.

'Course you know the story. This is where they shot the "sleazy bar scene" in Fop Gon. Tom and Kelly McGills get it on right here. But when you come in from the blaring light outside, it's kind of, well, intimudating. A dark horseshoe shaped bar inside dating. A dark horseshoe shaped bar inside in the state of th in Top Gun. Tom and Kelly McGillis get it or like worn basketball shoes, sailor hats, signs like "Grow Your Own Dope: Plant A Man," and around the walls, plaques and caps from a zillion navy ships, Canadian Navy ships, Aus-

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tralian, British, you name it. Plus license plates from every state, and far-off places like the Czech Republic and Iceland. Plus a bell, with

Czech Republic and Iceland. Plus a bell, with the words. "Night Train Bell." But you're here to eat. Least, I am. I'd been standing at the Scaport Village trolley stop, around five. Caught a whilf of the swoke swiring out of the low '40s place across the tracks. Oh, those smells. Rich, TIN FORK

FORD and the summer of the company o choice of two sides off the list of slaw, beans, fries, onion rings, potato salad, and corn on the cob. But now, happy hour, everything's 51.25; Everything, like a draft Budweiser or Miller Lite, a beef or pork rib, french fries, onion rings. "Many as you like," says Jerry, slapping down a Bud for me I find myself a seat next to Mark and Joe and Carlos. Carlos

is sitting in the Tom Cruise spot.

So, heck, I go for two beef ribs and some onion rings, and while I'm waiting, get to look up. Lord. Hats, flags, panties, a shark law, a used fireworks mortar bomb, religious necklaces, lapanese dolls, a Welsh dragon, "Free Get Out Of Jail" cards, a swordfish sword, a big Texas belt buckle. 'Ooh' says Jerry, arriving with my plate. 'Looks like the chef jave He's right. Three ribs, not two. Surrounded

He's right. Three ribs, not two. Surrounded by a golden halo of spidery noinor rings. My hands twitch. He sets down a couple of big clean-up-your-lace paper napkins, a small tub of BBQ sauce, and gets me another \$1.25 Bud. 1 pick up a rib. Gouge off some flesh. Taste the smokiness, the crunchy burnt bits. Heaven. And that's without even dipping it in the sauce. And that's without even dipping it in the sauce. Sure the couple up to the couple with the couple

Mark's waiting to take out a plate of pork Mark's waiting to take out a plate of pork ib tips and beans and rings (\$5.50) and knocking back a beer while he does. "Been in Hawaii for ten years," he says, "lust got back, Came here first, of course," "Right on," says Joe, Joe's a master chief with the Navy, "Turned up here 11:30 this morning for a quick drink. Still here!" "Me too," says Jerry, "I came for a drink, left with a job. That was 15 years ago." He loves the mix here. Neighborhood bar for down-towners, a haven every sailor in the world knows about — the Canadam Nayy took the ceramic pig on the wall around the world (and brought it back) just for the heck of it— and the "sleazy Top Gun bar" conventioneers have to visit. "We sell, oh, a gross and a half, 200 Top Gun

"We sell, oh, a gross and a half, 200 Top Gun T-shrist severy week," asp s Jerny. I'm starting to slow down on the ribs. Surprising the amount of meat on them. "Come back tonight," says Jerry. "That's when things happen. We have had 47 couples who met here and married. Only two divorces so far. And"—he brings out a bottle of Night Train Express. The brings out a bottle of Night Train Express divided to the start of th erybody who wants it gets a glass of Night Train for 25 cents. You should be here some nights. Hotel employees hear the train, they sprint a quarter mile to get here in time for the bell." Mary-Ann is still here. She still wants to kiss.

Mary-Ann is still here. She still wants to kiss and photograph Tom's shoot. "Look," says lerry, "we have one more Tom sat on. Out back. Signed underneath, I'll bring it out next time you come. Okay?"

"Is that a promise?" says Mary-Ann. ■

The Place: Kunas City Barboque, 610 West Market Street (e19-241-0680)
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on the cols), \$5-75, discher beam (same sides), 8005 perk or beet rity (same sides), \$8.75, this (pir turne sides),
\$8.25, high you have \$8.25 to 2005 perk or very large after only, the \$1.15 coals, the \$6.13 coals from the Miller Lite
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Muddy Arms "I got very excited about combining Italy and

California through my new vocation of winemaking."

rfila Vineyards general manager Leon Santoro's grandmother had the good for-tune to inherit both a winery and a cluster of vineyards around her hometown of Villa Santa Maria in Abruzzo, Italy. When she married, her husband brought additional vineyards with him.

She oversaw the vineyard opera-tions on horseback, made wine tions on horseback, made wine from the Montepulciano D'Abruzzo grapes that were a profit to give a small house to each of her four children. She was less successful in her attempts to make industrious helpen out of her grandchildren. Recalls Sanword. Now it was not considered to the profit of th

toro, "Here's how we worked [the vineyards]: we worked the grandmother. Say I was 11 and my worked the grandmother. Say I was 11 and my brother Angelo was 8. Grandmother would say, 'Help us tie the vines.' We didn't want to do that. I said, 'Do it wrong, take a long time. Then Grandma will come and check and she will get frustrated and say, "Get out of here!" 'We were waiting for that, because we wanted to go the

river and play.
"The only thing we liked was the harvest. Angelo and I used to start eating grapes by about June — they didn't have to become ripe. You have to think of us as two birds going through also enjoyed melting copper sulfate in boiling water to create a fungicide for the vines. "Then in the cellar, we used to love to help until fermentation was over, because then we felt (the wine] was bitter, gassy. We loved the grape juice

when it was sweet."

Santoro's father shared his son's distaste for viticulture ("IHe] thought it was too much work") and decided instead to join the company of talented chefs who used Villa Santa Maria as their home base from which to venture out to the culinary capitals of the list a culinary cabol "sea venture out to the culinary capitals of the list a culinary cabol "eveluins San."

Calendar

world. "Now it's a culinary school," explains San toro, "but before that we worked more on the system of apprenticeship. You formed your en tourage and you took your team to Vancouver By 1967, enough of Santoro's extended fam.

By 1967, enough of Santoro's extended fam-ily — including his grandmother — had joined the chefs as they departed for the eastern seaboard for his father, still in Italy, to feel an emotional pull. "I used to joke that we came by plane five people, we paid. People would hear my ac-cent and say, 'Just off the boat, huh?' I would go, 'Excuse me' - I'm a wise guy - 'just off the

Santoro's father thought wine involved too



much work; for his part, Santoro didn't like the hours a chef had to keep. He attended college at SUNY Stonybrook and went to work as a research chemist, investigating cancer treatments. "Very noble work, but after three years, I started feeling sorry for the mice. [Also, I thought] the approach was wrong......." from think of cancer as approach was wrong......." from think of cancer as a peach, we were trying to shoot a bullet through t — the chemical molecule. I started feeling that it wasn't that simple. I decided to find something where I could still do something for people something humanly pleasant, shall we say - but

Santoro returned to Italy for a vacation, and Santoro returned to Italy for a vacation, and during a Tuscan picnic, while spping a bottle of Vernaccia Di San Gimignano with his wife, he began to feel drawn toward his grandmother's profession. He investigated a nascent enology program at the University of New Hampshire, but "Ilooked around and said," This is not wine country." California, on the other hand, seemes more promising. "I got very excited about com-bining Italy and California through my new vocation of winemaking." In 1976, he toured each of the state's wine regions, from Mendocino to Bakersfield, before settling on Napa Valley. "When



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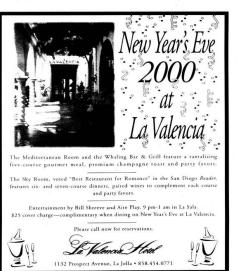
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Calendar RESTAURANTS

I saw Robert Mondavi's win ery, I said, 'This is it,' What impressed me was the serious

probably right.

After six weeks, they were falling behind in some of the winemaking movements — like racking, which is transferring the wine from one tank to another tank and then cleaning the sediments [from the first tank] out by hand with a supersected And these were

squeegee. And these were 50,000-gallon tanks." Santoro

50,000-gallon tanks." Santoro tried to avoid getting roped into overtime, but overtime is the norm during crush, and eventually, he was caught. He protested that he didn't know how to clean tanks but was told, "Oh, don't worry, there will be an enologist with you — a wanto were."

young woman." That night almost ended his

That night almost ended his career in win. "It was, like, 10 o'clock, and we started pumping Cahernet from tank A to tank B." Once the tank was empty, it was up to Santoro to squeeze through the door at the bottom and squeegee the sediment out. "I looked in thereand said," I am not going in there and said, "I am not going in there "You so in, and there."

there.' You go in, and there's

like, three feet of mud. Yes, it's

the lees of the wine, but to me

it's mud. I had to roll up my

it's mud. I had to roll up my sleeves and put my hands in the mud [to go in]. "I quit. I said, 'You know what? Mike can fire me to-morrow morning,' I went to sit in the back of the winery. If it

hadn't been for [the enologist].

Joanne Spoto... She came

Joanne Spoto... She came by...and we started talking. She said, 'Leon, don't be upset. Look, I went to UC-Davis. I have a degree in enology, and what am I doing? Yeah, I'm supervising you, but I'm doing the same thing that you're doing: 'I don't know how she did

ing.' I don't know how she did

Martini came in, and Joanne did not say a word — that I had

quit, that she had to pull me

probably right.

impressed me was the serious-ness of the project."

He got a break from Michael Martini at Louis Mar-tini winery, who hired him to work the crush. "Mike was very nice to me, but he said, 'Leon, you know the tradition is that you've got to start on the botcomplete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. omine at SanDiego Reader.com.

Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a mid-range entrée. Inexpensive: below \$10: moderate: \$10 to \$19; expensive: \$20 to \$24, very expensive: more than \$25. Please call restaurants in advance for you've got to start on the bot-tom.' I said, 'Fine, Mike, no problem.' First day on the job, I had to go bleach the cellar. It's almost like hazing in the almost like hazing in the Marines — you've got to pass. I'm not speaking badly about Louis Martini winery; that's just the trial that everyone has to go through to prove themselves. I couldn't believe it, but I had to do it. And I started to feel like my father — who was not in favor of [my career] — was roarbable riotin.

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dessert Open daily, Low THE DINING ROOM UAuberge Ho-tel, 1540 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-259-1515. Early evening dinner, 5.00 to 6:00 p.m. nightly offers well pre pared four-course meal for \$24.95 Ex-cellent value, good service, relaxing

EPAZOTE SOUTHWEST RESTAU-RANT 1555 Camino Del Mario Paris RANT 1555 Carmino Del Mar, Del M Plaza, Del Mar, 858-259-9966. Patri frequently call this establishment the N York Stock Exchange because of its hi energy, young crowd, and exciting atmy

Vietnamese cuisine is prepared here that's fresh, light, delicate. But the por-tions are small and two people should order three entrées for a satisfactory order three entriess for a satisfactory meal Sonya are outstanding and the imperial rolls, lemon grass chicken, soft-helled crab, vegetarian rolls, and charbroiled pork do well here. The wine list includes 40 items. Fast service and aesthetic surroundings. Closed Monday, Lunch Tuesday to Friday, dinner Tuesday to Sunday. Low to moderate.

NEIMANN, SunG-cylidab Allyling Prices.

day to Sunday. Do to moderate.

NEIMANS 300 oct arisbad Village Drive (corner of Carlsbad Boulevard, Carlsbad Boulevard, Carlsbad Boulevard, Carlsbad See, 294.413. The peaked diming room has been returbished and looks like a circular country in n.d. Ily you-carleat buffet brunch with all-you-carleink champagne, mimosa, orange suice, and coffee Traditional offerings include fried chicken. Daily, 9:30 a m. to 2:00 p.m. Expensive.

ing." I don't know how she did
it... She promised me, 'Leon,
go in and then you can stick
your hands out and I'll hose
them down for you.' I did it;
went in. And once! I was inside
the tank, I was so taken by how
big [it was]. You could have
built an apartment inside that
tank— a 50,000-gallon tank.
"The next morring, Mike
Martini came in, and Joanne to 2:00 p.m. Expensive.

PACIFICA DEL MAR 185S Camino del Mar, Del Mar Plaza, Del Mar, S88-792-045, Select the fresh fish prepared in the simplest manner and you'll do fine here. The setting and view remain delightful and the service excellent. Wok literas waralable. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive.

back in, wash my hands, help me with the squeegee. She didn't say anything, so I was not fired. I was very grateful to More next week RESTAURANT LISTINGS

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Open nightly for dinner. Expensive. RUTH'S CHRIST-FLAKHOUSE, DEL MAR 1152. El Camino Real (exit Carmel Valler, Road). Del Mar, Carmel Valler, Road). Del Mar, carmel valler, Road). Del Mar, carea, consistent control of the control o

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VILLAGE MILL BREAD COMPANY

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it's an experience to dime in such luxutions surroundings. Memos change seasonally. The appetiter list offers unique
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Free dessert Free appetizer Chateau Orleans 2 for 1 Cajun/Creole entrée Chopahn Afghan Cuisine

Cottage Cafe Free apple strudel

Cucina Fresca Free appetizer 20% off entire bill DeLuca's Cucina Italiana \$10 off dinner D'Lish Xpress 1/2 off dinne

Complimentary appetizer Fifth & Hawthorn Free dessert

Galley at the Marina \$2 drink specials Galoka Free dessert with dinne

Sushi dinner for two \$14.95 Grangers & Ethiopian Cafe 2 Ethiopian entrées \$15 C Greek Village Free saganaki Free collectible gift

Harry's Coffee Shop 20% off breakfast or lunch Hollywood Star Grille Honey's Diner Free dessert or drink

\$5 off dinner or brunch cruise Hornblower Cruises & Events 2 for 1 menu item luke foint Cafe

O La Mision Free margarita Lins Restaurant

50% off dinner 2 dinners for \$12.95 \$10 off Moroccan cuisine Marrakesh O Mikko

50% off sushi 2 for 1 espresso Mirage Coffee Company Olé Madrid 50% off entree Palomino Euro Bistro Free gourmet pizza

Pampas Argentine Grill Free appetizer 50% off entree 50% off dinner Papa Shy's Gourmet BBO

Pasta Espresso \$4.50 pasta P.B. Thai Cafe

Dinner for 2 \$12.99

Raw Mana \$5 off sushi Free appetize O Roma Mia Lobster or steak for 2 \$49.95

O San Luis Rey Downs
Sanfilippo's
Sanfilippo's
Pizza or lasagne for 2 \$10.49 Saska's Buy 1 dinner, get 1 free awaddy Thai 2 for 1 entrée 57 off Paella Valencian

Shanghai Mongolian BBQ dinner \$8.50 Shelby's \$14 off dinner entrée Shandhai

O Star of India 50% off entrée 25% off entire check The Surfside 1/2-price appetizer Thai Chada 50% off entrée

Free egg roll order Thai Orchid Cuisine 2 for 1 dinner

O Tio Leo's Free dessert

SanDiegoReader.com

MING COURT 12750 Carmel Country Road (Country Plaza Shopping Center).

North City West (adjacent to Del Mar), 858-793-2933. Elegance describes the interior of this restaurant. Some un-usual preparations are cilantro chicken, pungent shirmp, three-mushroom de-light, tangerine beef, and items on the Ming Court specially list. Service is first-rate. Open daily, Moderate.

ONAMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT 240 East Via Rancho Parkway, Escon-dido, North County Fair, 760-738-7522. One hundred sixty-foot Japanese seafood buffet, hot Japanese dishes, sai-

and dinner. Expensive.

RANCHO VALENCIA. 5921 Valencia
Circle, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-756-1123.

The dining room and surrounding
grounds are gorgeous, the meals beautifully prepared. Great place to take a
guest to lunch. Best bets, fresh fish. All

SAN DIEGO APTISAN BAYERS 1551

SAN DIEGO ARTISAN BAKERS 155
South Excondido Boulevard, Escondido
760-740-5963. The grains are ground
daily for this wonderful European-style
bread. Every bread has dense consistency
and an amazing crust. Among the bes
bets are the baguette, the sourdough
with Greek olives, and the country sour-

moderate.

BERNINTS 7550 Fay Avenue,
858-454-5013. This cafe has full service
and will provide you with breakfast,
lunch, and dinner. Lunch and dinner
menus are the same and offer four kinds
of soup, several salads, including grilled
chicken Caesar, and pasta dabbes. A vanevy of desserts is available all day. Open
daily. Low. WINE SELLAR AND BRASSERIE wine SELLAR AND BRASSERIE
9550 Waples Street #115, 888-450-9557.
This is the sister restaurant to Laurel,
and the food is a delight to the palate.
Lunch on Saturday served by itself or
in conjunction with the winetasting.
Call for directions and specific hours.

LA JOLLA BARBARELLA 2171 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla Shores, La Jolla, 858-454-7373. Don't miss this lively bistro that offers sandwiches, soup, pizza, entrées. Lively atmosphere. Bib salad and Max's pizza outstanding. Ar-

THE BIRD ROCK CAPE 5556 (a Jolis Boulevia, Ross-St-14090, Don't miss this small cafe that serves delighted though the state of the stat Moderate to expensive.

CAFE JAPENO 5960 University Center Lane, Aventine complex, S84-409-385. The decor as anadang and the Pacific Rim food — with influences from Japan, China, Hawaii, Thalland, and California — so beautiful to behold, Outstanding appetiters. For entrees, try roasted duck with crispy vegetables or withing and scalings with spacy perant sauce. The such bar is one of the crise. If see all the property of the content of the price of the pri

THE BIRD ROCK CAFE 5656 La Jolla

best. Please make note of the prices—if you get carried away you may be in for a large bill. Open duly. Expensive.

DAILY'S 8915 Towne Centre Drive, Remassance Towne Centre, 88-55-3112. The restaurant is owned by a doctor who has devised a menu that's low-fat, low-calorie, low-sodium. The dishes look and taste wonderful. All items available for takeout. Same menu lunch and dimer Copen daily. Low to moderate.

DONOVAN'S STEAK AND CHOP HOUSE 4340 La Jolla Villa

through Saturday. Expensive. HOPS BISTED AND BREWERY 4555
La folla Village Drive (next to Macy's, University Towne Centrie), Commented to the Control of the and shrimp. All beers are brewed on the premises. Open daily for lunch and din-ner. Moderate.

ner. Moderate.

LA FONDA 5752 La lolla Boulevard,
Bird Rock, 858-456-7171. If you've visited La Fonda Roberto's in Tijuana,
you'll enjoy these gourmet regional
Mexican dishes (no tacos, tostadas, or

enchiladas). Excellent crepes, cactus salad, soups. Best entrées, spicy lamb wrapped in banana leaves, shrimp in two salas, filet steaks, chile en neguala. Romantis room with fountain. How-ever, cooking tends to be uneven. Some times excellent, sometimes average. Open for dinner nightly. Moderate.

Open for dinner nightly, Moderais.
MATTER D'522 La Tolla Boulevard,
858-456-2211. Two separate dinnig
coms, an elegant ambiance, and the
promote of the control binself (formerly
through the control binself (formerly
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to a fine dinning experience
through the control
tollar in a bound processing, and the rack of
the control binself control
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tollar in processing and the rack
an specialities when available Closed
Sunday and Monday, Dinners only,
Teneday through Stunday. Expensive.

Tueday through Saturday, Expensive THE PANNIKIN CAPE 7467 Girard Avenue, 558.454-5553. The outdoor seating area is almost always crowled with tea and coffee drinkers who sun themselves, read, or chat. Light meals, including breakfast (steamed eggs, hough the particular of the company of the

daily Low.

SKY ROOM Top floor of La Valencia
Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street, La Jolla,
858-454-071. The sturning occan view
offers three essentials for a memorable
evening privacy, intimacy, and the abilovers meet extends to a memorator evening privacy, intimacy, and the ability to talk without the interruption noise. The executive chef offers food that is a feast to the eyes as well as the palate. Best bets abalone and scallopsteak appetizer, daily soup: diver scalpops: lobster. Open nightly, dinners only, two seatings Friday and Saturday night. Expensive.

STAR OF INDIA (LA JOLLA) 1000 the tandoori chicken and lamb dishes are outstanding, and vegetable special-ties are recommended. Somewhat pricey. Open daily, lunch and dinner, brunch Saturday and Sunday. Moderate.

CITY

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You may request up to three menus ▶ Denotes restaurants that serve brunch. DOWNTOWN Anthony's Fish Grotto---Buffalo loc's American

Buttalo Joe's American
Fifth & Hawthorn
California Pacific Rim Seafood
Grant Grill Continental -2130 Hard Rock Cafe Continental -2109 Henry's Pub Standingtian Hollywood Star Grille American-Juke Joint Cafe Soul Food Karl Strauss Brewery & Grill--2136 Kenny B's Memphis-style BBO--2128 Las Cascadas Continental Maloney's Tavern American -2125 Octopus Garden Sushi & Pacific Rim --2129 Ole Madrid Spanish Mediterranean The Parrot Grill American Rei Do Gado Brazilian -2140 Rock Bottom American -2121 Salazar's Mexican -2135 Sauray's Woodfired Pizza
American/California Cuisine
Sevilla Spanish & Scafood
Stat of India Indian -2127

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Yacht Club Continental

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CLAIREMONT, UNIVERSITY CITY.

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TAPENADE 7612 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-551-7500. Surely one of the best restaurants in the city, it offers superb French cooking. We are privileged to dish is perfect. Lowfat, no butter or cream used in succes. Pork tenderloin, nunccopy duck, foograx, fresh fish are small triumphs. Worth every prensy. Closed Monday, Lunch, Tuesday through Friday. Dinner, Tuesday through Friday. Dinner, Tuesday through Studge Expensive.

CLAIREMONT & KEARNY MESA

THE GOOD EGG 7947 Balboa Avenue. Kearny Mesa, 858-565-4244. The menu Kearny Mesa, 830-203-204 offers omelets, gourmet pancakes, waf-fles, and several different kinds of frit-tatas. Freshly squeezed fruit juices are available, and for lunch there are burg

6:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Low. HIDEYOSHI JAPANESE RESTAU RANT Hazard Village, 9340-B Claire mont Mesa Boulevard, Kearny Mesa 858-569-9595. A delightful restaura tucked away at the far end of a small

KOREA HOUSE 4620 Convey 51

your want to tourbecue your own lossed. The menn offers fine down home. No rean tood, such as traditional manufactured to the control of the daily Low to moderate.

NEW SHANGIAM 4681 Convoy Street,
Clairemont Mesa, 858-8694-8833. New
Shanghai is buoy, friendly, and draw
mossly Chinese clientele, because their
Chinese food isn't "Americanomic politics, try
the generous platfoul of dry beated
shrimp, the "de-fatted poors shoulder,"
the hot tripe, and the ingenious read
paracake dessert, Low to moderate.

SORRENTINO'S 4724 Clairemor continues to offer superb pizzas and ex-cellent pastas. Open daily. Low to

moderate
THAI HOUSE CUISINE 4225 Convoy
Steet, Kenny Mesa, 588-778-1800. No
to be confused with Thai House in
Point Loma, thus attractive and welldecorated Thai tentaurant serves fine
Thai Boat filled with sealboad. The appetizer perpared from ground shirty of
the Alloy Open Monday through Saturday
for lunch and dinner. Low to low
moderate.

moderate.
TROPICAL STAR 6163 Balbou Avenue, 838 874-7827. A modest cafe and grocery offers Puerto Rican and Latin American food and grood suffers of the star of t

THE BEACHES

CHATEAU ORLEANS 926 Turquoise Street, Pacific Beach, 858-488-6744 The interior of this Cajun and New Orleans restaurant has rarely looked better, All dinners include house talled, a Cajun stuffed pastry, and popovers. The menu offers blackened prime rib, crawfish tocuffee, and Cajun-style Chicken, fish, etouffée, and Cajun-styre entexen, and and pasta. Very large portions, excel-lent service. Closed Sunday. Open Mon-day through Saturday, dinners only Low moderate to expensive.

Low moderate to expensive.

KONO'S 704 Garnet (end of street towards ocean), Pacific Beach,
SS-483-169-17 br Big Breakfast' consists of eggs, pancakes, potatoes, bacon,
and English multifin for \$4.25.15' served
from 7.00 a.m. to 3.00-4.00 p. m. Paper
plates and plastic utensits are used. On
weekendi, arrive early to avoid a wait.

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RISTORANTE MICHELANGELO

box, look left, and pull into the mini-mal with the large ?-11 sign (opposite Rubio's). Sit at the sushibar to snoop on your neighbor's choices, wasthing for off-menu extravagamas, e.g. sea small-or, one cooked over faming sugar, or the irre-cooked over faming sugar, or the irre-sistable "sush sundar (un tron, moun-tain putates, salmon rose). Dun't miss sta-tain putates, salmon rose, latter fixed). Cooked dishes are dull except for

Collicine o

2-for-1

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MISSION VALLEY

EL TECOLOTE 6110 Friars Road (be tween I-163 and Sea World Drive) 619-295-2087. Popular for over a decade, this Mexican restaurant with two seating areas serves. Mexica City-style food that's not too spicy and uses 100 percent vegetable oils. Best bets

FAIROUZ CAFE AND GALLERY 3166

Junch and dimner. Moderate

JACK AND GULLO'S ITALIAN

RESTAURANT 2391 San Diego Avemen, Old Town, 191-294 207. The formen, Old Town, 191-294 207. The formov operate lack and Guidne's Ret Uses
are angel har patta, minest town steps,
and their famous scamp; Old style
observant caused aboys on the menu.

A style of the state of the style
ture. This is a low cost family restauture. This is a low cost family restauture, that of the style
ture and dimner, continuous service

weekends. Low to upper moderate

weekends. Low to upper moderate.

STATE COLLEGE

ALPINE INN 2225 Alpine Boulevard, Alpine, 619-445-5172. If you're a beef lower, 109-445-5172. If you're a beef lower, 109-465-5172. If you're a beef beef here, Dark interior with large booths. Very crowded for both brunch and dinner on Sunday. Early bird din-ner Monday through Saturday for 57.95. Call for hours. Open daily Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner



CALL HOW: 03580454-0369 6738 La Jolla Blvd. Ample Parking • Covered Patio

THE VENETIAN 3663 Voltaire Stree

dinner Monday through Sturday Low. CLAIM JUMPER 5500 Grossmont Center Drive dacross from Montgomery Wards, La Mesa, 619-469-5927. The portions are so large they elect gaps (the prime rib served weckends is 26 sources). The following the person can ext. Among the after some person can ext. Among the after some person can ext. Among the after some person can ext.

RAMON'S SMOKE HOUSE B.B.Q. 1730 Alpine Boulevard, Suite 110, Alpine, 619-445-1008. Inexpensive. You're 2000 feet up here, and the mountain air sharpens your appetite. The smell of mesquite wood burning under fresh-cut beef rib is beyond resistance.

authents, chack wagon.
TOSH USUBL 1943 11 Caion Benle,
vard, College Area, 619 287-3586, 17
spectrees, 30 ferm of such, 19 specarlly rolls — all excellent and
promote and the such and the such and
promote that such that and holds 12 abbs. The hot mushroom
promote that beautiful and the such and the
product are made all worth the trup.
Those continues and are all worth the trup.
Those continues are all and all the such as the
Friday, dinners mightly. Low to upper
moderate.

nightly. Brunch Sunday. Low moderate

LA MESA OCEAN GRILLE AND SEAFOOD MARKET 5465 Lake Mur-ray Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-463-1548. Fish and seafood of good quality served in large white room with huge TV. Food is served fast but it's not fast food. Fine for quick meal or takeout. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Low.

VALLEY HOUSE RESTAURANT

LAO & CHINESE CUISINE 4212 Na LOO & CHINISE CUISINE (212 Na-tional Avenue, Logan Heighti, Chinise C

LUCKY STAR SEAFOOD RESTAU-RANT 3983 54th Street, corner of Uni-versity in K-Mart Shopping Mall, 619-229-8228. The Cantonese and Mandarin menu runs to 225 dishes and Mandarin menu runt to 225 dishes and is perfect for Jarge parties or banquets. Not to be missed are lobster salad (call in advance to order), steamed whole fish, Dungeness crab in special sauce, frog legs, and 1-1/4 pound lobster. Call ashead for large parties. Open daily for dim sum and dinners. Low to upper moderate.

started here in 1907, painting the inte-ior to look like you're among the stone arches of some Italian village grotto. Pic-tures of Italian tourist attractions line the walls, and the music is Italian man-dolin ditties. The frond is traditional Italian-American, with pittance-priced 'duly specials' like eggishal parmesan and apaghetti with meathalls, plus salad and partic bread. Regular dishes are bar-und prints bread Regular dishes are bar-

PEKIN RESTAURANT 2877 Univer-sity Avenue, North Park, 619-295-2610. Inexpensive Closed Tuesdays. This old-time Chinese catery was founded in 1931 by an immigrant from Cantor, his

RED SEA RESTAURANT 4717 University Avenue, East San Diego, 619-285-9722. This Ethiopian restaurant offers a charming bar and authentic Ethiopian cooking. All preparations here, so it's very lively. Open daily,

ZIA'S AFGHAN CAFE 4118 30th safe with only eight tables serves mex-pensive but very well prepared Afghan food. Try three-bean soup, stuffed pockets appetizers, banana squash with spicy vogoit suoc. Linch and dimen-buffet of basmati rice with six toppings for \$6.49. Open daily for lunch and dim-ner, Low.

UPTOWN

ALEX'S BROWN BAG 2400 Fifth Ave-nue, 619-231-2912. Inexpensive. "This is the HOME of the Original Philadel-phia Cheese Steak Sandwich!" Benito

BERTRAND AT MISTER A'S 2550 to \$22. But the food, service, and atmos-phere are first rate. Should you want to show off the city to visitors, this is the place. The food is American with French and Mediterranean influence. Open for lunch, Monday through Friday: nightly for dinner. Very expensive.

namon walnut raisin. Lunch specials available. Open daily.

available. Open daily.

BOMBAY EXOTIC CUISINE OF INDIA 3975 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest Cinemas complex, 619-298-3155. Don't
miss the elegant food, the lovely setting,
the loving service. Owned by the former proprietors of Monsoon. You will mer proprietors of Monsoon. You will find the food subtle and sophisticated. This Indian restaurant is a blessing to our community. All-you-can-eat buf-fet lunch \$7.98 daily. Open daily, lunch COTTAGE CAFE 2321 Fifth Avenue (corner of Juniper), 619-696-0071. Russian and Polish dinners are served: ex-cellent soups, which include borscht;

EL ZARAPE 4642 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-692-1652. This stylish little Mexican restaurant on a tony stretch of Park Boulevard is proof

EAI ROUNDINARY DISSERTY 2929.

Fifth Avenue, 619-294-7001. If you've been searchings for a place to have been searchings for a place to have desert after a movie or other cultural exent, keep this desert cafe in mind. The baker owner prepares sensitions cakes, tarts, cookes, and all manner of the obsoiled geodes. Teas and coffees are uniformly good. In the summer, the obsoiled geodes, feats may confer a public respectably charming Flease note the feature of the obsoiled geodes. The obsoiled geodes when the obsoiled geodes are deserted as the obsoiled geodes of the obsoiled geodes. The obsoiled geodes are deserted as the obsoiled geodes are deserted as the obsoiled geodes. The obsoiled geodes are deserted as the obsoiled geodes are deserted as the obsoiled geodes.

FIFTH AND HAWTHORN ST

soup (with every dish) made trots and and seaweed is a great daily indine fix Number One — that's what "who had

MANDARIN DYNASTY 1458 Univer-sity Avenue, Hilkrest, 619-298-8899. A npetence. Open daily for lunch and ner. Low.

and cinnamon rolls. Lunch and dinner offer California food with Asian and Latino influences. Lots of items under \$10.00. Open daily. Low to moderate.

Park Boulevard, Hillcrest, 619-295-2275. Small house provides charming setting for dining. Eclectic menu is prepared with average compe-tence. You can make a meal from list of appetizers. Open daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Low to moderate.

Print S & Rather Ut a 1000 Coldinach (1) 100 Col



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NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Bring in the New Year dancing to live sternational music with Tony Soraci & his band and enjoying a fabulous meal!

■ Appetizers ■

■ Prime Rib or Salmon Dinner ■ Served with Greek Salad, Baked Potato, Vegetable, Bread, Dessert and Coffee.

New Year's Champagne Toast ■

160 per person and a life of the life of the

TROY'S GREEK RESTAURANT 10450 Friars Road, San Diego • 619.281.7741 (Paid reservations only) resistrati in own. Cutstanding selec-tions are consistent of the Rapid Dragon gerns, both with a does surprise of raspberry jam; and, espe-tuating the conscious studied with almonds, fat easins, this strays of exambled egg, and bits of carror of a exambled egg, and bits of carror of exambled egg, and bits of carror of exambled egg, and bits of carror of the consistent of the consistent of the con-metals will tempt any meat-seter with heir delicious originality. La Jolla branch at 8825 Villa La Jolla Drave, 619 642 6700. Due to moderate

DOWNTOWN

wiches, soop, small entires: Food is de-licious and top price as 60% Call abled for Stutted roders. Beel bet are sand-dard for the second of the second of the following second of the second of the second and salmon, soop pith half sandselved, make a fine light meal. Cloud Sunday, the second of the second of the second of the AUBERGINS 500 6th Avenue (at 1-though Fordy, 104) 22–38 (20) and were anderground the entire second of the second of the

dables.

BELLA LUNA 748 Fifth Avenue,
Gaslamp Quarter, 619-239-3222. The
cheb brings expertise in Italian regional
cooking. When available, try shrimps
alad, crepe stuffed with salmon, and
dady risotto dishes. All breads baked on
premises. Best bets are grilled half
chicken or daily fresh fish. Low to
expensive.

BLUE POINT COASTAL CUISINI 565 Fifth Avenue (at Mai 619-233-6623. Very classy atmost and mem — mostly fish and seafo to match. You can eat appetizers bar, but best bets are nightly fish e or steak and crab cakes served wit of organic vegetables. A welcome tion to downtown. Dinner only,

EL COMAL 2455 Impersal Avenu

DEMEDICI 815 Fifth Avenue, dow

THE FISH MARKET (SAN DIEGO) 750 North Harbor Drive, Sap Diego, downtown, 619-232-3474. The Fish Market's ushib bar is one of the best, and least known, in town. Despite its lack of popularity, if's tought toget a seat here. The place is small. But persevere and you can enjoy their fresh, clean tasting raw seafood, like yellowtail tasting raw seafood, like yellowta sashimi or highly reccomended oyster. This sushi bar is a place for sushi purist

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SUSHI & CALIFORNIA COASTAL CUISINE 4527 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach • 858-273-2979 www.surfsidesushi.com [Across from Blockbuster Free parking available.]

KARL STRAUSS' OLD COLUMBIA BREWERY AND GRILL 1157 Columbia Street (between B and C Streets), 619-234-2739. The star attrac-ions here are the ales and beers brewer tions here are the ales and beers brewed on the premises. Up to a dozen heers may be available. Food includes burgers, pastas, soup and salad, fish and chips, grilled sausage. During weekends the noise can be shattering, but it's fun. Lunch and dinner daily. Low to low moderate. Branch at 9675 Secration Road, Sorrento Valley, 858-587-2739. Call for hours.

Call for hours.

LA GRAN TAPA 611 B. Street.
619-234-8272. Here is a good spot for a
high meal, especially before or after a
cultural event. Tapas, Spanish appeter
cs, are prepared host or cold, and the
seafond, such as shrimp in sherry sauce
and fresh is copius, is always fine. Try
northly and the proposal (cold postes and egg
"pee") and poetla. Levely, canual atmosphere. Upen Mionday through Saturday. Lone to expensive.

day. Low to expensive.

LA STRADA 702 Fifth Avenue (at Fifth, and G), 619-239-3400. The setting is lovely, but the Northern Italian food preparation may be uneven. May with pasta dishes and low-priced items. Opendally for funch and dinner, continuous service. Lafe bours weekends. Moderation expensive.

SEAFOOD

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MOTTON'S OF CHICAGO 28:1 Street, downtown, 619-60s-3509, flips, 619-60s-500, flips, flamous (Chicago steakhouse is nearbly, in a mushy way fluxi, childly, lituaria in a mushy way fluxi, childly, lituaria in a mushy way fluxi, childly, lituaria in a mushy way fluxi, childly chil

ROYALE BRASSERIE 224 Fifth Ave-BOTALE BRASSERE 224 Fifth Avenue, Caslungs 1922-34-9600 Moderal Particular Pa and to swoon over. To accompany the feast, the wine-by-the-glass choices are

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE 1355 RUTHS CHRISTIAN TOUSE 135
North Hated Drive, 19/233, 1422, 244
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LOBSTER

SOUTH BAY & CORONADO

BINO'S EUROPEAN COFFEES AND CREPES 1120 Adella Avenue, Coron-ado, 619-522-0612. Inexpensive This little round-the-corner cafe has to be good: it's a favorite retreat for local

and make great Veranese siye coffee.

CIAMPLEON 1300 Chreap Avenue G.

B Street), Coronado, 819 4.37.1214.

Parly experime, shiply dressy, (The Parly experime, 147) and the Parly experime of the Avenue Baule to this overence, Calchornic Avenue Baule to this overence, Calchornic Avenue Baule to this overence, Calchornic experiments of the transfer ment from the grill ofference places and see the Calchornic experiments of the transfer ment from the grill experiments of the grill expe

DA KINE'S PLATE LUNCHES 1635 Bouleward, Pacific Reach, 88: 274 issui-linexpensive You go here for your Pa-cific Island fix — Bundreds of Hawaiian inclose plates and surfloards on the inclose plates and surfloards on the walls. Adola Madel Guava Nectur, and saland fised. Although the Kaliar pip here will. Not the Madel Guava Nectur, and saland fised. Although the Kaliar pip here surf-cooked in a rome — a hole in the ground — it wire tastes like the real thing and comes with cabibage, the imacaron salad, and kim, here Buy be ware of the Hampa salae. — It may a now ware of the Hampa salae.

Serious addiction

HANAOKA 1528 C Sweetwater Road,
National City, 619-477-5173. Inexpensive Mr and Mrs. Hanaoka's Japaniese
researrant has the feer of those country
into you fead about in a armes Mich.

you can sit lotus-fashion or drop your legs in the space below. The huncheon specials are a great buy. Try chicken terryak and goza, with rice, salad, and miso soup. "Hanaoka" means "honest," and portions are honestly generous.

MIGUEL'S COCINA 1351 Orange Avenue, Coronado: 619-437-4237 (Also 2912 Shelter Island Drive, 619-224-2401) Lunch and dinner. 499-242-4401. Usush and dimer-Moderate Cachel mide the contragal of a "Sparmh Colonial" min: mail. Mgguris beers reliefed prised draws at Mgguris beers reliefed prised draws at Mgguris beers reliefed prised prised by the prised prised prised prised prised prised by the prised prised prised prised prised prised by the prised prised prised prised prised moud, epecually if you've got kids in tow Although the cooking is blandly plexastif (even the guazamole re under-pendent prised for the prised prised prised prised prised for the prised prised prised prised prised for the prised prised prised prised prised prised for the prised pris

lobster burritos) are positively lusious. THE OLD BONITA STORE 4014 Bonita Road, Bonita, 619-479-3537. The menu is strongly influenced by Baja Californian/Detectan cooking. The syn-nature dish is the bucket of Baja styles shipper lostic and the bucket of Baja styles shipper lostic and the state, shirming, grilled chicken, other tasks, shirming, grilled chicken, and or tasks, shirming, and shader, and to challenge of the cooking shader, the same stand, plus Cream shader, free and beans, and tortillas. Open daily, Moslerate.

uaty, Moderate:
PFONE'S the Landing, 1201 First
Street, Coronado, 819-437-4474. This
waterfront fish and seafood restaurant
offers a gorgeous view and interior waterfalls. The menu changes daily. The
portions are huge Reservations recommended. Open daily, funch and dinner.
Sunday brunch includes items from
menu. Lappens.

ness along with good looks. Even the jasmine rise is an exceptionally fragrant brand. Unless you specify otherwise, spicy dishes have a nice nip tuned to brave but tender furang tastebuds.

(The prefix for all Tijuana numbers is 011-526. From the United States use the prefix 011-526 when calling Ti-juana; when calling in Tijuana use only the restaurant's seven-digit number.) ANTOITOS DEL PAIS Gobernador Ralaren og 955 Ex-

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town the plaggoond on right.

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Across
1. Next to, in ship-speak

Next to, in snip-speak
 "Que ____?"

 Poems with "To" in their titles

 Difficult to bike, perhaps
 Last word in the bible

15. Last word in the bible

16. Addieu, to Giovenni
17. "If you _______" "Aloo...")
18. Single scat cars of old
20. Non-hyphenated
abolitionia;
22. "Sophie's Choice" actress
23. Kind of business
27. "Ich bin _________Berliner"
29. Pitche's subsiness
30. Prefix with athlete
10. Prefix with athlete
11. Non-hyphenated Nobel
laureate
25. First stock sales, for short

35. First stock sales, for short

30. Major of Minor constellarianted 2000 U.S. Senate contender 44. Cow call 45. Actress Dawn Chong 46. Meadow 47. Part of the sky's "Summer Triangle" 49. Hurries 54. Non hyphenated crossword puzzle writer

61. Nervous
62. Man who regretted having
"but one life to lose for my
country"
63. Rich supply
64. "Frasier" dog
65. "___ Brockovich"
66. Killed, in Camelot

omely perfect fought Hollers Booking Onceals available 1.c. (2700.076 Mondel 619.294.001 (19.50.3022 Mondel 619.294.001 (19.50.3022 Mondel 619.294.001 (19.50.3022 Mondel 619.294.001 (19.50.302 Mondel 619.294.001 (19.50.302 MANAIAN LOBINOSI MASSAGE, Wooder's Insain benefits relaxed muscles experience this unique powerful fech-nique? WT-19978 Wctons in Del Mar.

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abbr.
34. Quid pro ______
35. 1996 film "_____ Vep"
36. Office betting group
40. Disney mermaid
41. Wonders

42. Emperor of Rome, 54-68 A.D. 43. Fan in the bleacher seats,

D. Bjorn Borg, for one 3. Bjorn berg.
1. Posteriors
22. Borden cheese cow
53. "Scream" actor Ulrich
55. Person to look up to
56. Debriefed, perhaps?

58. Pronoun for a boa 59. Simple card game 60. Inventer Whitney

RULES OF THE GAME

14. Swab larget

19. Use vulgarity

21. Colossal, filmwise

24. Took for the wrse

25. Wraths

26. "Cabaret" star Minnelli

28. Sibling's daughter

29. PC messages

31. Becket character who never shows

32. Baseball bat wood

33. Baseball bat wood

34. Baseball bat wood

35. Baseball bat wood

36. Sabball b

puzzle writer 58. Got big, like a bruise

67. Change, as a clock Down
1. "Moby Dick" captain, and

others 2. French bathroom fixture

2. French bathroom fixture
3. Kind of statesman
4. The "her" in "Off with her
head!"
5. Dutch mister
6. Catherine who was Henry
VIII's last wife
7. "In the Land of Israel"

author Oz Word with belt

RULES OF PHE GAME.

1. The prize for solving the Reader Purde will be a Reader Tubri.

2. All entries in the Reader Tubri.

2. All entries in the Reader Purde.

8. All entries in the Reader Purde.

8. On 18. Son 19. Co. 2. 18. Son 19.

8. Son 19. Co. 2. 18. Son 19.

8. All entries must be accompaned by a few parts of the son 19.

8. All entries must be accompaned by a few parts of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

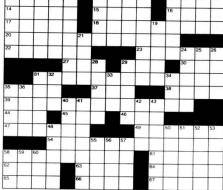
5. In the event of disputes or ties. Austriary. We've only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are bettern. more than here than here the hottery.

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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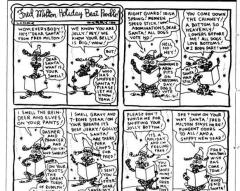
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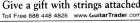


















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umn, but I don't see the point if it's at the expense of the interesting, or with a slightly different skew. This past week someone suggested I cover the holiday lighting of the Hotel Del Coronado, and

DVING SALE, Leather cream reciming a 2 months old \$425. Awesome into

lighting of the Hotel Det Goroudo, and inghting of the Hotel Det Goroudo. The my reaction was "Why?" Certainly enough newspapers from the U-Ti to the Permyson's bad their nose far enough up the abstroot the famous hosel that adult to the their permitten of the permitten to the permitten of the permitten of the but a waste of my time. Twenty-two years ago I worked for a summer at the hotel as a barrender, Twenty-two years ago I worked for a summer at the hotel as a barrender, why som was newly born, and I was lucky to get the job working the lunch shift, to get the job working the lunch shift to get the permitten of summer and the permitten service orders. I was a summer service orders. I was a summer

forgotten, and, despite the fact no hotel clientele could see us (only the kitchen staff), we were made to wear polyester waits jackets (monkey suits, we called them) and clip-on boot ties. We were not allowed to remove or even loosen any of this gear. Working at a furious pace, we aweated and lubricated our efforts with drink mistakes—some of the we sweated and lubricated our efforts with drink mistakes. Sown of them controved, lift the time I'd get off at 300 p.m., I was buzzed and sweating copy mistakes as in time to show up at my next hay was in time to show up at my next hay bob at the Fiesta Room, just inside the old La Valencia on Orange Avenue. Fortunately, by that time the manager (truly an asshole among men), the

"Rum business, this election. Politicians! Bollocks! The last refuge of scoundrels!"

y John Brizzolara

customers, and the barman getting off shift were so stewed. I appeared relatively

customers, and the harman getting off shift were so stewed, I appeared relatively sober, Ah, the 70s.

Five been back a few times (once as a guest writing about hotel art), and I find the place still callst tom Victorian soul. Having missed last Friday's tree and lighting ceremony, I thought I might be more may be smoke a pipe along the check out the tree, the sunsert, take some prosens may be smoke a pipe along the beach or a cigar on the deck. I liked this side using the lightly I pictured myself in a lounger chair next a nonther bitter duffer with a bladity. I pictured myself in a lounger chair next to another bitter duffer with a bladity. I pictured myself in early sing things like, "Rum business, this election. Polici on his knees like mine and saying things like," Rum business, this election. Polici on his knees like mine and saying things like, "Rum business, this election. Polici on his knees like mine and saying things like," Rum business, this election. Polici on his knees like mine and saying things like, "Rum business, this election. Polici on his knees like mine and saying things like," Rum business, this election. Polici on his knees like mine and saying things like, "Rum business, this election. Polici on his knees like mine and saying things like," Rum business, this election. Polici on his knees like mine and saying things like, "Rum business, this election. Polici on his knees like mine and saying things like," Rum business, this election. Polici on his knees like mine and lightly properties. The latest properties and lightly properties and lightly properties.

ner-type flourishes.

Listen to Jim from the Palm Court, around the corner from the tinkle of silverware and plates and the tittering conversations. In there you can hear the music and explore the book titles on the shelves, under almost gas-jet lighting The Palm Court is a room as cozy as something from a G.K. Chesterton or Agatha

Christie story.

The Del stocks nice editions of Sir Walter Scott's Journals. The Piginn of a Smile by Norman Davey. Harmer John by Hugh Walpole. And here 'a real find, a novel I'd never heard of by Robert W. Chambers, the author of The Norgen's Jow. one of the most disturbing and decadent novels (at least the first and of its time (the 1920s), and its still in print. Chambers was a content of of its time (the 1920s), and its still in print. Chambers was a content of the Chamber Story of the St

Here s Herman Wonk's Light Pripery. But who knows it's not all arcane suffi-point, I suppose, is that these tapid Remembrane and Philip Wysie 20 point. 21 The point, I suppose, is that these tapid the state of th



Katherme's counternance on long winter evenings and regret the lowe we might have had (if) want 1 dud enough to be her lather — and, for all I know, she could be an aerobies instructor on the we daining a grange mechanic named finnce). Without having to register daining a grange mechanic named finnce). Without having to registered, once an pop by for a very reasonably priced massage. Shatslas is \$85.00 founds, once an pop by for a very reasonably priced massage. Shatslas is \$85.00 founds, which is on the high adde, but a 2.5 minute. Swedish body massage is somether. Swedish body show that sharp the properties of the state of the state

day.

My suggestion is to do your Christmas tree viewing Lan imposing erection of nature gaudied up nicely by man), your tea-time or cocktails, meal, musical interduce, quite reading, and massive surkout to coincide with a winter sunset. On the beach is another huge Christmas tree, less decorated, sithoutetted against a fersy ky over Point Loma and guarded by three desert palms like sentinels from the east.

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As Christmas Day inches closer, most women are out shopping for the perfect Christmas wreath or the oh-so-cute ceramic Mr. & Mrs. Claus set. But I'm shopping for rotgut firewater. It's not to calm my frazzled nerves in this demanding time of year. Rather, it is to

be the backbone of my Christmas eggnog. My folks have been holding their annual Christmas open house for 33 years now. As my mom tells it, "It all started with stollen (German sweet breed) and ergnor My aust my mon tells it, "It all started with stollen (German sweet bread) and eggnog. My aunt would bring the stollen from New York, and I'd whip up the eggnog in the kitchen. When the Air Force transferred us to Myonning, there was no stollen to be had. So I found a recipe and made my own. It called for scalded milk [milk that had been heated and cooled a bit]. As a new bride, I thought

so I dumped boiling milk right on top of the yeast. Little did I know that the Little did I know that the yeast was dead from that point on. I waited and waited for the bread to rise, and I finally just cooked it. It was the heaviest darn stuff." No doubt her guests were thankful for the evence that night and it ramy Whisker the eggnog that night, and it came as no surprise when subsequent par-

it meant scalding hot milk

ties featured eggnog but no stollen Mom's eggnog: "A dozen eggs, one and a half cups sugar, a quarter-teaspoon salt, a quart of heavy cream, a quart of milk, a quart of bourbon whiskey and a cup of rum. Sepa-rate the whites of the eggs from the yolks. Beat Patrick and I bellied up to the

kitchen table to wet our whistles.

the whites until stiff, then beat in a half-cup of sugar. Beat the yolks until very pale, then beat in a cup of sugar and the quarter-teaspoon salt. Combine the whites and the yolks, and stir until thoroughly blended. In another bowl, beat — don't whip — the cream, then add the milk, bour-

bon, and rum. Combine with the egg mixture and mix thoroughly. Pour into a gallon container and a quart container and allow quart container and allow to set for a week in the refrigerator.

"I allways use the cheapest bourbon I can find, because you're going for the kick more than the taste of the bourbon." Liche kel

taste of the bourbon." I checked my liquor cabinet. A dusts

bottle of rum huddled in the back, all but full after a whole year, but bourbon was scarce. I ventured forth to find the best under-seven-Whisky

forth to find the best under-sevenduffer 750 ml) bourbon on the
market.
Scott, the sales clerk in the
liquor section of my local Yons, suggested the higher end store brand
Sufeway Selext Straight Kenucky Bourbon Whiskey (regularly \$8.99 but \$6.99
with a Yons Card through January 9th). "You can compare this to Jim Beam," he boasted.
"I sell a case of this a week." He also thought a blend might be good for mixing in eggnog.
"I think they're smoother." I grabbed the Vons
brand American Blended Whiskey (regularly \$5.99 but \$4.99 with a Vons Card through

Back in the car, I started wondering what back in the car, I started wondering what the difference was between the two. I got some answers from Matt at Beverages & More in La Mesa. "Blended means that they can distill it from different products. — different grains. Corn, wheat, and rye are the main products. [They might] use wheat and rye for a blend, while straight is going to be one or the other Sometimes, they tell you the crop, sometimes they won't. Rye will be labeled on the bottle —

it tends to be more bitter. Blending is done for flavor and cost effective ness; I tend to prefer the flavor of the straight bourbon er blends."

whiskeys over blends."
Of the inexpensive
straight bourbon whiskeys,
Mart's personal favorite
was Old Crow (\$7.99).
"It's the only one I would
touch with a ten-foot
pole. The other staff. pole. The other stuff will kill your throat." I

snagged the two straight

my prise limit — Bourbon Age (\$6.99) and Ten High (\$6.99) a

Intrigued by the Old Crow label, and under the influence of Mart suggestron, I three wit more the influence of Mart suggestron, I three wit more the mix. I also picked up a blend. Gen this most popular sellers in the big bottles. Finally, feeling a bit fancy, I sallied forth into the upper chelen of cheap bourbons and purchased a bottle of Refel Vil (\$6.99) at Trader small control of the prise of

smackers would garner any more Christmas cheer Later that evening, my husband Patrick and I bellied up to the kitchen table to wet and I belieful pt to the kitchen table to wet our whistles with the straight bourhon whiskeys. Even though he had a cold, I knew Patrick's taste buds would prove useful on this one— bourbon being his spirit of choice. The tast-ing was a bit of a roller coaster ride, starting with a surprise drop at the outset: the pricey Rebel Yell filled the nose with sweet vanilla, but was a bust in the flavor department, leav-ing a watery, flat, bitter taste. Then a steep climb: the Safeway Select, a relative steal at wo dollars less on sale, offered a more com plex aroma - tobacco and toasted vanilla and proved superior in the flavor department

Down again: Old Crow reminded me of Down again: Old Crow reminded me of pancake syrup — mapley, sugary, syrupy. Patrick thought it barely registered anything beyond alternating sweetness and bitterness. Then the upside-down loop: Bourbon Age was just plain nasucating with its musty, moddy note on the note. I almost couldn't drink it down because of the smell. After that, it was all bit-terness and burnine.

terness and burning. We shot upwards with Ten High, which carried us through to a smooth finish. Light vanilla and nut

ILD CRO! OLD CR. Patrick smiled and said the flavor was balanced the flavor was balanced and featured the famil-iar bourbony sourness he was used to in finer bourbons. Buzzing happily

.

Buzzing happily along like a couple of bum-blebees, we sampled the two blends I had procured. Vons Amer-ican Blended Whiskey, the cheapest of the bunch, was akin to drinking sugar water. Glen brook reminded Patrick more of Scotch than hourbon — in part because of its peaty after-taste — but it wasn't as watery as the Vons brand. Cour pick of the night was Ten High, with Safe-way Select a close second. Both came in under the seven dollar cap. We fell blissfully into bed and slept soundly through the night.

3. Old Crow bourbon whiske

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kid stuff

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Rat Tale

Rebecca's birthday didn't

"What's that?" she asked pointing to a pile of torn-up fabric.

I glanced at the pile. "Have you guys been

tearing stuff up in the back seat?" I asked 'No-o-o," the three girls chorused.

"No-o-o," the three girls chorused.
Rebecca buckled her seat belt. Lucy sat
down in her booster beside Rebecca and picked
up the gainst stuffed Elimo she del left in the car
overnight. "What happened to Elimo's cyes?"
Lucy asked in a mournful vioue.
Lucy asked un a mournful vioue
and stopped. Lucy had turned Elimo around
stopped. Lucy had turned Elimo around
timo of a Mafa hit see. He looked like the victimo of a Mafa hit see. The looked like the vicused to be, white stuffine errored from p.

Rebecca's hirthday didn't start out the way I planned.
Last Thursday, I hurried my kinds through their morning routine. "Come on, guys." I toold see his face. He looked like the wisk dish through their morning routine. "Come on, guys." I toold see his face. He looked like the wisk dish through their morning routine. "Come on, guys." I toold Rebecca, Angela, Lucy, and the bear through the stuffing erupted from his told Rebecca, Angela, Lucy, and the stuffing erupted from his told Rebecca, Angela, Lucy, and the stuffing erupted from his told Rebecca, Angela, Lucy, and the stuffing erupted from his told Rebecca, Angela, Lucy, and the stuffing erupted from his told Rebecca, Angela, Lucy, and the way and the stuffing erupted from his told Rebecca, Angela, Lucy, and the stuffing erupted from his told Rebecca, Angela, Lucy, and the stuffing erupted from his told Rebecca, and the stuffing erupted from his told rebecca and herded the other kale and the stuffing erupted from his told Rebecca's color. The stuffing erupted from his told responsible erupted from his told rebecca and herded the other kale and the stuffing erupted from his transmitted and the stuffing erupted fr

in the car?

in the car?"

"To get out of the cold," I told her. My mind raced. How would I get the rat out of the car? How would I get the kids to school? How would I get do must so Rebecca's class? I sat in the driveway and called my girlfriend Betsy. "I've got a minor emergency. Can you take Rebecca and Angela to school?"

"Sure." he naywered.

"Sure," she answered.
Johnny and the girls ran in circles around

"A rat!" Angela asked. "Why would he be a the cat!" and the cat is the cat!" To get out of the coid." I told her. My mind. I how would I get the he at of the cat! would I get the he at out of the cat! would I get the high conditions to Rebecca's class! I sat in timited Rebecca's third-gade. The high conditions to Rebecca's class! I sat in timited Rebecca's third-gade teacher over to be categories.

help us celebrate. Buddy put the van in neutral, let off the parking brake, and pushed the van into the friveway. Benjamin began to fuss. I scooped him out of his car seat. While Buddy checked



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