Permerson december 14, 2006

SAN DIEGO WEEKLY
DECEMBER 14, 2006



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

remember what it was like to wake up and see. When I walked into Dr. Yaghouti's office I was very nervous. But the staff put me at ease and the procedure was over in minutes. When I woke up the next day I screamed, 'I CAN SEE!' And the tears came. For the first time in 42 years I could see the clock on the wall and other things in my room. No more hassle with glasses or discomfort from contacts. I can swim,

snorkel and do anything I want with perfect sight. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

- Michelle Stewart, San Diego

Our quick LASIK procedure can correct nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism – <u>in 1 visit</u>.

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Here's what some of our patients have said about the LASIK procedure:

Q: How safe is the LASIK procedure?

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

Q: Is the surgery painful or difficult?

"I had no pain during the procedure and no discomfort or pain afterward. Best of all, I can see without my glasses or contacts. It feels great." – *Greg Schwenk, San Diego, CA*

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

"When I came out of the surgery room I could see the hands of the clock – I was doing normal things the next day...amazing immediate results!" – Glenna T. Casey, Chula Vista, CA

Q: How long does the process take?

"You and your staff told me that it would be a ten-minute, painless procedure and that I would be able to see very close to 20/20 as soon as the next day. Sure enough, it was painless, done in minutes, and I see 20/20." – T.P. Fortin, San Diego, CA

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

"I had the surgery done over 8 years ago and my sight is still a perfect 20/20." – Sandra Macias, San Diego, CA

Important note from Dr. Lakhani: The effects of LASIK are permanent and do not wear off. However, a person's eye can still change internally, which is why many surgeons recommend having the procedure done after major eye changes have occurred in one's life.

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- You had no more red, scratchy eyes or headaches from poor eyesight?

Read what our patients say after their LASIK surgery ...

"This was a life-changing experience. The morning after surgery I was reading anything and everything - signs, billboards, etc. To be liberated of contacts and glasses after 30 years is nothing short of miraculous. The staff and doctors are the best. The doctor told me exactly what was going on the whole time during surgery. I felt completely comfortable. Thank you for this amazing gift you have given me."

- Tim Newman, Solana Beach, CA

"I liked how the doctor explained everything before he did it. I did not have any discomfort after the surgery. I could see perfectly the next day. This is the best thing I have ever done for myself."

- Claudia Jones, San Diego, CA

"Unbelievable. If someone told me I'd be driving the next day, I'd tell them they were nuts. But I'm driving! Wish I'd done this 10 years ago - I'm seeing 20/15, can't wait for tomorrow and the next day – it can only get better. Thanks, Global, you made a difference in my life!"

- Chris Steward, Cardiff, CA

"Being able to see is a wonderful thing. It is great that the price is affordable so more people can have this wonderful gift! Thanks to Dr. Yaghouti and staff!"

- Tanya Lancee, San Diego, CA

"I've worn glasses since I was 8. What an experience to get up the next morning, reach for your glasses and realize, 'Hey, I can see!' Thanks for your help in enhancing my life."

- Denise Alloway, Cudahy, CA

"You were all wonderful. I am very happy to be able to see again without the hassles of glasses and contact lenses. Thank you for providing me with a new life."

- Patricia Rhodes, San Diego, CA

"I was at 20/400 in both eyes, now I'm 20/15 in both eyes. Thank you, Dr. Yaghouti and your entire staff for a job very well done."

– Tony Cardenas, Temecula, CA

"I was absolutely amazed when the first eye was completed. I couldn't wait to have the second eye completed. I could see as soon as he finished. I felt very relaxed as the procedure was being done. The doctor explained everything he was doing and that was very relaxing. I would recommend this procedure to anybody. I have worn contact lenses since I was about 13 and had the procedure done at 35. As soon as I got home all the contact stuff went in the

- Lorie Lindenmuth, Oceanside, CA

"I can see without the use of glasses for the first time in 27 years. The staff is excellent and very professional. I will recommend this center to all of my friends that wear any kind of corrective vision. Thank you all for giving me my sight." - Art Casey, Chula Vista, CA

"It is awesome to be able to surf and snowboard without the worries of losing a lens. I can finally wake up every morning to clear, perfect vision and not more headaches due to poor vision! Thank you so much for this gift - it has brightened my world."

- Sandi Nagy, San Diego, CA

"The morning after my surgery I could read the time on my digital clock without raising my head. My whole world is crystal clear. I can stand at the sea wall and see waves. I can tell a pelican from a surfer out beyond the waves. It's a miracle. I put my glasses away in a case, never to wear those again. Thank you, Global Laser Vision." - Katherine Austin, San Diego, CA

time in 25 years. GREAT." - Larry Cheney, Coronado, CA

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- Darush Mohyi, M.D., La Jolla, CA



MEET DR. YAGHOUTI Refractive Eye Surgery specialist from Harvard University.



DR. LAKHANI Refractive Eye Surgery specialist from UCSD Medical Center.



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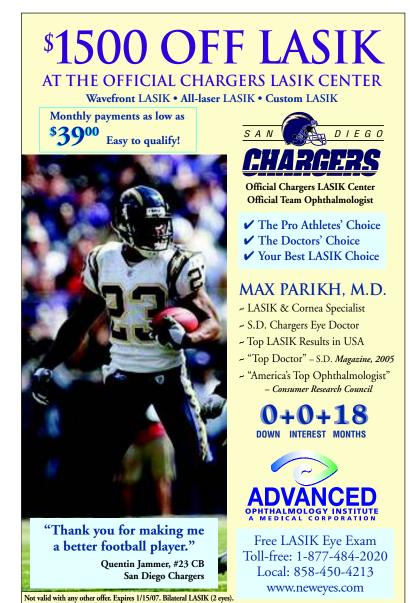
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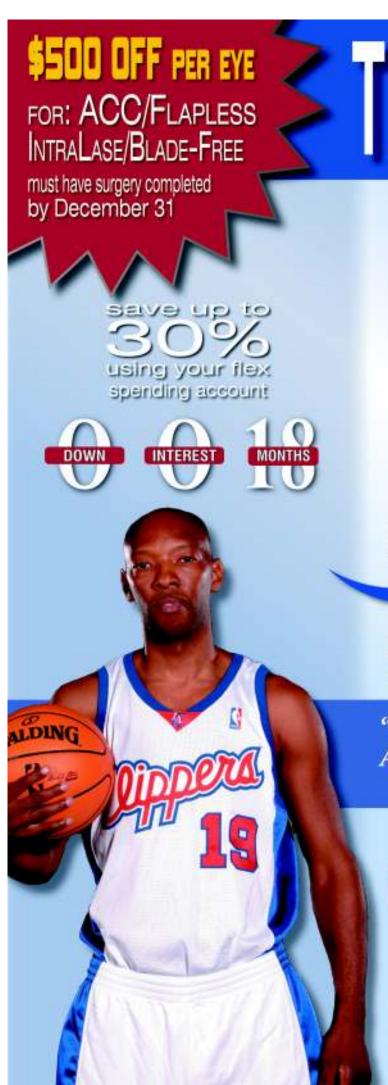
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- Sam Cassell

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

In play There's been an intriguing bump along the road in David Copley's attempt to dismantle his late mother's newspaper empire to pay estate taxes: the sale of the Tor-



rance Daily Breeze, expected to close on November 30, was abruptly put off. The

next day, with the buyer still unidentified, the Daily Breeze told readers that the snag involved an "undisclosed technical issue" and added that the deal "could be completed by the end of

next week." Then, last Wednesday, new information was revealed in an



antitrust case filed in San Francisco federal court by wealthy political consultant Clint Reilly against the Hearst Corporation and the MediaNews Group.

According to a declaration filed with the court by MediaNews Group president Joseph J.Lodovic IV, Copley is set to sell the Daily Breeze to Hearst. Hearst will later transfer the paper to Denver-based MediaNews in a complicated arrangement that also includes the Monterey County Herald and the St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press. Hearst will ultimately get a 30 percent interest in MediaNews. Reilly argues that MediaNews, which recently bought the San Iose Mercury News and the Contra Costa Times as part of the breakup of the Knight Ridder chain, and Hearst, which owns the San Francisco Chronicle, are working together to take over the Bay Area's newspaper advertising market, a charge denied by Lodovic.

"The Hearst equity investment in MediaNews, which is still pending, is carefully structured to exclude MediaNews' Bay Area properties," the declaration says. "The transaction documents deny Hearst any ownership interest in, influence over, or rights to non-public information with respect to MediaNews' Bay Area newspapers." But after disclosing the Daily Breeze purchase from Copley, Lodovic then reveals that the two firms aren't done dealing. "Hearst and MediaNews are contemplating another possible acquisition of a newspaper located in the Northeast. While the parties have not consummated this transaction, there is no circumstance in which it would involve Bay Area newspapers."

Though Copley has said it has no intention of unloading the Union-Tribune as part of the previously announced sell-off of its remaining seven papers in Illinois and Ohio, the fact that Hearst and MediaNews are collaborating on the Daily Breeze transaction has fueled speculation that the two newspaper giants may ultimately be eveing Copley's San Diego flagship. Much other material in the Reilly case is under court seal, including a December 6 declaration by James M. Asher, Hearst senior vice president and chief legal and development officer in charge of acquisitions.

Let them eat chocolates Back on August 11, the Barona Indian tribe issued a news release saying that Jack O'Connell, state superintendent of public instruction, "was in San Diego this morning to formally endorse the new Barona Education Grant Program during a tour of the Barona Indian Charter School." According to the release, O'Connell praised the program as "truly an innovative way to help boost education in our state, and I would like to encourage others to take Barona's lead in offering new financial resources and creating more opportunities for the children

of California." As it turns out, O'Connell and one of his staffers themselves took advantage of some Barona financial resources. According to a lobbyist statement filed by the tribe on October 31, on August 10, the night before O'Connell made his statement, he received a free night in a Barona Valley Ranch Resort and



Casino hotel room valued by the tribe at \$59.92, along with a "gift acorn basket and framed picture" worth \$141 and an "in-room amenity chocolates" valued at \$25.38. O'Connell aide Adam Wolfson also got a hotel room and the chocolates.

Finding the way "Jesus says, 'Sell all your things and follow Me....'That's always been the most



moving thing in my life." So said termed-out assemblyman Juan Vargas in a June 23 Union-Tribune piece about his future plans the same month he was defeated by incumbent congressman **Bob Filner** in the 51st District Democratic primary. Vargas told the newspaper he might become a missionary.

But it looks as though Vargas won't be selling anything other than the insurance industry's official line now that he's been hired by Safeco as vice president of external relations. Vargas, who chaired the assembly's insurance committee, and his staff were often accused of being cozy with insurers. The assemblyman took hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions; both he and his staff accepted plenty of gifts. This September 29, for instance, when Vargas went golfing with his brother Javier, the Association of California Life and Health Insurance Companies paid a \$95 "caddy fee/gratuity" for each and spent \$175 in greens fees at the exclusive Pebble Beach course they played on, according to lobbying disclosure reports filed by

the group. On September 30 of last year, chief aide Colin Rice got a \$290 round of golf at the posh Spyglass Hill course from the same entity. But Rice isn't following his boss into the insurance industry. Instead, he's signed on with Cornerstone Strategies, run by Art

Castanares, ex-aide to state



senator Steve Peace, who remains close to his former employee. The firm's clients include Padres owner John Moores's JMI Realty and the Joint Labor Management Committee, which recently got the San Diego City Council to ban "big box" retailers such as Wal-Mart.

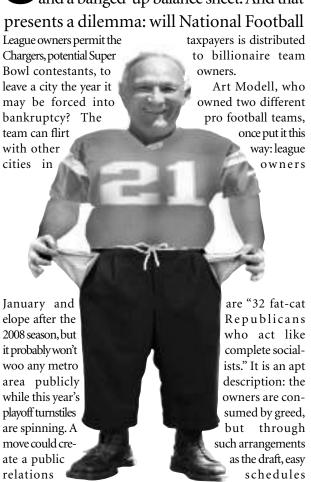
- Matt Potter

The Reader offers \$25 for news tips published in this column. Call our voice mail at 619-235-3000, ext. 440, or fax your tip to 619-231-0489.

Will Owners Let Chargers Leave Bankrupt City?

By Don Bauder

an Diego has a bang-up football team and a banged-up balance sheet. And that



Jerry Sanders (photo illustration) the nation may see that pro football is not a game but an extortion

teams, and player salary caps, they make sure that have-nots eventually become haves. Karl Marx

schedules

for weaker

would have loved it. Because of revenue sharing, every team will have its days in the limelight.

The trick is coming up with a good team at the time you're squeezing your home city for several hundred million dollars for a new stadium. The Chargers thought they had timed it right, but then the City was forced to reveal that it had been covering up more than a billion dollars of pension deficits. Now the city is falling apart.

The last election may have been sobering to pro sports owner/mendicants. In turning thumbs down on a plea by its pro basketball team, Seattle voted 3 to 1 for a measure that prohibits sports welfare unless taxpayers get a return on their investment. By the same margin, Sacramento voters rejected a bid for a new basketball arena that would have required a sales tax hike. Overwhelmingly, Pasadena voters said they didn't want to invite the National Football League in to help rehabilitate the Rose Bowl. Could pro football owners fear an Age of Enlightenment?

I asked five of the most prominent sports economists whether the league, concerned about deserting a bankrupt city, might turn down the Chargers' bid for relocation.

continued on page 8

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

Neal Obermeyer

racket by which money of poor

disaster:



The F in F Street **Is Fashion**

By Ernie Grimm

ashion model and F Street bookstore heiress Aleksandra Vasic, a high school

freshman from San Diego County, set off

a bit of media frenzy in England during September's London Fashion Week. At 14 years old, she was the youngest model to ever strut and scowl her way down the Fashion Week runway. That triggered a spate of stories in the English press. In a September 24 Birmingham Sunday Mercury story, lifestyle editor Zoe Chamberlain ripped the fashion industry for its use of unnaturally skinny models and chided designer Zandra Rhodes for "court[ing] publicity (all news is good news, after all) by plonking the youngest ever model on stage at London Fashion Week a few days ago."

Rhodes, a 65-year-old English fashion designer who keeps a home here and has designed costumes and sets for the San Diego Opera, responded to the criticism, "I don't understand what the fuss is about," she told a London Mail on Sunday reporter. "Aleksandra is absolutely stun-

ning. I'm not taking her out of school and models can't choose when their career comes to them."

Rhodes told more than one writer covering Fashion



Week that she believed Aleksandra could become "the next Twiggy, or Kate Moss."

Aleksandra caused another stir in London when she publicly ate a dessert. "I enjoy my food," she was quoted in a September 20 London Daily Mail story, "and had a slice of cake to prove it when I turned 14 this week."

The Daily Mail story, by Tahira Yaqoob, was titled, "Should This 14-Year-Old Girl Be Allowed on the Fashion Week Catwalk?" Despite the interrogative title, Yaqoob quoted nobody answering no to the question.

Instead she quoted Aleksandra's mother, Alma Vasic, a resident of east Chula Vista, who said, "I am not worried about her as she is very grounded." The elder Vasic proclaimed her daughter to be "normal and healthy" and added, "She doesn't worry about her weight and knows to stay away from drugs.... I know she can handle being in the limelight."

Alma, who is 50, credited herself with having taught Aleksandra "to have strong principles and morals." It's an interesting claim from a woman who makes her living not by "run[ning] a hotel business," as Yaqoob incorrectly reported, but by running the F Street bookstore pornography empire she took over after her husband and F Street founder Gojko Vasic died in 1993. It's an interesting claim from a woman who, in the presence of her 14-year-old daughter, told a Union-Tri-

bune reporter that she planned to start a second business called Women to Woman with Miss V through which she'll use Tupperware-style parties to sell sex toys to women. It's an interesting claim from a woman who turned out her widowed mother-in-law and fired or demoted her husband's relatives after his death.

The November 12 Union-Tribune story on Aleksandra Vasic said that Gojko Vasic, who was also known as Greg Vasic, died of a heart attack. Indeed, his death certificate states that his death at age 49 on October 11, 1993, (less than a month after Aleksandra's first birthday) was due to "coronary artery occlusion" after years of suffering from "arteriosclerotic heart disease." What the certificate doesn't say is that Gojko Vasic had AIDS. Regarding the last days of his life, Judge Judith Haller of the state's Fourth District Court of Appeal later wrote, "At that time, Gojko had been diagnosed with AIDS."

The AIDS diagnosis sheds light on how Gojko and Alma, a Mexican whose maiden name is Sepúlveda, met and married in the first place. By all accounts, the pair met in the mid-1980s, when he was a patient and she an employee at an alternative medical clinic in Tijuana. There he underwent experimental "cellular



Aleksandra Vasic

therapy" in which fetal sheep cells are injected into the body. The procedure, though still practiced in Tijuana medical clinics, has never been approved for use in the United States. But at that time, the AIDS medications we have now were not available, and presumably Gojko turned to alternative medicine. He didn't find a cure, but he found a wife. According to court documents, the pair married in

According to the November 12 *Union-Tribune* article by Jenifer Goodwin, Alma and Gojko, who was a Serbian immigrant, "wanted to start a family, but had trouble conceiving," which isn't surprising given Gojko's AIDS. Aleksandra, Goodwin wrote, "was born after years of fertility treatments."

A little more than 12 years earlier, Gojko, unmarried, in his mid-30s, and the owner of a growing chain of pornography outlets, asked his widowed mother to move in with him. His mother, Milica Vasic, later wrote in a declaration to the court, "[Gojko] asked me to move from Indiana to San Diego, California to provide him with companionship. In return for my moving to San Diego, [Gojko] promised that he would care for me for the rest of my life. As a result of [Gojko's] promise, I moved from Indiana to San Diego...and began living with [Gojko] at 2775 Ibis.... [Gojko] paid for all my moving expenses...including my airfare. In addition, from the time I moved to California until [Gojko's] death...[he] paid for all of my housing expenses, medical and dental expenses, secondary medical insurance payments, food, and clothing."

Milica's statement goes on to list the expensive travel and gifts Gojko paid for until 1985, when Gojko married Alma. Her new daughter-in-law, Milica wrote, "forced [Gojko] to move me out of their house. Although [Goiko] continued to provide for me after he married Alma, he was forced to do so secretly."

After moving his mother to San Diego, Gojko had also moved his sister, Andja Stanojevic, and her three children here. Andja began keeping December the books for F Street Corporation, and her son Slobodan Colovic became operations manager. They declared in a petition to the court after



continued on page 10 🔻

Bankrupt city?

I asked if the Chargers' claim that it needed a new stadium to remain competitive made any sense, particularly since

they have done so well the last few seasons playing in a stadium they fallaciously consider out of date. And I asked if the Chargers might end up in the Los Angeles metro area, particularly Orange County, which I still think will be their new home.

They shot down the notion that November 7's election results portend a new realization by the public that it is getting screwed. "There is creeping enlightenment, but not a sea change," says Andrew

Zimbalist of Smith College. "The level of resistance" to a Charger departure "might be higher than in the past."

That's too optimistic, say others. "There have always been a number of places that have refused to cave in, but in the end, there are always more places that will," says Ronald D. Utt of the Heritage Foundation. Yes, there were minor victories Election Day, but this year baseball's Washington Nationals "got the first 100 percent governmentfinanced stadium."

"From time to time I think we really have become more rational, but then weird things happen," says Robert A. Baade of Lake Forest College.

And even if rationality were creeping into public discourse, there is little evidence the National Football League would be attuned to it. "The NFL is about making as much money as it can for owners," says Dennis Coates of the University of Maryland Baltimore County. "They wouldn't have a problem moving a team if it would make more money for the owners. The league doesn't have a terribly strong sense of loyalty to cities."

"Nothing will deter the NFL from putting its teams where it will make the most money," says Rodney D. Fort of Washington State University, author of the text Sports Economics.

"If the NFL thought it could move the Chargers without too much in the way of negative publicity, the NFL would allow this. It is a bottom-line business," says Baade. Because of the emotional impact of Katrina, the league might want to keep the Saints in New Orleans "for at least a period of time to give the impression that the NFL is not a heartless entity."

The Chargers claim they need a new stadium so they can field a better team. Is that poppycock? In a word, yes, say the economists, mainly because of the share-the-wealth socialism. In all sports, "half the time they get better, half the time they don't" after wangling a new facility, says Fort. It's less likely to happen in share-the-wealth football, even though some revenues, such as from luxury boxes, do not have to be shared with other owners. By and large, new stadiums make football owners richer but don't make teams better. Teams such as the Chargers, Green Bay Packers, Philadelphia Eagles, San Francisco 49ers, Chicago Bears, and Oakland Raiders have had both stellar and smelly years in old facilities, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and St. Louis Rams have had both good and bad years in new stadiums.

So are the Chargers headed out of town - particularly to the juicy L.A. metro area? If the team goes deep into the playoffs or to the Super Bowl,

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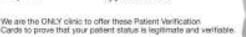
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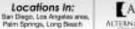
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Bankrupt city?

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"San Diego might have a change of heart," says Zimbalist. Mayor Sanders might not be able to resist entreaties from his business backers and could give away the entire Qualcomm site.

A deal outside of the city, such as in Chula Vista or National City, might work, says Fort. The Oakland A's are angling to move to Fremont and the 49ers to Santa Clara, he notes. Of course, public financing is a stumbling block in San Diego County cities. And two logical alternatives would seem to be out of the question: the nabobs who want cities to subsidize the Chargers aren't likely to put their own money in, and big owner egos would prevent the team from staying at Qualcomm, an excellent facility.

L.A.? Coates says the league may want it for extortion purposes. "It is nice to have a bigmarket option to use as part of a threat," he says. The league does not want to add an expansion team until 2010, says Fort. At that point, 32 owners could split the \$600 million L.A. expansion fee—"a nice bonus," he says.

Baade was hired several years ago to assess the economic impact of L.A.'s Staples Center, an indoor facility. It's slight. "L.A. understands that pro sports are not

a pot of gold," says Baade. He doubts that L.A. governments would offer a subsidy, and Fort doesn't think the National Football League would put up much money, even as badly as it wants a team in the rich L.A. television market. However, late last week the National Football League said it would lend \$300 million to the Jets and Giants to underwrite construction of their new, privately financed joint stadium in the Meadowlands.

Los Angeles is competing for the 2016 summer Olympics. It might construct a new facility or renovate the Coliseum and then "use it for a stadium for the NFL, without it being called a subsidy for the NFL," says Baade. However, "in the

absence of a subsidy, I don't know a team that would be willing to make the move." Maybe some of the Hollywood billionaires would jump in. Orange County might put public money in; Anaheim's mayor Curt Pringle is a close friend of Chargers owner Alex Spanos. "But I find it hard to believe Orange County is in a position to give much of a subsidy." The league is reportedly willing to pay \$50 million for land next to Angel Stadium, but now a developer is offering \$150 million for rights to the property, and some key councilmembers say the team owners have taken too long to decide. Pringle, however, is picking holes in the developer's bid. ■

F Street fashion

continued from page 7

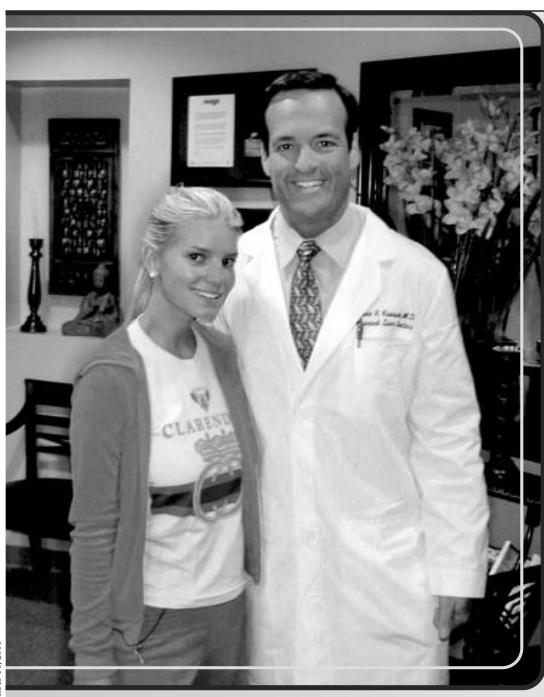
Gojko's death that "While he was alive, [Gojko] cared for petitioners by paying for their housing expenses, medical expenses, food, clothing, school, gas, provided them with extra spending money, and giving Andja and Slobodan jobs at [his] business. In addition, [Gojko] gave petitioners cars, trips to Yugoslavia and Indiana, excessive cash gifts for Christmas and birthdays, paid for wedding expenses, purchased appliances for their home, and paid for Tina's [his niece's] college and all her living expenses while at college. [Gojko] made petitioners

dependent on him for their livelihood."

After she married him, Alma apparently tried to stem the flow of cash and gifts to her in-laws. "Prior to [Gojko's] death," states their petition, "Alma consistently attempted to prevent him from fulfilling his agreement to care for petitioners. Alma tried to prevent [Gojko] from providing for petitioners by blackmailing him and threatening to publicly disclose that decedent was HIV positive. As a result, [Gojko] was forced to secretly provide for petitioners so that Alma would not find out."

Following Gojko's death, things got worse for his rela-

continued on page 12



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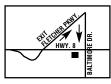
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CITY LIGHTS **F** Street

fashion

continued from page 10

tives. They wrote in their petition, "Since [Goiko's] death, Alma has fired Andja from her position as bookkeeper for [Gojko's] business. Alma also demoted Slobodan from his former position as operations manager to manager of one of [Gojko's] stores. Alma has filled former positions held by [Gojko's] family with members of her own family."

Gojko's trust, written in the year following his daughter's birth, stipulated that upon his death his sister and her three children would get \$50,000 each, two aunts and

another niece would get \$50,000, and his mother would receive \$100,000. But

CITY LIGHTS

Milica, Andja, and Andja's

kids hired the law firm Luce,

Forward, Hamilton and

Scripps to represent them as

they petitioned the court for

more. They argued that Gojko

had promised he'd take care

of them financially for life.

That promise, Luce Forward

attorneys argued, constituted

a contract that did not end

at his death. By making this

petition to the court, Gojko's

relatives risked violating

clauses in his will and trust

that stipulated they would

get nothing if they contested

the documents' provisions.

Though a superior court

judge originally found that a

breach-of-contract suit would not violate the no-contest clauses, the Fourth District Court of Appeal reversed the decision

CITY LIGHTS

Alma became the CEO of F Street Corporation and director of the Vasic family trust. Aleksandra grew up to be a beauty. Of her dead father's pornography empire, she told Goodwin of the Union-Tribune, "I'll probably take it over someday."

But right now, there's high school and a modeling career, and designer Zandra Rhodes thinks the porn heiress has got a future ahead of her. "She is very unspoilt," Rhodes told the Daily Mail, "and has a purity about her that is fantastic." ■

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We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Phone them in at 619-235-3000, ext. 460; address them to Letters to the Editor, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803; fax them to 619-231-0489; or use our web page at SanDiegoReader.com/letters. Include your name, address, and telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Profitable Good Deeds

Dear Mayor, It is not right that you appear on commercials for Sycuan ("City Lights," December 7). You are a public servant. The only commercial you should consider being on is for some nonprofit that does good in our society that does not contribute to your political campaign, like feeding the homeless or an issue protecting the public, like don't throw your cigarette butts out the window.

I am not saying that Sycuan is a bad business. It's just not appropriate for you to be supporting one tribe when there are so many out there doing good deeds, unless, of course, you are getting something in return???

Debora Greene via e-mail





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Who Knows What's In It?

Re Letters, December 7.

I totally agree with the "Revolting Grandmas" about the reuse of sewage to make drinking water. This Revolting Great-Grandmother remembers my own grandmother telling me of the typhoid epidemic when she was a girl, wherein she almost died. We don't know what prions, quarks, bacteria that can live in oceanic vents (at temperatures that should sterilize anything) could be in that water. The stuff we pay one-tenth of our income for should be safe. If it tastes funny to rich folks, I don't care, but I want to know I'm not being poisoned when I drink it. It's bad enough to see bloated animal carcasses in the All American Canal!

> Dale Anne Thompson Clairemont Mesa

Gimme a break, Ken Leigh-

Boys On The Bandwagon

ton! Your recent "Blurt" article on Kut U Up (December 7) is a real work of art. It glorifies them as some sort of Second Coming, apocalyptic, national celebrity icon band. You make it seem like because of their celebrity status and grand following that they were the chosen ones and specially selected to follow in the footsteps and tour with that god-awful band blink-182. The only reason that they toured with blink-182 of Rancho Bernardo is because Chris Cote and that wannabe musician, prepubescent, power-chordplaying, American pop idol, thinking he's God's gift to music Tom DeLonge are best mates. That, my friend, is the single and only reason Kut U Up has been somewhat successful, at best. And their new band, Days Around the Sun, isn't much better. They're good at one thing, though, and that's trying to sound like Modest Mouse and Pinback. Riding on the Band Wagon in Vans with Boys would be a more appropriate movie title. And you can take that to the Casbah! Name Withheld

ame Withheld via e-mail

A Kudo

Kudos to John Brizzolara on his article "Cool out. It's only Christmas" ("T.G.I.F.," December 7). I had a similar experience, and I just wish that I was as quick-witted! Good job, John!

John Kiel via e-mail

A Disrespectful Dollar

Thanks very much for the cover story on tips ("I Perform a Service. I Deserve a Tip," November 9). It was very interesting.

Tips are almost half my income, so it's very important I connect with the customer and let them see that I care about them. It saddens me when people disrespect me with a \$1 tip or just walk away.

As an airport-to-hotel shuttle-van driver, I leave money out in plain sight (near the radio) to remind them that there's no charge from the hotel; however, it is okay to tip your driver.

By far, women are the worst tippers of all time! Some women (actually many) who arrive with a group at the airport never tip at all. They just slink away. These same women spend countless dollars on makeup and clothes. I do respect the women who say to themselves, "Hey, I received a ride or service, so I'll pay my share."

The problem is, they don't realize when they tip \$1 or \$2 for a ride that the man next to them gave a \$5 tip for the very same ride.

Foreigners may be cheap or they may be clueless or both. I enjoy meeting foreigners, but somehow they need to read a USA travel book and understand tipping is normal in America.

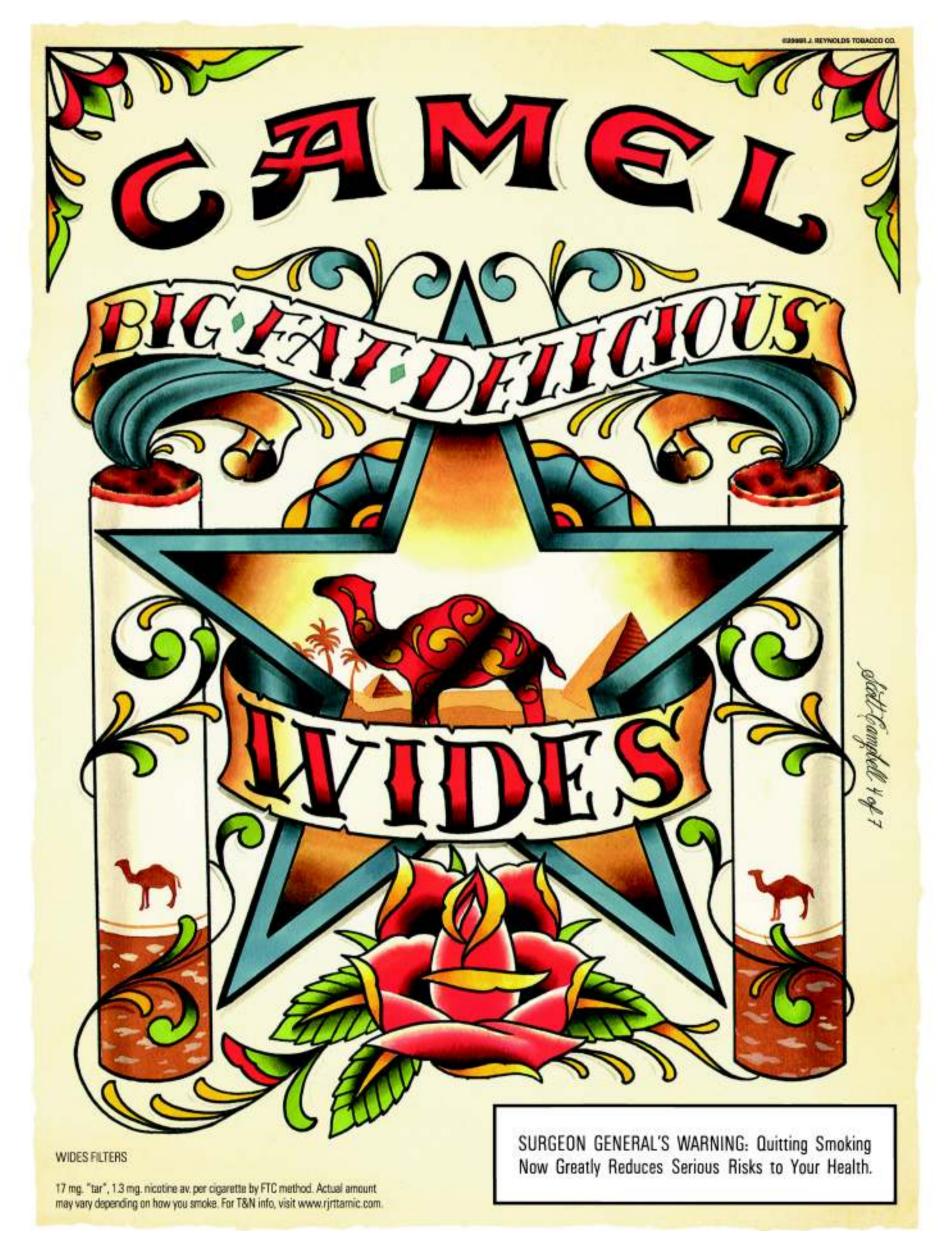
Lastly, corporate or professionals who you know earn \$40,000 or \$50,000 ask for a ride to a nice restaurant (sometimes miles away), just tip \$3 for the whole group or just walk away, so involved in their wonderful conversation that they tip nothing.

To be fair, a woman, once in six or ten weeks or more, gives me \$20, but foreigners never do. Mostly I try to give nice and quick service and focus on the end-ofthe-week total.

At a fast-food restaurant, if you don't dump your tray in the trash, you should leave a tip.

I don't pretend to be the world's greatest tipper, but, come on, this is the 21st Century.

Name Withheld



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SportingBox By Patrick Daugherty

May The Curse Be Lifted

ot too early to get our wishes for the New Year in order. Here's number one: San Diego and New Orleans meet in Super Bowl XLI. Philip Rivers vs. Drew Brees. Brees must feel like a man who was pushed out of an airplane only to find out he was tied to a bungee cord, which caused him to bob back up and into the plane he was thrown out of, but now everybody loves him.

No matter what Brees says, being dumped or to put it more kindly, being offered a contract he had to refuse (a cheapskate bid of \$2 million guaranteed for the first year) - by the good-andgetting-very-much-better Chargers was a slap in the face. Being picked up by New Orleans (\$10 million first-year base) was good money, but he had to accept exile from major media markets.

The Saints were coming off a 3-13 season, kept down by a sociopath owner, and playing in a town that recently lost half its population. Nine months after Brees signed with the Saints, his team is atop the NFC South; in fact, the Saints have the second best record in the entire NFC. Brees leads the league in passing yards, 4033, and owns the NFL's highest quarterback rating at 101.2 (Rivers is 5th, with 2879 yards thrown and a 96.3 rating).

All this was brought into death-grip focus over the course of Sunday's ass-kicking of Dallas, a team that up until then was the consensus best team in the NFL. The Saints compiled 536 yards in total offense. Brees threw five touchdown passes, was 26 of 38 for 384 passing yards. The Saints, on the road, bitch-slapped the Cowboys 42-17. And it could have been worse. As it was, they were good enough to make a Parcells team quit in the fourth quarter.

New Orleans did this to Dallas? How? Well, in a draft pick of Ryan Leafian proportions, Houston, holder of the first pick this year, chose a defensive end and passed on Reggie Bush. New Orleans, drafting second, didn't. Now, throw in Drew Brees. Now, throw in Sean Payton. This is Payton's first year as a head coach. On Sunday, he went up against his boss/tyrant of 11 months ago, so you can understand at least one reason why the Saints won and the reason why Payton called an onside kick while leading 35 to 17.

New Year's wish number two: in the run-up to the Super Bowl, San Diego plays Indianapolis for the AFC championship. That game will star Marty

Schottenheimer and Tony Dungy. Both men are cursed. But, if they play in the AFC championship, one coach will go on to the Super Bowl and be welcomed back into humankind.

Tony Dungy has been Indianapolis head coach since 2002. Here's his record... First year went 10-6 and lost the AFC wildcard game. In 2003, went 12-4, lost the AFC championship game. Was 12-4 in 2004, lost AFC divisional playoff game. Finished 2005 with a 14-2 record, lost AFC divisional playoff

Dungy coached Tampa Bay from 1996 through 2001. Save for his first year, he never had a losing season. He took the Bucs into the 1997 playoffs and lost the NFC divisional playoff game. No playoffs in 1998. Lost the NFC championship game in 1999. Lost the NFC wildcard game in 2000 and in 2001.

But, Dungy is a bug at the feet of our own Marty Schottenheimer. Marty has been a head coach in the NFL since 1984, which is about three dog lifetimes. He's coached Cleveland, Kansas City, Washington, and San Diego. Despite whatever players he had, whatever owners he had, he's only recorded two losing seasons, 1998 and 2003.

He made four playoff appearances with Cleveland, seven playoff appearances while coaching Kansas City, and one since he got to San Diego in January 2002. But, he's never been to the Super Bowl.

Now, what do these men have in common other than a cursed losing streak in the postseason? Answer: they both subscribe to the theory that when you get the football only four things can happen, and five of them are bad. Therefore, always run the football in a crunch.

They both have taken a pledge, many times, saying in their own way, "This is the end of Martyball. Martyball is dead." But, put them on the same field with a trip to Super Bowl XLI on the line, and there'll come a moment in the game say, fourth quarter, ball on the opponent's 26-yard line, third down, six yards to go for a first down when all the voices in their heads will scream, "Run the ball over left tackle," while you and me and the rest of North America are thinking, "Perfect time for a pass." What will Marty or Tony do?

That's what I want to see.

The Vegas Line

		,			
NFL – Week 15 (Home Team in CAPS)					
<u>Favorite</u>	Spread	Over/Under	<u>Underdog</u>		
		<u>Thursday</u>			
SEATTLE	10	43	San Francisco		
<u>Saturday</u>					
Dallas	3 ½	43	ATLANTA		
		<u>Sunday</u>			
MINNESOTA	3	41	N.Y. Jets		
BALTIMORE	11	33	Cleveland		
NEW ENGLAND	11 1/2	37	Houston		
BUFFALO	1 ½	34	Miami		
Pittsburgh	2 ½	37 1/2	CAROLINA		
NEW ORLEANS	10	44 1/2	Washington		
Jacksonville	3 ½	41	TENNESSEE		
CHICAGO	14	33 ½	Tampa Bay		
N.Y. GIANTS	5 ½	43 ½	Philadelphia		
GREEN BAY	5 ½	44	Detroit		
Denver	1	41	ARIZONA		
SAN DIEGO	8	47	Kansas City		
OAKLAND	2	38	St. Louis		
<u>Monday</u>					
INDIANAPOLIS	3 ½	53	Cincinnati		

The Sporting Box solicits your comments via the Internet: sportbox@ix.netcom.com.







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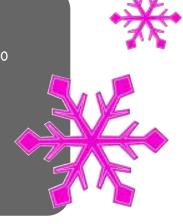
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SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Bonita Valley Community Church

Bonita

content......★★¹/₂

delivery★★¹/2

band.....★★¹/₂

Snacks.....★¹/2

Architecture......★¹/2

Liturgy.....★★

congregational

Friendliness.....

Poor to satisfactory.....

Sermon

Music

Good

Very good.....

Extraordinary ...

Excellent...

Denomination: Assemblies of God Address: 4744 Bonita Road, Bonita, 619-475-8000 Founded locally: 1950 Senior pastor: Jeff Brawner

Congregation size: 2000

Staff size: 28

Sunday school enrollment: no traditional Sunday school; about 800 involved in various educational programs

Annual budget: n/a Weekly giving: n/a Singles program: yes

Dress: a step above casual — polo shirts instead of T-shirts

Diversity: diverse

Sunday worship: 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Length of reviewed service: 1 hour Website: www.bonitavalley.com

"You look like you're shopped out," said Worship Arts pastor Brad Hansen. "Have you been

hitting those malls like I have? Putting up those house lights? It's a good thing to be in the house of God, so that we can get right. Putting up those house lights can take you places you don't want to go!" The congregation laughed in sympathy. "We're here today to magnify the name of the Lord and to get in the Christmas spirit. We see all the lights; we need to get our hearts right, too. This song will help us."

A few Christmas lights pricked the relative dark of the sanctuary—threaded through a strand of garland that wrapped around the upper wall, encircling a couple of trees in the front corners — but the real light was trained on the stage. A row of spotlights illuminated the 80-plus members of the choir and the tight, layered band beside them. A pop intro, heavy on the synth, built and built until the choir burst out "Glory!" and the

twangy bass sprang to the fore. "Yeah! Gloria, glory, gloria, glory be to God on high!" The sound was still pop, but with a gospel backbone — or perhaps gospel with a pop gloss.

Whichever it was, the choir, bouncing from side to side, launched into a funksome rendition of "Angels We Have Heard on High." Different band sections took the intervals between the lines — the organ, the horns, the bass. "Oh! Oh! Glo-o-o-o Oh! Oh! Glo-o-oo-o Oh! Oh! Glo-o-o-o-o-RI-A!" blared the choir on the chorus, before giving way to a throaty alto soloist.

"What did the angels shout?" she asked the

She ranged all over the staff, singing, "Glory to glory to glory to glory to glory to God," then turned again to the choir: "Hey help me SING!" The choir picked up the "glory" line, and the song shifted and swelled through a couple more musical themes (we had left the carol far behind by this point) before climaxing with the refrain "To the only our Savior be majesty, dominion, and power, forever and ever and ever! Glory! Be! To! God! On! High!"

Then Hansen led the congregation through several more hymns — mellower, more participatory — often with his arms spread, his eyes closed, his head tilted back in worshipful prayer. "We hunger after you, O God; we thirst after you, O God..."

The lights came up just a bit when Pastor Brawner ascended the steps and led the congregation in prayer. "We give You thanks and praise. May your healing, may your ministry, may your wholeness be in this room today, we pray that You would touch broken bodies and marriages and families and lives and finances. We pray for wisdom and guidance and direction, Lord..."

The sermon was the second in a series taken from the title of Carrie Underwood's country hit, "Jesus, Take the Wheel." Week one was "Jesus, take the wheel of my problems"; today, it was "Jesus, take the wheel of my deci-

sions." When you say that, said Brawner, "you're inviting His insight, His instruction, His inspiration.... I want to show you five biblical principles for making good decisions."The principles: look up to God, look in at yourself, look out for facts. look around for advisors, look toward the

future. The source text for

those principles was the Book of Proverbs. "It talks about how to go to war, when to go to war, business, marriage, family, finances, children, conflicts. You talk about life - it is in there." Throughout, he cited verses from various translations, including The Living Bible ("What a shame, yes, how stupid to decide before knowing the facts"); The Message ("Trust God from the bottom of your heart.... Run to God"); and the NIV ("Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed").

He surrounded those verses with an array of stories, drawn from Scripture, from fellow Christians, and from his own life.

Brawner's final prayer at the end of the service: "I thank You, Lord for the wisdom of your words and for the practicality your word is so full of.... You have given us commands, principles, and insights. I pray that You would help us...make the ultimate decision of positioning You as the Lord and leader of our lives."

What happens when we die?

"We keep living," said Brawner. "It's only a matter of where and how. Today's message was on decisions, and the decisions I make now determine the life I'm going to live in the future. Ultimately, God simply carries out what I've decided. People say, 'How can a loving God send anyone to hell?' He doesn't send anyone to hell.... I make decisions — whether I'm going to accept God or not. Then, when I die, that decision is put into effect forever."

— Matthew Lickona

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-EVE KELLY

The Kelly house is throwing a Christmas party this year. We have the professional carolers lined up to perform. "But I think we need a Santa," friend Bernice told me over the phone, "something to hold the kids' attention." Bernice was swamped with the party decorating details, so I took up the hunt. I wanted to get a few

different options, Santas that offered a bit more than rosy cheeks and a fat belly. I racked up a huge phone bill dialing the North Pole, but I managed to find a few Santas, and each offered a twist or two to the regular Saint Nick.

"Our Santa wears the traditional Santa's outfit," explained Helene Auerbach of the company Party Animals Children's Entertainment (858-279-2908). "He comes in with bells and he reads 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. The kids can sit on his lap, and we hand out coloring sheets of him that the kids take home. He has a big red bag so he can pass out presents.

"We also have elves that can come and do face painting and balloon animals for the kids. The elves can come on their own or come with Santa. And we also have characters like Barney or Sponge Bob that do holiday characters. We put a Santa hat on them, or a muffler."

Prices for Santa run \$85 for a half hour, \$125 for an hour, \$150 for an hour and a half, and \$175 for two hours. The prices are the same for the elf.

"I offer Karaoke Santa, DJ Santa, and just Santa," said Brad Gish of Audio Paradise Entertainment (626-922-2723). This would be a delightful curve ball to throw Bernice's way. Drag in the DJ Santa. "DJ Santa can happen a couple of different ways," offered Gish. "I start off deejaying in my normal clothing, as people are dining, and at the end of the meal, I make a big announcement, and all of a sudden in walks Santa and takes over the deejaying. Or from the start of the event, Santa can be deejaying."

Or Gish comes as plain old Santa, in his red suit with fur trim, and hands out presents, reads a story, and takes pictures with the kids.

Prices run \$200 for the first hour, \$250 for two hours, and \$325 for three hours.

Magic Santa, a.k.a. Loch David Crane (619-222-2849), has been suiting up as Santa for the past 15 years. "Every year I do less makeup on the beard," he joked. "It comes in white; it's so nice to have nothing to wash off in the shower. I have a two-piece Santa Claus suit, based on a double-breasted suit, with six-inch and eight-inch fox fur trim. It is a tuxedo sort of design that unbuttons in the front; it's cooler to wear. I do have several traditional suits that I wear for parades, where

Ouch. I had no idea Santa work could be so painful.

people don't see too closely.

"The first thing the kids always check out is the beard and the hair," he said. "That is what sells it. They grab a big handful of beard and tug on it."

Ouch. I had no idea Santa work could be so painful.

"I have a goatee most of the year, but at the end of summer, I start growing a Santa Claus beard so by November it already looks good."

Crane had an important tip for those who would have good Saint Nick make a cameo at their Christmas party. "The other Santa secret," he explained, "is kids under three are not a good audience. Frequently they get terrified of a big hairy red thing, and I don't blame them. So I always have people sitting next to the little ones."

Displaying a bit of professional pride, Crane boasts that it takes more to

be a Santa than a red suit and a high tolerance for beard-tugging pain. "You can certainly go out and buy a Santa Claus suit for cheap and have any fat guy fill it, but you have to know how to do it well so that you can finesse the rest of the party after having scared a baby," he

iested.

"I am a magic Santa Claus," he added,
"I perform a magic act, either 15 or 30
minutes long, and then I also do the traditional Santa services, like photos with
the kids, bouncing kids on the knee, handing out labeled gifts. Those are priced separately. A half-hour show costs \$150, and
there's an extra \$25 for the Santa services
for up to about two dozen kids. If you
have 40 or 50 kids, then it costs a bit more.
I have four or five specific magic tricks
that I do, and then depending on the audience I have, I do a different finale. If they
are young and kind of drifty, I tend to do
15 or 20 minutes and let them go. If it is

an older group, then I like to stretch the last 15 minutes and do individual mind reading and things like that. For just a Santa Claus appearance without a magic show, it costs \$60 for about 15 to 30 minutes. And I do photos with the kids, hand out presents, I run around the room looking for Ricky in all the corners and don't look at him waving his hand. I play around a little bit. I also do surprise Santa visits after the 25th. Nobody expects to see Santa in January, and I show up and blow them away and then do some magic on top of that." Magic Santa charges \$1 per mile travel charge.

"Being in the season always makes me feel so warm," Crane added. "Being a Santa makes me happy; it raises my endorphins."

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Crasher

THC, DEA, ADD, AND OCD

by Josh Board

hen the weather was warmer, I was invited to a Jet-Ski party at Crown Point. "Crazy Scott" told me about the event and said they've been doing it for the past three years.

It was a summer weekend, and though getting on the I-5 was a nightmare, driving by SeaWorld was worse. There had been a power outage, and the traffic signals were messed up. When I rolled into the Crown Point parking lot, big signs posted for the party made it easy to find.

I thought they would have had Jet Skis lined up at the shore, as I was eager to ride one. I asked someone how many Jet Skis they had. "Uh, well, I think they only have one. And someone is riding it." I was disappointed. I was told this was a Jet-Ski party. I had visions of us doing stunts as if we were the Blue Angels. The guy told me to talk to Crazy Scott, who said, "Well, we used to have a bunch, but we got rid of them. It's so much easier to just rent one. We don't have to



fixing them, and it's just a matter of throwing \$80 of gas and oil into it." I told him about a rental I had in Laughlin over a decade ago and how once I fell off, it took me ten minutes to get back on. He laughed and then told me the rules: stay to the right and no

worry about prepping them,

Scott, he'll do it.' And I usually did." Another guy interrupts to say, "We got tired of calling him 'Retarded Scott,' so it changed to Crazy."

I had visions of us doing stunts as if we were the Blue Angels.

riding after drinking.

I asked why they called him Crazy Scott. "I did crazy shit in college. I was one of those guys they'd say 'Get A lot of these guys were in the Phi Kappa Theta fraternity at SDSU. One of them flew in from Chicago to attend the party. The frat guys explained the rules of the slosh ball game they were going to play later. One person said, after a few attempts at explaining it, "It's like softball with a keg at second base. Another keg is near the pitcher. You have to keep drinking."

A few guys tried to play beer pong, but it was too windy.

I asked Scott how he got a space at Crown Point on a weekend. "The park opens at 4:00 a.m. By 5:00, all the spots are taken. I got here early and set up chairs all around this area."

He told me they had five kegs but wasn't sure of the laws, so they were keeping them hidden under the table. I pointed to a keg that was out in the open, and Scott said, "Yeah, I know. Well, we have a DEA agent here. If the cops show up, he can talk to them. It's funny, because we have stoners over there and DEA agents over on that side." Someone nearby added, "It's like when I had that roommate in college. He had OCD and was always cleaning. I had ADD and was a bit of a slob. Sharing a place together was insane." It made me think an updated version of The Odd Couple might be in order (if anyone does it after reading this, I'll sue).

I smell pot and assume it's not coming from the DEA agents. As I grabbed fruit from the food table, a guy came over to tell me how they read the column while they were in college and had hoped I'd crash one of their frat parties. He



Too much holiday spirit?

Santa knows who to call – do you?





"KING" STAHLMAN BAIL BONDS 1-888-799-7110 asked me if I'd gone on the Jet Ski yet. "No. Show me where it is." We walked down to the water, but as I was about to get on it, someone told us that it wasn't ours. I stepped away and watched as a couple put their young son on it. I was bummed. As the kid rode off, he looked back at me and stuck his tongue out (okay, he didn't, but I like to remember it that way).

Dejected, I walked back up to the party. Scott saw that I was bummed and tried to call the guy on their Jet Ski. I said, "Don't worry about it. I'll wait until he gets back."

A few people were kicking a soccer ball around, and it kept hitting people lying on their blankets. The second time it hit a woman, she was pissed. One of the guys said, "I feel bad I hit her. But not as bad as that guy probably feels from this morning. His boat hit the dock over there." I told him that on my way here, I saw a car that went through a gas station in PB and how they closed the roads around it. He asked, "Was there a big explosion?" Someone said, "I think that's just in the movies. I've seen so many car accidents, and there's never an explosion or fire."

Then something did catch fire — the grill. I looked over and the guys cooking started to panic. One yelled, "Turn it off!" as his friend tried to reach for the knobs while avoiding the flames. After about 20 seconds, they put the fire out.

Someone asked why there weren't any Jell-O shots. Scott said, "Last year we had a thousand. Everyone got messed up, and we had a few kegs left over. This year we didn't do the Jell-O shots, and now everyone is disappointed about it." Another guy said, "I told my friend to bring some Jell-O shots. Let me call him." As he talked on the phone, I heard him say, "Dude, I told you not to take Sea-World Drive. The power

went out and the lights are all jacked up. It will take you forever. What do you mean the Jell-O is melting? Turn the air conditioner on in your car!" He snapped his phone shut and shook his head. Someone asked him, "Can the animals die if the power goes out at SeaWorld?" He said, "They probably have a generator or something. A big amusement park like that is prepared for those types of things. But, right now, I'm not worried about Shamu dying or some people being stuck in the sky rides. I want those Jell-O

shots to get here without being a melted mess in the back of my friend's El Camino!"

I made one last attempt at a Jet Ski and was told a different person was riding it. I had a few other parties to go to, though, and couldn't wait any longer. I grabbed my shoes and socks as Scott assured me I'd be the next in line to ride it. I told him I didn't mind.

At the next party I went to, whenever someone told me a boring story, I thought about how I could've been at the beach, riding a Jet Ski and watching the sun set. ■

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by Barbarella

"Wife" Alternative

These earthly godfathers of Heaven's lights, that give a name to every fixed star, have no more profit of their shining nights than those that walk and know not what they are.

— William Shakespeare

avid, my man, long time no see. You look great! No, no, don't get up, please," said the man with the wavy, graying blond hair. As they shook hands, David's body language conveyed the man's firm, confident grip. They exchanged a few more words while I stared on from my seat beside David. Noticing the expectant look on my face, David remembered his manners and said, "Oh, Paul, I'd like to introduce you to Barbarella, my..."

"Bitch," I finished decisively, extending my hand

in a swift and resolute motion meant to mirror I thought that if Paul's own refreshing intensity. I had read him correctly - David's old acquaintance smiled at my quip and pulled up a chair. David and I some-

times find ourselves at a loss when introducing each other. A "happily unmarried couple" is not yet in the social vernacular, especially not a happily unmarried heterosexual couple.

When the state would not recognize us as a domestic partnership (because we are a heterosexual couple under 60 years old), we sought power of attorney to have the same rights as those couples that choose to marry. But it's not as clear-cut when we attempt to explain our status to strangers, or even to friends and family.

I used to worry that David's aversion to matrimony was tantamount to a fear of commitment. Like most of the women in my life, I thought that if my boyfriend didn't want to marry me, it was because he wanted to keep one foot out the door. Now, after four years of steady love and devotion, I realize that marriage does not guarantee a long and happy relationship any more than getting your driver's license guarantees you won't wreck your car. Any relationship — whether it's between you and your father or you and your god, whether between a husband and wife, two siblings, or friends — requires a certain degree of attention and commitment if it is to last.

Striving for simplicity, David will introduce me as his wife when we meet someone new. This word may come closest to explaining my role in his life, but it doesn't feel right to me; getting wrapped within its religious and institutional connotations is like being stuffed into a constricting high-necked Victorian gown made of the scratchiest wool. When pressed for more information, the situation often becomes unbearable. For example, when someone says, "Oh, yeah? How long have you been married?" or "When did you get married?" we have to explain that we're not really married, not in that way, and an awkward silence usually follows before someone says, "So, uh, where va from?"

We've tried many other words on for size, but nothing seems to fit us comfortably. "Significant other" is too sterile, like a checkbox on a government form. When I refer to "my partner," people either ask me what her name is or they inquire as to the nature of my business. "Boyfriend" is out — aside from sounding casual and ephemeral, the boyfriend/girlfriend terms conjure images of teenagers or divorcées. "Mate" is too Australian for me and too Animal Planet for David. "Bitch" can only be used in certain company and only as a

joke. "Lover" is too sexualized, a word more suited to a middle-aged hippie couple who feel the need to make sure everyone knows they still "do it."

We can't agree on "man" and "woman." David thinks if he refers to me as "my woman," he will appear possessive and brutish. He doesn't mind if I call him "my man," as I often do, but it has to go both ways in order to be effective. I've tried to appeal to his logic by explaining that these words are the common denominator of all heterosexual labels for couples — if you deconstruct everything else, it comes down to the fact that I have chosen him to be my man and he has chosen me to be his woman. Everything else — the words, the ceremonies — is just decoration.

"We need to go outside the English language," David suggested when Paul left our table to greet other family members and acquaintances at the party. "Maybe we could find a word in Samoan or Swahili."

"You mean a word that's as foreign to the people in our lives as the alternative nature of our relationship?"

"Yeah, basically," he said. If only it were that simple.

People have the need to understand and categorize their surroundings. If you don't give them enough to go on, they will be wary and unsure. Conversely, if you give them too much (e.g., by describing the ins and outs in specific detail), they might be uncomfortable or overwhelmed. Words

my boyfriend didn't want to marry me, it was because he wanted to keep one foot out the door.





like "wife" and "girlfriend" imply everything they need to know without the burden of too much intimate knowledge. Such words are a kind of social shorthand; they allow small talk to glide smoothly along timeworn grooves.

Some of our friends

and family members, having received no direction from David and me, often hesitate when attempting to describe us to their friends. A few of them, however, have settled upon a word that best suits their own understanding of our relationship. Most recently

I was called David's "friend," which to me is akin to saying Itzhak Perlman is a guy who likes to play the fiddle. Because we are not married, the word most commonly used by others is "girlfriend." I find this word to be an inferior summary of my love

saga, but I prefer to silently accept this, and whatever other terms people choose, because contradicting people over something as insignificant as a label only causes discomfort.

Whenever I'm frustrated with society's inability to comprehend my

relationship, I remind myself that as long as we know what we are to each other — whether or not there are words to describe what that is — it doesn't matter what other people think. The language is ever changing. Perhaps one day there will be a word that

perfectly describes what David and I have going on, one that not only captures our joint living and financial situation, but also accounts for the depth of our devotion to one another. Until then, my man and I will just have to wing it. ■

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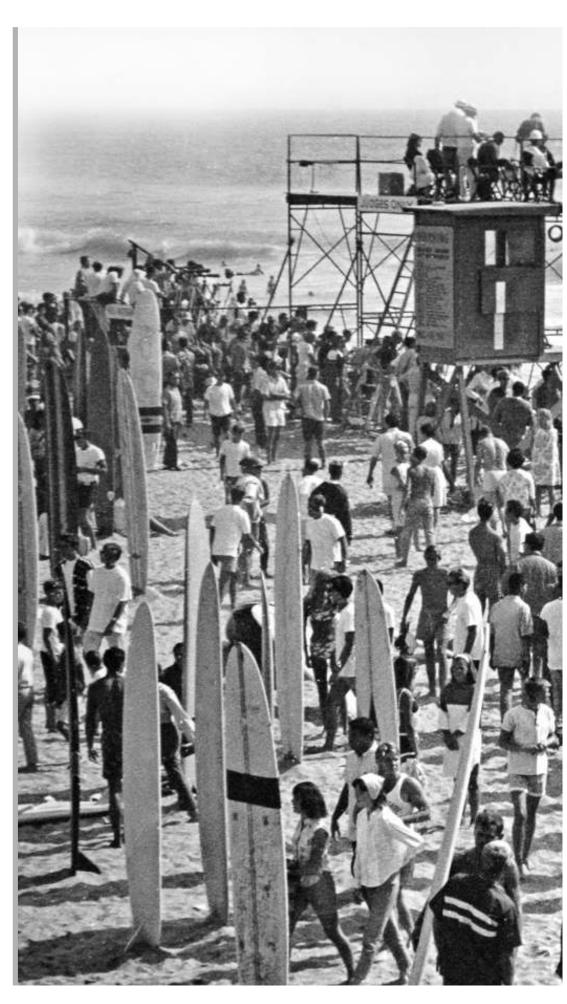
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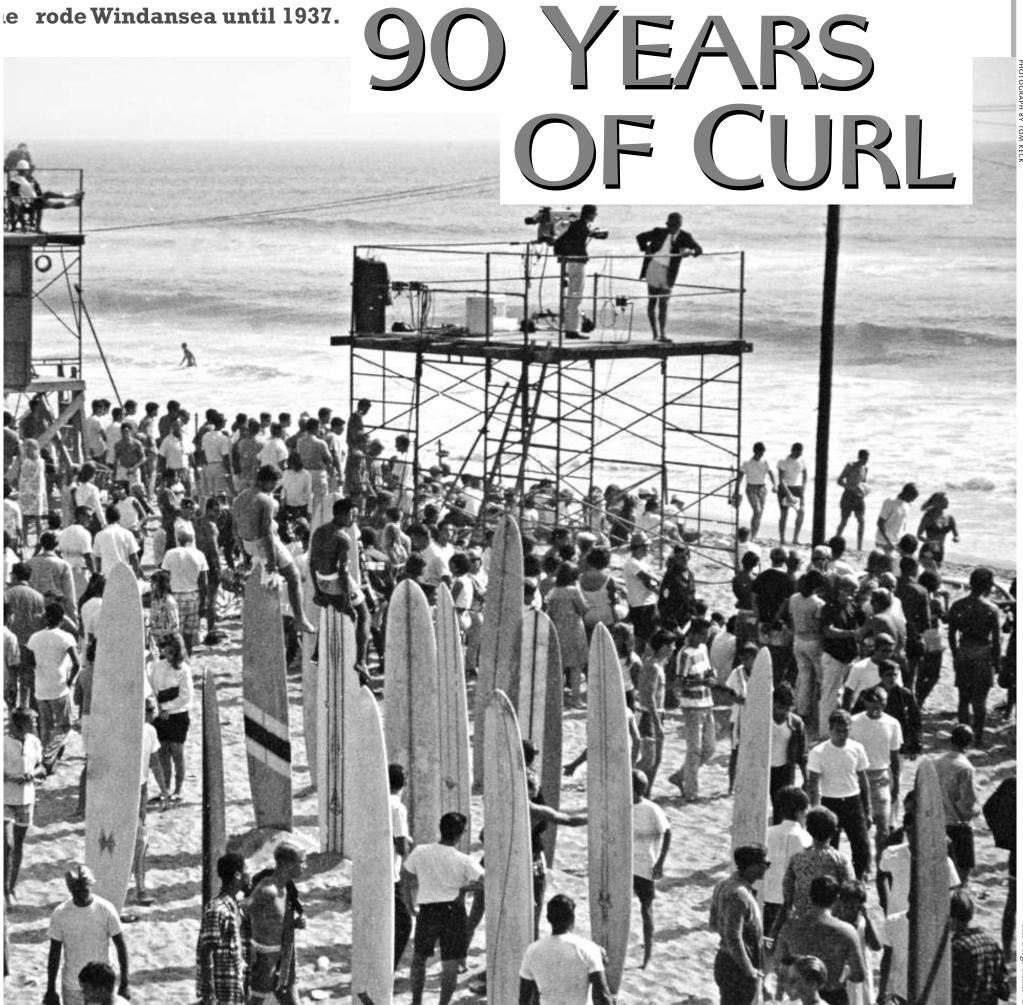
Who Caught the First Wave?

There's a good chance Ralph Noisat caught the first wave in San Diego. He died in 1980, and as he wasn't a man to brag, his pioneering role might have been lost were it not for his board. He made it himself when he was a boy, and it was still in the Noisat family home in 1998 when Ralph's daughter, Margie Chamberlain, was preparing to sell the Mission Hills residence. Chamberlain realized the heavy wooden board might have historic value, so she called the California Surf Museum in Oceanside. No one there knew anything about Noisat, but the museum staff was thrilled to accept the board when they heard what Chamberlain had to say about her father.

Chamberlain, who has lived in Williamsburg,
Virginia, for more than 30 years, doesn't know the
whole story. What she does know is that her father's
maternal grandfather worked on the construction of
the Pioneer Sugar Mill in Lahaina, Maui. Her father's
mother spent at least part of her childhood there,
before moving to the San Francisco Bay Area, marrying, and having Ralph in 1896. From what her father
later told her, Chamberlain got the impression he
was close to his grandfather; he may have even visited him in Hawaii, where the older man lived for
many years. "My dad knew some of the Hawaiian
royal family members," Chamberlain says. "He had a
lot of the sense of Hawaiian history, which I can only
imagine he got from his grandfather."



f causes the swell to break abruptly, creating powerful waves that often have



Although Chamberlain doesn't know how her father came to make the seven-foot-long, square-tailed board, "He always talked about the wood being koa," she says. She has the impression he may have surfed on it in Northern California before 1910, the year he and his mother moved to San Diego. He would have turned 14 that year. Noisat enrolled as a freshman at San Diego High School and got involved with track and field and student government; he managed the football team. He also surfed from 1910 to 1914, he told his daughter years later. Chamberlain doesn't know where he surfed, but he wasn't riding the waves alone. "When he was telling me these stories of his youth, it always sounded like he had this little circle of friends," his daughter says. Whether his pals borrowed his board or fashioned copies is

another detail that's been

Before he reached his 18th birthday in 1914, Noisat enlisted in the Navy, embarking on a military career that would last 30 years. Chances are he wasn't here when one of the most famous surfers in the world arrived.

George Freeth, born in Oahu in 1883, was the son of an Englishman and a half-Hawaiian woman. A champion swimmer and high diver, Freeth taught himself the ancient Hawaiian art of riding waves, a skill that by the end of the 19th Century had almost disappeared from the islands. By 1907 he was so adept he caught the eye of writer and travel adventurer Jack London, who later described Freeth's aquatic prowess in The Cruise of the Snark. London was among those who provided letters of introduction to the young Hawai-



ian as he prepared to sail to California, where he hoped to make his fortune promoting surfing and other water sports.

the San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz.) Freeth's water skills distinguished him from most Americans of that era. Drownings were so commonplace they were scaring away tourists from resorts in Venice and Redondo Beach. To counteract the negative publicity, railroad mag-Ralph Noisat's surfboard nate and Redondo devel-Less than three oper Henry Huntington weeks after departing hired Freeth to show off Oahu (on July 3, 1907), his surfing skills, and the developer of Venice fol-Freeth was surfing at Venice Beach. The speclowed suit. Freeth's per-

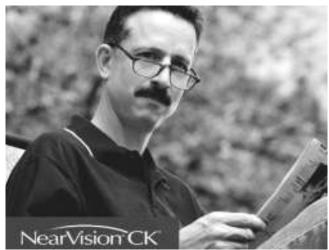
formances included standing on his head while riding the waves. And in the years that followed, he improved water safety off Southern California, teaching fundamental water-rescue skills to a cadre of young men who later formed the lifeguard services of Los Angeles County, Long Beach, and San Diego. At times Freeth took a more hands-on approach to lifesaving, most notably when he rescued 11 Japanese fishermen during a violent winter storm in December 1908. Eighteen months later, the United State Congress saluted his bravery by giving him a Congressional Gold Medal.

For all the acclaim, Freeth struggled to make a living. He got a break in 1915 when the moneyed and well-connected San Diego Rowing Club asked him to coach the club's swim team. Freeth took the job, and it seems

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tacle attracted the atten-

tion of at least one news-

paper reporter and has

since inspired the claim

that Freeth was the first

person to surf in Califor-

nia. (This seems unlikely,

according to the staff at

the Santa Cruz Surfing

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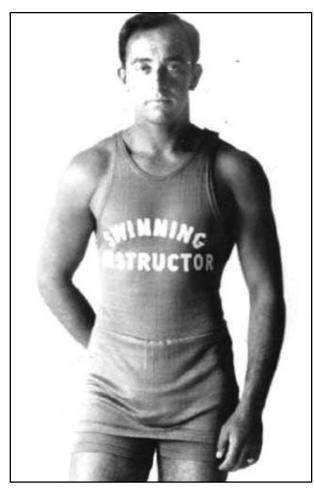
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likely he would have surfed in San Diego at least in the summer months, when to earn extra money he taught swimming in Coronado. By May 1918, after 13 men died in a single day in rip currents off Ocean Beach, that community had secured Freeth's services as a lifeguard, and as a July 17, 1918, San Diego Union article attests, he couldn't resist showing off. "Four thousand beachgoers received a surprise and enjoyed a succession of thrills and healthy laughs yesterday at Ocean Beach when George Freeth, lifeguard, presented his unannounced surfboard dive," the paper reported. "Riding on the crest of the wave in the usual manner, Freeth suddenly leaped, clearing the board by at least three feet, turned a somersault, regained his balance on the board again, then completed his stunt with a dive."

If he wasn't the first to surf in San Diego, Freeth's presence here had more impact than Noisat's. For one thing, Duke Kahanamoku almost certainly came to San Diego because of Freeth. Seven years younger than Freeth, Kahanamoku was another champion swimmer and accomplished surfer from Hawaii, where Freeth had been his coach and they had become friends. In October 1914, Kahanamoku came to California and joined the Los Angeles Athletic Club's swim team, then being coached by Freeth. After Freeth moved to San Diego, the Duke (considered the father of modern surfing because of his later promotion of the sport) traveled down the coast to visit his buddy. That was around 1916 or 1917, according to local amateur surfing historian John Elwell. Elwell says Kahanamoku surfed the



George Freeth

OB Pier, and when he did, he asked a teenaged lifeguard named Charlie Wright if he could store his board in Wright's

beach shack. Elwell, who interviewed Wright a few years before his death in 1994, says Wright encouraged

Kahanamoku to use the shack but asked if he might try the board. "So Charlie surfed the board and also got the dimensions and later copied it," Elwell says.

By the mid-1920s, Wright, who was something of a showman as well as an entrepreneur, was putting on surfing demonstrations at special events. The California Surf Museum has one photograph of Wright surfing on New Year's Eve of 1925 next to the Crystal Pier in Pacific Beach; on his shoulders he bears a young woman wielding a torch.

But by the late 1920s, Wright wasn't using his board for much besides the occasional exhibition. Emil Sigler says he found it near the Mission Beach lifeguard station when he went there the day after his arrival in San Diego in 1928. "It was two pieces of thick pine, bolted together. And it had an iron tip," recalls

Sigler, now 96 and still living in his Normal Heights home of many years. He asked whom the board belonged to and then tracked down Wright, who told him he could use it as much as he wanted. "Just put it back where you found it. Lean it against the seawall," Sigler says Wright instructed him.

Born in San Fran-

cisco, Sigler had wanted to become a fisherman, and since school didn't interest him, he often ditched classes to hang out at the Fleischacker Pool. Some of the pool's lifeguards were Hawaiian, and Sigler says one day during an outing to the beach they gave him a couple of rides on their boards. That triggered his interest in surfing. Like the Hawaiians' boards, Wright's 125pound behemoth "was so heavy, it was steady, real steady," Sigler recalls. "It was a lot more steady than the other boards



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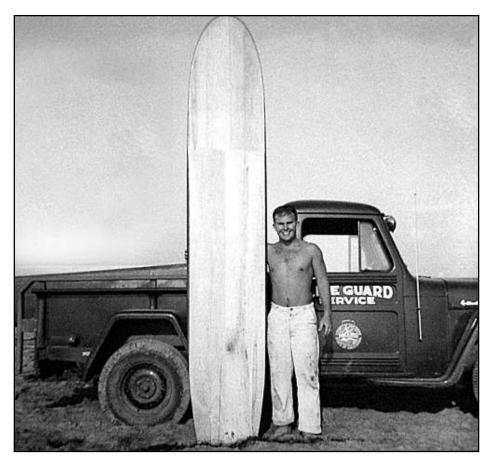


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later on." It was so massive, in fact, that a rider couldn't make it turn in the water, and the varnish was so worn "you had to be careful you didn't get any splinters," Sigler says. Still, he enjoyed riding the combers off Queenstown Court in Mission Beach.

Sigler says Wright warned him away from surfing at Ocean Beach, claiming that the outflow from Mission Bay, which at that time streamed under a bridge rather than through the present channel, could be tricky. "You could get knocked out or something, and the tide'll take you out," he says Wright told him. One day while jogging on the beach, Sigler noticed another spot that looked promising. At the north end of Pacific Beach, just south of Pacific Beach Point, the waves seemed particularly well formed. The board was too heavy for Sigler to carry that dis-



John Elwell, 1953

tance, so he hauled it aboard a ten-foot wooden dory and rowed north from Mission Beach. He unloaded Wright's board at the beach that's now known

as Tourmaline and caught some impressive rides. He never saw anyone else surf there for years; he thinks he was the first.

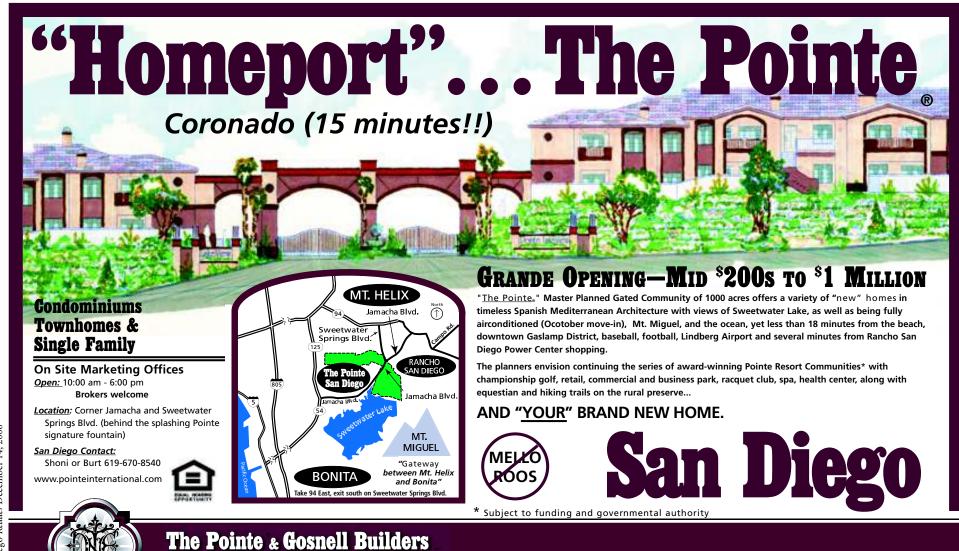
Kook Boxes, Square-Tails, and Redwoods Sigler will tell you he was the first serious local surfer, but Lloyd Baker dismisses that claim with a snort. Sigler "surfed a little bit," Baker acknowledges, "but he was not very agile. Not that he wasn't strong and not that he couldn't have become a better surfer, but he and Don Pritchard and Dempsey Holder [two other early surfers] were never, ever stylists. They went out and tried, but when they got up it was like you never thought they were going to last for more than 20 feet before they fell off or something."

Baker says he and his pal Dorian Paskowitz and a handful of other teenagers from Point Loma and La Jolla were the first true San Diego surfers, so obsessed with riding the waves, they developed confidence and elegance though their boards were primitive. At 85, Baker's a big man who moves with an easy grace. He and his wife live in a house tucked into the hillside above the Morena Boulevard Costco, overlooking

a communal tennis court. He used to be a tennis addict too, but the cement surface wreaked havoc with his knees, so 20 years ago he switched from tennis to golf. He plays that almost every day. He gave up surfing about 1975, when tennis and skiing had become all-consuming.

Born in San Diego, Baker and his family moved around California in his early childhood, but in 1934, when Lloyd was 13, they settled into a house at Portsmouth Court in Mission Beach. Dorian Paskowitz lived a couple of blocks away. In the years that followed, "We went to school every day together," Baker says. "We swam in the morning before school. We ran together. We dated together. We did everything together."

School was Point Loma High, which they reached by riding the streetcar that ran south on Mission Boulevard



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and over the bridge to Ocean Beach. (That bridge was later torn down when the Mission Bay jetty was created.) "On the other side of the bridge, we'd get off and take a bus up to school." In their sophomore year they built paddleboards in the high school woodshop. Paddleboards had been invented in the late 1920s by a Wisconsin native named Tom Blake who had found his way to Hawaii and become fascinated by the ancient Hawaiian boards in Honolulu's Bishop Museum. In an attempt to devise something that would work like the old planks (as surfboards were called) but be lighter, he had come up with a design that was essentially a surfboardshaped hollow box. Dubbed a cigar box or a kook box, paddleboards became popular with lifeguards for rescue work, but they could also be used to ride waves.

Baker and Paskowitz copied this design and learned to stand up on the boards in the surf that sometimes formed at the entrance to Mission Bay. "Those boards probably lasted a year, year and a half," Baker estimates.

Besides being unwieldy, the boards "were a pain in the ass, because as soon as they got just a little warped or they got in the sunshine or whatever, why, they started leaking," Baker says. When a fellow named Pete Peterson moved from Hawaii to San Diego, where he got a job at the Mission Beach Plunge, he brought with him a couple of square-tailed solidwood Hawaiian boards, and the boys studied these with interest. About the same time, they learned about boards that promised to work better than paddleboards or Hawaiian planks.

Around 1930, a Los



Carl Ekstrom, 1960s

Angeles—based manufacturer of prefabricated homes started building surfboards as a sideline.

Although the company used solid redwood at first, it later began importing lightweight ica for use in both the home-building and surfboard-manufacturing businesses. The balsa "was beautiful stuff!" Baker recalls. "They had it all milled, and it was very pretty." But a surfer couldn't simply order a finished board. He had to request that a block of wood be manufactured to the shape and dimensions he specified. "They'd put it together in any configuration you want," Baker says. "You could actually go through their bins and pick out the pieces you were going to have them glue up." Some pieces were harder, some softer; they also varied in weight. "You could pick them out so the board balanced. You'd pick out redwood pieces with pretty grains of wood." If you wanted a "runner" of redwood glued down the middle of the board to stiffen it or along the sides (the rails) or tip

balsa from South Amer-

(the nose) to protect the softer wood, you could order that too. You drove up to L.A. to pick up your order, then took it home, where with woodworking tools you shaped the simple geometry into a board that planed over water with power and speed. Or if you had a friend who was good at shaping, you might press him into service.

Baker became renowned for his skill at shaping the Pacific Systems Homes boards. Today he downplays his ability; he says he wasn't great compared to subsequent generations of shapers. But for a few years in the late 1930s, he worked on probably 40 or 50 boards. Baker worked on boards for Paskowitz and for the small gang of Ocean Beach and La Jolla boys who had started surfing, as well as others. He did it for free. "We were happy to do the work





and pass the board on to somebody that would use it." Because they were lighter, weighing 45 to 65 pounds, the balsa/red-wood boards were more responsive in the water, and with the addition of a fin (introduced by Tom Blake in 1935), they became more maneuverable.

Kimball Daun, one of the Ocean Beach boys, doesn't remember when or where he met Lloyd Baker, but he says it didn't take long to realize they were kindred spirits. Born in a house on Larkspur Street 83 years ago, Daun remembers wandering over to the water, unsupervised, when he was six or seven, and teaching himself to swim. Not long after that, he became friends with another kid named Skeeter Malcolm, who lived a few blocks away on Voltaire and shared his love of the ocean. By the time they were eight or nine, they were bodysurfing on "the big beach." Somehow they heard that Duke Kahanamoku had surfed the Mission Bay channel back in the 1920s, and that piqued their interest.

Their first attempt at following his example involved a paddleboard owned by an older teenager named Bob Sterling. "He would take it out on the ocean, usually on calm days, and paddle round on it." Sterling was willing to lend his board to the younger duo. Daun says he and Malcolm took it to an area of Ocean Beach where few swimmers were in the water; they didn't have to worry about other surf- or paddleboards, because there weren't any. They took turns pushing each other into the shore break, and while the nose would sometimes take a dive and the board come to an abrupt halt, at other times the board surged forward. Then whoever was on it would pop up into a crouch, balancing

for a couple of seconds before tumbling off.

They couldn't steer at all, but they had fun on Sterling's board, Daun says, until the day one of them caught a goodsized wave and nosed in hard enough to hit the bottom. "All of a sudden, the board was just sunk, which was unusual." When they got it onto the sand, they realized "four feet of the plywood bottom of the board had peeled off and was just hanging under it. We

thought, 'Oh my God, this is ruined.' "Sterling was a hulking fellow, and they quaked at the thought of his reaction. They loaded the casualty on a wagon and hauled it to Daun's house. "I said, 'Well, we gotta glue it,'

but we didn't have any glue. So we went on Green Street, which was the next block over, and dug the tar out of the cracks in the street. We put it in a can, melted it, and poured the seam all the way around. We

scraped off the excess and nailed it down with the tar in there. When we got finished, you could see the black here and there." It seemed to hold, though Daun and Malcolm never pressed their luck by borrowing the





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board again.

A bit of larceny enabled them to get a board of their own. This happened one night when the boys were walking home from the high school. "Out around Coronado Avenue, someone was building a new house," Daun says. On the building site, they spotted "six magnificent redwood boards that they were using for the window frames. They were about 12 feet long.

No one was around, and in those days no one stole anything." Daun and Malcolm hoisted the boards on their shoulders and headed down the hill for the home of a friend who had a big basement. He refused to harbor their plunder, so they continued on to Sunset Cliffs Boulevard. "The boards would bounce because of the distance between us. We were walking along, and a couple of Ocean Beach

cops drove around the corner, and oh my God, I thought we were going to die right there. I said, 'Don't look, don't look, don't look!" "The police slowed down but didn't stop the boys, who reached the safety of the garage adjoining the café and barbershop on Voltaire operated by Malcolm's parents. Later, "Skeeter told his dad that my father had bought the wood, and I told my dad that his father had

bought it," Daun says. The only problem with this was that "when my dad went down to get a haircut, one of us always had to be in the damn barbershop to keep the talk away from the surfboard."

Somehow that worked. Three-quarters of an inch thick, the boards were far too thin to be made into a solid surfboard, so Daun and Malcolm set about building another box with cross-members. For this they needed screws and plywood, which cost little — but more than they had. "But Skeeter got 20 cents a day for lunch money, which was unheard of for me," Daun says. "I had my mom make three sandwiches for me, and I'd take two and give Skeeter one. That way he could save his lunch money." They earned a bit more from chores. "We finally got the board built, and

at 11 feet long, it was slow in turning, just like all big boards. But for a hollow board made at minimal expense, it was easy to catch waves."

Daun says he and Malcolm (who died in 1993 after a long career as a teacher, coach, and principal) later graduated to boards fabricated from the Pacific Systems Homes balsa/redwood blanks and shaped by Lloyd Baker. So did three other Ocean Beach











friends of theirs. They all attended Point Loma High. Baker could look out from his musicappreciation class and assess the surf conditions. If the day looked good, he would sweep through the building, poking his head into the other boys' classrooms and catching their attention. They'd get up and leave. Someone always had an old Model A or some other vehicle they could pile into. "The teachers didn't like it," Daun acknowledges. "But that's how much we were into surfing." Every minute of their waking lives, they were either doing it or thinking about doing it.

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continues to surf today. Because of the boards' tendency to "pearl" (or plunge beneath the water), "You had to be selective in where you could go. You had to have a wave at least four to five feet high, and it had to have slope in front of it, not a curl," he says. In San Diego County, the most reliable places to find those conditions were San Onofre, Windansea (in La Jolla), Pacific Beach Point, Sunset Cliffs (south of OB), and Imperial Beach.

Often compared to Waikiki in Hawaii, San Onofre began luring Southern California surfers as early as the 1920s. According to Emil Sigler, the location's remoteness encouraged some at the all-male gatherings to swim naked, in a day when men wore bathing suits that covered them from neck to knee. By the 1930s, San Onofre was the setting for the Pacific Coast Surfriding Championships, the first organized surfing contests in the world. These were not cutthroat affairs, according to Jane Schmauss, the director of the California Surf Museum in Oceanside. "Those guys didn't care a feather or a fig about who was the best surfer," she says. But they were curious about each other's boards and techniques, and the San Onofre gatherings provided an opportunity to compare notes. "We had campfires and luaus," Hein recalls. "It was the Hawaiian Islands spirit."

San Onofre was too far away for everyday surfing. So was Imperial Beach for all but the few guys who lived there, and most of the time the IB surf wasn't great anyway, Baker says. But in the winter, when the surf came up at Tijuana Sloughs, "Then Dempsey [Holder] would call, and we'd go down." It might happen only three times a year, Baker says, "usually for three to four days. Then there wouldn't be any other surf for a month or so. And the beach surf [in Imperial Beach] wasn't any different than the beach surf at Mission Beach or anywhere else" — unpropitious for boards that might weigh 70 pounds or more.

The waves off Sunset Cliffs were excellent yearround, although access to them wasn't easy. A fellow could make the long paddle south from Ocean Beach or approach from the cliff top or the Theosophical Society. "We used to take our surfboards and just leave 'em in the brush and carry them down the little trail and surf there day in, day out," Baker says.

At Windansea, the reef causes the swell to break abruptly, creating powerful waves that often have a tubular shape. But no one rode Windansea until 1937. One day a young glider pilot named Woody Brown, riding a homemade hollow board, and a handful of other young men from La Jolla "found great surf at Bird Rock and Pacific Beach Point, where we rode 20foot waves, taking off right on the edge of the

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kelp," Brown recalled in a 2000 Surfer's Journal article. He and his buddies then ventured out at Windansea. After that, Ocean and Mission Beach surfers began joining them, at least on occasion.

Most, however, considered PB Point "the absolute best for us," according to Kimball Daun. "You always had a long right slide. When the surf was really big, you could actually ride all the way over to Tourmaline." As at Sunset Cliffs, access to the water off the headland wasn't easy. "You had to drive up La Jolla Boulevard and jump the curb," Hadji Hein recalls. Japanese-American farmers were growing fruits and vegetables on the bluff,

and the surfers would drive through an opening in their fence and down a mud road leading south to a canyon. They'd park their jalopies there and walk the rest of the way to the beach. "There were beautiful

oleander trees all along there," Hein says. The surfers would pick the blossoms, bring them home to their girlfriends, and they would make leis. "That was the spirit we had in those days. We'd play Hawaiian

music and all that sort of thing."

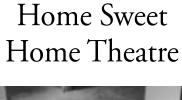
One other way at least a few people reached Tourmaline Beach was via a City of San Diego lifeguard truck. By 1935, Emil Sigler had overcome the handicap of being blind in his right eye (the result of an early childhood accident) to come in second on the city's lifeguard-screening exam. He wound up working at the Mission Beach lifeguard station, which had

HOME AND GARDEN











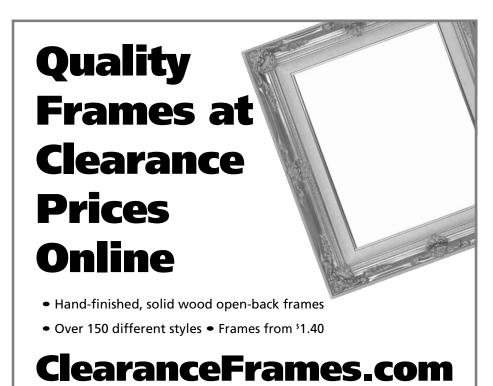
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an old Model A. Sigler says he would often rise early and load up a couple of the local kids like Baker and Paskowitz with their boards. He would drive north along the sand, going under Crystal Pier, to Tourmaline Beach. The group would surf, then return in time for Sigler to start his work shift by 9:30 a.m.

An encounter on that truck resulted in the Ocean Beach boys getting their nickname. As Crystal Pier and stopped

their OB cohorts. Finally Sigler started the engine to drive back to the lifeguard station. "Well, Skeeter and I were going to have to walk down to Old Mission Beach," about a mile south of the pier. "So we jumped on the back of the truck. It had handles to hold on to. When we did that, the truck bottomed out." **Emil Sigler chastised** them, "So we jumped off and Emil worked the thing out of the sand, then we'd jump on again. Pretty soon it was 'You goddamned vandals!' He picked up big rocks and started flinging them at us! That was the first

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time we were called the Vandals." The name stuck.

The Original Surf Club, by Default

Were the Vandals the first San Diego surf club? They weren't an organization. The Mission Beach surfers formed the first formal association of local wave riders around 1938, with the support of a city councilman named Fred Simpson. Lloyd Baker was the first president, and the group held meetings in a little room on the north end of the bathhouse that was located at the Mission Beach seawall, near

Queenstown Court. But the club "dropped into oblivion when the war came along," says Hein, who was one of the first members. "Everybody had to go into the service, and it just went kaput."

World War II Wipeout

World War II took a heavy toll. One casualty was San Diego's first surf shack, constructed around 1938 on the cliff top overlooking PB Point. "Don Okey was the instigator," recalls Hadji Hein. "His father was a manager at a lumber company in La Jolla." The small band of young men who surfed Ocean Beach, Pacific Beach, and La Jolla built it. "We stored our surfboards in there; left them overnight," Hein says. "Nobody bothered them. Sometimes there'd be as many as six, eight, nine boards in there." But around 1940 the federal government confiscated the land and bulldozed the bluff top. The local citizenry rechristened the site Gunnery Point "because the sailors had machine guns along the bluffs. Airplanes would tow targets out over the ocean, and the gunners would shoot at the targets," Hein says.

Almost all the men over 18 went into the military service, leaving behind only youngsters and those few people who'd gotten a deferment. Among the former was Woody Ekstrom, who moved with his family into the house at 349 Gravilla Street, in southern La Jolla, in the fall of 1940, the year Ekstrom turned 13. He taught himself to swim and soon made friends with a 14-year-old named Bill Isenhouer. By the following summer, Ekstrom and Isenhouer were spending whole days at Little Cove, not far from Ekstrom's



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house. Other times, Ekstrom would catch a ride with a lifeguard going up to La Jolla Shores. "I took my mother's ironing board with me and used it to ride the soup," Ekstrom says. "It was wood, about five or six feet long, and I'd just push off into the soup, standing up. That was really the beginning of my surfing."

The United States had entered the war by the time Ekstrom bought a board intended for use in the ocean. "It was a paddleboard that I got for 25 cents from a fellow by the name of Phil Barber. Grandma had given me a dollar for my birthday, so 25 cents of it went to buying that board." It was almost 13 feet long. "Then in late 1943, I got my first real surfboard for \$7.50 from a guy I went to high school with. He had found it on the beach. The war was going on, and I think it was just lying on the sand."

Ekstrom says he soon figured out who had shaped it. "In those days, there were so few surfers, it wasn't long before somebody said, 'Oh, that's a [Lloyd] Baker shape.' It was balsa and redwood and was 11 foot 2 inches long and 72 pounds — in very good shape."

Ekstrom thinks he used that board on the afternoon of December 31, 1943, a day that still shines in his memory. The previous summer, he'd borrowed a board and spent a month living on the beach at San Onofre, but Ekstrom says his La Jolla pals hadn't noticed how much he'd improved. That New Year's Eve day, a group of them were out at Windansea. "They got slaughtered. They lost their boards into the rocks, and everything was bad." Ekstrom, who'd been practicing south of there, at Big Rock, announced that he was going to Big Rock



Skip Frye, shaping a board

instead. "It was a north swell, and it was just right," he recalls. "So the guys said, 'All right, Woody. Let's see you go out.' So I went out at Big

Rock, and I rode one wave after another. At the New Year's party that night, I was the center of attention, because I had really learned a lot," he says. He continued to improve, and by 1945 and 1946, he'd acquired a reputation as one of the best surfers in Southern California.

Men were returning home from the war by then, but the beaches still felt empty, according to John Elwell. Elwell was almost 13 on V-J Day. He'd grown up on E Avenue in Coronado listening to his father's stories about Hawaii in the 1920s. The senior Elwell had brought back pictures of Hawaiians surfing that made John marvel. He says his father taught him how to bodysurf, "and the other thing we did is listen to a great radio program called Hawaii Calls. It was the most fantastic program! They'd start with the drumbeats, and you could hear the wind blowing in the palm trees and the swishing of the girls' skirts." He moans at the memory. "You could hear the surf on the

beach. Hawaii was wa-a-a-ay out there." Surfing was one way to connect with it.

He was 14 or 15 when he tried surfing himself, using paddleboards that the lifeguards at North Island had abandoned. "They were just terrible!" he says. "They had little plugs in them to drain them. The older they got, the more they leaked. After every third ride, you had to go let the water out." He got his own board after a while, and he says spending time on it had more allure than the workaday world. "Of course, the government put all this fear into you that the Russians had the Bomb, and we had the Cold War, and at any time we could have a nuclear attack." Duck-and-cover drills were a common interruption at Coronado High School. Elwell says he and his peers resolved to enjoy life while they could. "We felt, 'Let's get

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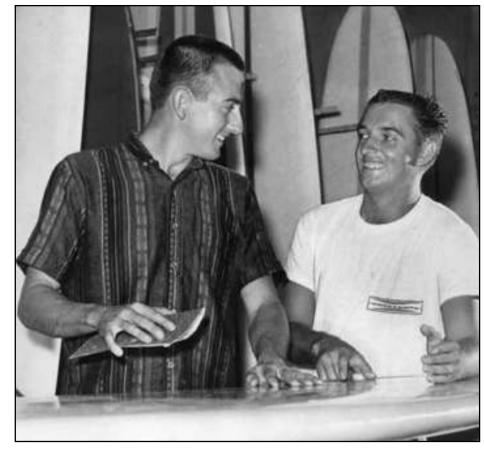
1950s: The Surfing Boom on New-Tech Boards

Radical breakthroughs in surfboard design and construction were made around the beginning of the 1950s, including the notion of wrapping balsa in fiberglass (which was invented just before the war), then coating it with polyester resin. This made the balsa waterproof so it no longer soaked up water. It also protected the fragile wood well enough that surfers could stop using weighty redwood rails, noses, and runners. The result was boards that were much lighter and more responsive.

Bob Simmons is generally credited with perfecting this innovation. A native of L.A., Simmons had a strong incentive to make surf-boards lighter: as a teenager he'd collided with a car while riding his bike and permanently injured one elbow. He'd taken up surfing as a

form of physical therapy and had fallen in love with the sport, but the heavy redwood/balsa planks were hard for him to lug around. Eccentric and brilliant, Simmons had studied both aerodynamics and hydrodynamics at the California Institute of Technology; then he'd dropped out during his senior year to work on the war effort. He'd moved to San Diego in 1949 to finish up a mathematics degree at San Diego State. But designing and riding boards engaged most of his attention.

Simmons was the first to use Styrofoam in a surfboard, according to Elwell, who's writing a book about Simmons. Because polyester resin melted the Styrofoam, Simmons encased the foam in plywood and balsa, and the result worked so well he made and sold about 100 boards throughout 1949. Simmons also applied hydrodynamic principles to shaping all-balsa boards, giving their noses a spoonlike shape,



Larry Gordon and Floyd Smith

adding twin fins and concavity to their tails, and making their rails more rounded. But Simmons was hardly the only creative designer. The first all-foam boards, reportedly used at Windansea in 1951, were invented by La Jolla surfer John Blankenship.

And hundreds of surfers shaping elsewhere in Southern California added to the potential for ideas to emerge.

Carl Ekstrom's birth in 1941 was perfectly timed for him to enjoy the ensuing renaissance. Thirteen years younger than his brother Woody, Carl remembers being plunked down on a surf-board, riding tandem, at Windansea when he was 6 or 7. He couldn't swim, and when he got washed off the board, "It was a scary deal," he recalls. On more than one occasion, he almost drowned. But his fascination with surfing overcame the early traumas. Before he learned to swim, at 11, he

rode homemade skateboards. Ekstrom believes the first skateboard in the world was created in La Jolla by another La Jolla boy named Peter Parkins. "That was in '47," he says, adding that Parkins was "a real hot surfer at Windansea. A lot of boards were being built in his garage. We called it Parkins' Palace. It was just a dirt floor and shop out behind the house." To make the skate-

boards, Ekstrom says he and the other kids removed the steel wheels from old-fashioned roller skates and attached them to two-by-fours. "And we were riding down the steepest, biggest hills in La Jolla. That was the name of the game. It was like big-wave riding. But it was scary because you'd go so fast you couldn't step off, and the boards would get the wobbles." The hill leading down to the Cove was one of the bigger challenges. "We'd see how high we could get on it and still make that turn at the bottom." Ekstrom says the cobblestone pattern imprinted into the concrete increased the hazard. "We were always





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looking for smooth cement because of the steel wheels. The steel wheels would really slide too. They weren't grippy enough."

Once he learned to swim, he borrowed surfboards and practiced on the waves in front of the Marine Room at La Jolla Shores and at Little Point, just north of Windansea. "Boards were bigger back then. You could get some real floaty thing that you could almost stand up on in still water." Although there were "quite a few" older teenage boys surfing by then, preteens were scarce. But before Ekstrom turned 12, he had his own board, and he joined the crew at

Windansea.

Ekstrom says that board was a balsa/redwood hybrid that had been shortened. He and another kid bought it from Fat Wally Robinson. "We went in doubles, and we were doing lawn work to pay for it. It didn't cost much, and it wasn't worth much. We called it the Box. It knocked out one of my front teeth almost immediately, root and all, at Windansea. It came back in the whitewater, and it got me." After another year or two, he wanted something better, but he didn't have much money. So Ekstrom says he started hanging out with Al Nelson, helping him glass — apply fiberglass and resin to boards. Nelson "was coming onto the scene as an early shaper. He was doing most of the boards for the guys in La Jolla. People came from up and down the coast for his boards." Ekstrom says for a while Nelson was shaping on the beach at Windansea, under the landmark palm-frond-topped shack that was erected there in 1946. David Cheney and Pat Curren, also excellent surfers, shaped boards there too. "But there were lots of balsa shavings, and one day someone threw a match in, and there was a fire." The blaze didn't destroy the shack, but the shapers moved their operations elsewhere.

"We were always looking for places to build boards — in garages or wherever. You'd go from friend to friend." When Ekstrom was 15, he was glassing boards in a garage that he rented across the street from the shell shop overlooking La Jolla Cove. He says one day Nelson discovered a couple of vacant dirtfloored garages behind Al's Market, in the alley between Nautilus and Westbourne. Nelson set up shop in one, using extension cords to bring in electricity from a nearby house. When it seemed that this arrangement might be stable, "I moved into the garage next to him," Ekstrom recalls. "We

were paying nothing, because no one even knew who owned the buildings. There were no locks on anything." One day a bulldozer showed up, "and it was time to get out." But it was idyllic while it lasted.

Much about the surfing scene was idyllic. "People call the '60s kind of the golden era of surfing. Well, to me, it was the '50s because of the balsa boards," says Skip 8. "That's when things really lightened up, and younger people and women could start taking advantage of [the sport] because the boards were light enough to take down to the beach. That's when [surfers] really started maneuvering and turning. The boards even kind of looked gold."
Frye says he wishes he'd started surfing when he was 11 or 12, in the early '50s. "I would have liked to experience that whole era. It was such a neat time. The environment was so much simpler and purer, and the freeway wasn't happening — it was just old 101."

Frye grew up in Bay Park. He swam a lot and was in the Boy Scouts, but he didn't spend much time at the beach because his parents "weren't real beachy." During his junior year at Mission Bay High School, a neighbor with a balsa board took him to Pacific Beach between Grand and Thomas

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Qualified participants may receive studyrelated evaluations, medical care, research medication and laboratory work – at no cost. All telephone calls and visits are confidential and safely conducted under the supervision of experienced physicians and research specialists.

To learn more, please call the Sharp Mesa Vista Clinical Research Center at **(858) 694-8350**.



We believe we can help.

Well-known pharmeceutical companies are conducting important research studies for a limited number of qualified participants.



Schizophrenia

can tear families apart.

Do you or a loved one have schizophrenia? Have they tried Haldol®, Prolixin®, Zyprexa®, or Risperdal®? Do they still feel hopeless, have side effects or continue to suffer from troubling thoughts or voices?

This loved one's problem can break your heart. We are caring, experienced professionals funded by a well-known pharmaceutical company to conduct an inpatient and outpatient research study for qualified people with schizophrenia.

If your loved one participates, there is no cost...instead:

- They receive up to \$2400 for participation.
- They receive no-cost research study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.



I sleep, I wake up, I sleep, I wake up...

A new study of an investigational medication for insomnia may help put you to sleep.

- Restless sleep disturbs the normal rhythms of the body.
- When poor sleep becomes a regular problem it can affect your health.
- \bullet If you wake up tired or feel sleepy during the day, you are not sleeping well at night!

If you have chronic problems falling and/or staying asleep, you may qualify for a research study in our state-of-the-art sleep clinic and receive an investigational medication for poor sleep.

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

Qualified participants:

- May receive up to \$1700 for time and travel.
- Receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.



Depression

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

Are you between the ages of 18 and 65 and finding life hard to tolerate? Has your energy and motivation to enjoy your life decreased? Do you find even simple pleasures empty?

California Clinical Trials has been assisting the pharmaceutical industry with finding medications for depression over the past 20 years. Every study conducted by California Clinical Trials is staffed by a team of skilled and experienced, caring physicians and medical professionals trained to place your comfort and well-being first.

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

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



Finding Answers Together - Since 1982

858-571-1188
Toll-free 800-571-1188

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



Anxiety

doesn't just stress your mind.

We know it can...

- Decrease your immune response Decrease your physical and mental functioning
- Increase fats in the bloodstream Be mistaken for medical conditions
- Interfere with sleep

If you are between the ages of 18 and 64, you may qualify to take part in a research study of an investigational medication for Generalized Anxiety Disorder.

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

Qualified participants:

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

Even Santa Gets the Blues



Maybe he's not so jolly, has lost interest in delivering toys, or is not the chubby fellow we all remember (change in appetite?)... Like 19 million other Americans, Santa could be experiencing symptoms of stress. Irritability, a failure to concentrate, changes in sleeping or eating patterns, or simply feeling sad. Why try and tough it out through the holidays and beyond? Treatment may be available.

Pacific Research Network is currently conducting research studies looking at investigational medications for the treatment of depression and/or stress. Trials are currently enrolling. Two are 8 weeks in length, one with a year of study treatment to follow. Qualified participants will be compensated for their time and receive study-related assessments, physicals, and lab work. Please call today to see if you qualify - don't wait until after the holidays!

Pacific Research Network

619-294-4302 www.prnsd.com

avenues. "Right south of the lifeguard tower is where I caught my first soup. It wasn't actually a swell. We shared the board, and that was that. I just became totally fascinated with it."

Frye and his best friend, Mike Hynson,

haunted the beach. "I'm not sure exactly who started first, but we kind of grew up together in the sport," Frye says. "He was really a type-A personality — he would go for it. I was kind of a shy guy, so I'd just tag along.... When Mike knew there was a big name around, he'd go see what the guy was all about, learn from the guy, and try to outdo him." Shadowing his friend, "I was exposed to a lot of people and places I probably normally wouldn't have gotten exposed to." In later years, both Hynson and Frye became legends for



their surfing and boardshaping, and in the winter of 1963, filmmaker Bruce Brown took Hynson around the world to costar in The Endless Summer. Upon its release in 1966, the film helped propel surfing into the cultural

mainstream.

Before the sport made that transition, though, crowds and competition weren't part of the landscape, Frye recalls. "The information age wasn't anything like it is now, so we never knew where swells

RESEARCH STUDIES

For Men and Women Who Suffer From...

Genital Herpes

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

To qualify you must:

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

Qualified participants will receive:

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

The Medical Center for Clinical Research

619-521-2841

Schizophrenia?

eStudySite is currently conducting a research study for an investigational medication for the treatment of schizophrenia.

You may qualify if you are: Between the ages of 18-65 Currently being treated with Risperidone (Risperdal) And have not been hospitalized for any psychiatric reasons in the past three months.

Qualified participants will receive study drug, and study related medical care at no cost as well as compensation for time and travel.

For more information or to see if you qualify,

Contact eStudySite at (619) 321-6604

Considering Dental Implants?

U.S. dental implant company is sponsoring a teaching program with a top facility in Baja, 1/2 mile from the border. U.S. dental director, internationally published, U.S. dentist of 25 years, Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry.

> Participants allowing others to observe patient treatment will be offered greatly reduced fees and top-quality care.

For a free consult call: 619-884-5352 or 619-778-2439

Second opinions welcome.

came from." A few individuals like Bob Simmons understood the relationship between storms and surf and studied the patterns, but to most surfers, the appearance of a big swell seemed almost mystical.

If Pacific Beach and the La Iolla beaches felt uncrowded in the 1950s, the North County beaches were Edenic. Jens Morrison says when his family moved to Leucadia from Palo Alto in 1955, "All these beach towns were just little hillbilly Podunk places, with no entertainment other than the La Paloma Theatre. There was nothing happening at all. It was tomato fields, flower fields. Lots of animal husbandry."

The Morrison family settled into a house on an acre of land at 910 Normandy Road, where 15-year-old Jens acquired two horses, two goats, a cow, and an assortment of sheep,

CODEINE

chickens, ducks. At San Dieguito High School, he became friends with a boy named John Hunt, who told him he should check out Moonlight Beach. "I had no car, no transportation except my horse. But I would just get on Midnight and ride bareback down Normandy Road to Orpheus to Vulcan." In those days, the Pacific Coast Highway was easy to cross, and Morrison would ride parallel to the railroad tracks for a while, then turn right to go down to the beach. "I





Opiates

Desperate to find the help you need? Have you failed at opiate treatment before? We feel your frustration!

OPIATE DEPENDENCY IS A CONDITION THAT IS TREATABLE.

We will help you develop a plan to achieve the life you envision, always with respect and dignity.

Call us today for your free analysis.

PROGRESSIVE MEDICAL SPECIALISTS 4974 El Cajon Boulevard, Suite A, San Diego

Call toll-free: 877-938-4600 www.pms911.com

Too Shy?

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

Confidential help is available. You may be eligible to

Receive Free Treatment

with computerized therapy as part of a research program.

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

CENTER FOR UNDERSTANDING AND TREATING ANXIETY

6386 Alvarado Court, Suite 301, San Diego

Quitting smoking is one of the most important things you will ever do.

- You are likely to live longer and better.
- · Quitting will lower your chance of having a heart attack, stroke, or cancer.
- The people you live with, especially your children, will be healthier.
- · You will have extra money to spend on things other than cigarettes.

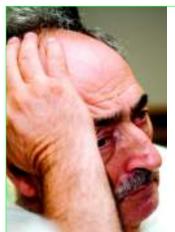
Affiliated Research Institute is conducting a 26-week clinical trial on an investigational medication that may help participants quit smoking and maintain smoking cessation. To qualify for this research study, you must be at least 18 years old and smoke, on average, 10 cigarettes per day for at least the last 2 months. If you qualify for this study, all research medication and study-related care will be provided at no cost to you. You will receive brief smoking cessation counseling to help you succeed in your efforts to stop smoking. In addition, compensation will be provided for travel reimbursement.

For more information about this smoking cessation research study, please call:

(619) 308-0441

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





Bipolar Disorder/Manic Depression Research Study

We are currently seeking volunteers for a clinical research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of bipolar illness (Manic Depression). To qualify for this study you must be at least 18 years old and currently experiencing a "manic" or "mixed" (depression and manic symptoms at the same time) episode of your illness. All study medication and study-related medical care are offered at no cost to those who qualify.

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

(619) 688-6565 See our website: www.ari-inc.com





Have pimples taken control of your face?

Affiliated Research Institute in San Diego is conducting a research study for kids and adults to test the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication for moderate to severe acne.

Qualifications include:

- Kids ages 12 and older AND adults
- Must have at least 17 pimples and 20 blackheads and whiteheads on your face

Qualified participants:

- Could get an investigational combination of two currently marketed acne products in one tube or a single currently marketed product
- · Will receive a supply of study medication at no cost to you
- · Will receive compensation for time and travel

If you would like additional information regarding this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565





Anxiety Study

Signs and symptoms:

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

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these symptoms, you may be suffering from Anxiety.

Affiliated Research Institute is conducting a research study for people with Anxiety. If you qualify, you may be eligible to participate in a study testing the effectiveness of an investigational drug for the treatment of Anxiety at no cost to you.

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

> (619) 688-6565 See our website: www.ari-inc.com





Bipolar?

Affiliated Research Institute is currently looking for men and women diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and be unhappy with their current medications due to unpleasant side effects and/or weight gain. Patients suffering from bipolar disorder must be currently experiencing a major depressive episode and be willing to change their current medications.

All necessary office visits, medical evaluations and study medication will be provided at no cost to qualified patients.

For more information about this study, please contact

(619) 688-6565 or visit us online at: www.ari-inc.com

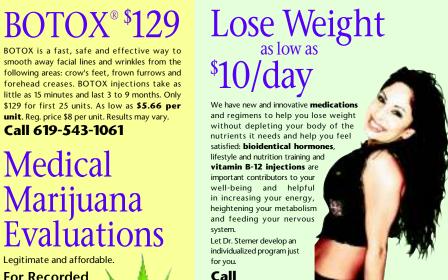


smooth away facial lines and wrinkles from the following areas: crow's feet, frown furrows and forehead creases. BOTOX injections take as \$129 for first 25 units. As low as **\$5.66 per unit**. Reg. price \$8 per unit. Results may vary.

Call 619-543-1061

Medical Marijuana Evaluations

For Recorded Information Call 24 Hours. 619-442-4215 or 619-543-1061



Call 619-543-1061

Anti-Aging Arts

www.antiagingarts.com

Medical Center & Weight Control Medical Clinic Robert F. Sterner, Jr., MD Harvard 1978/UCLA 1982 Serving San Diego Since 1984

Attn: Heavy Drinkers

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

• Heavy drinkers not seeking treatment

• Heavy drinkers seeking treatment

• Drinkers with depression seeking treatment



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

(858) 784-7867 (STOP)



would tie my horse up near the lifeguard tower. John was the one that first got me on a surfboard."

At first Morrison and Hunt borrowed boards from county lifeguards (whose numbers by then included John Elwell). "We would just fiddle-diddle around in the inshore. Then eventually in the summer we would paddle out to the kelp beds and spearfish. There was no word for pollution. It didn't exist." Morrison says as he and Hunt improved in their surfing and acquired their own boards, they became aware that a handful of older guys were surfing around the old pier (later demolished) in Del Mar. Cardiff, too, commanded the allegiance of a small local crew. "There were some other little places in-

between." Morrison says eventually the better surfers from Moonlight Beach and other North County surf spots discovered Swami's, the stretch of sand below Encinitas' Self-Realization Fellowship Temple. Spending most of their time there is "how we got to be really good surfers.



Because it's a reef break. It's way harder. We were the first people to really surf Swami's and surf it well," he says. The regulars at Swami's scorned those who rode the waves "Adolph straightoff," making a beeline for the beach. Instead, everybody wanted to surf like Oceanside's Phil Edwards. "He was a huge influence on a whole generation of people." Emulating him, the Swami's group started

turning in a variety of ways, "and also nose-riding was a major, major big deal. Basically, moving around on the board."

The experimentation went on summer and winter, despite the icy water. Wet suits didn't become ubiquitous until the early 1960s. "People now are wimps," Morrison sneers. He says the '50s were a time "when men were men, and you just

RESEARCH STUDIES

Have You Been Diagnosed With Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus?

Are you:

- 18 to 79 years of age?
- Taking thiazolinedione (rosiglitazone or pioglitazone), metformin, and sulfonylurea daily?
- Willing to perform self-monitoring blood glucose testing at home?

Would you:

- Use an electronic diary?
- Take daily insulin injections?

If you have said YES to ALL of these questions, you may be eligible for our clinical research study!

If enrolled, you will receive:

- · Study insulin and oral study medication
- · Glucose meter and supplies
- · Nutrition information and guidance

Please call the number below for additional details and to find out if you qualify for this study.

Diabetes and Endocrine Associates 858-622-7212

Do You Suffer from Excessive Shyness?

Have you experienced intense fear of being embarrassed or evaluated negatively by others in a variety of social and performance situations such as:

Meeting new people? Talking in front of a group? Going to parties? Interacting with those you are attracted to? Dealing with authority figures? Eating or writing in front of others?

You may be eligible for a research study at UCSD Dept. of Psychiatry.

If you are 18 years of age or older and are interested in this research program, please call:

> 1-877-UCSD-SHY (1-877-827-3749) or e-mail: veryshy@ucsd.edu



SYNERGY CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER

"Together...we can make a difference!"

www.synergysandiego.com



Are you:

- 18 years of age or older? History of insomnia for at least 4 weeks?
 - Having difficulty staying asleep? In good general health?
 - Sleeping less than 6.5 hours at least 4 nights per week?

Synergy Clinical Research is looking for volunteers for a medical research study of an investigational medication for insomnia.

Qualified participants may receive investigational medication, study-related physical exams and compensation for time and travel.

If interested, please call: 1-888-619-7272

Are you suffering from

Schizophrenia?

If you have been diagnosed with Schizophrenia and your current medication is not helping you, you may qualify to participate in a research study being conducted by doctors in your area.

To participate, you must be willing to switch from your current therapy to an FDA-approved study drug.

What is Schizophrenia?

A disorder of the brain that can cause abnormal thinking, hallucinations (seeing things or hearing voices), emotional withdrawal, and other symptoms.

What can I expect if I participate?

You will receive the following at no charge: professional medical examinations and study drug, lab results, and other information about your health.

To learn more, call: 1-888-619-7272

Frustrated with Type 2 Diabetes?

Living with diabetes is not easy. Sometimes the proper diet and the right exercise are not enough.

If you are doing everything right to control your diabetes...and your blood sugar level is still too high, we may have an option for you.

Local physicians are conducting a research study of a new investigational combination therapy for Type 2 diabetes.

If you qualify, you will receive all study-related care and study medication at no cost. Financial compensation is also provided.

For information, please call: **1-888-619-7272**

Alzheimer's

Clinical Research Trial

- Do you have a family member diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease?
 - Have they become more confused?
 - Do they require closer supervision?
 - Does their condition seem to be getting worse?

If so, then your loved one may qualify for a clinical research trial. All study-related visits, investigational medication and study-related care will be provided at no cost to qualified study participants or caregivers. If you are a caregiver of someone at least 50 years of age who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, then you may want to find out about this study.

For more information, call: **1-888-619-7272**

Depression Research Study

If you have been previously diagnosed and treated for depression and in recent months you are experiencing a recurrence of similar or increased symptoms, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study.

Those symptoms may include feeling sad or empty, feeling worthless or guilty, decreased interest in activities you once enjoyed, difficulty concentrating, weight loss, difficulty sleeping or lack of energy.

Call: 1-888-619-7272

BIPOLAR DISORDER

Mania

- Racing thoughts
- Increased activity
- Decreased sleep
- Increased spending

Depression

- Sadness
- Lack energy
- Difficulty concentrating
- Feel restless or irritable

If you are experiencing some of these, you may be eligible for a research study.

Some qualifications are:

- > Aged 18-65 years
- ➤ Non substance/alcohol dependent
- ➤ Using reliable contraceptive
- > Not pregnant or lactating
- ➤ Non diabetic

For more information, please call: **1-888-619-7272**

BIPOLAR DISORDER DEPRESSION SCHIZOPHRENIA







Researchers at Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital are currently enrolling subjects into inpatient and outpatient studies. Eligible participants will receive all study-related care at no cost, and will be reimbursed for time and travel.

For more information, please call the **Clinical Research Center at (858) 694-8350.**

Clinical
Research Center
SHARP Mesa Vista
Hospital

MV39A @2005 SHC

did it." A handful of girls did it too, among them a blond pixie from Encinitas named Linda Benson. She became so accomplished that she won the women's championship title in the Huntington Beach contest held in 1959, then captured the women's world title in Makaha, Hawaii, the following spring.

Most pleasures were more commonplace, Morrison says. The Swami's crew ignited old tires, creating blazing bonfires, and the local fire department, with a benevolent nod, would caution the kids to be careful. Being hassled for sleeping on the beach was unimaginable. "There were no cops!" Morrison exclaims. "Nobody got you for anything! Nobody arrested you. Nobody kicked you off the beach." The beach was

uncorrupted by strife or vice, as Morrison remembers it. He wasn't fond of school, and he recalls days when he'd ditch and head to Swami's, knowing he could find a board in the bamboo at the top of the stairs. "If it wasn't mine, there'd be somebody else's. We used to leave them overnight." He recalls standing on the cliff on winter mornings, looking down upon perfect conditions: five- to six-foot waves, no hint of a breeze. "And I wouldn't go out because there was no one to go out with. I'd be too scared. We would wait for one or two other guys to come down; then we'd all go surfing." When he drove up to Malibu to surf in the summer of 1958, he was

my life."

Gordon and Smith Step Out

In June 1958, the first modern polyurethane foam boards began appearing. At first these inspired scorn. "We used to call the guys that rode them Spastic on Plastic because the boards were kind of bendy," recalls Skip Frye. "They had a funny feel," concurs Pacific Beach surfer Larry Gordon. "They vibrated a little bit, whereas balsa was nice and sturdy and stiff, and it didn't flex at all."

It didn't take long for surfers to realize that flexibility was a good thing. A flexible board could bend into a turn, flow through it better. The result was greater speed and maneuverability. Foam had other advantages: it wasn't porous like balsa, and it didn't have to be har-

RESEARCH STUDIES

stunned. "Some guy ran

over me on a big wave.

I'd never seen so many

people on surfboards in



Do the unpredictable symptoms of Irritable Bowel Syndrome keep you from the life you want? We may have an option for you.

Our physicians are studying an investigational medication to see if it helps relieve the symptoms of diarrhea-predominant IBS.

If you qualify, you will receive all study-related care, including doctors visits and study medication.

Call today:

Medical Center for Clinical Research 619.521.2830

Research, Embrace the Possibilities



It could be restless legs.

Do you suffer from the urge to move your legs along with creeping, crawling, tingling sensations that tend to get worse towards evening? Do these symptoms tend to occur at least 3 times a week? Are you 18 years or older?

If so, you may qualify for the Rise and Shine clinical study researching a new investigational treatment for Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS). There is no cost to you for participating and you will be compensated for your time and travel. Please call today. Instead of restless nights, you've got a chance to rise and shine.



1-866-394-7365



vested from the forests of Ecuador. It could be created, as if by magic, from a couple of easyto-obtain chemicals.

The first individuals to master this alchemy were a Laguna Beach surfer and shaper named Hobie Alter and his associate, Gordon ("Grubby") Clark. But Larry Gordon and his buddy from Pacific Beach Junior High, Floyd Smith, followed quickly in Hobie Alter's footsteps. The San Diego pair had started surfing together in the fall of 1955, and within months, Larry Gordon was going out up to three times a day.

The first board he owned was heavy, and since his dad was a chemist who had started a San Diego plastics company, Gordon felt comfortable taking a doit-himself approach to improving the wood. He peeled off the fiberglass and reshaped the board, drilling holes in the deck to remove weight and gluing veneer over the holes; then he reglassed the board with epoxy, rather than polyester resin. This saved him only three or four pounds, he recalls today. "But it gave me the experience of working on a board."

He later ordered a balsa-wood blank, which he got someone to shape. He glassed it himself and used it for a year or two. But the new foam boards were making a stir. They were also tough to obtain. If you wanted one, you had to drive to Dana Point to place an order with Hobie Alter. "Then you had to start calling after three weeks. Finally it'd be finished, and you had to go back to pick it up." Gordon says he and Smith realized if they could figure out how to make the foam boards, they'd have no trouble finding San Diego buyers.

They needed a

"plug," or model, from which to create a mold, so in the spring of 1959, they ordered a board from Hobie, specifying a width, thickness, and length big enough so that smaller boards could be shaped from it. (They didn't let on what they wanted it for.) They built the mold in a corner of Gordon's dad's factory. "At the time, he was building car bodies for an electric car, so he was making a lot of molds." All the materials

for mold-making were on hand.

They ordered the necessary chemical components, then bought large paper ice cream containers, "the kind you see in 31 Flavors," Gordon says. "You get

the two components in there, and you mix them really well. Then you line the mold with paper and pour in the mixture as evenly as possible. It's kind of the same principle as cooking a waffle." Heat generated by the

interaction of the two components, along with a foaming agent, makes the glop expand and fill the mold. "But there's a lot of technique," Gordon says. On his and Smith's first try, the mold yielded only three

There is hope...

Pacific Sleep Medicine Research Centers offer hope, and help, for patients who suffer from a wide range of medical conditions. Transportation may be provided to qualified participants, and qualified participants may receive compensation for their time and travel.



Do you have trouble falling asleep?

A research study is being conducted to evaluate two approved medications in an investigational use in the treatment of insomnia.

If you have been diagnosed with chronic insomnia and experience difficulty falling asleep and staying asleep, you may qualify for participation in this study.

Qualified participants will receive study drug and study-related physician visits at no cost and could be compensated up to \$2,750 for time and travel.

If you would like more information or think you may be eligible for this study, please contact the physician's office below.

Are You Still **Experiencing Pain Even Though Your** Shingles Have Healed?

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services is conducting a research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of pain following shingles (post herpetic neuralgia).

Qualified participants receive:

- Study medication and examinations
- Reimbursement for time and travel



Do you experience constipation caused by your pain medication?

Constipation is one of the most common effects of pain medication, and it can be very uncomfortable-even debilitating

We are currently involved in a clinical research trial of an investigational drug to relieve constipation caused by pain medicine.

You may be eligible if you:

- Are 18 years or older
- Have had non-cancer pain for at least 2 months
- Experience constigation caused by prescription opioid pain m

All study-related care is provided at no charge, including study -related physical exams, lab services, and study medication or placebo.

Participants may be reimbursed up to \$650 for time and travel.

TYPE 2 DIABETES

The Power of Two

A combination medication may help lower blood sugar levels.

If you're making healthier choices but your blood sugar numbers aren't coming down, maybe it's time to consider combination therapy. A clinical research study is evaluating an investigational medication containing two previously approved medications combined into one tablet compared to an FDA-approved drug used to treat type 2 diabetes.

You may qualify if you are:

- ☐ At least 18 years of age
- Diagnosed with type 2 diabetes for at least three months
- Taking oral medication for at least two months

As a qualified participant, you will receive all studyrelated care, diabetes supplies and active study medication at no cost, and you may be compensated for time and travel. Insurance is not required.

Please call: 1-877-927-5337 Pacific Sleep Medicine Services

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

877-927-5337

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services

Bridging the paths of medicine and science.™



Overweight? Obese?

Covance needs overweight or obese participants to take part in a clinical research study.

Qualified participants must be:

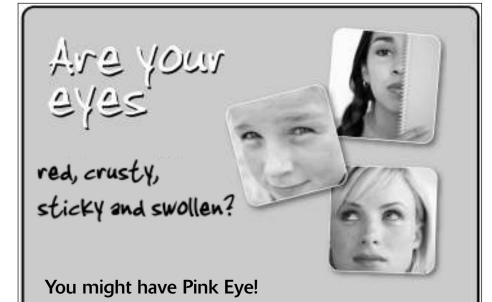
- ~ Overweight or obese males or females
- ~ Age 18-65 years
- ~ Able to participate in overnight stays

Participants will receive all study-related exams and investigational medication at no cost. Compensation up to \$1000 is available for time and travel.

Call Sunday-Friday for more information:

866.818.3253 9665 Chesapeake Dr., Ste. 200 San Diego, CA 92123 www.testwiththebest.com





If you or a family member has one or both eyes that are red, crusty, sticky and swollen, call one of the local physicians who are taking part in a national clinical research study of an investigational drug eye drop for the treatment of Pink Eye.

West Coast Eyecare Associates 6945 El Cajon Blvd. Ask for Margaret or Joanna 619-697-4600 ext. 156

Participants will receive compensation for participating in this study. Study-related eye examinations will be performed by a local eyecare practitioner free of charge.



small, shapeless blobs, and subsequent attempts also resulted in disaster. Gordon says it took a couple of weeks before he and Smith were producing serviceable foam blanks. To each of these they added a thin strip of redwood down the centerline (a "stringer," to give the board stiffness). They then shaped the blank with the tools in common use for working on balsa, covered it with fiberglass and colored resin, and polished it.

By the fall of 1959, Gordon and Smith were making and selling boards out of the garage at Smith's apartment (in an alley off Balboa Avenue, between Grand and Garnet). "People would seek us out and want boards," Gordon says. "It was a constant stream of people." This increased at such a brisk pace that the duo moved in January 1960 to bigger quarters at 763 Turquoise Street. For a few months, they had no competition in San Diego, and when it did appear, Gordon says, "We had better team riders and better promo-

tion." Gordon and Smith's volume grew steadily throughout the 1960s, peaking at about 3000 to 4000 boards a year, and when the shortboard revolution appeared in 1968 like a tsunami on the horizon, the San Diego firm was the only U.S. surfboard manufacturer to ride out the huge changes that followed. The company emerged in the '70s as the largest surfboard maker in the world, a position it held for several years. (Although Gordon and Smith still manufactures boards

RESEARCH STUDIES



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here today, another San Diego company, Rusty Surfboards, now ranks as the largest maker in San Diego and the second or third largest in the world.)

Gordon says even in the earliest days of the company, his partner's marketing skills were evident. "One day in 1960 or '61, he came up with the idea that if kids would bring in their Tshirts, he would silkscreen 'Surfboards by Gordon & Smith' on the back of them. When we announced that, we had a line around the shop

down the street. Every Saturday we'd do it." Kids brought in their shirts, usually Towncrafts purchased at JCPenney, three for a dollar, and walked away with one of the world's first items of surf apparel. The Turquoise Street store might also have sold paraffin for waxing boards, Gordon

Surf Shops: A New Marketplace

Woody Ekstrom says a case can be made that the first local surf shop was McCall's, a longextinct La Jolla store on Prospect between Herschel and Girard. During the early 1940s, it sold paddleboards along with other sports gear. Others like John Elwell argue that the first true surf shops were surfers' garages. Shapers would be in business for a while, then disappear, and during the short lives of their operations, most of them sold nothing but surfboards.

A retail surf shop that preceded Gordon and Smith's storefront was an enterprise known as Burland. By the

spring of 1958, it was operating out of a single-story building at 853 Turquoise (the current site of a VFW hall), a joint venture of Billy Burgener (the son of Clairemont developer and later congressman Claire Burgener) and Windansea regular Wayne Land. "They were kind of working on a different plane. A lot of what happened there revolved around humor," says Carl Ekstrom. Someone might spontaneously pick up a \$50 bill and burn it. It was the

Hawaiian influence, Ekstrom says. "The main thing was take care of your friends and not hold back." Burland didn't last long before going bankrupt.

Problem: Too Many, **Too Rowdy. Solution:** A Surf Park

In 1965, on the day before Tourmaline Surfing Park's official dedication, San Diego Union sportswriter Jack Murphy described it as the first surfing park in the United States. The sport by then had attracted 10,000 surfers in San

Diego alone, and they'd formed 30 surfing clubs, according to Murphy. The boom had created tensions. "A surfer, by popular definition, has long, bleached hair, the physique of a lifeguard, and the manners of a juvenile delinquent," Murphy wrote. "He violates property rights, litters beaches, drinks excessively, smokes pot, stages wild parties, surrounds himself with adoring beach bunnies, and earnestly avoids work in all forms."

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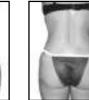
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surfers and nonsurfers could be harrowing. When he started out, Larry Gordon recalls dodging and kicking out and surfing right through the swimmers at Pacific Beach. "And I can remember thinking, 'This is pretty unsafe. I wonder why they don't do something about it.' Anytime there was a good north swell, surfers Graffiti on Windansea pump house, c. 1966 jammed the streets of the Sun Gold Point subconvening a group of surfing park arose out of division above PB Point, this process, he says. swimmers, surfers, and Many surfers hated other water users. Smith Gordon says. They'd lay their boards down in the

was a surfer who defied the popular stereotype. Now 84 and residing in a nursing home, he was in his late 30s at the time, a secondary school administrator and otherwise upstanding citizen. He says the advisory group met every other week for months, planning ways to designate areas that would satisfy the various interest groups. The idea for the

that idea, Gordon says. "There was a lot of mistrust between the surfers and the authorities.... We thought for sure they would build that surfing park for us, and once it was built, it would be the *only* spot they would really let us surf in; that we would be considered ungrateful spoiled brats if we still wanted to continue surfing at Bird Rock or Crystal Pier or

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the Mission Beach jetty or all the other spots we had been surfing at." Despite their opposition, the park was dedicated on May 29, 1965. One irony is that although surfing today remains legal at dozens of places along the coast, Gordon surfs at Tourmaline 90 to 95 percent of the time. Everything turned out well, he says. "I was wrong."

Wolfe's Pop-Cult Spin on Windansea

By 1966, Windansea Beach was more famous than Tourmaline, thanks in part to Tom Wolfe's article "The Pump House Gang." The hardcore Windansea surfers were not impressed. Those guys were winning surfing championships and partying so hard they made the average pack of frat boys look like a Boy Scout troop. Wolfe wouldn't have been accepted in the parking lot where they hung out, according to Carl Ekstrom, who at the time belonged to the Windansea Surf Club and was creating custom boards beautiful enough

to hang in an art gallery. (In 1968, in fact, Andy Warhol purchased an Ekstrom board for that purpose.)

The young kids who talked to the New York writer were members of "a side group," Ekstrom says. Although some of them surfed at Windansea, they by no means made up the heart and soul of the place, as Wolfe's article suggested. The story involved "a lot of artistic license. He wasn't telling it quite the way it was." And Wolfe's account of Bob Simmons's death

was so ludicrous, it's no wonder spray-painted letters appeared on the pump house declaring, "Tom Wolfe is a Dork."

More than anything, what Wolfe offered his readers was a glimpse into an age-segregated society of ultra-cool, lean, tan surfer-teens. In the article, they sneer at the "black panthers," an older couple (almost 50!) who dare to sit on their beach, she wearing black street shoes, "out of which stick a pair of old veiny white ankles, which lead up like a senile cone to a fudge of

tallowy, edematous flesh, her thighs, squeezing out of their bathing suit, with old faded yellow bruises on them, which she probably got from running eight feet to catch a bus or something." The gang intimidates the woman and her husband into leaving. The teens can't conceive of ever growing up and turning into such revolting creatures themselves.

What impresses these kids, what they talk about, according to Wolfe, is the story of Bob Simmons's wipeout.

Simmons, according to Wolfe, was "a fantastic surfer" who rode "the really big waves" and wiped out at Windansea one day. "His board came in but he never came back and they never found his body." Although that was "very mysterioso," the most mysterioso thing "was how he could have died at all. If he had been one of the old pan-thuhs, hell, sure he could have got killed. But Simmons was, well, one's own age, he was the kind of guy who could have been in the Pump House gang."

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The truth, as most of the Windansea crew knew, was that Simmons had died a dozen years before, when many of Wolfe's Pump House gang members had not yet started kindergarten. And at the time he wiped out, he was 35 years old, far beyond "the horror age of 25, the horror dividing line."

Death on a Rogue Wave

John Elwell was in the water the afternoon Bob Simmons died. "I rode the wave before him, and I was swimming back out. I saw it happen. He took off real late, and the board came over the top. It was, like, the biggest wave of the day, what we call a rogue wave. He took it and went off of his board, and the board came over like a guillotine. Hit him right on top of the

skull."

Elwell didn't see the blow; he later surmised that this was what happened. At the time, Simmons's fall just looked like a bad wipeout. Other witnesses saw what happened next. Carl Ekstrom and Ronald Patterson and Mike Diffenderfer were standing on the cliff, watching the waves, which had been growing bigger all afternoon. Ekstrom remembers Diffenderfer saying, "Look, Simmons is bodysurfing." That was odd. "He was a guy you'd never see without his board," Ekstrom recalls. "And I remember looking out and not seeing anybody, just seeing white water, water water, white water. It was a great big set." Ekstrom didn't think any more about it until later, when Simmons's friend Bev Morgan showed up and

asked about him. A local kid by then had retrieved Simmons's board and hauled it up on the beach. More ominous was what Morgan pointed out. Simmons was in the habit of stashing his clothes in one corner of the surf shack. When he finished surfing, he always got them immediately. "But the clothes were still up there."

Although people looked for the body that night, it washed up a few days later. A woman glimpsed it early in the morning and called police. Ekstrom says Don Okey was standing in the parking lot, speculating where it would come in, based on how the waves were breaking, when a body appeared in the top of a wave. A third Ekstrom brother, Bob, raced into the water and grabbed it.

— Jeannette De Wyze

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MOM HELPED OUT

n January 15, 1990, I was born at Grossmont Hospital. Since then, my mother (who at times has worked two jobs) never failed to take me to my softball games and has waited in lines at four o'clock in the morning for the must-have Furbies. For the majority of my childhood, my mother was the only parent.

My father was in the Middle East on the day I was born, a soldier involved in Operation Desert Storm. He moved from California within my first two years of birth. Yet, I didn't learn of his whereabouts until I was a little bit older. I didn't know much about my dad except what my mom told me. The situation wasn't really talked about. What could a four-year-old do? I was old enough to realize my dad wasn't there, but I had not yet learned to organize those feelings and discuss them with my mom.

I WOULD
WATCH OTHER
CHILDREN
WHO WALKED
HAND-IN-HAND
WITH THEIR
DADS, MY
EYES SOAKED
IN ENVY.

I used to have dreams of opening the door to see my father dressed in a white military uniform with a smile and open arms. At the age of six, it seemed my father would remain in my dreams. It wasn't until I was around nine years old that I had a relationship with my father.

One evening at my old house in Allied Gardens, I had just come out of my bedroom, skipping through the small hallway that led to the living room and kitchen. My mom was leaning on the white tile counter, talking on the phone to someone. She mentioned my name and said something that made me turn around in my path that led to the TV—the name of my father.

I was anxious, like on Christmas day when the whole tree is surrounded with presents that are begging for you to unwrap. Staring at my mom, my big blue eyes screamed, "Is it him? Is it really him?" My mom, always being a great interpreter of facial expressions, recognized my question and replied with a nod. She then went into the other room to ask if he wanted to talk to me, so she could protect me in

case he said no.

I prepared myself for the worst; I felt myself creeping back into my shell. When my mom returned, she smiled and handed the phone to me. My hands trembled...this was it, I was about to hear someone I had been longing to hear from for years.

The situation was surreal; I waited for it to be a horrible practical joke or just another one of my dreams that I had not woken up from yet. Any kid my age might have cried for hours at the two contradicting emotions of happiness and sadness in their extremes. Yet, I wasn't like the other kids. My mom's friends used to always say that I was 9 going on 30 years old. With my mom being a single mother, it was often necessary for me to behave older than my years.

As I talked to my father for hours, I twisted the fabric of my red dress in between my fingers, forgetting the physical world around me and slipping into my own dimension. Even when the call had ended and I came back to reality, I sat there in disbelief. The phone call didn't give me answers to my questions: Where had he been all this time? Did he ever think about me? Did he want to know me? What did he look like now? I didn't have a vivid memory of him, only the old picture that my mom had kept, which was worn from my handling of it. The call didn't really satisfy me; it was more of a temporary fix for what would become an addictive curiosity.

Many phone calls have led to many plane flights to visit my father in Minnesota. I've met my half-sister and her mother, and they all plan to come see me graduate from high school in about two years. Even though my connection with my father seems to be successful, there are still the scarred memories that tend to get stuck in my head.

Until I had that phone call with my dad, I had felt like the abandoned child, one not worthy of a father. I would always question what was wrong with me, as if the situation were my fault. What struck even harder blows to my insecurities were the father-daughter dances and other school-related functions. I



would watch other children who walked hand-in-hand with their dads, my eyes soaked in envy. "It's not fair!" I used to scream. "Why, why, why? Why me? What did I do wrong?" Then I would crash and burn like all the previous times, surrendering to the discontent.

My mom helped out as much as she possibly could; she was aware of the psychological toll. She tried to provide both the feminine and masculine influences, which created my fascinations with football and competition in general. She raised me to kick other kids' butts. My mom also taught me to be in competition with the boys, which at that age were my athletic competitors. So, I was more aggressive than most girls, which caused a slight rift. It almost came to a point where I could get along better with males than females

Although my father's absence during my early years limited some social aspects of my life, it made it easier to create stronger bonds with certain people; I currently have three friends without a father. When we do feel moments of resentment, we have each other to talk amongst and lean upon. Yet, empathy is what we try to stray away from; we choose to set an example, that regardless of what society may say, some individuals are capable of raising a kid on their own...one of them is my mom.

— Casey Koehly, Monte Vista H.S.

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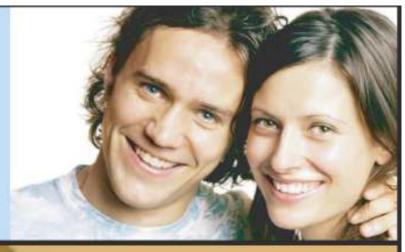
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Seventy-Five

I go to New York to see my mother. She has lived in New York City for 38 years and been to Brooklyn only once — in 1972. Most of those years she has worked in an old-age home where almost all the residents have been younger than she is now; spent part of every day in Buddhist meditation; and shopped for weekly food bargains in an area bordered on the south by 230th Street, on the north by 235th Street, on the east by Broadway, and on the west by Johnson Avenue in the Riverdale section of the Bronx.

She works the evening shift so it is always light when she goes to work and always dark when she leaves, the year round. Several years ago she was hit by a taxi. The taxi knocked her down and shook her up but didn't change her habit of running to catch the bus home. So I wasn't altogether surprised when she



The author's mother

called me last month and said, "You know,

I was hit by a car the night before last."

I don't like my mother to walk on the dark streets of New York; she doesn't like me to fly, not even to see her. But this time when I said I would come to New York, all she said was, "It's so far and you can only stay two weeks...but I would like to see you."

"Confucius says not to get too close to another person," she says.

This time when I arrived in New York
I had to consult a map. After 23 years in a
small apartment, my mother has moved
into a large house. It wasn't her idea to
move, but she thinks she can make the
best of it. There's a vegetable stand on the
corner, supermarkets in almost every
direction, and she can walk to work without crossing the street where she had her
"incident." Her legs shake, she says, when
she sees the spot. I look closely, but it's just
another busy street, with no sign of the
speeding car, her brief fling in the air, or
her fall to the asphalt.

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She's supposed to be resting, but there are too many things to do. Together we clean Venetian blinds, put up a clothesline, hang pictures, install storm windows. One entire day is spent in the attic, cutting and stapling roll after roll of fiberglass insulation. When we're done the air glistens with fiberglass particles that reflect against the foil facing and our eyebrows are gray. Because of a leaky gasket in the basement there is no hot water in the house, so we go to the

Buddhist temple in the

next block to take a bath.

We usually talk about the future casually and in small, oblique ways. My mother will say that she has enough cooking oil to last five years and that will probably be long enough; or that she will never get through her trunks of unused fabric. She giggles every time she tells me this: When her ophthalmologist detected cataracts and glaucoma, she asked him if she should worry. "How old are you?" he asked her. She was 73. "Don't worry," he said. On her

most recent birthday, the 75th, she told me that her mother had lived to 75 and her father to 80, so she knew she had a few vears left.

I ask when she will retire. She asks when I will have a baby. She used to say she would retire soon, maybe in six months or a year. Now she has to take advantage of living so close to work, she says, so she won't retire for at least another year. In fact, her greatest pleasure is in working. She's always glad to go back after a vacation, and the residents are so happy

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to have her again, some of them greet her with tears. The home gives her special treatment: she's the only nurse who doesn't have to float from floor to floor. Also, she used to say as a final reason, if she retired and later decided to return to work, who would hire her?

We don't mention the future much this time. We do have to discuss the heating system, which must be repaired or replaced. There is a tremendous difference in cost. "How long will you be living here?" I ask. (In this house you've just



bought. I mean, before you retire and move to California. I mean, how much time do you have?) I want her to get out of the city and come to

San Diego. She will, she says, but she's not ready yet. Later, when she isn't working, when she can't get around as easily. She doesn't drive, and there is

nor any of her friends, and I'm not really sure she would like the suburban life. But her temple has started to stagnate and she doesn't go every Sunday anymore. She spends hours on the phone every day, yet she doesn't feel that she has any close friends. "Confucius," she says, "says not to get too close to another person." She is outliving many of her friends. And she likes to walk on the beach.

no Buddhist temple here,

We went to China together two years ago, my mother and I. It was

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my first trip and my mother's return home after 43 years. Her parents are dead and also her two older and favorite brothers, but all her remaining relatives are there. We saw 70 of them, almost everyone except my mother's oldest sister, who was suddenly too ill to make the trip to where we were and who lived in too inaccessible a place for us to travel to. In Shanghai we visited my mother's old monk. When the monk saw my mother, he rushed over and said, with clasped hands and a warm smile, "Ah, Miss Chen, you've come back at last." He was allowed to leave the temple and foreign tourists came occasionally to see the temple, but no Chinese were allowed there. As overseas Chinese, we

were able to visit, and because of us, another old friend — Grandma's former secretary in Shanghai — was permitted to go to the temple with us. For a while, before we went to China, my mother used to talk of going back there, to spend her last years in a **Buddhist monastery** studying and preparing for the Pure Land.

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vegetable," my mother tells me candidly. She's my mother's best friend, a woman I call my grandmother though she's barely older than my mother. They've known each other 53 years and lived together on three continents. They still say the same things to each other and smile the same smiles, but one doesn't always hear what the other has to say and sometimes one is smiling

at the other as if 30 years younger. Three years ago we visited Grandma in Connecticut. After dinner, my aunt — Grandma's youngest daughter — reminisced about my mother's storytelling skills. Every evening when they lived in the mountains near Hangchow, my mother used to read from an historical saga. She dramatized it for the children so imaginatively that my

aunt, who was only four or five, still has vivid memories of monkeys sitting atop walls playing flutes, valiant battles, beautiful courtesans. I never knew that part of my mother's past. At the end of that evening in Connecticut, my mother told me, Grandma's memory was worse than her own. And now, she says, Grandma's memory is gone.

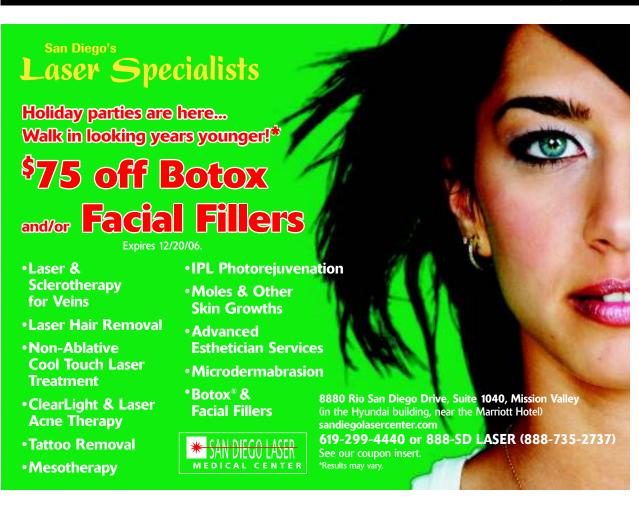
Grandma has six

children who live with their families nearby and who still gather together for Sunday dinners and all the holidays. It makes my mother remember the seven brothers and sisters she left 50 years ago. She looks at me and hopes for her own large family again. In her closets, wrapped in tissue paper, lie tiny, finely knitted sweaters and jumpers, gifts finished too late or forgotten, for

babies now grown, waiting for my babies. This winter she wants to prepare a root for me to take. It's for weak people, she says. It makes them more fertile.

My mother has sewed for me all my life. When I was a child, she embroidered bunnies and violets and stitched extravagantly long crisp bows. She never uses a pattern. She has copied button-down shirts and transformed photographs and drawings into cotton and corduroy and wool, conjuring up the unseen backs. She makes mistakes and carefully, painfully corrects the mistakes. She used to sew all night sometimes to finish a special dress for me. She also made exquisite lampshades out of very fine embossed silk or silk shantung, trimmed with a tasseled or twisted silk braid.

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When I was a child and we lived in Manhattan, my mother took me to Central Park and spread a blanket for me to sit and play on, and if I strayed onto bare grass she would pick me up and place me in the center of the blanket again. The summer after I graduated from college, I went to Europe. I don't remember if she knew then that I traveled from London to Istanbul and back through the Mediterranean countries

by hitchhiking; I'm sure I didn't tell her that from Venice to Barcelona and all around Ireland I and to chant to Buddha all the way there. Whenever you're in the car, she says, you should chant. I

She still doesn't know how things work, she can't understand the instructions.

thumbed alone. She still tells me to be careful if she knows I'm driving by myself to Los Angeles,

don't tell her that I frequently drive a hundred miles a day in San Diego. She doesn't go into

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uscan part of the line. And she loved Monet's paintings of water lilies, although she hasn't wanted to go back to the Met again.

Riding home that day, I realized how the subway had changed. I used to love the subways in New York. The clatter, the sway, the blast of hot or cold air when the doors between cars opened and closed. Going downtown, the steady accumulation of people. Going back home, the sudden sun125th Street and the screech of brakes that meant I was almost there, 242nd Street. When I was 14 it was a trip, and the destination might have been San Francisco or Siberia, not just Times Square. It was once the excitement and exotica of distance and space and other lives. Now it was noisy and dirty and no one looking anyone else in the eye. It was just a place to sit or stand and wait for Columbus Circle or

light and fresh air at

Chambers Street to come along, and it was either too hot or too cold. It seemed strange that my mother didn't notice how the subway has changed.

This time I went to the Met alone, on a different subway, the one that goes by Yankee Stadium. On the way back the subway was packed and the stadium ablaze with World Series lights. In the museum I saw the recently completed Astor Court, modeled after a small courtyard in the Garden of the Master of

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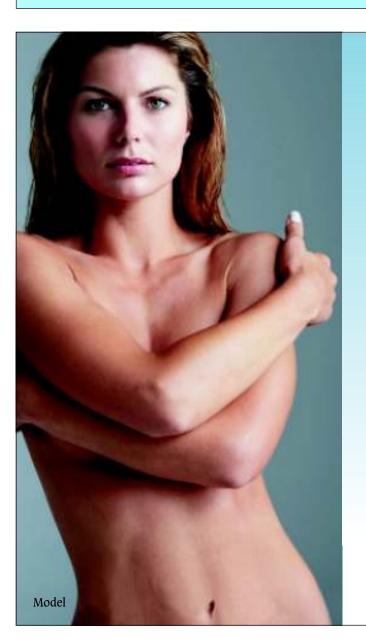
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the Fishing Nets (Wang Shi Yuan) in Suzhou. It is lovely and looks very authentic and more perfect than the so many more and larger ones in China. There these private gardens, built for the contemplation of the privileged or the wealthy, are public parks, places where people walk and talk, sit and eat. I was glad I hadn't encouraged my mother to come with

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me. She would have liked it but she would have been disappointed by it.

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don't know why they want them."

We go out very little. We make plans — to go to the new Asia Society gallery downtown, to look at a diamond ring in her safe deposit box, to take an old platinum watch in for repair, to buy curtains for the kitchen — but instead we stay home and call plumbers and heating companies and wait for them to call back and then wait for them to come. We don't even get to Bronx Park, to walk among the turning leaves. "It doesn't matter," my mother says. "You can close your eyes and imagine that you see them." We wait two days for an estimate on storm windows and finally the salesman says, "I am your friend, I have to be honest with you, You want a written estimate? I'll give you one, but listen, I haven't given a written

estimate in 30 years, I have to charge you 50 dollars for it, I have no choice, Well, how about 25 dollars?" It drives you crazy, my mother says, and she's been dealing with New York all my life. She still doesn't know how things work, she can't understand the instructions enclosed with this or that appliance, and she isn't able to fix it when something goes wrong.

I'm amazed to learn that my mother has never balanced her checkbook. And because she's afraid to carry it with her, she forgets to enter deposits and withdrawals. "Something terrible has happened," she tells me one morning. "The bank lost two of my checks." We hurry to the bank, we wait for an hour and a half, and in the end the bank remembers that she deposited another check but not those two. Then

it must have been another bank. She has to wait for a statement from that bank: no checks. They are really lost. One of them turns up on a statement from her stockbroker. The other one is still missing.

At least she knows that she doesn't want to know, doesn't have — at her age — to learn. She'd rather cook something special for me to eat when I'm there. And she does, every meal.

My mother hates to travel, yet she's been traveling most of her life. After 44 years in America, she still feels herself a visitor. She has come to San Diego, certain she wouldn't survive the trip, accepting the risk in order to see me, enjoying Disneyland, loving the giant redwoods. She'd rather stay home; though. So I go to New York to see her.

— Amy Chu

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To Protect Creation

78 Miles of Heat and Sand

spent four hours in a real intense sandstorm," says activist Kelly Fuller.
"I had a painter's mask and a bandana on and pulled the hood of my jacket down over my face. When it was over, the mirror finish on my sunglasses was gone, sandblasted right off."

On Friday, December 15, Fuller will speak at the Sierra Club's San Diego chapter monthly meeting about her 78-mile hike in protest of San Diego Gas & Electric's proposed Sunrise Powerlink. "I walked from where the line would start, at the Imperial Valley substation. From there the route followed the existing high-voltage

LOCAL EVENTS

line. I spent a couple of days walking that to the Southwest Powerlink. I went through the community of

Ocotillo Wells, through the Anza-Borrego State Park, to the Warner Springs substation, which was where the public land ended at that time — they are still changing the route. I stopped at 78 miles because past there I'd have to go onto private property, and it would have taken forever to get permission," says Fuller.

The \$1.3 billion transmission-line project is expected to be 150 miles long and provide San Diego with an additional 1000 megawatts, enough to power approximately 650,000 homes. The project, for which an application was filed by SDG&E with the California Public Utilities Commission on December 14, 2005, includes plans for the construction of a new, 80-acre substation. According to the SDG&E website, much of the electricity imported on the Sunrise Powerlink will come from "energy sources such

as solar, geothermal, and wind power produced in the Imperial Valley and eastern San Diego County."

Fuller hiked the trail from April 11 to April 20, 2006. "Temperatures were severe for April, in the mid-90s," she remembers.

"That was only a problem because you need to carry a lot more water; a gallon weighs eight and a third pounds, and I would have [had] to carry two or three gallons at a time." On the third day, while she still had cell phone reception, Fuller called for help. "One of the first people who came was Paul, who is now my fiancé.'

Rather than attempt to carry all of her supplies, which would have been difficult due to one of her legs that

is "held together with hardware," Fuller put out a list of things she might need and asked for help along the way. "I ate so well. People would come out with a camp stove and chair and say, 'You sit down, we're going to cook you dinner." The food she received included lasagna and homemade chocolate cake.

Fuller, who is a Quaker, cites religious motivation (in addition to environmental concern) for embarking on her journey. "It

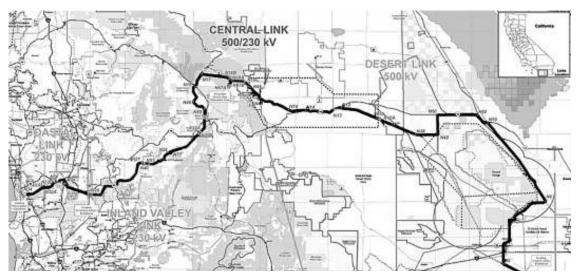
was a holy week. Because I was trying to protect the desert as God's creation, doing the walk and going through Good Friday and through Easter Sunday was very important to me." Before she left, a fellow Quaker gave Fuller a crucifix from around her neck to wear as protection as she crossed the desert.

Some of the areas Fuller traversed have been used as immigration trails out of Mexico. When she notified the Border Patrol of her presence, they told her that if she had any trouble she should push the button on one of their emergency towers. "There are giant towers in the desert, located in areas where people have died," says Fuller. "Signs

to come and follow me the entire time. I didn't want that. I wanted a decision maker to come."

At one point on her trek, a disgruntled Fuller had a verbal clash with Jim Avery, vice president of electric operations for SDG&E. Fuller did not speak directly with Avery, but through a reporter for the *Imperial Valley Press* who relayed statements from each of them over the phone. "It was especially stressful because, while that executive was sitting comfortably in his office, no doubt, I was walking across the desert with a pack on my back and trying to compose myself."

— Barbarella



SDG&E's proposed Sunrise Powerlink

are in English and Spanish, but because some people can't read, there's a little cartoon of a guy walking through the desert, looking like he's in trouble."

Fuller invited executives from Sempra Energy and SDG&E to accompany her for portions of her hike so that they might better understand her objections to their proposed plans. "Instead of responding to me, they offered to send one of their consultants who was doing biological studies

Sierra Club Monthly Program
Kelly Fuller: Walking the Sunrise
Powerlink
Friday, December 15
7 p.m.
Joyce Beers Center
3900 Vermont Street
Hillcrest
Cost: Free
Info: 619-299-1743 or
www.sandiego.sierraclub.org





Events that are underlined occur after December 21.

HOW TO SEND US YOUR

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

submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

BAJA

"The Nutcracker" is presented by Ballet del Noroeste de México, Friday and Saturday, December 8 and 9, 8 p.m., at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street in the Zona Río). Tickets: \$20-\$25 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636.

The company also presents The Nutcracker on Wednesday, December 13, 7 p.m., Teatro del Estado, 011-52-664-687-9636, (TI-JUANA, MEXICALI)

Tribute to Cuban Poet José Lezama Lima planned Thursday, December 14, 4-7 p.m., at Centro

FIESTA NAVIDAD

Mariachi los Camperos de Nati Cano, Saturday, December 16, California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

(SEE IN PERSON)



Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, in Zona Río). Lima is considered "one of the most influential Latin American writers of the 20th Century." Free. 011-52-664-687-9636, (TUUANA)

"Posada III: Perspectives and Horizons" - exhibition of paintings, sculpture, installation, mixed media by ten artists opens with reception on Thursday, December 14, 7 p.m., at Galería H & H

(Avenida Estéban Cantú 2651, Colonia Dávila). 011-52-664-900-6133. Through Tuesday, January 30. (TIJUANA)

Electronic Music by DJ Tiesto, Thursday, December 14, 7 p.m., at Mexitlán Show Center (at 2nd Street and Avenida Madero). Tickets: \$35-\$65 U.S. 619-585-3472. (THUANA)

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Christmas Gala with music by Orchestra Baja California, joined by guitarist Jorge López Ramos, Thursday, December 14, 8 p.m., at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street), \$15 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TULIANA)

Camila Plays Pop Music on Thursday, December 14, 8 p.m., at Tangaloo Club (on Boulevard Agua Caliente). 011-52-664-681-8091. (TUUANA)

Fernando Delgadillo in Concert,

Friday, December 15, 7 p.m., at Teatro UABC, Mesa de Otay. Tickets: 011-52-664-684-9920. (TIJUANA)

Christmas Music performed by Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil, conducted by Pavel Getman. Tenth anniversary concert starts at 8 p.m. on Friday, December 15, at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, in Zona Río), \$5 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

"The Star of Bethlehem" illuminated during lecture by Alberto





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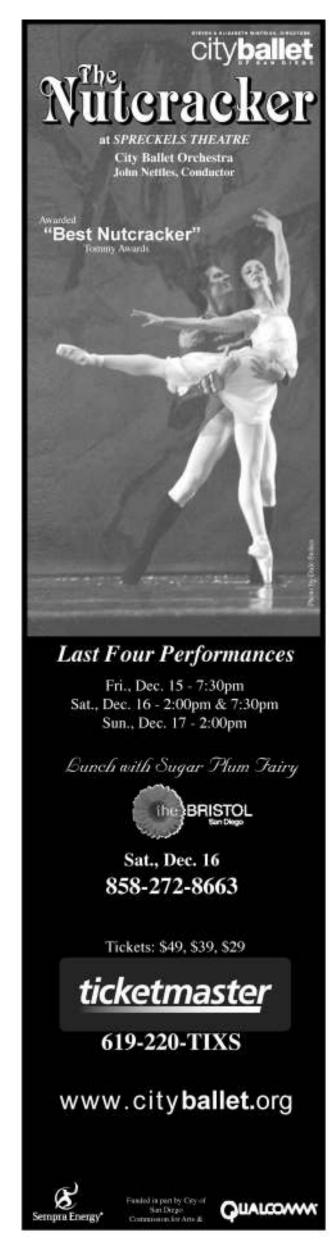
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Levy, Tuesday, December 19, 7 p.m., in Omnimax Theatre at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río). \$2 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

OUTDOORS

Hike to San Diego County's Highest Places to take advantage of December's characteristically clear air. From spots such as Cuyamaca Peak in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Wooded Hill in the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area, and Boucher Hill at Palomar Mountain State Park, vistas stretching a hundred miles across the Pacific Ocean are not uncommon at this time of year. Look for the dark profiles of Santa Catalina and San Clemente islands, lying northwest and west of San Diego, respectively.

Spectacular Sunsets and Sunrises are characteristic of late fall and early winter's dry spells. You can drive up to Soledad Park in La Jolla or Mount Helix near La Mesa for an all-encompassing view. Or try hiking up to vantage points such as Cowles Mountain in the San Carlos area and Woodson Mountain near Ramona. Don't forget to bring a flashlight for the trip up or down.

Toyon, or "Christmas-berry," one of the more distinctive shrubs of Southern California's native chaparral plant community, has begun to flaunt clusters of red berries. Here in coastal San Diego, toyon can usually be found wherever large patches of native vegetation survive, but especially in the thick chaparral covering some north-facing slopes. Toyon branches may look inviting to cut as a Christmas wreath — but they're protected by California state law.

Rewarding Workout, 16-mile conditioning hike over "oftenstrenuous," scenic trails led by naturalist Don Parnell through Daley Ranch on Saturday, December 16. Starts at 8:30 a.m. in main parking lot on La Honda Drive. Free. Requested reservations: 760-839-4680. Bring water. (ESCONDIDO)

Visit the Rocky Shore Habitat of La Jolla Cove during bird walk on Saturday, December 16. Look for turnstones, wandering tattlers, surfbirds, others. Outing starts at 8:30 a.m. at La Jolla Cove Bridge Club, 1160 Coast Boulevard. Free. 760-434-3334. (LA JOLLA)

Hike Hellhole Canyon Open-Space Preserve on Saturday, December 16. Docent-led hike heads into recently acquired area, includes sections of Hell Creek, remains of an old homestead. Hike starts at 9 a.m. at staging area, 19324 Santee Lane. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring water. Free. 760-749-5320. (VALLEY CENTER)

Look for Liverworts, Lichens, Mushrooms during wildlife and "small things of nature" hike led by Les Braund on Saturday, December 16, in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Braund was president of Mycological Society. Meet at 9 a.m. in Mercy Road upper level staging/parking area (at junction of Mercy Road and Black Mountain Road). Free. 858-484-3219. (RANCHO PEASQUITOS)

Exit Holiday Hustle and Bustle and "enjoy the winter wonders found at Batiquitos Lagoon" dur-



Calendar Local Events

ing easy, docent-led nature walk, Saturday, December 16, 9 a.m. Hike focuses on the many birds overwintering at lagoon. Free. Find Batiquitos Lagoon nature center at 7380 Gabbiano Lane, 760-931-0800. Free. (CARLSBAD)

Trail Repair Work in Paso Picacho at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park continues on Saturday, December 16, 9 a.m. Bring work shoes, gloves, hat, water, snack. Group gathers at Paso Picacho campground maintenance area behind fire department building. Free. Registration: 619-669-1697. For those 16 and older with a parent. (CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK)

Bird Walk hosted by Friends of Famosa Slough, Saturday, December 16. Easy walk with variety of birds and views of salt marsh habitat starts at 1 p.m. at first bench on Famosa Boulevard, south of inter-

section with West Point Loma Boulevard. Free. 619-224-4591. (POINT LOMA)

Weird Land Formations examined in series hosted by Anza-Borrego Institute on Sunday, December 17, 8 a.m.—3 p.m., starting at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park visitors' center. "Concretions" — those "mysterious granular stone shapes" occurring in many of the finegrained sedimentary deposits of Anza-Borrego — provide subject for Paul Johnson. Three or four hikes, high-clearance four-wheel-drive required. Wear hiking boots, bring water and lunch. \$45. Reservations: 760-767-0446. (BORREGO SPRINGS)

Explore Font's Point in western Borrego badlands with Canyoneers on Sunday, December 17, 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Participants hike approximately four miles cross-country along ancient lakeshores and plains hinting of life a million years ago, climb Burks Knoll, traverse rim of Mammoth Cove to end at Fonts Point. Free. Directions: 619-255-0203. (ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK)

OUT & ABOUT

NUTS TO YOU!
The Nutcracker
by City Ballet
of San Diego,
Spreckels Theatre,
through December 17.

(SEE DANCE)



Shamanic Traditions Hike led by Will Bowen in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Sunday, December 17. Short hike to "power spot" to "learn about and practice some of the shamanic traditions" integrating "self-healing, spiritual work, and ecological awareness." Bring a drum or rattle, blanket to

sit on. Adventure starts at 3 p.m. at west-end staging area on south side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard (one-half mile east of intersection of Vista Sorrento Parkway). Free. 858-484-3219. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

Explore San Diego River during moderately paced one-hour

walk over flat, paved surfaces sponsored by Walkabout on Sunday, December 17. Walk starts at river walk at Mission Valley trolley station (on north side of Camino de la Reina) at 3 p.m. Free. 619-231-7463. (MISSION VALLEY)

Buena Vista Native Plant Club gathers to maintain plants at Buena Vista Nature Center (2202 South Coast Highway), Sunday, December 17, 2 p.m. This month, propagate plants from cuttings; make a few to take home. Free. 760-439-2473. (OCFANSIDE)

Highest and Lowest Tides this month occur on the same day: Thursday, December 21. From a high of +6.3 feet at 7:57 a.m., the tide level drops to -1.1 feet at 4:08 p.m. During the lunch hour the tide will be ebbing at the rate of nearly 2 vertical feet per hour. Visit a gently shelving beach, such as Coronado's, to watch the water recede with almost every breaker.

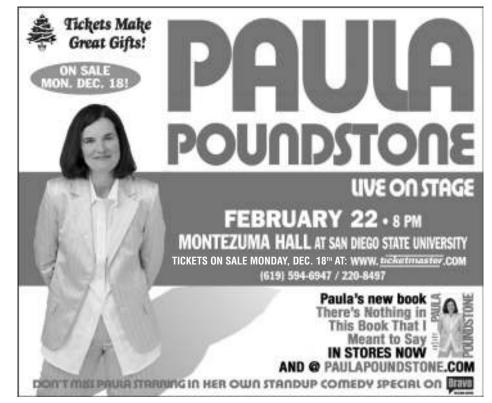
Cowles Mountain Solstice Sunrise Hike, Thursday, December 21, 6–8 a.m. Hike to summit of San Diego's highest peak led by Mission Trails Regional Park trail guides starts at Cowles Mountain staging area, at Navajo Road and Golfcrest Drive. Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

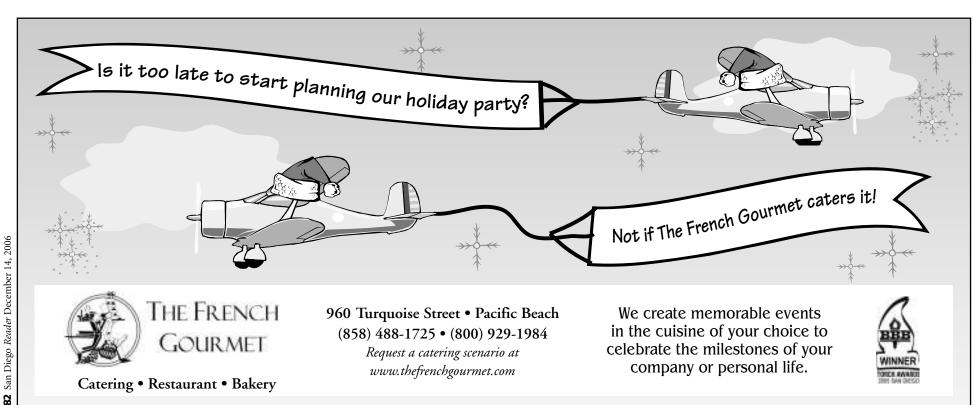
DANCE

"ONE to Echo," featuring Bound Contemporary Dance and A.S. Peterson Dance, Friday and Saturday, December 1 and 2, at 8 p.m., in San Diego State University's Dance Studio Theatre (ENS-200). A collection of California dance and film artists honoring "the passion that one artist can share with a community." Tickets: \$10–\$14. 619-594-1696. (SDSU)

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







Viennese Waltz continues during beginner-friendly dance on Friday, December 15, in room 207 of Casa del Prado. Lesson at 7:30 p.m. followed by open dancing. All ages. Partners not required. Donation: \$1, 619-583-9956, (BALBOA PARK)

Hey Wire makes music, Martha Wild calls for contradance on Friday, December 15, 8 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thorn Street). Beginners dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. \$7. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550, (NORTH PARK)

Nuttiest Time of the Year! City Ballet of San Diego, under direction of Steven and Elizabeth Wistrich, has Nutcracker performances through December 15-17 at Spreckels Theatre (121 Broadway). Production follows choreography by Russian choreographer Lev Ivanov, with Tchaikovsky's score performed by City Ballet Orchestra. Curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets: \$29-\$49. 858-272-8663.

California Ballet presents Nutcracker at San Diego Civic Theatre (1100 Third Avenue) December 16-24. Cast of 160 includes children 4-14 years old dancing to Maxine Mahon's choreography, Tchaikovsky's score. Tickets: \$22-\$78 for adults, \$22 for those 12 and younger. 858-560-6741.

San Diego Ballet presents classic ballet December 15-17 in UCSD's Mandeville Auditorium. The Nutcracker begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday, with 2:30 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday. \$15-\$30.619-294-7378.

San Diego Civic Youth Orchestra accompanies dancers of San Elijo Dance and Music Academy for The Nutcracker they present December 21-23 at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. each night, with 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday. Tickets: \$17.50-\$39. 800-988-4253. (DOWNTOWN, LA JOLLA ESCONDIDO)

Croatian Dance Workshop with Zeljko Jergan of Croatia and Slovak Roma (Gypsy) dance workshop with Juraj Adamik on Saturday, December 16, at Folk Dance Center (4569 30th Street). Workshops (3:30–6:30 p.m.), potluck dinner (bring a dish) at 6:30 p.m., dance party at 7:30 p.m. \$10 for workshops, \$8 for dance party

(party is free for first timers).

619-281-5656. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

USA Dance Party with wide variety of music, third Saturday of each month, including December 16, at Cheek2Cheek (909 Grand Avenue, suite 3). Lessons at 7 p.m., dancing 8 to 11 p.m. All ages, abilities. \$7. 760-525-5124. (PACIFIC BEACH)

American Latin and Ballroom Dancing planned Saturday, December 16, 7:30 p.m., at Pattie Wells Dancetime Center (1255 West Morena Boulevard). Viennese waltz lesson at 8 p.m. Dancing for singles and couples of all ages. \$7; first time free. 619-275-3533.

"Nutcracker (Men in Tights)" presented by Gay Men's Chorus of San Diego, December 16 and 17, in Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Prospect Street). Curtain rises at 8 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets: \$30-\$35. 619-574-6273. (LA JOLLA)

English Country Dancing takes place every Sunday, 6-9 p.m., at Jean Hart Academy of Dance (Oak Knoll Plaza, 12227 Powav Road). Callers are Judee, Chris, Ellen call on December 17. \$6, 858-676-9731. (POWAY)

"Dancing with the Stars" tour hits ipayOne Center on Tuesday, December 19, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$91.50, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (SPORTS ARENA)

FILM

TFM Film Festival presented by School of Theatre, Television, and Film at San Diego State University on Thursday, December 14, in Don Powell Theatre at SDSU. Program boasts new work by film students including dramas, comedies, documentaries, animation. Student films screen 4-6 p.m. (free); barbecue and student features

(7-9 p.m.), \$10. 619-594-1375.

"Raiders of the Lost Ark" — in which Steven Spielberg, George Lucas, and Harrison Ford create Indiana Jones - may be seen Thursday, December 14, 7 p.m., at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Prospect Street). \$7. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

The Italian Film The Night of Shooting Stars screens in Italian with English subtitles for series on

Thursday, December 14, 7 p.m., at House of Italy. UCSD professor Pasquale Verdicchio leads following discussion on film. Free. 858-831-1717, (BALBOA PARK)

Fellini's Lo Sceicco Bianco (1952) screens Thursday, December 14, 7 p.m., at Italian Community Center (1669 Columbia Street). \$2. 619-237-0601, (LITTLE ITALY)

Outdoor Holiday Film Series features How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Friday, December 15,

7 p.m., on Prescott Promenade. Bundle up and picnic. Free. 619-401-8858. (EL CAJON

Eric Rohmer's "Minuet of Hedonism and Jealousy," La Collectionneuse (The Collector), screens for Film Forum at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street), Monday, December 18, 6:30 p.m. Free. 619-236-5800. In French with English subtitles. (DOWNTOWN)



January 7-12, 2007

DIEGO RESTAURANT WEEK

January 7-12, 2007 **BEACHES** Atoll Restaurant Baleen at Paradise Point Resort Bali Hai Restaurant Brigantine Seafood Restaurant-San Diego Café Bahia The Fishery
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Tom Ham's Lighthouse

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JSix Restaurant
*Le Fontainebleau at the Westgate Hotel

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Oceanaire Seafood Room *Palm Restaurant

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*Stingaree *The Yard House

information and on-line reservations, visit SanDiegoRestaurantWeek.com.

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*\$40 is price per person. Beverage, tax and gratuity not included.



San Diego Restaurant Week brought to you by













San Diego Reader December 14, 2006

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, currently screening in the IMAX theater: Santa vs. the Snowman, Roving Mars, and Deep Sea. Ticket prices and showtimes: 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

LECTURES

"Japanese Mingei Artists and Their Work" discussed by collector Isamu Kawaguchi for docent guest lecture at San Diego Museum of Art on Friday, December 15, 10 a.m. \$10, 619-696-1966. (BALBOA PARK)

Walking the (Power) Line, Kelly Fuller made a 78-mile hike along San Diego Gas and Electric's proposed "Sunrise Powerlink" route this year. She'll discuss her adventure and "how you can help protect your environment and your wallet" when Sierra Club meets on Friday, December 15, 7 p.m., at Joyce Beers Community Center (3900 Vermont Street). Free. 619-299-1743. (HILLCREST)

Designing Landscapes with Native Plants, Saturday, December 16, 10 a.m., at Cuyamaca College's Water Conservation Garden (12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West). Care and placement of drought-tolerant natives, design ideas. \$10. 619-660-0614. (EL CAJON)

Make a Traditional Japanese Kagami-Mochi Ornament during class on Saturday, December 16, 10 a.m., at Japanese Friendship Garden. Requires very basic







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

winter solstice this year occurs during late afternoon on Thursday, December 24. Fortier the ber 21. Earlier that morning (and on the morning of the following day), at about 6:50 a.m., a predictable event will unfold on the south shoulder of Cowles Mountain. If you know exactly where to stand, the rising sun will clear a distant ridge and appear to be briefly bifurcated into two brilliant points of light.

According to local archeologists and anthropologists, today's visitors at solstice time are repeating a ritual that dates back centuries. Prior to about 200 years ago, Kumeyaay Indians kept a vigil on Cowles Mountain during the short-



Winter solstice sunrise

est days of the year. They watched day after day as the rising position of the sun drifted farther south along the horizon, apparently stopped its drift for a day or two, then finally drifted north. The precise day (or perhaps two days) marking the solstice (the word means "sun stands still") could be determined by any observer watching

successive sunrises from the same precise spot. That particular spot on Cowles Mountain once held a circular array of stones crossed by an "arrow" of rocks pointing to the winter-solstice sunrise direction. Observers standing there turies ago and today — see the rising sun's upper rim briefly split into two halves by a distant boulder pile sticking up from a far-off ridge.

A 30- or 40-minute walk in brightening dawn will get you to the solstice site. The shortest route happens to be the main Cowles Mountain trail originating at Navajo Road and Golfcrest Drive in San Diego's San Carlos district. This popular trail zigzags a rocky 1.4 miles to the top of the mountain. The solstice side path, 0.9 mile up the trail. branches right at a sharp leftward bend in the main trail. If you miss that turnoff and reach the intersection of a trail to Barker Way, then you've gone a little too far.

The side path leads to a small flat on the main, south-trending, plunging ridge of the mountain. Plan to arrive on either December 21 or 22 at no later than about 6:40 a.m. Some ten minutes later, the sun's upper rim will pop up over a distant ridge, its golden image initially split in two. Within a few seconds, the dual image fuses into one brilliant point of light. Guides from Mission Trails Regional Park or from

the San Diego Natural History Museum will likely be on site to help with the identification of the "sweet spot" that allows the best view of

up-slope on the main trail another half mile to the Cowles Mountain summit, where on clear days the view stretches across nearly all of

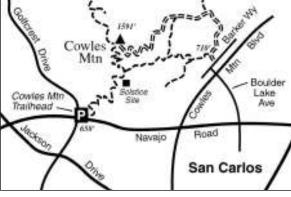
COWLES MOUNTAIN SOUTH APPROACH

The main Cowles Mountain trail, perhaps the most popular hiking route in San Diego County, offers an annually recurring solstice event

Distance from downtown San Diego: 14 miles Length: 2.8 miles round trip (to summit) Difficulty: Moderate

the rising sun — weather permitting, of course. If clouds sour the view, then there's always next year to look for-

Once the sun has risen. you might continue your hike metropolitan San Diego. If the day is crystalline clear, look for the Coronado Islands off Mexico, and dusky profiles of Santa Catalina and San Clemente islands rising from the flat, blue ocean horizon.



sewing skills; bring your white thread, needle. \$15. 619-232-2721 (BALBOA PARK)

"How to Keep Your New Year's Resolutions" illuminated when Walter Holtschi speaks Tuesday, December 19, 6 p.m., at Sacred Pathway Bookstore (300) Carlsbad Village Drive, suite 107). Free. 760-505-0004. (CARLSBAD)

What Determines a Wine's Cult Status? Is it silver oak or iust oak? Blind test Silver Oak with Lindsay of Wine Smarties "to unveil who really reigns supreme" on Tuesday, December 19, 6 p.m., at Tango Wine Company (2161 India Street), \$30 in advance, \$35 at door, Registration: 619-955-8884. (LITTLE ITALY)

"Disaster Preparedness: Are Your Pets Prepared?" Learn to plan for emergencies, what supplies your pet will need, what to do with pets in case of evacuation, Thursday, December 21, 6 p.m., at San Diego Humane Society and SPCA (5500 Gaines Street). \$10. 619-243-3424. (LINDA VISTA)

"How We Know the Climate Is Changing" explained by Mark Thiemens of UCSD, Tuesday, Jan-

uary 9, 6:30 p.m., San Diego Natural History Museum. Attention paid to possible impacts on Southern California. Free. 619-255-0245. (BALBOA PARK)

IN PERSON

Jingle Mutt Mingle and book signings planned on Thursday, December 14, 5 p.m. Author Arden Moore signs and demonstrates recipes from Real Food for Dogs at Muttropolis at (227 South Cedros Avenue). Meet Jan Rasmusen, author of Scared Poopless: The Straight Scoop on Dog Care at Muttropolis found at 7755 Girard Avenue. 858-755-3647. (SOLANA BEACH, LA JOLLA)

Ring in the Holidays! Community festival of music continues daily through Saturday, December 23, at Latter-Day Saints Temple (7474 Charmant Drive). Bell choirs, Hispanic choirs, deaf choir, operatic and instrumental performances, harps, youth choirs, much more! Free. Details: 619-994-9367. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

"South Pacific" is current production for actors of San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts, December 14-16. Tickets: \$7. Find campus at 2425 Dusk Drive. Showtimes: 619-475-8556. (PARADISE HILLS)

Contemporary and Classic Band Literature promised when Palomar Concert Band celebrates the season on Thursday, December 14, 8 p.m., in Howard Brubeck Theatre at Palomar College (1140 West Mission Road, 760-744-1150 x2453). \$12 general. (SAN MARCOS)

Christmas at the Backyard, concert series continues (indoors) with performances by 12 artists, Friday, December 15, 7 p.m., at Community Reformed Church (777 West Felicita Avenue). Free. 760-746-1322. (ESCONDIDO)

"Wishes and Candles: A Holiday Concert Celebrating Life, Peace, and Hope" offered by 120-voice San Diego North Coast Singers, Friday, December 15, 7 p.m., at San Dieguito United Methodist Church (170 Calle Magdalena). Program for youth chorus includes folk and classical music, seasonal music. \$12 general, \$5 students. 760-944-1866.

The Circus Story "An Angel's Gift" written by circus veteran Cheryl Lindley is presented by Lindley Lopez Circus on Friday and Saturday, December 15 and 16, at San Diego City College Saville Theater (at 15th and C Street). Holiday show includes combination of circus, theater, original music. Performances at 7:30 p.m. both days, with 3 p.m. matinee on Saturday. \$15. 619-543-0911. (DOWNTOWN)

Stand-Up at the Artist Colony, headliner is Shashi Bhatia on Friday, December 15, 8 p.m., at 101 Artist Colony (90 North Coast Highway). Also: "Boy Band of Comedy" (Zoltan, Stuart, (Zoltan, Amadeus, Brandon), local comics Ibo Brewer, Aaron Hughes, Matt Zint, \$10, 760-215-0563, (ENCINITAS)

Author Ross Anthony signs The Infinite Adventures of Rodney Appleseed, Saturday, December 16,

> To place your ad in the Wedding Guide, call 619-235-8200.

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Busy in the morning? Anthony signs books at 5 p.m. on 16th at Borders Books and Music at 159 Parkway Plaza. 619-593-5119. (CARLSBAD, EL CAJON)

Two Near-Death Experiences! Sharon Lund signs, discusses *Sacred Living, Sacred Dying: A Guide to Embracing Life and Death*, Saturday, December 16, 12:30 p.m., at Curves for Women (120 Cleveland Avenue, suite M-105). Free. 619-295-1251. (HILLGREST)

"No More Ramen" signed by Nicholas Aretakis, Saturday, December 16, 2 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (11160 Rancho Carmel Drive, 858-618-1814). Free. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN)

"Almost Home for the Holidays," annual holiday show by Pacific Coast Harmony, Saturday, December 16, 3 and 7 p.m., at Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive). Chorus and quartets perform "novel renditions" of holiday classics. \$15 general. 760-723-2294. (LA JOLLA)

Crystal Vibrations Ensemble Concert, Saturday, December 16, 7 p.m., at Shanti Yoga Center (6996 El Camino Real #C-1). Elivia Melodey makes music on her 42 crystal singing bowls, along with Native American flutes, didgeridoo, vocals. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at door. Bring blankets, pillows for "deep listening." 760-471-7304. (CARLSBAD)

"Pretty Things: The Last Generation of American Burlesque Queens" is discussed and signed by author and filmmaker Liz Goldwyn when she visits D.G. Wills Book

(7461 Girard Avenue) on Saturday, December 16, 7 p.m. Goldwyn draws on ten years of close friendships, correspondence with many of her idols. Free. 858-456-1800. (IA JOLIA)

Rock and Roll Oldies Christmas Show with tribute to Elvis and the Everly Brothers presented by Mark W. Curran and Cruisin' Oldies Showband, Saturday, December 16, 8 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). \$40 general, \$36 for students, children, 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)

"Comics That Kill 10: Kwanzaa's in the House" — Dan Bialak, Mark Gonzalez, Mark Ellis, Barry Weisenberg, Galit Levi, Jason Bang perform Saturday, December 16, 8:30 p.m., at Milano Coffee Company (8685 Rio San Diego Drive, suite B). \$6. 619-263-3335. (MISSION VALLEY)

Author Jordan Rubin discusses "extraordinary health" and signs *The Maker's Diet*, Sunday, December 17, 1:30 p.m., at Harmony Grove Spiritualist Association (2975 Washington Circle). \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. 858-673-0224. (ESCONDIDO)

An "International Holidays Celebration" is planned by South American harpist Alfredo Rolando Ortiz, Sunday, December 17, 2 p.m., at Cole Library (1250 Carlsbad Village Drive). Family program includes music celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year, more. Free. 760-602-2026. (CARLSBAD)

The Annual Holiday Sing-Along with host Johnny Hochgraefe and civic organist Carol Williams is Sunday, December 17, 2 p.m., in Spreckels Organ Pavilion. Free. 619-702-8138. (BALBOA PARK)

Herb Reed and the Platters in concert, Sunday, December 17, 7 p.m., at Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina (1380 Harbor Island Drive). Group has recorded "just under 400 songs, sold well over 89 million records." Tickets: \$50, \$60, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (HARBOR ISLAND)

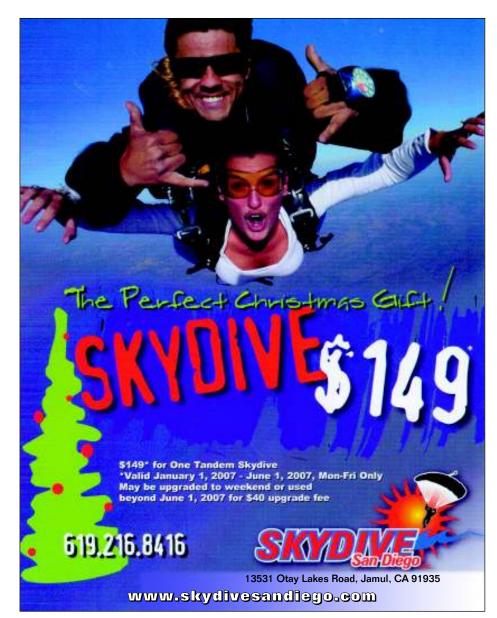
Woody Allen and His New Orleans Jazz Band in concert for UCSD's ArtPower series on Tuesday, December 19, 8 p.m. at Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). Allen is an avid clarinetist; this is the ensemble's first North American tour. Tickets: \$40, \$60, \$85, available at 858-534-TIXS.

Mesa College Guitar Ensemble performs blend of classical, popular pieces in concert, Wednesday, December 20, 7 p.m., at Clairemont Library (2920 Burgener Boulevard). 858-581-9935. Free. (CLAIREMONT)

SPORTS

ISF Surf Team competition, Saturday and Sunday, December 16 and 17, 7 a.m.—4:20 p.m., on south side of Oceanside Pier. Free for spectators. 760-931-1450. (OCEANSIDE)

Riding the Roads, join Knickerbikers for 23-mile ride on Saturday, December 16, starting at Cheezy Pizza (5583 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard) at 9 a.m. Mostly quiet neighborhood streets, ups and downs to Mission Trails Regional Park visitors' center. Bring money for lunch (optional). 858-279-9863. (CLAIREMONT)





Ultimate Frisbee Clinic for beginners, Saturday, December 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Mariner's Point on Mission Bay. Learn to throw, lay out. No experience required. Free. 858-449-3454. (MISSION BAY)

San Diego Chargers host Kansas City Chiefs in Qualcomm Stadium, Sunday, December 17, 5:15 p.m. Game broadcast on CBS; listen on radio station KIOZ, Rock 105.3. Tickets for future games start at \$54, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS).

The San Diego Wildcats play basketball against Big Valley, Sunday, December 17, 5:05 p.m., at EastLake High School (1120 East-Lake Parkway). \$5. 619-696-5123. (CHULA VISTA)

Horned Frogs versus Huskies! Texas Christian University Horned Frogs and Northern Illinois University Huskies meet up for Poinsettia Bowl football game, Tuesday, December 19, 5 p.m., at Qualcomm Stadium, Tickets: \$28-\$50, available through Ticketmaster

(619-220-TIXS). (MISSION VALLEY)

Call in Sick and join Sierra Club bicyclists for "San Clemente Century" on Wednesday, December 20. Ride starts at 6:30 a.m. at DeAnza Cove. Bring money for lunch, photo ID for access to Camp Pendleton. During 100-plus-mile ride expect moderate hills, peppy pace. 619-571-

The 2006 Pacific Life Holiday **Bowl** between California Golden Bears and Texas A&M Aggies is Thursday, December 28, 5 p.m., in Qualcomm Stadium. Tickets: \$55-\$75, available through Ticketmaster. 619-283-5808. (MISSION VALLEY)

SPECIAL

"The Writer's Muse: L. Frank Baum and the Hotel del Coronado" commemorates one of the Hotel Del's most celebrated guests. Baum wintered at Del beginning in 1904 and penned several of his Oz books during his stays. Exhibit with "rarely viewed items" on loan from Baum's family continues through Wednesday, February 28, in donor corridor of San Diego State University's Love Library (5500 Campanile Drive). Free. 619-594-6791. (SDSU)

Garden of Lights, 11th annual event boasts gardens decorated with 90,000-plus sparkling lights on plants and trees at Quail Botanical Gardens (230 Quail Gardens Drive). Holiday Garden of Lights can be enjoyed 5-9 p.m., December 14-23 and December 26-30. Holiday crafts, live entertainment, marshmallow roasting, children's activities, and food (for sale). Admission: \$8 general, \$3 for those 3-12, free for kids under 3. 760-436-3036. (ENCINITAS)

Holiday in the Park celebrated in Old Town State Historic Park

PRETTY THINGS

The Last Generation of American Burlesque Queens author Liz Goldwyn, Saturday, December 16, D.G. Wills

<u>OUT & ABOUT</u>

(SEE IN PERSON)



through December 19. "Stories of the Season" presented by Boosters of Old Town on Friday and Saturday, December 15 and 16, with holiday stories and costumed vignettes throughout park. Strolling carolers and storytellers share legends of Old Town.

Congregation of Kehilat Ariel presents dancing, songs, stories, foods of Hanukkah, Tuesday, December 19, onstage at Plaza del Pasado.

Events are free. 619-297-3100. (OLD TOWN)

Gem Faire — over 80 manufacturers, wholesalers, importers offering jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, and minerals, December 15-December 17, at Scottish Rite Center (1895 Camino del Rio South). Show hours: noon-7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.

Weekend pass: \$5. 760-390-3599. (MISSION VALLEY)

Holiday in the Park Candlelight Tours with period-attired guides leading tours, 6-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, December 15 and 16, starting at 4002 Wallace Street in Old Town State Historic Park. Tour includes candle dance performed by Los Bailadores, campfire at Chuck Wagon, period guitar music. \$5 general. 619-220-5422. (OLD TOWN STATE PARK)

Toys for Tots Auto Swap, Saturday, December 16, 6 a.m.-2 p.m., at Qualcomm Stadium. Vehicles on display and for sale, along with 'acres of parts and accessories." Bring new, unwrapped toy to donate and receive "continental breakfast." Admission: \$5 general, kids under 13 free. 858-484-9342. (MISSION VALLEY)

California Wolf Center hosts public programs focusing on North American gray wolves every Saturday at 2 p.m. Programs include slide show, visit and tour with resident wolf pack. Tickets: \$8 general, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children ten and younger. Required reservations: 619-234-WOLF. (JULIAN)

"The Education of Henry Adams" discussed when Great Books Reading and Discussion Group meets Saturday, December 16, 2 p.m., in third-floor conference room of San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Newcomers welcome. Free. 619-440-5625.

Twilight Tours of Marston House offered Saturday, December 16, starting on half-hour between 5 and 7 p.m. Docent-led tours of the holiday-decorated Marston House are also offered Fridays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., through Sunday, January 7. \$5. Find Marston House at 3525 Seventh Avenue. 619-232-6203.

Time for Mochitsuki! Mochi is sweet, glutinous rice that is washed, steamed, ground, pounded with mallets, cooled, and shaped into little round "cakes," then used in variety of recipes. Make mochi in traditional manner all day on Sunday, December 17, at Buddhist Temple of San

Diego (2929 Market Street). Labor-intensive process to create about 2500 pounds of mochi is annual fundraiser. Spend all day or just an hour. Requested donation: \$4 per one-pound bag. 619-239-0896. (GOLDEN HILL)

Hot Rodders Barbecue IX is Sunday, December 17, noon-4 p.m. at Hot Rod Surf (3760 Hancock Street). Owners of traditional hot rods, choppers, custom sleds, and muscle cars "can arrive early to show off their rides." Live music by Deadbolt and other bands, barbecue. Free, 619-688-2668, (SPORTS ARENA)

Old-Fashioned Christmas Caroling is planned on Sunday, December 17, Ramona Trails Association hosts event, when horseback riders, people with llamas, others on foot or bike dress in holiday attire and decorate their animals, and go house-to-house in Ramona Acres to carol for an hour. Gather in staging area behind Rotanzi and Vermont Streets at 2 p.m.; meander through Acres from 3 p.m. Free. 760-789-3576.

"Christmas...San Diego Style" is theme for 35th annual San Diego Bay Parade of Lights, Sunday, December 17. Parades begin with fireworks at 5:30 p.m. Route: Shelter Island, passing Harbor Island, Seaport Village, Marina Park, across bay to Coronado, ending near Navy carrier turning basin. Free. 619-224-2240. (SAN DIEGO BAY)

Secular Winter Solstice Party hosted by Association for Rational Inquiry and Humanist Association, Sunday, December 17, 6 p.m., in Joyce Beers Community Center (4065 Vermont Street). Groups will gather for refreshments, watch South Park and Penn and Teller episodes. Free. 760-445-8112. (HILLCREST)

"Dancing with the Stars" Dec 19

Peter White Dec. 23 Jamie Foxx Dec. 26

Incubus Jan 12

Guns N' Roses Jan. 16

Monster Jam Jan. 20

Lisa Lampanelli Jan. 26

"Disney on Ice"

Jan. 30-Feb. 4

Maná Feb. 10

The Roots Feb. 12

Sunercross Feb 17

WWE Smackdown Feb. 20

Justin Timberlake

Holiday Bowl

Cal vs. Texas A&M Dec. 28



Cheetah Girls

The Who Mar. 1 Christina Aguilera Mar. 2 **Snow Patrol** Mar. 3 **Doodlebops** Mar. 4 **Eric Clapton** Mar. 15 Pat Metheny Mar. 23 Rod Stewart Mar. 25 Boney James Mar. 28

Lyle Lovett Feb. 28

Chargers Games & Plavoffs! vs. Chiefs Dec. 17

vs. Cardinals Dec. 31

Josh Groban Apr. 6

Gwen Stefani Apr. 22

Poinsettia Bowl Dec. 19

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"Economic Globalization — Is America Worse Off?" Discuss topic on Thursday, December 21, 7 p.m., at Other Side Coffee House, 4096 30th Street. Free. 619-421-1879. (NORTH PARK)

A "Paper Theatre Festival" by staff of Arts Libraries at UCSD is underway. In the Victorian era, families purchased theater posters, cut and paste together scale-model replicas; scripts were included, so families could mount their own productions. An exhibit of paper theaters, materials outlining history of the art form, paper optical toys continues through January in exhibit cases of UCSD's Geisel Library (lower level, west wing). Free. 858-534-8074. (LA JOLLA)

Holiday of Lights at Del Mar Fairgrounds is display of seasonal festive lights, with holiday-themed displays and more than 400 displays on view through Monday, January 1. Visitors view lighted creations from their vehicles, driving along 1.5-mile route through fairgrounds, around racetrack.

Hours: 5:30-10 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays, 5:30 to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Admission: \$13 per vehicle (up to five people), \$18 per vehicle with six or more people. 858-793-5555. (DEL MAR)

Skating by the Sea, $\operatorname{outdoor}$ ice-skating rink overlooking Pacific Ocean remains open for skating through December at Hotel del Coronado (1500 Orange Avenue). Three-hour skating sessions begin at 2 and 6 p.m. daily (\$20 general, \$15 for kids), with two-hour sessions beginning at 11 a.m. on weekends (\$15 for adults, \$10 for kids). Hours change on Decem-

ber 19. Skate rental: \$5. 619-435-6611. (CORONADO)

Ring in 2007! Year-end bellringing Buddhist ritual purges 108 frailties and passions experienced during year, allowing for fresh new year. Program includes history of Friendship Bell, sutra chanting, incense offering; participants take turns swinging rope guiding big wooden log against huge bonsho bell during ceremony on Sunday, December 31, at 11:30 p.m. Shelter Island Friendship Bell is located at 1402 Shelter Island Drive: 619-239-0896. Dress warmly. Free. (SHELTER ISLAND)

Mission Hills Celebrates 99th **Anniversary** with events on Saturday, January 20, at Francis Parker Elementary School (4201 Randolph Street). "Preserving Bungalows — Green Homes for



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Reading

Building Red America: The New Conservative Coalition and the Drive for Permanent Power



Thomas B. Edso

By Thomas B. Edsall Basic Books, 2006, 320 pages, \$26

FROM THE BOOK JACKET:

A powerful and disturbing examination of American politics and how the Republican Party gained the upper hand in national elections. Edsall takes us into the operation of the power brokers and the issues that galvanize voters. The Republican Party has become a coalition of the socially and economically dominant,

while the Democratic Party has become an alliance of the disadvantaged and those who identify with them.

WHAT THE CRITICS ARE SAYING:

"Comprehensive and insightful."

— Publishers Weekly

"Mr. Edsall does a nimble job of...buttressing his assessments with lots of demographic and polling data and situating them in a historical context." — The New York Times

"A penetrating examination of the Republicans' permanent campaign — and the Democrats' still-formidable disadvantages — from *Washington Post* senior political reporter Edsall. Though not without ideological bias, Edsall presents a compelling analysis.... An intraparty insurgency, à la Goldwater

and Reagan in the GOP, might be the only way to disrupt the Democrats' ossification." — Kirkus Reviews

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Thomas Edsall covered national politics for the Washington Post for 25 years. He is a special correspondent for The New Republic and frequent contributor to The Atlantic, The New York Review of Books, Harper's, The Nation, American Prospect, Dissent, and The Washington Monthly. His previous book was Chain Reaction: The Impact of Race, Rights, and Taxes. Mr. Edsall recently received an eight-year appointment to the Pulitzer Moore chair

at Columbia University, New York.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR:

"So how far ahead are the Republicans in building Red America? You write that they've harnessed the financial power of the corporate sector and all its expertise, and that that's made them tremendously strong in marketing themselves and undermining rivals. They've used the technology; they've created all these institutes, think tanks, internship programs; they've got 1200 lobyists working full-time in Washington. Having corralled this tremendous economic engine,

do the Democrats really stand a chance?"

"They do, right now, when the Republicans screw up, and the Republicans screwed up royally in Iraq. They screwed up on the corruption front and then they screwed up in the Mark Foley case. But they still, at this moment, retain a lot of strategic and tactical advantages."

"What role did pollster Matt Dowd play in turning the Republican Party to the right?"

"He was crucial because after the 2000 election he found in his polling that the swing voter had become almost extinct and was no longer a significant force, only six percent. The conserva-

"Abortion, gay marriage, affirmative action all split Democratic constituencies and are useful for winning voters from the opposition."

the 21st Century" presented by "bungalow expert," preservationist, designer, author Jane Powell at 12:30 p.m. She'll provide insights into appreciating, preserving older homes, \$20.

"Good Housekeeping" is theme for 90-minute walking tour starting at 2:15 p.m. During tour, learn about historic paint colors, "sensitive additions and remodels," more. \$15. Attend both events for \$30. Reservations: 619-497-1193. (MISSION HILLS)

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Lynn Trimble through Sunday, December 17, at Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater. Next up: *The Merry Christmas Show* by Puppet Express and Weaver's Tales, December 20–23. Showtimes: 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday–Friday; 11 a.m., 1 and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Find theater near Aerospace Museum. Admission: \$3 for children, \$4 seniors, \$5 general. 619-544-9203. (BALBOA PARK)

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" is presented by La Jolla San Diego Junior Theatre through December 17 at Firehouse YMCA Community Center (7877 Herschel Avenue). Ponder the meaning of Christmas in classic tale by cartoonist Charles M. Schulz. Perfor-

mances begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, at 2 and 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. \$10–\$15. 619-239-8355.

"Madeline's Christmas," based on the classic Ludwig Bemelmans story, continues through December 23, performed by South Bay San Diego Junior Theatre. Performances begin at 7 p.m. on Fridays, at 2 and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays at Theatre on Third (250 3rd Avenue). Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 youths. 619-239-8355. (CHULA VISTA)

Botany for Kids plant walk in search of San Diego's native plants, Saturday, December 16. Walk starts at 11 a.m. at corner of Mendocino and Greene Streets. Free.

Hosted by Coastal Sage. 619-223-5229. (POINT LOMA)

Winter Storm Watch, why is ocean so exciting during winter? Explore how storms contribute to local wave conditions, how scientists measure waves, make surf forecasts, and more during family day, Saturday, December 16, 11 a.m.—3 p.m., at Birch Aquarium at Scripps (2300 Expedition Way). Activities, demonstrations. Surfing authors Michael and Milton Willis discuss ocean awareness and safety, sign *Discover the Greatness in You* (1 p.m.). Reservations: 858-534-7336. (IA JOLLA)

Explore Structures when Reuben H. Fleet Science Center hosts family science day, Saturday,

December 16, noon–3 p.m. Participants "make a free science experiment" to take home. Included in regular admission. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

"Once on This Island" presented by Broadway Theatre Arts Academy, December 16 and 17, at Lyceum Theatre in Horton Plaza. Cast includes 31 local young actors on "a mythical island in the Caribbean." Curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. \$15. 760-735-3302. (DOWNTOWN)

Family Fun activities planned Sunday, December 17, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., at Maritime Museum. Children 12 and under admitted free, with activities including mini-boat races, pirate flag and treasure map mak-

ing, rides on historic 1914 *Pilot* boat. Adults pay regular admission; children must be accompanied by adult to enter for free. Find museum at 1306 North Harbor Drive, along Embarcadero. 619-234-9153 x101.

Animal Tales Told, and crafts, stories, and animals are part of fun on Sunday, December 17, 1 p.m., at San Diego Humane Society and SPCA (5500 Gaines Street). For kids four–eight years old. Donation: \$2. Reservations: 619-243-3432. (LINDA VISTA)

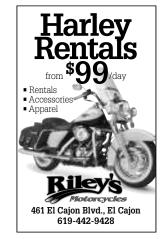
Kids' Day Train, one-hour vintage train experience for children offered at Campo Railroad Museum at 10 a.m. on third Tuesday of each month, including December 19. Find the depot on Highway 94 at Forrest Gate Road. Tickets: \$15 general, \$5 for those 6–12, free for kids 5 and younger. Required reservations: 619-465-7776.

Learn About Hospital Point Beach Critters when Birch Aquarium at Scripps hosts Tidepooling for Tots led by aquarium naturalist, Wednesday, December 20, 2:30—4 p.m. Fee: \$12 per adult, \$8 per child. Required reservations: 858-534-7336. (LA JOLLA)

"Graham Cracker Kids" Series Author Debbie Larkin sings festive songs, reads holiday stories, Wednesday, December 20, 5 p.m., at Carmel Valley Library (3919













tive vote [nine million had earlier voted for George Wallace] was much larger. Independent voters were nearly fully committed to one candidate and party or another. The result of the poll was to change Republican political strategies. Instead of trying to persuade voters in the middle, the strategy shifted to building larger constituencies out of people who are already sympathetic - to expand the conservative vote as opposed to pursuing moderates and centrists."

These moderates, centrists, or independents - even after this last election, are they still seen as insignificant?"

"No," says Edsall, "this last election marked the reemergence of the moderate voter. And even the constituencies that appeared to be moving to the Republican column actually

showed quite significant movement toward the Democratic Party, suggesting that they are not locked in stone and that they could be moved from one party to another. That they are, in fact, swing voters."

"So that somewhat undercuts Dowd's appraisal."

"It does.

"In this winner-take-all American electoral system, will the independents ever gain representation for their views and interests? I mean, they appear, vote, and then they disappear when the election is over.

"Well..." Edsall pauses. "They get good representation if the candidates see them as crucial to their victories. Then the victors are going to be looking toward representing those independent voters because they are important to keep in the fold. If they're not viewed as crucial to future wins, then they are going to be passed over. You can argue that the Bush administration in its policies really passed over the center. Whether the Democrats now, after having won with a lot of moderate and independent voters, will try to represent that segment of the electorate is another question. We just don't know yet.

"What do Rusty Sharp, Jeff Christie, and Rush Limbaugh have in common?"

"They are all the same person we now know as Rush Limbaugh. Those were his other noms de guerre as a broadcaster.'

"Talk radio – what role did it play in building Red America?"

'Talk radio was very significant. It became a mobilizing tool, and I think Rush Limbaugh was crucial in that, for a lot of

angry white men, in particular, he captured their anger and put a voice on it. He legitimized a lot of the feelings they had and had not been able to put into words. and Limbaugh turned it into a very profitable, high visibility, and seemingly respected format."

"What are anger points and wedge issues?"

"Anger points are what Republicans have found to be the issues that most anger or irritate voters, and are one of the best vehicles to get them to actually go and cast votes for their candidates. Gays, guns, and God. Anger is one of the best motivating forces for a voter. A wedge issue is very similar although it is used to divide the opposition. Abortion, gay marriage, affirmative action all split Democratic constituencies and are useful for winning voters from the

"The Republicans have pushed the boundaries fairly consistently. The goal of winning supersedes a lot of ethical boundaries."

opposition."

"Why are white males exiting the Democratic Party?'

"Starting with the civil rights movement and then with the women's rights movement, white males abandoned the Democratic Party in droves. They saw it as no longer supporting policies and programs that benefited them, such as unemployment

programs and New Deal kind of programs, but instead pushing for policies that were specifically targeted to benefit minorities or women. Affirmative action was the most clear of those."

"And the Democrats are actually gaining female voters, is that right?"

'Yes, they have gained (continued on page 90)

Townsgate Drive). Free. 858-552-1668. (CARMEL VALLEY)

Family Festival Pops Concert,

with music by San Diego Symphony led by Matthew Garbutt, San Diego Master Chorale, San Diego Children's Choir, and Crusader Bells, Saturday, December 23, 2 p.m. in Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). Tickets: \$7-\$22, or \$30 for family of four. Reservations: 619-235-0804. (DOWNTOWN)

MUSEUMS

Chinese Historical Society and Museum, collection of colorful

paintings by farmers from Shandong Province depicting their daily life of farming, fishing, festivities continues through December.

See artifacts from San Diego's

Chinese and Chinese-American history, culture, and art. Current museum artifacts include a 1920s warlord's bed, exhibits on Chinese footbinding and Chinese-American veterans. The museum is in a building originally built in 1927 for the Chinese Mission. Adjacent to the building is an Asian garden with koi pond and waterfall. Find the museum at 404 Third Avenue (at I Street). 619-338-9888. (EAST VILLAGE)

Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, the museum locates, collects, documents, and preserves historical gas-, steam-, and horsepowered equipment related to agriculture and the general development of America. The collection is made up of equipment used in lumbering, mining, oil drilling, and construction industries. Blacksmith and wheelwright shop, country kitchen and parlor, steam-operated saw

mill, and 1/3-scale train. Find the museum at 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue, 760-941-1791, (VISTA)

Bonita Museum and Cultural Center, 14th annual "Teller Magi Festival," boasting over 750 sets of Wise Men from more than 50 countries, closes Saturday, Jan-

The museum highlights the history of the Sweetwater Valley from the mid-1800s, with historical photographs; artifacts, tools, and farming implements; the district's 1953 fire engine; and bound copies back to the 1930s of the Chula Vista Star News. Find the museum at 4355 Bonita Road; 619-267-5141. (BONITA)

Campo Railroad Museum,

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

Interpretive 1.5-hour train rides offered each weekend (11 a.m., 2:30 p.m.) over portion of the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway. Find the depot on Highway 94 at Forrest Gate Road. 619-465-7776. (CAMPO)

Chula Vista Heritage Museum

the museum features glimpses of Chula Vista's past; exhibits feature lemon packing crate labels, photographs of downtown Chula Vista, doors and adobe blocks from the original Star newspaper building, and relics from the Otay Watch Company. Find the museum at 360 Third Avenue. 619-420-6916. (CHULA VISTA)

Creation Museum, a museum contrasting the evolution and creation world views is found at 10946 Woodside Avenue North. For more information, call 619-448-0900 x231 (SANTEF)

Gemological Institute of America Museum, permanent exhibits include displays depicting science and art of gemstones and history, lore and cultural signifi-

NEW

cance of jewelry. Find the GIA at 5345 Armada Drive. Required reservations: 800-421-7250 x4116. (CARLSBAD)

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

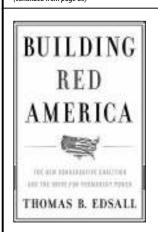








Reading



women, but over the past 30 years what was significant was the loss of white males. It used to be that the Democratic Party

was clearly the majority party. Now it is, at best, just competitive with the Republican Party, which is 87% white males. It has suffered bigger losses than it has had gains.

"It's anecdotal," I say, "but a good many Republican women have confided that they would never vote for anybody, from no matter which party, who opposed abortion. Their attitude is that there is just no going back to those days. Is that a visible pattern at all in the acquisition of female voters by the Democrats?"

"Yeah, among suburban voters, especially well-educated and working suburban women in many areas of the country. And when you look at the whole west coast. Democrats have made huge gains there, and a lot of it has to do with both abortion and the other social issues, the whole opposition to the religious right, the support of sexual privacy, and in some cases even support of gay rights."

"Is there something basically wrong with the Democratic Party, something inherently askew?"

"The Democrats are split on issues of trade, and the party is dominated by a well-edu-cated, very socially liberal elite that holds a lot of values not shared by its lower-workingclass and poorer constituents, who are 60% of the party. All of those factors make it vulnerable to attack. I'm now working on the issue of what the Democrats need to do to get past this. I think the Democratic Party's success in the western states was a potentially significant signal that there are new ways of

approaching issues with a combination of libertarian principles and support for the rights of all individuals, including women, gays, and everybody, as opposed to the emphasis on group rights. But, again, it's a very tentative start.

"When Pat Buchanan worked as an aide to Nixon, he seemed to articulate an absolute state of war between Republicans and Democrats. Is it accelerating; is it at a point now that it's almost uncontrollable?"

"I don't know, but the Republicans have pushed the boundaries fairly consistently. The goal of winning supersedes a lot of ethical boundaries. In the last election you saw that in Tennessee with some of the ads used against Harold Ford. This was just after the Republican Party leader"Are politicians dumber than ordinary humans?"

ship had apologized for using racial issues to win in the past, and then they proceeded once again to use racial issues to

"Do you have any concerns or fears about voting machines and the possibility of tampering with them?"

"Yeah, clearly there seem to be problems. In the last election, in Florida, apparently there was an 18.000-vote undercount in Sarasota. Something is going on. Whether it is under the control of some political agent, that I don't know."

"Are politicians dumber than ordinary humans?"

I elicit no laugh. Tom Edsall is thinking about it. "They're probably less introspective," he says, "less self-reflective."

"Who is going to win the next presidential election?"

'I wish I knew."

"If it's Hillary versus McCain?" I prompt.

"If I had to put my money on somebody, I'd say McCain. I think John McCain.

- Juris Jurjevics

museum is located at 3525 Seventh Avenue; 619-298-3142. (HILLCREST)

Heritage Museum, an interpretive wall, replicas of the early post office and general store, and a school room are part of this 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; 858-679-8587. (POWAY)

House of Pacific Relations, International Cottages are open every Sunday, noon-4 p.m., presenting history and traditions of 30 ethnic groups. On fourth Tuesday of each month, Children Around the World videos screened in Hall of Nations, select cottages open. 619-538-4069, (BALBOA PARK)

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

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park, old adobe buildings were once vacation retreat and working rancho of actor Leo Carrillo. Tours on Saturdays (11 a.m., 1 p.m.) and Sundays (noon, 2 p.m.). Find Rancho de los Quiotes at 6200 Flying

LC Lane. 760-476-1042. (CARLSBAD)

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

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, "Origins in Space: Spin-Offs in Science and Technology" chronicles scientific accomplishments and technological spin-offs resulting from NASA missions. How have these discoveries

entered our everyday lives?

Ongoing exhibitions include "More Than Meets the Eye" (through May), "Aging for All "San Diego Science Showcase," "Kid City" (for preschoolers), "The Best of Symmetry and Signals," and "TryScience!" "Comet Impact" is theme for motion simulator ride. Films are

shown daily in the IMAX theater. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARI

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

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

San Diego Automotive Museum,

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

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

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

Museum of San Diego History, career of local artist is highlighted in Belle Baranceau: The Artist at Work." Baranceau was "one of the foremost expressionist painters of the 1920s and 1930s" who moved to San Diego in 1933 and received assignments from the WPA. Two of her murals are still in their original locations at Balboa Park Club and La Jolla post office. Exhibit provides broad overview of her career, look at her creative process.

Through Tuesday, May 29. "Nikkei Youth Culture: Past, Present, Future" includes photographs, documents, school yearbooks, military medals, clothing to illustrate children's and teenagers' activities from early 1900s to present day. Exhibit includes look at experiences of Japanese-American youths living in World War II internment camps. Through Monday, March 5.

The museum is located in the Casa de Balboa building; 619-232-6203. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Maritime Museum, Taming the Pacific Swell: The Evolution of Surfing" continues through January, tracing history of modern surfing from its Hawaiian beginnings to billion-dollar industry it is today. Changes in surfboard design used to illustrate evolution of the sport.

The museum features permanent exhibits documenting the history of San Diego's waterfront and the building of the West Coast by sea, the old San Diego-Coronado ferryboats, the tuna fishing industry, and the military. The museum fleet consists of the 1863 bark Star of India, the 1898 San Francisco ferryboat Berkeley, and the 1904 Scottish steam yacht Medea. The H.M.S. Surprise, used in film Master and Commander, is permanently on exhibit; see artifacts, costumes, props used in making of the flick. Also open for touring: a B-39 Soviet attack submarine, among the largest conventionally powered submarines ever built. This Project 641/Foxtrot class diesel-electric submarine was designed to track U.S. and NATO warships throughout the Earth's oceans. There are also nautical exhibits, ship carpenters, model building, ships in bottles, woodcarvers, and a complete research library.

The museum is located at 1306 North Harbor Drive, along the Embarcadero at corner of North Harbor Drive and Ash Street; 619-234-9153. (DOWNTOWN)

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

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

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





TCP #14364



Mexico in Black and White

"A revolution is not a tea party."

ne of the most extensive photographic archives anywhere, the Instituto Nacional de Antropologia y Historia in Mexico City, houses nearly 500,000 images originally thought to have been made by Agustín Casasola,

a photojournalist born in 1874 who documented the painful transformations in his country before, during, and after the Revolution. Scholars have deter-

mined that the enormous body of work attributed to Casasola was actually the product of numerous photographers, including his brother. Casasola had erased from negatives the names of the original photographers and substituted his own. No matter, really, since the archive's critical importance lies not in any signature style or personal artistic development but in its epic yet detailed mosaic of a country that took itself apart and tried to reinvent itself. Mexico: The Revolution and Beyond, an exhibition that draws generously from the Casasola archive, currently at the Museum of Photographic Arts, narrates episodes in the lives of rich and poor, the powerful and the dispossessed, insiders and outsiders. In troubled times, the photojournalist's first instinct is to chase trouble and with brutal immediacy freeze-frame trauma, day-to-day-ness, and change.

When Casasola, who started out as a typesetter's apprentice, took up photography in the late 19th Century, the medium was changing. The new halftone printing process, which broke down an image into differently shaped dots, expanded the black-and-white palette to include a new range of grays and finer degrees of resolution. Gun smoke looked different now. Now soldiers' fingernail grime and the rim-markings on their cartridges became visible. The sky looked bluer than ever, though it still wasn't blue at all. Close-ups of people, things, and events made subjects almost palpable.

The times were changing, too, and Casasola's photographs teem with what a later writer, Elias Canetti, would describe as the most potent political entity of modern history: the crowd. (His

Crowds and Power should be required reading for undergraduates everywhere.) The new crowd wielded power of different kinds: sociopolitical, commercial, and technological. A 1906 photo of a National Independence Day parade in down-

town Mexico City shows the military class strutting their stuff while a mighty counterforce of urban workers and *campesinos* presses close. (A sea of sombreros

in several pictures represents an oppressed population's incipient power primed to be released and channeled.) Elsewhere we see a demonstration of angry out-of-work laborers in front of union offices. (More hats.) In one post-Revolution image, we look down on the comic bad dream of a Mexico City traffic jam caused by a cabbie and limo-driver strike. The middle class, before and after the Revolution, were able to afford more automobiles, but the city's infrastructure, shaky at the best of times, lacked traffic signals. A picture illustrating the judicial system depicts another result of the Revolution: to decide famous cases, popular juries were convened — about 150 "jurors" packed the courthouse and shouted their verdict.

The history paralleling the pictures runs as follows. A coup in 1876 placed in power General José de la Cruz Porfirio Díaz. A hard-line law and order man, Don Porfirio, as he was called, cracked down on crime, social unrest, and dissent of any kind. He created the Rurales, tough paramilitaries who hunted down criminals (and subversives) in the countryside. He worked to modernize his country by centralizing power and building infrastructure. He created railroads, which expedited trade and commerce but also allowed the government to quickly dispatch troops to trouble spots; he extended the telegraph throughout the country; he initiated universal schooling, including special schools for the disabled. Another perspective on these progressive initiatives is that each one extended and consolidated Don Porfirio's autocratic powers, for he expedited modernization by squashing opposition, jailing journalists, and



Revolutionary leader Francisco I. Madero arriving at the national palace escorted by military academy cadets, Mexico City, February 1913

Mexico: The Revolution and Beyond — Photographs by Agustín Victor Casasola, 1900–1940

Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park Through Sunday, January 7, 2007. For additional information, call 619-238-7559.

having political dissidents murdered. With the growing prosperity of the middle class that Díaz's policies encouraged — documented by Casasola's politically neutral photos of fashionably dressed socialites, theatrical entertainments, and new housing — came bigger, badder slums and a miserably unhappy underclass of meat-cutters, glass blowers, shoe makers, and newspaper binders, all documented in the Casasola archive.

In 1911, 130 armed revolutionaries crossed the Texas border, heading south to Mexico City, led by Francisco I. Madero, later elected president of the republic. Madero's match lit a fire that burned through the parched grass of all the passed-over populations in Don Porfirio's Mexico. Northern revolutionaries were led by the former bandit Pancho Villa, southerners by Emiliano Zapata. Railroads were taken out, haciendas invaded, Mexico City rendered

vulnerable. Díaz abdicated in 1911, Madero's presidency was soon opposed by the Zapatistas and eventually overthrown by a former Díaz henchman. By 1923, Zapata and Villa had been assassinated (Casasola photographed both many times, as unsmiling rough-at-the-edges bravehearts, then as corpses); one million had died in the conflict; the economy was in shreds. As the New York journalist Pete Hamill, who had spent many years in Mexico, wrote in his catalog essay, Casasola showed other Mexicans and the entire world that "a revolution is not a tea party."

The pictures in the exhibition show it all. The Revolution distributed its own cruelties, established its own pantheon of heroic types, chief among them Zapata and Villa, of course, but also the most adored image of revolutionary conviction, the "soldaderas," female revolutionaries who assisted and fought alongside their revolution-



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Emiliano Zapata, c. 1916

ary brothers. The most ambiguous and ferocious image in the exhibition illustrates the equal-opportunity brutality exercised by both the Presidential palace in its time and the Rev-



Arrested homosexuals pose for the camera at the police station, Mexico City, c. 1935

olutionary cadres: in Casasola's shot of the moment of execution of the "Gray Automobile Gang" in 1919, through a blur of gunpowder smoke bodies sag like rag dolls or seize up in convulsive shock. And for cultural dissonance in its purest form,

you can't improve on a 1914 double portrait of the American Consul, one Mr. Carothers, alongside Zapata. The classic potbellied white dignitary in a three-piece suit beams with entitlement beside the severe, wiry, self-contained, but, in his caballero outfit, darkly dashing revolutionary. Both, in their different ways, are committed troublemakers. The "gimmes" in the show

are plentiful. They amuse and shake us in the same moment. Before and after the Revolution, homosexuals and prostitutes were detested by society at large and brutalized by the police. In one of Casasola's jailhouse scenes, arrested homosexuals camp it up for the camera. (The inside of a women's prison in another shot looks medieval: one guesses at the physical and psychological horrors hidden behind those windowless, solid-steel cell doors.) We see dozens of young women in a courtyard sitting at tables, blindfolded, because they're about to take a typewriting test. On a Mexico City street, an electrically powered streetcar is blocked by a herd of goats. An Indian woman accused of witchcraft sits outside a courtroom with a skull clamped between her knees. A detective

investigating a murder scene sports a gas mask that looks like a proboscis ultrasensitive to the smell of crime. Post-revolutionary governments encouraged foreign investments, so the archive -Casasola himself died in 1938 — also turns up pictures of utility company ads, Frigidaire appliances, and console radios that really do look as if they've just stood up and are about to speak to you. ■

ART LISTINGS

Events that are underlined occur after December 21.

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

GALLERIES

Artists Daniel Hacche and Mariza Sanchez have exhibition opening with reception on Thursday, December 14, 6 p.m., at Galerie d'Art International (320 South Cedros Avenue, suite 500), 858-793-0316. (SOLANA BEACH)

Diverse Group of Artists represented - from "modern masters" to contemporary artists when Madison Gallery opens with reception, Friday, December 15, 6 p.m. Find gallery at 1020 Prospect Street, suite 130, 858-459-0790. (LA JOLLA)

"Photographic Composite **Mosaics"** by Adam Lewis Smith showcased during reception on Saturday, December 16, 7 p.m., at Nature ReInvented Gallery (2539 Congress Street, suite B). 619-291-4278. (OLD TOWN)

"Within the Landscape," exhibit of fine art photographs by Lew Abulafia and Donna Cosentino opens with reception on Thursday, December 21, 6 p.m., at Ordover Project (444 South Cedros Avenue, studio 172). 858-720-1121. Closes Sunday, January 14. (SOLANA BEACH)

ART MUSEUMS

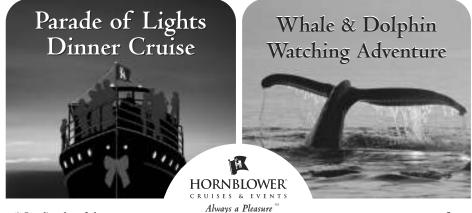
California Center for the Arts Museum, "The Migrant Project: Contemporary California Farm Workers," with photographs and text by Rick Nahmias, offers "indepth journey detailing the lives and struggles of today's California migrant farm workers." Work focuses on all aspects of migrant stories, including personal lives, family members, women's issues, creation of community.

Basic human emotions explored in paintings and mixed-media creations by Anna Zappoli Jenkins in "Where Do You Store These Dreams." Hugo Heredia's "Broken Chandeliers" boasts largescale sculptures combining glass and metal in "impossibly intimate and beautiful configurations."

"Memoria del Hombre: A Muerto de Todos Retrospective" is a site-specific installation of "objects left behind over the 12-year span of the installation."

Exhibitions close on Sunday, January 28. The museum is located at 340 North Escondido Boulevard; 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

Mingei International Museum, "Eva Zeisel — Extraordinary De-



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signer Craftsman at 100," draws on two large private California collections to chronicle the artist's 75-year career. By Zeisel's accounting, she's designed more than 100,000 objects for home and table. She was the first designer in this country to produce an all-white dinner service and first to teach ceramics as industrial design for mass production rather than as handcraft. Closes Sunday, June 10, 2007.

'Grass and Gold — Nomads of Kazakhstan" focuses on important archaeological discoveries, including those in 1998-1999 at frozen burial site of Berel. Exhibit includes gold, silver, and bronze artifacts fashioned into small animal forms along with their stories of recovery, overview of the history and culture of Kazakhstan, and mythology of the Steppes. The art objects are being shown in the U.S. for the first time. Through Sunday, April 15.

The first university furniture design class in California was offered in 1948 by SDSU professor John Dirks, whose "elegant architectural sculptures combine various woods and acrylic." The retrospective "John Dirks, Sculptor" continues through Sunday, February 11.

The Mingei is located on square with San Diego Museum of Art. 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

Mingei International Museum -North County, "Folk Art of Mexico — Selections from the Collection of Mingei International" presents contemporary objects of daily use from throughout Mexico fashioned from tin, clay, wood, paper, and fiber. Exhibit "demonstrates the importance of family, community, religion,

"Pre-Columbian Art of Mexico - Selections from the Collection of Mingei International" highlights clay and stone objects. These objects "abound with material from myth and legend." Both exhibits close on Monday, January 15. Find the museum at 155 West Grand Avenue. 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown,

"Cerca Series: Amy Adler" and "Cerca Series: Glenn Kaino" continue through Sunday, February 4. Adler creates art fusing processes and outcomes of photography and drawing; she's exhibiting 12 largeformat pastel drawings on canvas "based on a series of photographs Adler took of a young filmmaker directing Adler as the protagonist in her film." Kaino will create installations dealing with issues of individual versus group identity and aesthetic style as a form of social commentary.

See key sculptural works from permanent collection gathered in "Material Actions." All of the selected pieces "give the sentient body in action a central position in their artistic discourse." Closes Sunday, January 28.

Find the museum at 1001 Kettner Boulevard (at Broadway), directly across from the Santa Fe Railroad Depot. 619-234-1001. (DOWNTOWN)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla,

"TRANSactions: Contemporary Latin American and Latino Art" closing on Sunday, May 13 — features approximately 50 works by 48 artists from museum's permanent collection. Showcased pieces demonstrate "diversity and hybridity of contemporary Latin American art," with artists working across media and between disciplines.

Concurrently, see site-specific installation by Milwaukee-based Argentinean artist Santiago Cucullu. His art juxtaposes images of progressive, historical figures and events with his personal experiences. This piece engages the architecture and oceanfront site of museum.

"Brian Ulrich: Copia," opening Saturday, December 16, features 14 large-scale photographs documenting shopping habits of Americans. Photographs were taken in "big-box" retail stores such as Target, Wal-Mart using medium-format film camera with waist-level viewfinder; covert vantage point allowed artist to capture "massive scale and halogen clarity of the hyper-real spaces." Closes Sunday, May 13.

Find the museum at 700 Prospect Street. 858-454-3541.

Museum of Photographic Arts, "The Roads Most Traveled: Photographs of Migration by Don Bartletti" examines lives of migratory workers in search of economic survival. Exhibit including 90 photographs by Pulitzer Prize-winner Bartletti continues through Sunday, January 14.

"Mexico: The Revolution and Beyond - Photographs by Agustin Victor Casasola, 1900-1940" features more than 80 "of the best and most significant images from Casasola's archive at the Instituto Nacional de Antroplogia e Historia in Mexico City." Images document Mexican Revolution and industrial revolution in

"streets, homes, cafés, and countrysides of Mexico." Closes Sunday, January 7.

Find the museum in the Casa de Balboa building, at 1649 El Prado: 619-238-7559. (BALBOA PARK)

Oceanside Museum of Art. "Quilt Visions 2006" offers 43 works of art from 725 entries submitted by 318 artists from 20 countries. Jurors Jane Dunnewold, Patricia Malarcher, Lloyd Herman selected pieces offering "surprises in design and nontraditional materials," Closes Sunday, January 21.

Find the museum at 704 Pier View

Way. 760-721-2787. (OCEANSIDE) San Diego Museum of Art, "Personal Views: Regarding Private Collections in San Diego" features 25 "of the finest private collections to be found in the San Diego area." The collections highlight historical artworks from the 19th and 20th Centuries, including works in variety of media by Rembrandt, Cassatt, Monet, O'-Keeffe, de Kooning, Kahlo, Goldin. Closes Sunday, January 7.

"Paper Traces: Latin American Prints and Drawings from the Collection at SDMA" continues through December, highlighting approximately 60 Latin American and U.S.-Latino works on paper. The prints, drawings, posters, portfolios in exhibit "confirm the vitality of paper as a medium with a particular historic outline of its own."

"Backs," on exhibit through Sunday, February 18, focuses on backs of five paintings where important information such as age and ownership is revealed. Works are drawn from museum's European collection. Labels, inscriptions, and markings divulge details of painting's history of attribution, exhibition, ownership, sale.

For further information, call 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

Timken Museum of Art, 'Guercino: Stylistic Evolution in Focus" explores dramatic shift in artistic style of Il Guercino, considered one of the most prolific and successful artists of 17th Century. At heart of exhibit is Timken's Return of the Prodigal Son, a theme Guercino painted a number of times over his life, shown with versions on loan from Borghese Gallery in Rome, and Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna. This is the first time these three works have been shown together. Closes Sunday, January 7.

Permanent collection includes European masters, 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. 619-239-5548. (BALBOA PARK)

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

Events that are underlined occur

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

CLASSICAL

USD Student Performance Recital featuring selections from their semester repertoire, Thursday, December 14, 12:15, in French Parlor of Founders Hall, University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). Free. 619-260-4171. (LINDA VISTA)

"Mighty Music" from Handel's "Messiah," Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite," and music for Hanukkah promised during holiday programs by Westwind Brass. Concerts begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, at San Diego Museum of Art; and on Sunday, December 17, 4 p.m., at St. Paul's United Methodist Church (700 D Avenue). \$15 general. 619-501-3562, (BALBOA PARK, CORONADO)

"Messiah Sing-Along (Part I)" promised Friday, December 15, 7:30 p.m., in Founders Chapel at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). USD Symphony uses Mozart's orchestration. Bring your own score or "borrow one at the door." Donations benefit James H. Kolar Amadeus Music Fund. 619 - 260 - 4171 (LINDA VISTA)

Handel's "Messiah," arranged by Mozart, is presented by San Diego Symphony, San Diego Master Chorale, and soloists, December 15-17. Concerts begin at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday, in Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). \$20-\$85. 619-235-0804. (DOWNTOWN)

30th Annual Candlelight Musical Meditation concerts presented Saturday and Sunday, December 16 and 17, 7:30 p.m., at Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá (10818 San Diego Mission Road). Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá Choir and Classic Brass perform readings and music celebrating season. Offering. 858-492-9123, (MISSION GORGE)

"Christmas by Candlelight" presented by MiraCosta College's Chamber Chorale and Camerata Singers, Saturday, December 16, 7:30 p.m., in student center on MiraCosta College campus (One Barnard Drive), \$17 tickets include dessert. Suggested reservations: 760-757-2121. (OCEANSIDE)

"Holiday Sparklers," classical music, seasonal favorites promised when North Coast Symphony Orchestra performs December 16 and 17 in MiraCosta College Theater (One Barnard Drive). Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. \$10. 760-757-2121. (OCEANSIDE)

"Fiesta Navidad: Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano," fully staged production showcasing "authentic holiday traditions of Mexico," Saturday, December 16, 8 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Tickets: \$31-\$44. 760-839-4100. (ESCONDIDO)

Handel's "Messiah" performed by San Diego Chamber Orchestra, Sunday, December 17, 2 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Tickets: \$21-\$32. 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)

The Annual Holiday Sing-Along with host Johnny Hochgraefe and civic organist Carol Williams is Sunday, December 17, 2 p.m., in Spreckels Organ Pavilion. Free. 619-702-8138. (BALBOA PARK)

John Rutter's "Magnificat" and other holiday favorites performed by MiraCosta's San Elijo Campus Chorale, Sunday, December 17, 3 p.m., at San Dieguito United Methodist Church (170 Calle Magdalena). \$10 general. 760-795-6815. (ENCINITAS)

Daniel Pinkham's "Christmas Cantata" presented by Presidio Brass and St. James Choir, Sunday, December 17, 4 p.m., for music series at St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church (743 Prospect Street). Program includes songs from "Silent Night" to "Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer." \$25 general, free for students, children (if space permits), 858-459-3421 x109, (LA JOLLA)

Christmas Concert — with selections by Vivaldi, Bach, Schubert, Gounod, Mozart, carols and songs - planned Sunday, December 17, at Galerie d'Art International (320 South Cedros Avenue, suite 500). Participants include Stephanie Sabin (soprano), Janelle DeStefano (mezzo-soprano), Aleksandr Agamirzov (tenor), David Marshman (baritone), Janie Prim (piano). Event begins with reception at 4:30 p.m., followed by concert at 5 p.m., party at 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$30 in advance, \$35 at door. Recommended reservations: 858-793-0316. (SOLANA BEACH)

Mesa College Guitar Ensemble performs blend of classical, popular pieces in concert, Wednesday, December 20, 7 p.m., at Clairemont Library (2920 Burgener Boulevard). 858-581-9935. Free. (CLAIREMONT)

Holiday Pops! Enjoy the season musically when San Diego Symphony led by Matthew Garbutt is joined by San Diego Master Chorale, San Diego Children's Choir, and Crusader Bells, December 21-23. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday (\$20-\$65). Family Festival Pops concerts (with abbreviated program from the evening shows), Saturday, December 23, 2 p.m. (\$7-\$22, or \$30 for family of four). Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. Reservations: 619-235-0804. (DOWNTOWN)

Salute to Vienna Concert is Saturday, December 30. Cast of over 75 professional musicians, singers, dancers led by Maestro András Deák. Hungarian soprano Olga Szilágyi and tenor Zrinko Soco will perform arias and duets from Strauss operas and Viennese operettas, Members of Vienna City Ballet perform waltzes and polkas.

Events begin at 8 p.m. in Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). Tickets: \$37-\$75, available at 619-235-0804 and through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (DOWNTOWN)

The Grammy Award-Winning Chamber Ensemble Kronos Quartet plans ArtPower concert on Friday, January 19, 8 p.m., in UCSD's Mandeville Auditorium. Program includes pieces by Thirlwell, Mansell, Charke, Branca, Narayan, and Santiago. Tickets: \$32, \$36, available at 858-534-TIXS. (LA JOLLA)

Who's the Reigning King of the Violin? Classical violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman in concert, Thursday, January 25, 8 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). \$60-\$75. 760-839-4100. (ESCONDIDO)



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Caustic Chemical Lovers When SDSU iournalism major Chris Coyle wrote a CD review for My Chemical Romance's

"I was told they were too inappropriate to be on the website.... One person found my MySpace page and criticized the music I like. They said that those bands I like — the Stooges and Mudhoney and Rocket From the Crypt — meant nothing. That I was simply not open to new music.'



Black Parade album, he found out the extent of his readership.

"One person wrote, 'I wish you'd fuck off and " says Coyle, a 22-yearold senior and staff writer for "Tempo," the twiceweekly entertainment section that appears in the Daily Aztec. The review was picked up by Uwire, a news service that shares articles with other college papers.

"It ran at the University of Nebraska, some college in Georgia, and another one on the East Coast. What pissed off the most people was that I wrote that [My Chemical Romance's music is for a mass audience that is less educated. People wrote back saying I was full of crap because their school was tougher to get into than San Diego State.'

Coyle says 500 responses to his CD review were forwarded to thedailvaztec.com but that only 49 are posted.

My Chemical Romance played a sold-out show last Sunday at the Sports Arena. Coyle remains unmoved. "My Chemical Romance



COYLE RILES READERS ACROSS NATION

is...on Reprise Records, the label that gave us Linkin Park and HIM...the same label that changed Green Day from a Bay Area punk trio into a drag queen Broadway

production.... It's the great undefined generation [of music lovers]; half the people don't know where to go and

It comes from the same place of calmness we achieve in meditation. A lot [of songs] are instrumental, but some



are still listening to what MTV has to offer. The other half is clinging to the old stuff — the Pixies, Sonic Youth, and Rocket."

Coyle says his *Aztec* gig doesn't pay. "But I do get free CDs. The My Chemical Romance CD is now a coaster at my house.'

Coyle is a guitarist/singer in local bands Hollywood Begs and the Ruby Settlers.

– Ken Leighton

And They Can Cook

"All three of us really are monks, though we don't perform with shaved heads and robes," says Monk Party keyboardist Sujantra. "I spend about two months a vear studying with our spiritual meditation teacher, Sri Chinmoy, usually in New York, as does Marichi [guitarist] and Shapathanal [drummer].'

Says Sujantra, "When Sri Chinmoy goes into a meditative state, sometimes he writes simple melodies, which we then create a song around.... We call the music a 'meditative wall of sound.'

have lyrics.... In 'Like the Supreme Lord Shiva,' we sing about the Hindu god of transformation.'

Sujantra is one of the founding operators of the Normal Heights vegetarian restaurant Jyoti-Bihanga, which is a virtual shrine to Sri Chinmoy that's been run by his student followers for nearly 20 years.

We aspire to create a small corner of the world that is inundated with the spirituality and philosophy of our meditation teacher," says Sujantra.

Monk Party appears December 16 at the Pilgrimage of the Heart Yoga Studio in Normal Heights. Says Sujantra, "Our trap set drummer is in New Zealand, so I'll be switching from keyboards to Indian tablas for an acoustic night. It'll be a quiet set.... We don't usually attract guys who shout, 'Play "Free Bird"!' " – Jay Allen Sanford

Holy Hip-Hop SD native IMatth (born Iason Matthews) has been rapping since he was 9. By age 15, when he was known as JROC, he'd shared the stage with Run-DMC, CeCe Peniston, and Montell Jordan.

"My mom was my manager," says Matthews, now 25. "She got me in at 4th & B and Spreckels Theatre." When Matthews was a junior at Helix High, he moved in with his father.

"One of the rules of moving into Dad's house was I had to go to church every Sunday. I wasn't with the Spirit until I was

Rap pioneer Kurtis Blow now leads a hiphop congregation in Inglewood. The Crystal Cathedral in Orange County hosted a "Hip-Hop America" meeting in October. A megachurch known as FaithDome in South Central L.A. attracts 7000 followers to its hip-hop church service. Matthews says Christian rap has yet to bloom locally.

"It's San Diego, what can I say? Shows that sell out anywhere else don't sell out here." Matthews rails against the hip-hop culture portrayed in MTV videos.

"The so-called gangster rapper raps about stuff that they never even experienced. A lot of that is corporate America telling them, 'Put on a chain, grab this microphone, and rap these lyrics. It's guaranteed to go platinum.' And America is eating up this image of what they think a gangster should

be....
"When you know someone is not rich, it looks funny when you try to portray that you are. The big chains you buy at the mall aren't real. It's like makeup, like a costume. It's irritating when I see my little brother [wear chains]. He said, 'It's just the style.' I ask him, 'What's the point?'

Matthews works in customer relations for a



"CHRISTIAN RAP JMATTH:

major airline and raps at Greater Victory Baptist Church in Lemon Grove. Sample lyrics: "Now breathe it in/ Let it permeate the thought of your deepest sin/ Let the way I play the mike be your medicine/ A vaccination for that poison."

Though he'd like to do holy hip-hop full time, he says, "Christian rap has a bad rap.... I want to give it my all after my album comes out. My main focus will be to bring purity back to hip-

— Ken Leighton

No Slack for the DJ ${\bf A}$ couple of weeks ago, Cookie "Chainsaw" Randolph released The Trouble with Money, a 40-minute-long

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JAN 09





KELLER WILLIAMS











JAN 13



















DVD movie he wrote and directed. "We started making it in January," says Randolph, who is best known as a personality on the Dave, Shelly, and Chainsaw morning show on KGB/101.5 FM. G. Gordon Liddy, Jerry Sanders, Bob Costas, and Bill and Luke Walton appear in the comedy/chase film that was shot at Balboa Park, Petco Park, and other local

spots. The plot consists of Dave Rickards taking possession of a million dollars and then getting chased around town.

The film included a paid cameraman "and me holding a boom mike, says

Randolph. "We're not doing Citizen Kane here.

This is Randolph's second feature; his first, 2004's J-K Conspiracy, sold more than 17,000 copies and netted more than \$200,000. Throughout 2005, that money was given away to "San Diegans in need" who told their hard-luck stories on the radio show; over 160 listeners were given at least \$1000.

How did the show know

the stories were real?

"There may have been one or two that snuck through, but I have never suspected one," says Randolph. "We usually hear about [the recipients] from a third party. No one has ever ratted out one of our winners for being a ruse.'

The charity that arose from Randolph's first film didn't help when he asked for permission to use hit songs in his latest film. He says his L.A.-based song-clearance specialist was not successful in getting the rights to use Steve Miller's "Take the Money and Run," Dire Straits' "Money for Nothing," or U2's "Angel of Harlem.

"It doesn't matter if it's a



CHAINSAW UNLEASHES STAR POWER FOR CHARITY

fundraiser or not," says Randolph, who was granted no discounts for his good intentions. "We did get 'If I Had a Million Dollars,' by Barenaked Ladies." Randolph says he paid about \$7000 for that song and the rights to perform cover versions of 'Pennies from Heaven" and "Big Spender."

Entertainment lawyer David Branfman says the artists are not usually

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU

DON'T SEE EVER

overheard in San Diego: India Street

RY

NOT EVEN

AROUND HER

"I would say 99 times out of 100, the artists never even hear about their [song-use requests]." He says a songclearance fee could range from \$25,000 to \$200,000, depending on its prominence in the movie and the movie's budget. "You pay more if it's in the opening or closing segment or if it's during a particular dramatic or comedic moment in the film."

involved in licensing

decisions.

Cathy Anderson of the San Diego Film Commission says she wanted to use "Ghostbusters" for a public service video for San Diego Crimestoppers. "They wanted

\$50,000 for a one-time use. We passed. This was for a three-minute film.... I think the reason people steal songs [on the Internet] is

because [music companies] don't make it reasonable to buy them.'

The DVD (www.thetrouble withmoney.com) is sold with a "Best of Dave, Shelly, and Chainsaw" audio CD for

\$15.99 and is available at Hollywood Video stores.

– Ken Leighton

Crazy Skate-Shoe Jive

'The .45 Clash is one of our top sellers," says Globe Shoes marketing director Michael Marckx. Remaining Clash members gave consent for a shoe to be manufactured with the band's logos and imprinted lyrics to the song "London Calling."

"It was a project that took me over a year to complete and get to the market," says Marckx, a longtime Escondido resident who has drummed for locals Soul Scream and Horn If You're Honky. "We've already sold



THESE ARE THE CLASH SHOES

20,000 pairs with minimal marketing." He says the Clash shoe ("totally suitable for skaters") came about when one of his designers said he had a band contact.

"This ended up being their licensing agency, Bravado, so I sent out an initial inquiry via the designer, and

I'M TELLIN'

GUYS.

they came back to me with genuine interest.... I personally didn't get to talk to Paul [Simonon] or Mick [Jones], though I hope to someday, as we're

planning a follow-up Clash shoe."

Marckx hired a local firm to manufacture the shoebox.

"It's covered in Clash art and features actual speakers mounted on the inside, along with an iPod input jack. They work quite well."

The .45 Clash shoes retail for \$69.95 per pair.

- Jay Allen Sanford

The Long Arm of Capitalism Fifty on Their Heels (named after a Max

Brand pulp western) recently got a break. With only one small-press CD under their belt, the band landed two songs on the soundtrack to Sony's Playstation 3 game

"Cash Guns Chaos." How did it happen?

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

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According to Cat Dirt Records head Scott Pactor,



FIFTY ON THEIR HEELS, IN THE GAME

"Sony's PR person Katie Uhlman called Tim Pyles at 94/9 and asked him to list 50 bands from his iPod that fit with a '70s punk theme, and they picked us from his list.... The deal is that we give them a nonexclusive license to use [each] song, i.e., we still own it, in exchange for a one-time fee." Sony paid "low three figures for each song.'

– Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS

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





San Diego Reader December 14, 2006

Hip-Hop and Hayden

INTERVIEW

DAVE GOOD

"Are we going the way of the harpsichord and the Gregorian chant?"

pening night at the San Diego Chamber Orchestra at St. Paul's Cathedral in Hillcrest, and from the outset a visitor notices things that are out of the ordinary. First, a welcoming committee of tuxedoed orchestra

performers stands at the door in a rare display of accessibility. Later, the performers and their conductor Jung-Ho Pak walk onstage in unison; traditionally, a conductor

makes his entrance separately. The orchestra does not tune up in front of the audience, and Pak does not use a baton ("too autocratic," he has said). Finally, the orchestra remains on their feet throughout the first half of the evening's

"I asked the musicians to stand for two reasons," says Pak from his home in Monterey. "One is because that is historically what baroque musicians did. They stood in front of aristocracy...out of a sign of respect." And, he says that they play better. "That's why, when you go to a concerto, the soloist always stands up. Can you imagine how odd it would be if the clarinet soloist or a violin soloist played sitting down? That would be very odd. Can you imagine going to a rock concert and seeing the musicians sitting down?"

In January of this year, Pak was appointed artistic director of the San Diego Chamber Orchestra. He is concurrently serving in his eighth season as music director of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra in Connecticut and is the music director of the World Youth Symphony Orchestra at Interlochen in Michigan.

From 1997 through 2002, Pak conducted the San Diego Symphony, where he created idiosyncratic programs such as the Lightbulb Series. Aimed at thirtysomething listeners, the series is remembered for performances such as the one in which a French chef prepared food onstage while

the orchestra performed.

"I brought all of my baby boomer, Californiaraised, television and movie and Internetinfluenced generation to bear on the Lightbulb Series, plus my shamefully eclectic taste in world

music and pop music and jazz and rock and all these other things I grew up with [he later admits to being a huge fan of Karen Carpenter]. I'm an omnivore. I wasn't

raised in a practice room.

Pak's speech is rapid-fire and intense. After a few minutes, it becomes clear that his mission is to eliminate the barrier between performer and

"Doesn't that rob a performance of some of its mystique?" I ask.

"I think orchestras are trying desperately to remove that mystique. If you look across the country and see all the million-dollar deficits that face all the major orchestras...now everyone's trying to be hip. And I mean that in a pejorative sense. Because what they're trying to do is change the appearance of the product. And what we're trying to do is change the core of the product, the core of the experience. And that [core] is the musicians themselves.'

Pak is pleased with the results so far. "We are succeeding beyond my expectations, actually, to change the mind of the musician to realize that their job is not to play notes. Their job," he says, "ultimately, is to grab souls."

Times are hard for classical music. Budgets are shrinking, interest is waning, and commissions for new scores are thin to nonexistent. "There's been a lot of sitting on our laurels, so to speak, over the past 30 years. Meanwhile, we're losing audience because the people come and they say, 'That's interesting, that's nice, but you know, it's not a place that I want to come back [to].' And that's the true test, really," says Pak. pudding is in how often that person

gets me up in the morning," he says, "is, 'What can I do to make great art...and what can I do to give it relevance today?' Am I brave enough to say the answer is nothing? As an industry, can we wake up and look ourselves in the mirror and say, This is not working'? Are we going the way of the harpsichord and the Gregorian chant and the Model T? Is it too much to expect that the way we've been doing things for the past 150 years...is going to always live forever? Or should we expect a natural life span for this art form?"

Pak travels with a Treo 650. "It is the

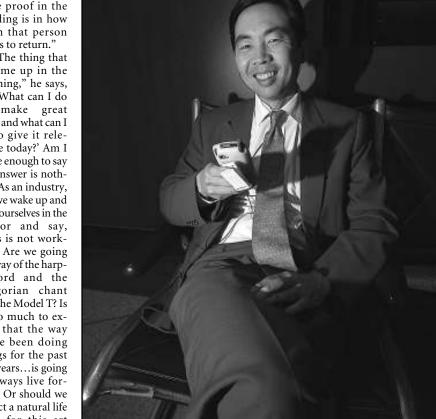
yuppie hand-held computer. Phone, I can surf the web on it, I can answer e-mails, I can do everything - and, with my expansion card, load on music. I tend to switch songs in and out quite a bit." He calls himself an inveterate downloader: "Napster, Rhapsody, and iTunes."

Jung-Ho's Top Ten Downloads:

1. Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong, Ella and

2. Frank Sinatra, Sinatra at the Sands with Count

"The proof in the wants to return." "The thing that



Jung-Ho Pak

Basie & the Orchestra

- 3. Anner Bylsma, Bach Cello Suites Nos. 1-6
- 4. Miles Davis, Sketches of Spain
- 5. Chicago, Chicago Transit Authority
- 6. Ravi Shankar and Yehudi Menuhin, West Meets
- 7. The Beatles, Sgt. Pepper's or the "White Album" 8. Igor Stravinsky, Rite of Spring
- 9. The Academy of Ancient Music/Christopher Hogwood, Mozart Symphony No. 40
- 10. Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra with Herbert von Karajan, conductor, Also Sprach Zarathustra ■

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THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

SATURDAY

Senses Fail and Saosin: Soma Saturday, December 16, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-

SUNDAY

Joanna Newsom: The Casbah, Sunday, December 17, 2501 Kettne Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

TUESDAY

The Blind Boys of Alabama: Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, December 19, 143 outh Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

WEDNESDAY

Ozomatli: House of Blues, Wednesday, December 20, 1055 Fifth Avenue Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Tha Alkaholiks: 'Canes, Wednesday, December 20, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

DECEMBER

Redman: House of Blues, Thursday December 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Jeremy Enigk: The Casbah, Thursday, December 21, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

El Vez: The Casbah, Saturday, December 23, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

Peter White: Spreckels Theatre. Saturday, December 23, 121 Broadway, downtown, 619-235-9500.

Soul Asylum: House of Blu Saturday, December 30, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Donavon Frankenreiter: House of Blues, Sunday, December 31, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

JANUARY

My Morning Jacket: House of Blues, Tuesday, January 2, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Blues Traveler: House of Blues Thursday, January 4, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

NOFX: Soma, Friday, January 5, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

Stephen Malkmus & the Jicks: The Casbah, Sunday, January 7, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-

Beres Hammond and Marcia Griffiths: 4th & B, Sunday, January 7, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Justin Timberlake and Pink: ipayOne Center, Monday, January 8, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171

Al Kooper: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, January 12, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Manhattan Transfer: California Center for the Arts, Friday, January 12, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253.

Incubus: Soma, Friday, January 12, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

The Cheetah Girls: ipayOne Center, Saturday, January 13, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171



BY WILLIAM CRAIN

My friend Lisa used to sit next to me at work, and we would distract each other by trading CDs and then arguing about them. The biggest conflict we ever had was over Joanna Newsom. When Lisa heard the strange harpist-singer, she was smitten. She quickly arranged an interview with her and got it published in a national magazine. But when Lisa lent me Newsom's Milk-Eved Mender. I thought my friend must be crazy. Newsom sounded to me like Björk as a seven-year-old or a sore-throated Kate Bush speeded up like Alvin & the Chipmunks.

But Lisa's interview was one of the first of what would become a flood of articles

about Newsom. And over and over, critics would start by saying they didn't like Newsom the first time they heard her but gradually came to regard her as a genius.

I'm still skeptical: People can talk themselves into liking just about anything. But my resistance is beginning to break down. For one thing, the scope of Newsom's artistic ambition is too great to ignore. Her new album Ys features collaborations with Steve Albini, Jim O'Rourke, and Van Dyke Parks. In the

course of almost an hour it runs through just five songs, none of which have anything like a recognizable verse-chorus-verse structure and all of which feature archaic language, cryptic symbolism, and weird stories about monkeys and bears and astronomy. She's practically daring people like me to write her off as a pretentious reject from a Renais-

JOANNA NEWSOM sance faire. But I'm beginning to understand that Newsom doesn't fit into the categories I've tried to assign to her. Maybe someday she'll be seen as a category unto herself.

> JOANNA NEWSOM, The Casbah, Sunday, December 17, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-4355.

Keller Williams: House of Blues, Saturday, January 13, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Jeffrey Osborne: Spreckels Theatre, Sunday, January 14, 121 Broadway, downtown. 619-235-9500.

Guns N' Roses: ipayOne Center Tuesday, January 16, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Eliza Gilkyson:

AcousticMusicSanDiego, Thursday, January 18, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Reverend Horton Heat: 'Canes, Thursday, January 18, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

Tom Rush: AcousticMusicSanDiego Saturday, January 20, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176. Dionne Warwick: Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre, Thursday, January 25, 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-659-3380.

Muriel Anderson:

AcousticMusicSanDiego, Thursday, January 25, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

The Chieftains: California Center for the Arts, Friday, January 26, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253.

Pennywise: House of Blues, Saturday, January 27, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Pennywise: House of Blues, Sunday, January 28, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

The Sweet and Tender

Hooligans: The Casbah, Monday, January 29, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego, 619-232-4355.

Everclear: House of Blues, Monday, January 29, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp 619-299-2583.

G Love & Special Sauce: House of Blues, Tuesday, January 30, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

G Love & Special Sauce: House of Blues, Wednesday, January 31, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

FEBRUARY

Air Supply: Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre, Thursday, February 1, 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-659-3380.

Maná: ipayOne Center, Friday, February 9, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Maná: ipayOne Center, Saturday, February 10, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

The Roots: House of Blues, Monday, February 12, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Sound Tribe Sector Nine: House of Blues, Friday, February 16, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Pete Yorn: House of Blues, Monday, February 19, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Cheap Trick: 4th & B, Thursday, February 22, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Michael Franti & Spearhead: 4th & B, Friday, February 23, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

"Texas Songwriters Show Lyle Lovett, Joe Ely, John Hiatt, and Guy Clark: Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Wednesday, February 28, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

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SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MESSIAH

BY MOZART

MARCH

The Who: ipayOne Center, Thursday, March 1, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Christina Aguilera: ipayOne Center, Friday, March 2, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Snow Patrol: Open Air Theatre, Saturday, March 3, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Saturday, March 3, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176

Eric Clapton and J.J. Cale: ipayOne Center, Thursday, March 15, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Dave Stamey:

AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, March 17, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Badly Drawn Boy: House of Blues, Wednesday, March 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Rod Stewart: Cox Arena, Saturday, March 24, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-0429.

Jeremy Camp: House of Blues Wednesday, March 28, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

APRIL

Josh Groban: ipayOne Center, Friday, April 6, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

David Wilcox:

AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, April 27, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

MAY

Fairport Convention:

AcousticMusicSanDiego, Tuesday, May 1, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Alison Brown:

AcousticMusicSanDiego, Thursday, May 10, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Calendar **CLUBS**

DANCE

If you would like to include your DI event, e-mail sellis@nethere.com or submit a listing online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the music section. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. The listings are free.

Air Conditioned: Thursdays, College Night, old skool hip-hop, '80s, and funk with DJ 1979. Fridays, old skool disco, funk, and '80s with DJ Junior. Saturdays, Iuicy, classic booty-shakin' music with Mike Czech. Sundays, guest DJ night. Wednesdays, RockBoxx, '70s and '80s rock. 4673 30th Street, North Park. 619-501-9831.

Brick by Brick: Fridays, Therapy, industrial, gothic, and fetish with DJs Bryan Pollard and guest. 8:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.; 21 and up. 1130 Buenos Avenue, Bay Park. 619-275-5483.

Buster Daly's: Thursdays, 4mat with rotating DJs Veep Reekins, Xavier, Clean Cut, and Myson King. 3112 University Avenue, North Park. 619-284-2747.

'Canes: Thursdays, Top 40, hip-hop, and old skool with DJs Power Girth, and Rick Nasty. 9 p.m. 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

Character's Bar & Grill (La Jolla Marriott): Fridays and Saturdays, salsa, mambo, and merengue. 9:30 p.m.; 21 and up. 4240 La Jolla Village Drive, La Iolla, 858-597-6397.

The C Lounge: Sundays, Liquid, liquid funk and drum 'n' bass. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., 21 and up. No cover. 756 Fifth Avenue, downtown, 619-233-2838.

Crudo: Thursdays, deep, soulful, and sexy house grooves with guest DJs. 9 p.m; 21 and up. No cover. 1953 India Street (at Grape), Little Italy. 619-398-2974.

Dino's: Fridays, Gimmie Gimi ie, punk, goth, and rock with DJs





















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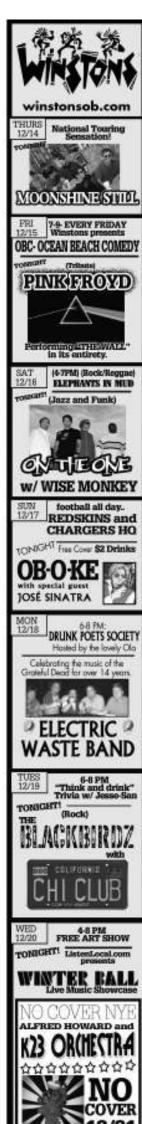
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DANCE

Bryan Pollard, Morgan Young, and guest. 3929 30th Street, North Park. 619-291-3466.

The Flame: Second and fifth Saturday of the month, *Sabbat*, gothic, industrial, and dark '80s with DJs Robin Roth, Adam Atom, and Diskdroid. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 3780 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest. 619-295-4163.

Gaslamp Tavern: Thursdays. DIs Billie Knight, Tek, and guests spin true hip-hop, Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Billie Knight spins Tavern music. Sundays, DJ Tek spins '80s. 868 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-239-3339.

Habana Restaurant: Saturdays, Adventuras East, salsa, merengue, and cha-cha with David Garcia and David Suave. 10 p.m. 7777 University Avenue La Mesa. 619-713-2011.

Honey Bee Hive: Wednesdays Mixtape Sessions, underground hip-hop, downtempo, and breakbeat with DJ Ricky Wrecks and Mada; 8 p.m. to 1 a.m Thursdays, *Deep*, drum 'n' bass with DJs Wallkrawler, Probable Cause, and Skyler Mic; 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. 1409 C Street (corner of 14th Street, across from City College), downtown. 619-702-6010.

Inferno Young Adult Nightclub: Wednesday, *Winter Break Jam* featuring DJ Dizzy D. Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Kool T spins hip-hop, house, and reggaeton. 9 p.m. to 1:15 a.m., high school sophomore and up. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-1271.

Jack's Lounge: Fridays, sexy dance music with DJ Misha and weekly guests. Saturdays, vocal house with DI Sean Wilson. 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-8111.

Kadan: Wednesdays, Darkwave Garden, punk, gothic, and ethereal with DJs Bryan Pollard, Stern, and Grimderella. First Saturday of the month, *BrokenBeat*

Night, live electronic, machine funk, and breaks. Second and third Saturday of the month, Underground Playground, breaks, house, and progressive with Jack Tripper and guest DJs. Tuesdays, *Distortion*, mashups, bastard pop, and cybertrash. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500

The Kava Lounge: Second Friday of the month, *Ascension*, Robin Roth and Tom King spin the best in dark underground dance music. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 2812 Kettner Boulevard, Middletown. 619-543-0933.

The Kensington Club: Wednesdays, Sub-Par, hip-hop, rock 'n' soul, and funk with DJs Buddha and SC. 9:30 p.m. 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington. 619-284-2848.

Michael's Lounge (Hyatt Regency): Thursdays, DJs Neko, Sky, and Chris Mullins spin hip-hop, dance, and '70s/'80s. 9 p.m. 3777 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla. 858-552-1234.

Mission Valley Resort: Thursdays and Fridays, Mambo Lounge, salsa, bachata, and cha-cha with DJ D2. 8 p.m Mission Valley. 619-298-8281.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach:

Saturdays, hip-hop and R&B with DJs Enigma and Cisco. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6550.

Moose's Gaslamp: Sundays, Nocturnal, house and trance with DJ Neko. 9 p.m. 535 Fifth Avenue, downtown, 619-702-5595.

Riley's Sports Bar: First Friday of the month, Sin Factory, fetish, gothic, and industrial with DJs Darkman and guests. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 2901 Nimitz ulevard, Point Loma. 619-255-8635.

San Diego Sports Club: Wednesdays, *Club Pussy Galore*, Robin Roth and other female DJs spin indie rock, electro pop, and '80s Second and fourth Saturday of the month, *Club* Fashion Whore, electroclash, Brit pop, and indie dance punk with DJs Nate Soixante, Saul Q, Barry Weaver, and more. Third Saturday of the month, *Club de Sade*, gothic, industrial, and fetish with DJs Darkman and Creep. 9 p.m. to



d'oeuvres, chilled seafood, filet tenderloin, pasta, salads, entrées including salmon wellington and grilled chicken, and extensive desserts.

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6:15-10:45 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Diva Soul 9:45 PM-1:30 AM

SUNDAY, DEC. 17 MASTERPIECE

TUESDAY, DEC. 19

9:45 PM-1:30 AM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

The Reaganomics 9:45 PM-1:30 AM

MONDAY, DEC. 18

Insight

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20 & 27

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710 Beach Club: Sundays, hip-hop. funk, and old skool with the Husky Boy Allstars, 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-7844.

Shooterz: Thursdays, Club '80s, new wave, new romantic, and punk synthpop with DJs Bryan Pollard, Sickboy, and Stern. Saturdays, *Underworld*, industrial, gothic, and dark electro with DJs Bryan Pollard, Cybian, and Harlot, 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-574-0744.

Static Lounge: Saturdays, house music to dark dance beats. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 18 and up. 634 Broadway (between Sixth and Seventh Avenue), downtown. 619-544-1609.

Whiskey Girl: Fridays, DJ Marc Thrasher mixes music videos. Saturdays, DJs Famous Dave and DJ Marc Thrasher mix music videos. Sundays, DJ Danimal. Mondays, Manic Mondays, DI Marc Thrasher mixes '80s and '90s music videos. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 600 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-236-1616.

The Whistle Stop: Second Thursday of the month, *Programme:Zero*, indie, Brit pop, and soul. First and third Saturday of the month, *Transport*, Brit rock, indie, and electroclash with DJ Gabe Vega and guests. Second and fifth Saturday of the month, *One Nation*, new wave, hip-hop, and bootleg remixes with DJs Blackstone and Atari. Tuesdays, Friends Chill, downtempo, electronic, and ambient with DIs Wank Chops, Lstr. and guests. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. 2236 Fern Street (corner of 30th and Juniper), South Park. 619-284-6784.

CLUBS BY AREA

If you wish to submit a listing, call 619-235-3000, ext. 405, night or day by 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 760-788-1309 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the music section

BEACHES

Bahia Resort Hotel, 998 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Beach. 858-488-0551. Tangier Lounge: Thursday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., also, Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., and Wednesday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., John Cain, jazz/Latin/international/pop standards.

Bar Leucadian, 1542 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia. 760-753-2094. Friday and Saturday, live rock/reggae/blues.

Beaumont's, 5662 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla. 858-459-0474. Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Mark Fisher*, classic rock. Sunday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., live

The Calypso Cafe, 576 North Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-632-8252. Thursday, *Triple Shot*, blues. Friday, Palos, salsa. Saturday, Jeff Moore and Billy Thompson, blues. Sunday, Candye Kane, blues. Monday, the Cheap Leis, rock. Wednesday, Billy Watson, blues.

'Canes, 3105 Ocean Front Walk. Mission Beach. 858-488-1780. Most music is rock/alternative. Thursday, Dan the Automator, Chali 2NA, Casual o Hieroglyphics, and Common Market.

Ché Café, UCSD Campus, 9500 Gilman Drive, Student Center B-0323C, La Jolla, 858-534-2311, Thursday, Dat Politics, Kevin Blechdom, and This Ain't Hollywood, Friday, I Am Cataclysm, Halcyonaires, and Flee the Century. Sunday, Mount Eerie, Thanksgiving, and the Red Pony Clock. Wednesday,

Clay's, atop the Hotel La Jolla, 7955 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla. 858-459-0541. Friday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Latin jazz. Saturday and Wednesday, live jazz/funk.

Cody's La Jolla, 8030 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-459-0040. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Roy Resnikoff, light classical piano/show tunes. Friday and Wednesday, 7 p.m., Dick Koenig, jazz guitar. Saturday, 7 p.m., Stefani Stevens, jazz piano. Sunday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Joe Cardillo, acoustic jazz-rock.

Del Mar Plaza, 1555 Camino del Mar, Del Mar. Sunday, 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., Keith Jacobsen, smooth jazz

Dreamstreet, 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-8131. Music is rock/alternative/metal unless otherwise noted. Thursday, Ellaydee, Inthevisualz Blak Water Cliq, MC Curse W3rd, and Tony Preye, hip-hop. Friday, Wild Life Refuge, Harsh Mellows, Vantage Point, Clockwork, and Of One Mind. Saturday, Aghori, One Inch Punch, Empire State, also, Me, My Brother, and a Guy Named Ray and Aorist Tense.

E Street Cafe, 128 E Street, Encinitas. 760-230-2038. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., jazz jam. Friday, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Jennifer Cunningham, 9 p.m.

to 10:30 p.m., Rusty Jones and John Compton. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Chris Swann, 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Jim

Estancia Resort Hotel, 9700 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla. 858-550-1000. Mustang & Burros Bar and Grill: Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Los Reyes Del Ritmo, Gipsy Kings tribute

Hennessey's Tavern (PB), 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach 858-483-8847. Friday, live music Saturday, I-Sao-7, reggae/hip-hop/old skool.

The Kraken, 2531 Old Highway 101, Cardiff. 760-436-6483. Friday, *Plato Soul*, soul/rock, Saturday, Blue Heat, blues/rock. Sunday, blues jam with the Blues Brokers.

La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-454-0771. Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Barry Levich*, jazz. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday, Rick Ross, jazz.

The Lodge at Torrey Pines, 11480N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla. 619-453-4420. Lobby: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Dan Papaila, solo jazz guitar.
Grill: Friday and Saturday, 6:30 p.m.

to 9:30 p.m., Mike Nelson, solo jazz

Manhattan Restaurant, 7766 Fav and Saturday, the Ioe Marillo Iazz Trio

Mission Bay Boat & Ski Club, 2606 North Mission Bay Drive, S Diego. 858-270-0840. Friday, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., live rock bands.

Pasquale on Prospect, 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-456-0722. Thursday, Gil Barron, Mark Fulton, James East, and PTrak Armenta, acoustic pop/rock/Latin/soul. Friday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Jazz 101 Band featuring Nick

Fiore, John Guilino, Dave Scott, and the Cynthia Hammond. Saturday, 8:30 p.m. Mario Oliveras & Latin Spice, Latin jazz.

Portugalia, 4839 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-7678, Friday, 10 p.m., When I Rise and Bredren, reggae. Tuesday, 9 p.m., Trece de la Suerte, salsa/Latin

Riley's, 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-255-8635. Sunday, 5 p.m., *Big Slim*, blues jam.

710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-7844. Thursday, Sugarglider and Justin James & the Sons of Beaches, rock/reggae. Friday, Dumbluck



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San Birat

Calendar

BEACHES

(continued)

and Semi, rock. Saturday, Cash'd Out and the Palaminos, country. Sunday, hip-hop. Monday, the Mitch Budd Band, rock. Wednesday, Vinyl 45, Propel, Mike McGill, Ray Junior, and Donovan Lyman, pop/soul.

Shooters Bar and Grill, Radisson Hotel, 3299 Holiday Court, La Jolla. 858-453-5500. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., John Cain, jazz/pop/Latin/standards.

Tiki House, 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734. Friday, *Brain Buckit*, rock. Saturday, *Superwave* and *Secret Samurai*, rock.

Tower Two Beach Cafe, 5083 Santa Monica Avenue, Ocean Beach. 619-223-4059. Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., live acoustic/folk music.

Winstons, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-6822. Thursday, Moonshine Still and Underground Orchestra, rock. Friday, Pink Froyd, rock. Saturday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Elephants in Mud, reggae/dub, 9 p.m., the Wise Monkey Orchestra, groove. Monday, the Electric Waste Band, classic rock. Tuesday, 420 Blackbirdz and the C.H.I. Club, rock. Wednesday, a Winter Ball, acoustic.

DOWNTOWN

Blarney Stone Pub, 502 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-8519. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday. *Steve Brewer*. acoustic.

Borders Books and Music (Gaslamp), 668 Sixth Avenue, San Diego. 619-702-4200. Friday, 8 p.m., *Aaron Bowen*, folk. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Delaney Gibson*, folk.

Busalacchi's Ristorante, 3683 Fifth Avenue, San Diego. 619-298-0119. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *the New* Standard Jazz Trio, straight-ahead jazz. Sunday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Cynthia Hammond, jazz.

Croce's Jazz Bar, 802 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-4355. All music is jazz unless otherwise noted. Thursday and Friday, Yavez. Saturday, Agua Dulce. Sunday, the Archtones. Monday, Dave Scott. Tuesday, the Shep Meyers Quartet. Wednesday, the Jorge Camberos Quintet.

Dakota Grill and Spirits, 901 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-234-5554. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., also, Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Jimmy Lavello*, pop piano.

Dick's Last Resort, 345 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-231-9100. Music is rock and roll. Thursday and Friday, Private Domain. Saturday, Night Shift. Sunday, the Disco Pimps. Tuesday, Flock of 80's. Wednesday, the Ghost of Sada

Dizzy's, 344 Seventh Avenue, downtown. 858-270-7467. Thursday, 7:30 p.m., the Grossmont College Jazz Ensemble. Friday, 8 p.m., Peter Sprague & the Napali Coast Trio, jazz. Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., Charles McPherson and Gilbert Castellanos, jazz. Sunday, 7 p.m. Dornob, Persian music.

Dublin Square, 554 Fourth Avenue Gaslamp. 619-239-5818. Traditional Irish music.

4th & B, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343, Friday, Brian Culbertson, jazz/pop. Saturday, Stranger, Agua Dulce, the Devastators, and the Tribe of Kings, reggae/Latin/jazz.

Gaslamp Tavern, 868 Fifth Avenue, San Diego. 619-239-3339. Tuesday, Fishbait, country. Wednesday, Mark Fisher, classic rock.

Hennessey's Tavern, 708 Fourth Avenue (corner of Fourth and G), Gaslamp. 619-239-9991. Friday, 9 p.m., *Idle Train*, classic/modern rock.

Henry's Pub, 618 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-238-2389. Thursday, the Brat Pack. Friday, Good Times. Saturday, call club for information. Tuesday, the Stilettos, rockabilly. Wednesday, Lady Dottie & the Diamonds, blues.

House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-299-2583. Sunday, *Reeve Oliver* and *Longmont Potion Castle*,



BY DAVE GOOD

Even at their gospel best, the **Blind Boys of Alabama** retain the sound of Saturday night. How do they do it? They claim that they think higher thoughts when performing secular tunes. This has generated some good music. Their version of "Amazing Grace," for example, pits the time-worn lyrics of the gospel standard against the music from the more worldly "House of the Rising Sun," which in its original form is about coming of age in a house of ill repute. The layering of ideologies takes their music in a new direction, and I think that's what the Blind Boys are all about.

think that's what the Blind Boys are all about.
Until 1983, the Blind Boys were a fixture on the gospel circuit. They appeared only

in churches or were heard on radio stations whose sole programming was religious content. That year they appeared in a Broadway play, and their fan base widened. The Allman Brothers incorporated a Blind Boys' track into their stage show, and Ben Harper recorded with them and brought them along on tour. Eventually, so did Tom Petty.

It was when the Boys broke with their own tradition of singing a cappella and began to work with backup rock bands that

their music did more than shake church rafters. Witness the lively covers of R&B chart toppers they recorded with artists like the high-voltage pedal guitarist Robert Randolph. What the group has been doing in the past few years blows the lid off of almost anything they had previously recorded, gospel or not. It has not been a problem for the Blind



Boys of Alabama to mix their electrified church music with the politics of pop and to wear their suits and ties to the rock stage — non-secular thoughts intact.

BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, December 19, 8 p.m. 858-481-8140. \$30.

alternative. Wednesday, Ozomatli and Quetzal, Latin/hip-hop/rock.

Jimmy Love's, 672 Fifth Avenue (corner of Fifth and G), downtown. 619-595-0123. Thursday and Sunday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Masterpiece, jazz/R&B. Friday, 9:45 p.m., On the Rise, disco/Top 40. Saturday, 9:45 p.m., Diva Soul, disco/Top 40. Monday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Insight, jazz. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Mystique, jazz/R&B. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Soul Revue, jazz/dance/Top 40.

Martini Ranch, 528 F Street, downtown. 619-235-6100. Thursday, Modern Day Moonshine, rock. Friday, live acoustic performances. Wednesday, 9 p.m., Shannon Long, acoustic.

Patrick's II, 428 F Street, downtown. 619-233-3077. Music is blues/soul unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Bill Magee*

Blues. Friday, Aunt Kizzy'z Boyz. Saturday, Crossfire. Sunday, Blue Largo. Monday, the Bayou Brothers. Tuesday and Wednesday, Criminal Funk, rock.

Princess Pub & Grille, 1665 India Street, Little Italy/downtown. 619-702-3021. Saturday, *J.D. Boucharde*, piano.

Rock Bottom, 401 G Street, Gaslamp. 619-231-7000. Friday and Saturday, live pop/rock/disco/dance.

Samba Grill, 514 Horton Plaza, Gaslamp. 619-236-1000. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Edo Brazil*, Brazilian jazz.

Seaport Village, 849 West Harbor Drive, downtown. Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., *the Cat.illacs*, vintage rock and roll.

The Shout House, 655 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-231-6700. Rock and roll sing-along dueling pianos. The Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue, downtown. 619-238-1818. The Plaza Bar: All music is piano. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Karin Carson Trio. Friday, and Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Fran Loskota and Karen Giorgio, jazz/blues/pop. Sunday and Monday, 7 p.m. to midnight, Julio de la Huerta. Tuesday and Wednesday, 7 p.m. to midnight, Faith Page.

SAN DIEGO

Albie's Beef Inn, 1201 Hotel Circle South, San Diego. 619-291-1103. Piano bar, call club for information.

The Alibi, 1403 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-295-0881. Live

The Beauty Bar, 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego, 619-516-4746.

Blarney Stone Pub, 5617 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont. 858-279-2033. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, *Chris & Harold*, Irish folk. Monday, *Pat & Joe* and *Allison Gill*, folk. Tuesday, Irish jam

Bobby's Place, 6179 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-624-9810. Saturday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., *the Johnsor Project*, funk/R&B/pop/smooth jazz.

Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue, Bay Park. 619-275-LIVE. Music rock/alternative/metal unless otherwise noted. Thursday, Gary Hoey and Sledd. Friday, Klub Therapy. Saturday, Minusone, Bumbklaat, and No Sign of Weakness. Sunday, Joe Firstman and Sir Solondid.

Claire de Lune, 2905 University Avenue, North Park, 619-688-9845.

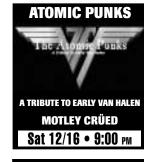




















































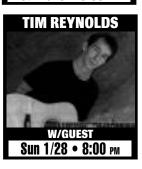






2/17





JUST ADDED! 1/20 **Boogie Nights Metal Snake!** 1/22
FM 94.9 Presents
Cold War
Kids
On sale 12/15 at noon

2/1
Sister
Hazel
On sale

2/3
Cat
Empire
On sale 12/15 at noo

The Hacienda Brothers

2/15 **Todd Snider**

Dark Star Orchestra

4/5

6/17 **Johnny Winter** 6/21 **Iris DeMent**

0n sale 12/1 1/31 Jake Shimabukuro w/

Todd Hannigan
2/2 The English Beat
2/8 Poncho Sanchez

SWINGIN' HAPPY HOURS @ 5:30: 12/22 BILLY WATSON • 12/29 ATOMIC GROOVE SALSA SUNDAY: 1/7 @ 7:30 pm 2/23 The Aggrolites

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2/9 Common Sense

2/16 Bob Schneider Band

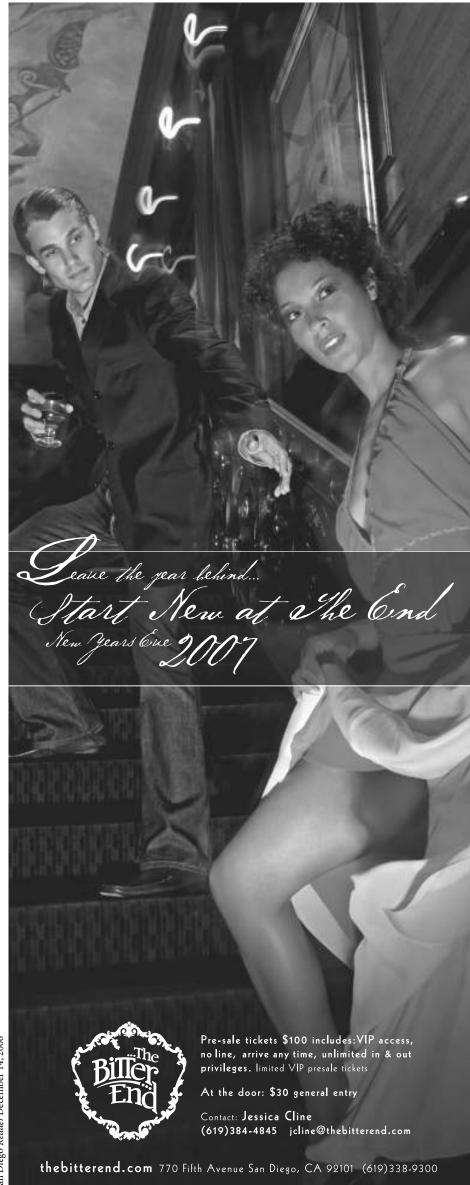
3/3 New Monsoon

3/8 Leo Kottke & David Lindley

4/26 Railroad Earth

FEATURED SHOW

Belly Up presents "Artists on the Edge."
Visit bellyup.com for details on how to win VIP passes to **Devotchka.**



Calendar

SAN DIEGO

(continued)

Sunday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., the Dave Humphries Band, rock and roll.

Epicentre, 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa. 858-271-4000. Music is rock/metal/alternative unless otherwise noted. Friday, the Accused, Horror Cats, and Piracy. Saturday, Malbec, Finkbinder, the Shenanigans, and Craze. Sunday, Daphne Loves Derby, Mia & Dia, Ronnie Day, the House of Fools, and Long Live Logos.

Etta's Place, 6179 University Avenue (at College and University). 619-582-6730. Live rock/swing.

The Gordon Biersch Brewery, 5010 Mission Center Road, San Diego 619-688-1120. Friday, live reggae/blues/rock.

Greene Music, 7480 Miramar Road, San Diego. 877-652-8523. Monday, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., *the Jim Gala Trio*, iazz.

Hot Monkey Love Cafe, 6875 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego. 619-469-4113. Thursday, jazz. Friday and Saturday, live bands. Sunday, salsa. Monday, tango. Wednesday, jazz.

Humphrey's, Half Moon Inn, 2241
Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.
619-224-3577. Backstage Lounge:
Thursday, 9:30 p.m., Indie by Design.
Friday, 9:30 p.m., the Detroit
Underground, Motown. Saturday,
9:30 p.m., Makai, dance/disco. Sunday,
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 8 p.m. to
midnight, Reggie Smith & Pressed for
Time, jazz. Monday, blues jam. Tuesday,
8 p.m. to midnight, Blue Rockit,
blues/rock. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to
midnight, the Soul Persuaders,
funk/soul/dance.



The Alkaholiks, December 20, 'Canes

JP's Pub, 10436 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Tierrasanta. 858-576-2509. Friday, *Myron & the Kyniptionz*, rock.

The Kensington Club, 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington. 619-284-2848. Music is hard rock/metal/alternative unless otherwise noted. Thursday, Starcrossed. Friday, Vinyl Radio, the Blackout Party, Roses on Her Grave, and the True Crime Authors. Saturday, Sus Hijos.

Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-282-0437. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, Saba and Rob Giles. Friday, Jane Lui, Jay Nash, and Manuok. Saturday, Get Back Loretta, Greg Laswell, and Renata Youngblood. Sunday, Delaney Gibson and Josh Damigo. Monday, open mike. Wednesday, the Buddy Wuddy

Martini's Bar and Grill, 3940 Fourth Avenue, San Diego. 619-293-0232. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Vintage Vegas, jazz.

O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub,

1310 Morena Boulevard, Bay Park.
619-276-5637. Friday, 8:30 p.m., Lessons
from Zeke, Squiiddo and Enter Telescope,
rock. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., Blues from a
Gun and Writer & the Henry Clay People,
rock. Tuesday, 9 p.m., CDM, rock/punk.
Wednesday, 8 p.m., Drop Joy, Morning
Riot, and Zombie Surf Camp,
rock/punk/alternative.

The Ould Sod, 3373 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-6594. Friday, *Gene Warren,* Irish folk. Tuesday, traditional Irish jam session.

Pal Joey's, 5147 Waring Road, Allied Gardens. 619-286-7873. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m., *Moondance*, classic rock.

Red Fox Steakhouse, 2228 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-297-1313. Thursday through Sunday, and Wednesday, *Eddie Rossi* and *Joe Soprano*,

Dave Humphries Band

"...Like a poem and a prayer and good old-fashioned rock 'n' roll"

Free Concert

(Donations accepted for San Diego Autism Society)

December 17, 2-5 pm

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THURSDAY • DECEMBER 14

QUI

(FEATURING DAVID YOW OF THE JESUS LIZARD)

SIRHAN SIRHAN THE LONG & SHORT OF IT

FRIDAY • DECEMBER 15

SATISFACTION SUPERNOVA SINSIN 77 • ATOMS

CANDI DJs

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 16

KILL ME TOMORROW

MR. TUBE &
THE FLYING OBJECTS
SIRHAN SIRHAN
DJS BUNNY & COBRA

MONDAY • DECEMBER 18 GARY SHUFFLER'S BIRTHDAY

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ZIGGY SHUFFLEDUST
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THURSDAY • DECEMBER 21

JEREMY ENIGK

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SATURDAY • DECEMBER 23

EL VEZ CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 24

EXILE ON KETTNER

TUESDAY • DECEMBER 26
THE LOCAL PYLE PRESENTS

MR. TUBE &
THE FLYING OBJECTS
MC FLOW
BAD CREDIT

THURSDAY • DECEMBER 28

DOWNS FAMILY
GOLDEN HILL
RAMBLERS

FRIDAY • DECEMBER 29

SWEET & TENDER HOOLIGANS

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 31

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thecasbah.com



Live Hip-Hop

Ellaydee • Inthevisualz Blak Water Cliq MC Curse W3rd **Tony Preye**

FRIDAY 12/15 Casper & Nuze present Wild Life Refuge Harsh Mellows **Vantage Point** Clockwork Of One Mind

SATURDAY 12/16 Xmas Chaos V Toys For Tots Benefit d by Hedon Productio

One Inch Punch The Empire State Me, My Brother & A Guy Named Ray Aghori

Drink specials & giveaways all night from: SikWorld, DealerClothing. Real Envy & Chili's

BOOKING BANDS!

Metal Lounge

Viva Zapata Edition Sentinel Grandia

Maithreya **Dark Possession**

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Broke On Friday

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> FRIDAY 12/22 Live Local Music

E-Dub Poet Trophy Life

Autumn Leaves

The Professors

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14



DAN THE **AUTOMATOR**

(GORILLAZ/HANDSOME BOY MODELING SCHOOL/DR OCTOGAN)
WITH LIVE BAND FEATURING

CHALI 2NA OF JURASSIC 5 CASUAL OF HIEROGLYPHICS • A.G. OF D.I.T.C. COMMON MARKET

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Tha Alkaholiks



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

SHAKA BUKU • A CONSCIOUS FEW **HIGH TIDE • BURNT**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

Jaegermeister & Dirtbag present a 1005 Foot 1015 Benefit



KICKING K8 • E(V)OLOCITY **REV • 3AGAINST1 • TEMPERNOI**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

Inner Circle presents
MALCHERS & OSIRIS
SURF VIDEO PREMIERE **RED GUN RADAR • NIHILIST • BLINDSIDE**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29



STEPPING FEET

(Dave Matthews

provider

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

Rockin' Johnny White presents JEN KNIGHT • HARGO ATLAS OF ID • FING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE



THOSE DANG ROBINSONS DJ DEMON



SATURDAY, JANUARY 6



Tribute)

DAZED & **CONFUSED** (Led Zeppelin Tribute)





1/12 THE EXPENDABLES • 1/13 TAINTED LOVE
1/14 SUBLIME TRIBUTE – 40 OUNCES TO FREEDOM,
THE WAGON, GADFLY & DIRTY HEADS
1/26 B-SIDE PLAYERS • 1/27 STRANGER • 2/2 DIEGO ROOTS

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Calendar

SAN DIEGO

(continued)

piano. Monday and Tuesday, the David

Rosie & Joe's, 7986 Armour Street, San Diego. 858-277-5777. Friday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Hugh Gaskins*, rockabilly/blues.

Rosie O'Grady's, 3402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-7666. Friday and Saturday, live rock.

Scolari's Office, 3936 30th Street, San Diego. 619-296-3546. Friday, 9 p.m., *Low Red Lane* and *Birds & Batteries*, alternative.

Second Wind, 8515 Navajo Road, San Carlos. 619-465-1730. Friday and Saturday, *Nemesis*, classic rock.

Sogno Di Vino, 1607 India Street, San Diego. 619-531-8887. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Mike Nelson*, solo jazz guitar.

Soma, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-SOMA. Performances start at 7 p.m. Thursday, Escape the Fate, a Thorn for Every Heart, This Is the Hospital, Grandview, and Fall Season, hardcore/rock/emo. Friday, Cattle Decapitation, Goatwhore, Death, Clifton, Gripe, and Gutrot, death metal.

South Park Bar and Grill, 1946 Fern Street, San Diego. 619-696-0096. Thursday, 7 p.m., John Kopecky, solo Latin jazz guitar. Friday, 7 p.m., Amelia Browning, jazz/Latin standards. Saturday, 8 p.m., jazz jam session. Sunday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Sam Johnson's Jazz Quartet.

Tio Leo's, 10787 Camino Ruiz, Mira Mesa. 858-695-1461. Saturday, *Electric Soul*, soul/rock.

Tio Leo's Lounge, 5302 Napa Street (at Morena Boulevard), Bay Park. 619-542-1462. Friday and Saturday, live bands. Monday, tango. Tuesday, zydeco blues. Wednesday, 7 p.m., *the High Society Jazz Band*.

The Tower Bar, 4757 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-284-0158. Friday, Big Brown Sound and Matt Hensley, rock. Saturday, Fifty on Their Heels and the Sess, punk. Monday, Lady Dottie & the Diamonds, blues.

Tutto Mare, 4365 Executive Drive, La Jolla (Golden Triangle area). 858-597-1188. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Jaime Valle*, and guests.

Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company, 4590 Park Boulevard, University Heights. 619-296-0616. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 8 p.m., Brian Benham, Chris Carpenter, and Skyler Stonestreet. Friday, Arambro, Ben Varela & Jacks, and Brian Benham. Saturday, Randi Driscoll. Sunday, 4 p.m., the Celtic Ensemble, 8 p.m., Bushwalla. Wednesday, 9 p.m., Hugh Gaskins.

Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant, 3025 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-282-7040. Thursday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., the B-3 Four featuring vocalist David Mosby, jazz. Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Peggy Lloyd, jazz.

The Zombie Lounge, 3519 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-284-DEAD.

NORTH COUNTY

The Alley, 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-434-1173. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, *the Love Rangers*, Top 40/pop.

Belly Up Tavern, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022. Thursday, 8 p.m., Venice and the Michael Tiernan Trio, rock. Saturday, 9 p.m., the Atomic Punks and Motley Crued, rock. Sunday, 9 p.m., Devotchka and Eric Bachmann, indie rock. Tuesday, 8 p.m., the Blind Boys of Alabama, Nathan James, and Ben Hernandez, blues. Wednesday, Married by Elvis, Southbound Johnny, Sara Petite, and the Sugar Daddies, country/rock.

Boar Cross'n, 390 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-2989. Thursday, hiphop. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock.

The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe, Flower Hill Mall, I-5 at Via de la Valle, Del Mar. 858-755-3735. Friday, live iazz/blues/acoustic music.

>hometown CDs



Album: What You Are to Be You Now Become (2006)

Artist: The Vision of a Dying World

Where available/price: M Theory and Off the Record for \$7.

Online through cdbaby.com or on iTunes for \$8.

Band: Jackson Milgaten (vocals, rhythm guitar/bass), Jeremy Scott (vocals, rhythm guitar/bass), Keith Milgaten (lead guitar, vocals), Jona Tellez-Giron (drums), Mat Davidson (former band member) (banjo, accordion, mandolin, organ)

Songs: 1) Wishing Well 2) Smack My Face 3) Ode to Rugby 4) The Nickel-Plated Baby 5) The Paper Ship 6) The Beaver King 7) A Soul So Strange 8) Always Tomorrow

Website: www.thevisionofadvingworld.com

Extra info: Scheduled to play the Zombie Lounge on

What You Are to Be You Now Become is whimsi-

cal and childlike in its sim-

plicity. The album is mostly

acoustic and soft. The songs are slow with sweet vocals, innocent lyrics, and harmonious backup voices. The tunes

are uncomplicated, but the well-played mandolin and accordion make it a masterful album.

The song "The Paper Ship" would be perfect background music for *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*. It goes, "We took a trip on a paper ship. We saw the sea and the creatures beneath. We sprung a leak on a coral reef. All hope seemed lost as our boat it was tossed, on the waves, how they crashed 'gainst our paper clip mast."

I can't help but laugh at "The Beaver King" song: "I'll be the first one laughing when the last little beaver goes. I'll take their teeth, take their eggs, take their dams and their beaver legs and I'll be the brand new Beaver King come Sunday." The band's hatred of beavers continues,



The Vision of a Dying World

"...poison and brunch after the evening to you all! I hate their tales, I hate their eyes, their little faces, and their beaver lies!"

Maybe their music is too soft for a bar, but I'd still love to see them and have a frosty beer.

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD REVIEWED. PLEASE MAIL

IT TO: Music Editor, Hometown CDs, San Diego *Reader*, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186–5803

Borders Books and Music

(Carlsbad), 1905 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad. 760-479-0242. Friday, 8 p.m., Patty Hall, folk. Saturday, 7 p.m., Skibbereen, Irish folk.

Borders Books and Music (Carmel Mountain), 11160 Rancho Carmel Drive, Carmel Mountain. 858-618-1814. Friday, 8 p.m., *Lee*

Borja, island music/jazz.

Carvers, 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-566-2400. Friday, the Ideas, rock. Saturday, the Crossroads, rock/blues Coyote Bar and Grill, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Billy Watson*, blues. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., the New Breed Band, pop/jazz. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Theo & the Zydeco Patrol*, Louisiana blues. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Bruce Cameron*, jazz. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Northstar*, classic rock.

Cuvee Restaurant, 2334 Carmel Valley Road, Del Mar. 858-259-5878. Monday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Sambajazz*, Brazilian and American jazz. **Del Dios Bar and Grill,** 20154 Lake Drive, Escondido. 760-489-4800. Friday, *Grand Canyon Sundown*, country. Saturday, *Greg Douglas*, acoustic.

Game Time Tavern, 12735 Poway Road, Poway. 858-748-0015. Friday and Saturday, *Full Xposure*, classic rock.

The Hot Java Cafe, 11738 Carmel Mountain Road, Suite 182, Carmel Mountain. 858-673-7111. Saturday, 7 p.m., *Micah Wolf,* acoustic pop.

The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, 5951 Linea del Cielo, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-756-1131. Thursday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *Jerry Melnick*, jazz/variety piano. The Jumping Turtle, 1660 Capalina Road, San Marcos. 760-471-7778. Music is rock/metal/alternative unless otherwise noted. Thursday, the Cut Throat Pirates, the Elephant Army, This Love Machine, and the Vodka Dolls. Friday, Carol Ann, Darkhorse, You Die First, Sophist, and This Is the Hospital. Saturday, Grave, the Absense, and Death Evokation.

McCabe's Beach Club, 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside. 760-439-6646. Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the California Rangers, country.

Molly Malone's, 1270 Main Street, Ramona. 760-789-9050. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m., live rock/blues.

Entertainment 7 Nights a Week!

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Huge Rooster & guests

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Nemesis

Sunday, December 17

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Monday, December 18

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Tuesday, December 19 Mike Ruggirello presents

Huge Rooster & guests

Wednesday, December 20

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Santee

Thursday, December 14

Crunch Berry

Friday & Saturday, December 15 & 16 • 9 pm Classic Rock



Serious Guise

Sunday, December 17

NFL Sunday Ticket
4 satellites and big-screen TVs

Brick Bath • Six Reasons • Narsil

Monday, December 18

Monday Night Football

Tuesday, December 19

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Wednesday, December 20

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Ocean House, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4131. Friday, 9 p.m., the Moods, rock. Saturday, 9 p.m. Material Witness, rock. Sunday, salsa. Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Cradit Union, swing. Wednesday, November 29, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., blues jam.

Rancho Bernardo Inn, 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo 858-675-8500. El Bizcocho Restaurant: Friday, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and Saturday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., Jerry Melnick and Tom Bishop, jazz/variety.

Surf N'Saddle, 123 West Plaza Street (Lomas Santa Fe and Highway 101), Solana Beach. 858-755-9474. Friday, the Stone Senses, reggae. Saturday, the Alternatives. Wednesday, open mike

Tom Giblin's Irish Pub & Restaurant, 640 Grand Avenue Carlsbad. 760-729-7234. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Adrienne Nims & Raggle Taggle, Irish dance cabaret.

SOUTH BAY/CORONADO

Buon Giorno Restaurant, 4110 Bonita Road, Bonita. 619-475-2660. Saturday, Stage 4, jazz.

The Butcher Shop, 556 Broadway, Chula Vista. 619-420-9440. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, 8 p.m., Ray Correa, standards/pop/Latin.

Cafe LaMaze, 1441 Highland Avenue, National City. 619-474-3222. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Sandy Chappel and Sammy Canonizado, jazz/blues. Sunday, 8:30 p.m., Burnett Anderson, Robert Sebastian, and Scott Wallingford, jazz.

Hotel del Coronado, 1550 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-6611. Babcock & Story: Thursday through 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Tony Lasley, Latin jazz. Friday, 8:30 p.m., Barbara Jamerson and Joe Tarantino, jazz. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., Stellita & Dave Lindgren. Tuesday and Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Jim Gibson.

Palm Court: Thursday through Sunday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Ray Briz, Also, Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., Joey West.

Crown Room: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., John Cain.

Island Sports & Spirits, 104 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-3456. Friday, live rock/blues. Saturday, *Head* First, rock.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill, 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-5280. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, the Iustin Brothers. Friday, the Fall Guys. Saturday, the Stilettos, rockabilly. Monday, Gene Warren. Tuesday, Jackson & Jesus. Wednesday, Tommy Price.

EAST COUNTY

Borders Books and Music (El Cajon), 159 Parkway Plaza, El Cajon 619-593-5119. Friday, 7 p.m., Anna Troy, folk. Saturday, 7 p.m., Johnson, Bosley, & Morin, acoustic folk.

Dirk's Niteclub, 7662 Broadway. Lemon Grove. 619-469-6344. Friday and Saturday, *RocKandy*, rock.

Don's Cocktail Lounge, 13321 Business Highway 8, El Cajon. 619-443-2444. Friday and Saturday, the Tall Dudes, country/rock.

Fannie's Nightclub, 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley. 619-698-2204 Friday, the Spot, hip-hop. Saturday, One Thread and the Crust, rock.

Habana Restaurant, 7777 University Avenue, La Mesa. 619-713-2011. Saturday, salsa dancing.

Renegade Inn, 14335 Old Highway 80 (half mile east from Lake Jennin turnoff), Flynn Springs. 619-561-8105. Friday and Saturday, live country music.

Second Wind, 8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-596-8350. Friday and Saturday, Serious Guise, classic rock.

Sixty 7 Bar and Grill, 10109 Maine Avenue, Lakeside. 619-561-6767. Thursday, 9 p.m., the Mice and Skip Jack, punk.

Tommy's Italian Restaurant, 1190 North Second Street, El Cajon. 619-440-2676. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Wize Guyz, swing/standards.

Wagon Wheel, 8861 Magnolia ie, Santee, 619-448-8550, Live country music.



ALTERNATIVE

The Absense: The Jumping Turtle The Accused: Epicentre

Aghori: Dreamstreet The Alternatives: Surf N'Saddle Aorist Tense: Dreamstreet

Birds and Batteries: Scolari's Office The Blackout Party: The Kensington

Clockwork: Dreamstreet

Craze: Epicentre

The Cut Throat Pirates: The Jumping Turtle

Big Brown Sound: Tower Bar

Kevin Blechdom: Ché Café Devotchka: Belly Up Tavern Casual of Hieroglyphics: 'Canes The Elephant Army: The Jumping Cattle Decapitation: Soma Empire State: Dreamstreet

Death: Soma

Escape the Fate: Soma Fall Season: Soma

Fifty on Their Heels: Tower Bar

Death Evokation: The Jumping

Finkbinder: Epicentre

Darkhorse: The Jumping Turtle

Flee the Century: Ché Café Get Back Loretta: Lestat's Coffee

Goatwhore: Soma Grandview: Soma Grave: The Jumping Turtle

Gripe: Soma Halcyonaires: Ché Café The Harsh Mellows: Dreamstreet

I Am Cataclysm: Ché Café Indie by Design: Humphrey's Jewdriver: Ché Café

Longmont Potion Castle: House of

Low Red Lane: Scolari's Office

Malbec: Epicentre The Mice: Sixty 7 Bar and Grill

Mount Eerie: Ché Café Of One Mind: Dreamstreet Reeve Oliver: House of Blues One Inch Punch: Dreamstreet

Piracy: Epicentre

The Red Pony Clock: Ché Café



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alendar **BANDS**

ALTERNATIVE

Roses on Her Grave: The

The Sess: Tower Bar

The Shenanigans: Epicentre

Skip Jack: Sixty 7 Bar and Grill

Sophist: The Jumping Turtle

Starcrossed: The Kensington Club

Thanksgiving: Ché Café

This Ain't Hollywood: Ché Café

This Love Machine: The Jumping

This Is the Hospital: Soma, The

A Thorn for Every Heart: Soma

The True Crime Authors: The

Vantage Point: Dreamstreet The Vodka Dolls: The Jumping

Horror Cats: Epicentre

Wild Life Refuge: Dreamstreet The Wise Monkey Orchestra:

You Die First: The Jumping Turtle

ROCK

The Atomic Punks: Belly Up Tayern Eric Bachmann: Belly Up Tavern

Blues from a Gun: O'Connell's Pub

50% OFF

BODY

Brain Buckit: Tiki House

The Brat Pack: Henry's Pub

The Mitch Budd Band: 710 Beach

Bumbklaat: Brick By Brick Carol Ann: The Jumping Turtle

The Cat.illacs: Seaport Village East

C.D.M.: O'Connell's Pub and

Chali 2NA: 'Canes

The Cheap Leis: The Calypso Cafe

The C.H.I. Club: Winstons

Common Market: 'Canes

The Crossroads: Carvers

The Crust: Fannie's Nightclub Dan the Automator: 'Canes

Daphne Loves Derby: Epicentre

Ronnie Dav: Epicentre

The Detroit Underground:

Drop Joy: O'Connell's Pub and

Dumbluck: 710 Beach Club

The Electric Waste Band: Winstons

Enter Telescope: O'Connell's Pub

Mark Fisher: Beaumont's, Gaslamp

Flock of 80's: Dick's Last Resort Full Xposure: Game Time Tavern

The Ghost of Sada: Dick's Last Head First: Island Sports & Spirits

Matt Hensley: Tower Bar

The House of Fools: Epicentre

The Dave Humphries Band: Claire de Lune Coffee Louns

Idle Train: Hennessey's

Lessons from Zeke: O'Connell's

Long Live Logos: Epicentre

Material Witness: Ocean House

Me, My Brother, and a Guy Named Ray: Dreamstreet

Mia & Dia: Epicentre

Minusone: Brick By Brick

Modern Day Moonshine: Martini

The Moods: Ocean House Moondance: Pal Joev's Moonshine Still: Winstons

The Morning Riot: O'Connell's Pub

Motley Crüed: Belly Up Tavern

Myron & the Kyniptionz: JP's Pub

Nemesis: Second Wind (San Carlos)

Night Shift: Dick's Last Resort

No Sign of Weakness: Brick By

Northstar: Coyote Bar and Grill

One Thread: Fannie's Nightclub

Ozomatli: House of Blues Pink Froyd: Winstons

Private Domain: Dick's Last Resort

Quetzal: House of Blues RocKandy: Dirk's Niteclub

Secret Samauri: Tiki House Semi: 710 Beach Club

Serious Guise: Second Wind (Santee)

Sledd: Brick By Brick

Squiddo: O'Connell's Pub and

The Stilettos: Henry's Pub, McP's Irish Pub and Grill

Sugarglider: 710 Beach Club

Superwave: Tiki House

Sus Hijos: The Kensington Club



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Detroit Underground



Saturday, Dec. 16 9:30 pm Dance & Disco

Makai



Monday, Dec. 18 7 pm • Blues

Chet Cannon's

Blue Mondau

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Reggie Smith with DJ John Phillips



Blues Jam Wednesday, Dec. 20

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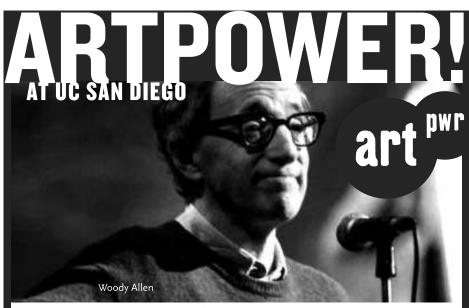
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December 19 | Tues., 8:00pm | Copley Symphony Hall

Woody Allen and His New Orleans Jazz Band

Directing, acting and screenwriting aren't the only talents Woody Allen has going for him. When not creating in his incredible cinematographic life, Allen is a renowned clarinetist, joining his musician friends every Monday night to jam at sold-out houses at the Carlyle Café in New York City. As part of his first real North American tour with the band, Allen brings a taste of New Orleans Dixieland jazz to sunny San Diego for an evening of exuberant music. Woody Allen, clarinet; Simon Wettenhall, trumpet; Jerry Zigmont, trombone; Cynthia Sayer, piano; Conal Fowlkes, string bass; Rob Garcia, drums.

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ORDER TICKETS: 858.534.TIXS or via Ticketmaster at www.artpower.ucsd.edu





alendar **BANDS**

ROCK

The Michael Tiernan Trio: Belly Up

Underground Orchestra: Winstons

Venice: Belly Up Tavern Vinyl Radio: The Kensington Club Writer & the Henry Clay People:

Zombie Surf Camp: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

POP / TOP 40

PTrak Armenta: Pasquale on Prospec Gil Barron: Pasquale on Prospect

The Disco Pimps: Dick's Last Resort

James East: Pasquale on Prospect Mark Fulton: Pasquale on Prospect The Good Times: Henry's Pub

Jimmy Lavello: Dakota Grill and

The Love Rangers: The Alley

Makai: Humphrey's Propel: 710 Beach Club Vinyl 45: 710 Beach Club

JAZZ / BIG BAND

Agua Dulce: Croce's Jazz Bar, 4th & B Burnett Anderson: Cafe LaMaze The Archtones: Croce's Jazz Bar

The B-3 Four: Vesuvio Gourmet

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 22 Junkie XL

December 23 Realivze Residents

December 31 NYE Masquerade

alendar

JAZZ / BIG BAND

Tom Bishop: Rancho Bernardo Inn

Ray Briz: Hotel del Coronado

Amelia Browning: South Park Bar

The Jorge Camberos Quintet: Croce's Jazz Bar

Bruce Cameron: Coyote Bar and Grill

Sammy Canonizado: Cafe LaMaze

The Karin Carson Trio: The

Gilbert Castellanos: Dizzy's

Sandy Chappel: Cafe LaMaze

Brian Culbertson: 4th & B

Julio de la Huerta: The Westgate

Edo Brazil: Samba Grill

Ensemble: Dizzy's

Nick Fiore: Pasquale on Prospect

The Jim Gala Trio: Greene Music Karen Giorgio: The Westgate Hotel

The Grossmont College Jazz

John Guilino: Pasquale on Prospect

Cynthia Hammond: Busalacchi's

Ristorante, Pasquale on Prospect

The High Society Jazz Band: ${\rm Tio}$

Insight: Jimmy Love's

Keith Jacobsen: Del Mar Plaza Barbara Jamerson: Hotel del

The Jazz 101 Band: Pasquale on

The Johnson Project: Bobby's Place

Sam Johnson's Jazz Quartet:

Dick Koenig: Cody's La Jolla

December 14, 2006

John Kopecky: South Park Bar and

Tony Lasley: Hotel del Coronado Barry Levich: La Valencia Hotel

Stellita & Dave Lindgren: Hotel del

Peggy Lloyd: Vesuvio Gourmet

Fran Loskota: The Westgate Hotel

The Joe Marillo Jazz Trio:

Manhattan Restauran

Masterpiece: Jimmy Love's Charles McPherson: Dizzv's

Jerry Melnick: The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, Rancho Bernardo Inn

The Shep Meyers Quartet: Croce's

David Mosby: Vesuvio Gourmet

Mike Nelson: Sogno Di Vino, The

The New Breed Band: Covote Bar

The New Standard Jazz Trio:

Mario Oliveras & Latin Spice: Pasquale on Prospect

Faith Page: The Westgate Hotel

Palos: The Calypso Cafe

Dan Papaila: The Lodge at Torrey

Rick Ross: La Valencia Hotel

Sambajazz: Cuvee Restaurant

Dave Scott: Pasquale on Prospect,

Robert Sebastini: Cafe LaMaze

Reggie Smith & Pressed for Time: Humphrey's

The Soul Revue: Jimmy Love's

Peter Sprague & the Napali Coast Trio: Dizzy's

Stage 4: Buon Giorno Restaurant

Stefani Stevens: Cody's La Jolla Trece de la Suerte: Portugalia

as i hear it

Artist: Eben Brooks

Song: "Hippie Jack's Unsmokable Hash"

(From the CD Mirrors)

Heard by: Gary Hogge, La Jolla/San

Francisco



Very folksy. I picture it [in] a dark club somewhere with just a guy up on stage with a guitar and lots of drunk people around. Sort of the Arlo Guthrie sound in a way but not quite as poetically deep, I guess. I think probably [the lyrics were] tongue-in-cheek to poke fun at the drug policies. I thought that the lyrics were fairly clever.

SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Artist: Pufferbilly

Song: "Holdin' On" (From the CD Laid

Out)

Heard by: Rebecca Bates, Little Italy



It was really mellow. It made me think of just relaxing in a lounge chair on my balcony. It reminded me a little bit of Jack Johnson, but he gets on my nerves. [I liked] the guitar. It made me want to relax and hang out and have a margarita or something.

Artist: Hostile Comb-Over Song: "No Mames" (From the CD Escalpe from Mount Island) Heard by: Daniel Abraham, Santa Cruz



The first two [artists] that popped in my head were Fugazi and Henry Rollins; Henry Rollins's singing style with the dynamics of Fugazi. Mainly, I liked the aggressiveness of it. I would have to listen to it a number of times to find out something I disliked because first hearing it, I like it a lot. I could see [that song] in the right circumstance in some sort of indie film.

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD HEARD, PLEASE MAIL IT TO:

Music Editor, As I Hear It, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

Jaime Valle: Tutto Mare

Vintage Vegas: Martini's Bar and

Scott Wallingford: Cafe LaMaze

The Wize Guyz: Tommy's Italian

Yavez: Croce's Jazz Bar **REGGAE / SKA**

Bredren: Portugalia

The Devastators: 4th & B

Elephants in Mud: Winstons

Justin James & the Sons of Beaches: 710 Beach Club

The Stone Senses: Surf N'Saddle

Stranger: 4th & B

The Tribe of Kings: 4th & B

When I Rise: Portugalia

COUNTRY

The California Rangers: McCabe's

Cash'd Out: 710 Beach Club Fishbait: Gaslamp Tavern





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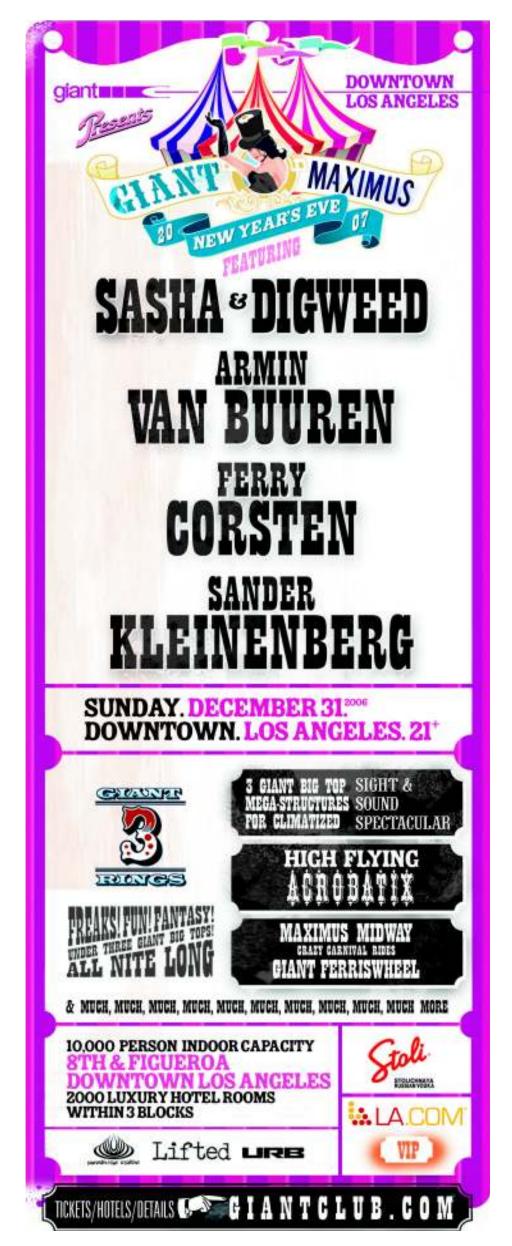
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COUNTRY

Grand Canyon Sundown: Del Dios

The Palaminos: 710 Beach Club

The Tall Dudes: Don's Cocktail

ACOUSTIC / FOLK

Arambro: Twiggs Tea and Coffee

Brian Benham: Twiggs Tea and

John Boria: Borders Books and Music

J.D. Boucharde: Princess Pub & Aaron Bowen: Borders Books and

Music (Gaslamp

Steve Brewer: Blarney Stone Pub

Bushwalla: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Joe Cardillo: Cody's La Jolla

Chris Carpenter: Twiggs Tea and

The Celtic Ensemble: Twiggs Tea

Chris & Harold: Blarnev Stone Pub

John Compton: E Street Cafe

Lee Coulter: Borders Books and Music (Carmel Mountain)

Jennifer Cunningham: E Street Cafe Josh Damigo: Lestat's Coffee House

Greg Douglas: Del Dios Bar and Grill

Randi Driscoll: Twiggs Tea and

Jim Earp: E Street Cafe

The Fall Guys: McP's Irish Pub and

Rob Giles: Lestat's Coffee House

Allison Gill: Blarney Stone Pub

Patty Hall: Borders Books and Music

Jackson & Jesus: McP's Irish Pub

Rusty Jones: E Street Cafe

Johnson, Bosley, & Morin: Borders Books and Music (El Cajon)

The Justin Brothers: McP's Irish Pub

Greg Laswell: Lestat's Coffee House

Adrienne Nims & Raggle Taggle: **Delaney Gibson:** Borders Books and Music (Gaslamp), Lestat's Coffee House

Pat & Joe: Blarney Stone Pub

Tommy Price: McP's Irish Pub and

Shannon Long: Martini Ranch

Donovan Lyman: 710 Beach Club

Mike McGill: 710 Beach Club

Ray Junior: 710 Beach Club

Saba: Lestat's Coffee House

Skibberean: Borders Books and Music

Skyler Stonstreet: Twiggs Tea and

Chris Swann: E Street Cafe

Anna Troy: Borders Books and Music

Ben Varela & Jacks: Twiggs Tea and

Gene Warren: The Ould Sod, McP's

Irish Pub and Grill

Micah Wolf: The Hot Java Cafe

Renata Youngblood: Lestat's Coffee

BLUES / SOUL

Aunt Kizzy'z Boyz: Patrick's II The Bayou Brothers: Patrick's II

Big Slim: Riley's Sports Bar

Blue Heat: The Kraken

Blue Largo: Patrick's II

Blue Rockit: Humphrey's

The Blues Brokers: The Kraken

The Buddy Wuddy Blues Show:

Criminal Funk: Patrick's II

Crossfire: Patrick's II

Electric Soul: Tio Leo's (Mira Mesa)

420 Blackbirdz: Winstons

Hugh Gaskins: Rosie & Joe's, Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Candye Kane: The Calypso Cafe

Lady Dottie & the Diamonds:

The Bill Magee Blues Band:

Patrick's II

Jeff Moore: The Calypso Cafe

Plato Soul: The Kraken

The Soul Persuaders: Humphrev's

Theo & the Zydeco Patrol: Coyote

Billy Thompson: The Calypso Cafe

Triple Shot: The Calypso Cafe

Billy Watson: Coyote Bar and Grill,

EVERYTHING ELSE

Blak Water Cliq: Dreamstreet

John Cain: Shooters Bar and Grill, Bahia Resort Hotel, Hotel del Coronado

Ray Correa: The Butcher Shop

Dat Politics: Ché Café

Dornob: Dizzv's

Ellaydee: Dreamstreet

Jim Gibson: Hotel del Coronado

Inthevisualistz: Dreamstreet

Los Reyes Del Ritmo: Estancia

MC Curse W3rd: Dreamstreet

Tony Preve: Dreamstreet

Roy Resnikoff: Cody's La Jolla

Eddie Rossi: Red Fox Steakh

The David Shaw Duo: Red Fox

Joe Soprano: Red Fox Steakhouse

The Spot: Fannie's Nightclub Joey West: Hotel del Coronado





The following nightclubs have valuable coupons in the Music Section of the Reader's website. o indicates North County.

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CA Express VIP Card Free card

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In Cahoots 2 for 1 cover

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Martini Ranch Free appetizers

Patricks II 2 for 1 cover

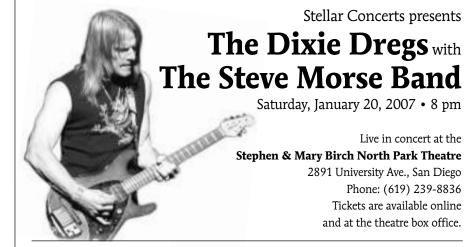
Second Wind Navajo No cover

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Tio Leo's Lounge \$1 off club admission

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All ages until 10 pm Graverot Productions presents

GRAVE THE ABSENCE DEATH EVOKATION

UPCOMING SHOWS (See our website for more info):

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CASEY McSOCIAL
FALLBACK
FAREWELL

FRIDAY 12•22 | (SATURDAY 12•23)

Joe Troutman All ages until 10 pm BGO Events Promotions

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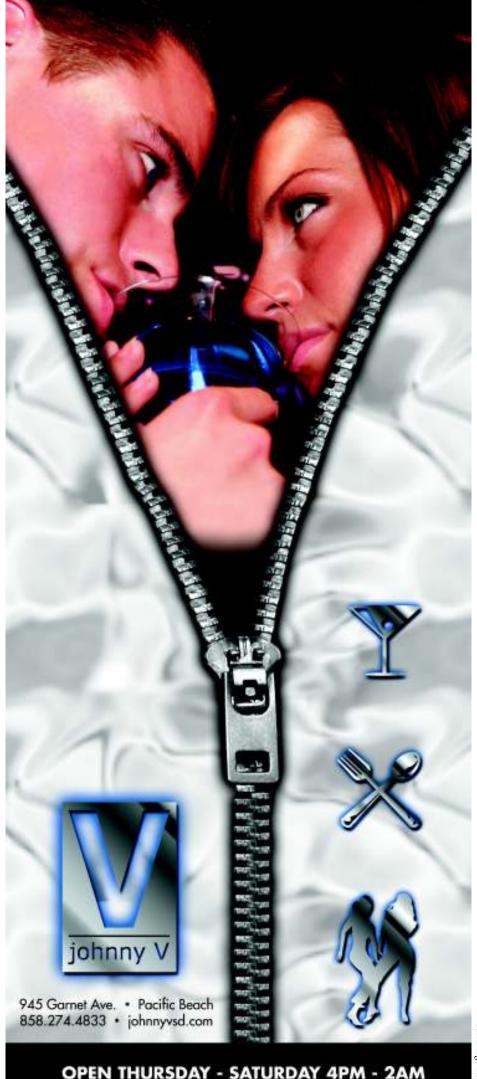
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It's a Wonderful Grinch

Toward the end, the fiction trumps the fact.

REV

he critic Walter Kerr had two sons that loved cars. One just loved to drive them. The other loved driving and taking them apart to see how they are made. The second son, Kerr observed, had the instincts of a critic.

Cygnet Theatre's holiday show, a live radio version of the Frank Capra movie *It's a Wonderful Life*, appeals to both impulses. You not only watch the familiar story of

George Bailey, you also watch how it's made in a 1947 studio: announcers, flashing applause signs, actors reading scripts into stand-up microphones, sound effects, even a commercial for Lux soap (which is apt, since James Stewart and Donna Reed recreated their roles for the *Lux Radio Theatre* in 1946). A change takes place during the three-part, intermissionless show, however. Toward the end, the fiction trumps the fact. The actors become their characters, the story steps forward, and how it's being made disappears before our eyes.

Along the way, the how's a kick. On a film crew, Foley artists create everyday sound effects and enhance sounds not originally on the track. They used to bang coconut shells to suggest galloping horses or squeezed boxes of cornstarch for footsteps in the snow. At Cygnet, Scott Paulson takes the art to unforeseen places. He has the wood frame and the small door opening and closing, of course, and stairs he walks up and down. Yeah, yeah... But get this: to replicate a parachute opening he pops a top hat; for crickets he flicks an ice cream scoop. Zuzu's pills? M&M's poured

into a huge martini glass. Along with exact auditory replications, Paulson strums a harp and plays several woodwind instruments for good measure.

Costumer Jeanne Reith's wide-body, doublebreasted suits and lighter-than-air dresses define

the period to a T, as do Peter Herman's hair designs (tumbling curls for the women, furrowed oil-slicks for the men). And everyone wears a gigantic, post-WWII smile —

possibly THE most telling sign of the late 1940s.

Take away the sentimentality and the story tilts toward the mid-'50s. George dreams of seeing the world, of building great things. Instead he stays home (even misses WWII with a bad ear) and remains duty-bound. In the midst of a happy family — and one of the most loving wives in film or theater — George has a '50s existential crisis. Sartre's Being and Nothingness takes a chunk out of Bedford Falls, NY. Life loses all meaning for George — for a few frames, at least. He abandons his identity and contemplates a premature departure. Thanks to a neophyte angel, George refuses to throw away the "greatest gift." Soon he's surrounded by even wider late-'40s smiles, the status quo returns, and Sartrean angst mopes

Directed by Sean Murray, the cast performs in the hyper-acting style of the period (critics tend to pooh-pooh it as being shallow and overbaked, but there's an appealing freedom to these non-Method emotions; they just come racing out, on-the-ball, un-psychoanalyzed). As George, Tom Andrew has this antsy, "shoot the works"

back into its lonely cave.



Veronica Murphy, Melissa Fernandes, Amy Beidel in It's a Wonderful Life

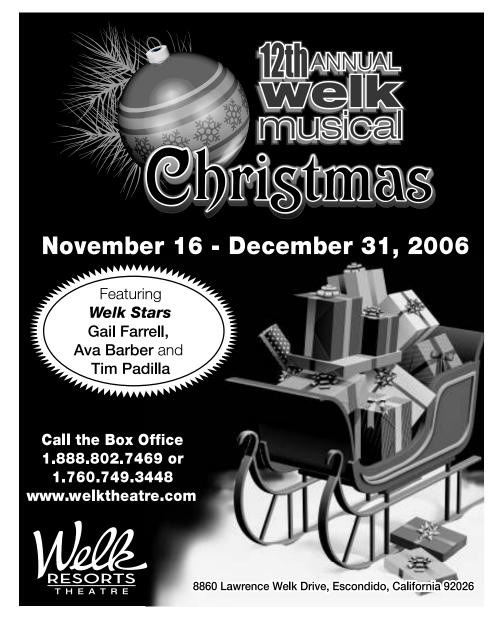
It's a Wonderful Life, adapted by Joe Landry

Cygnet Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area

Directed by Sean Murray; cast: Tom Andrew, Amy Beidel, Amy Dalton, Melissa Fernandes, David Gallagher, Trevor Hollingsworth, Mark Larson, Veronica Murphy, Scott Paulson; scenic design, Murray; costumes, Jeanne Reith; lighting, Eric Lotze; sound, George Ye; Foley sound design, Scott Paulson; musical director, Amy Dalton Playing through December 24; Tuesday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Matinee Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-337-1525, x3.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas, book and lyrics by Timothy Mason, music by Mel Marvin Old Globe Theatre, Simon Edison Centre for the Performing Arts, Balboa Park Directed by Jack O'Brien; cast: Jay Goede, Mackenzie Holmes, Skylar Starrs Siben, Sarah Sumner, Kevin Bailey, Eileen Bowman, Ryan Drummond, Scott Dreier, Caroline Hyatt, Troy Hussman, James Vasquez, Alison Grace Norwood, A.J. Foggiano, Ari Lerner, Bibi Valderama, Cassidy Burwell; scenic design, John Lee Beatty; costumes, Robert Morgan; lighting, Pat Collins; sound, Paul Peterson; choreography, John DeLuca; musical director, Phil Reno Playing through December 29; Tuesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Matinee Saturday at 2:00 p.m. Sunday at 1:00 p.m. 619-234-5623.





style down pat. His performance recalls Jimmy Stewart's, true. But the bigger crime would be if it didn't.

Amy Beidel, Melissa Fernandes, and Veronica Murphy sing (and flash their teeth) beautifully: their spunky commercial for "Lux Toilet Cake" isn't just a highlight of the show, it's one of the most memorable set pieces of 2006.

Wonderful Life's elements are analyzable. What evades scrutiny is that tipping point at the end. You know what's coming: Bedford Falls will embrace George and he will embrace life anew. And you WILL be moved. You can fight it: lash yourself to the mast and stuff beeswax in the ears of your men. Won't matter. At this point the story and the production (and, I suspect, Eric Lotze's excellent lighting, which refocuses the space) transform the elements so deftly that, like Walter Kerr's sons, you're now behind the wheel — or, maybe even more to the point, suddenly the car is driving you.

I saw the *Grinch* movie. Not all, but enough to see that every inch was a frantic, detailed sprawl (they even number the streaks of the snowflake) determined, like most movies these days, to *panzer* you into submission.

Okay, I'm biased. I love it live.

I caught the Old Globe's *Grinch* last week and it's as crisp and playful as ever. Scenic de-

signer John Lee Beatty's mobile snowdrifts, Robert Morgan's costumes (waddling Whos shaped like bowling pins and pears), Jay Goede's Grinch, a green Sasquatch who really needs to take his meds — all combine in a swirling, and human, theatricality.

Grinch has become a local holiday institution. The night I saw it, at least half the audience was under 12 — many seeing live theater quite possibly for the first time. And, what has become another praiseworthy Grinch tradition: at least 75 percent of the cast comes from San Diego. ■

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

Amahl and the Night Visitors

fore. There is not a king outside. There are two." Three actually, and they've come to change the lives of poor, disabled Amahl and his mother. I've seen several versions of Gian Carlo Menotti's "opera for children" but never one as well sung as Common Ground Theatre's, or as funny. Director Floyd Gaffney gives the piece its due

"Mother, I did not tell the truth be-

solemnity but also has coaxed lighthearted moments from the libretto, as when Amahl jumps on the back of a king, who caught his mother stealing, and pounds on him mercilessly (and harmlessly). The unmiked cast has such strong voices they don't need electrical enhancement — though one wishes the acoustics in St. Paul's Great Hall, which pull the words toward the ceiling, didn't make the lyrics so difficult to follow. Young Spike Sommers, who sings a clear soprano, is a kick as young Amahl (the Tiny Tim of C.E. 1). Noelle Tetrick, as the mother, and tenor Tom Oberjet, as near-deaf King Kaspar, stand out. As do Joan Wong's costumes, which range from impoverished shepherd-wear to the raiment of royalty, and Espe Gallardo's props (the Kings are laden with wealth). The chorus of villagers fills the hall with festive celebration.

Worth a try.

GREAT HALL, ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, FIFTH AVENUE AND NUTMEG STREET, HILLCREST, THROUGH DECEMBER 17; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:30 P.M. 619-263-7911, OR 619-298-7261, X356.

An Angel's Gift

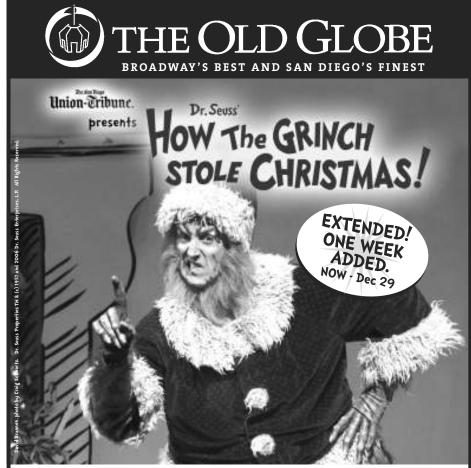
For three performances only, the Lindley Lopez Circus performs its inaugural production: a holiday circus story written and directed by Cheryl Lindley.

LYMAN SAVILLE THEATRE, SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE, C STREET AT 13TH, DOWNTOWN, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, AT 7:30 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 3:00 P.M. 619-543-0911.

Bacchae

King Pentheus has a problem. The women of his city, seven-gated Thebes, have fled to the mountains





DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!

Book & Lyrics by Timothy Mason | Music by Mel Marvin Directed by Jack O'Brien | Old Globe Theatre



The Old Globe presents Teatro Máscara Mágica's production of

LA PASTORELA DE LA ESTRELLA
By Max Branscomb
Directed by William Virchis

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Heartwarming and charming, ACE tells the story of the hopes and dreams of three generations of fathers and sons, husbands and wives at a significant time in American history.

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and worship a deity new to Greece, Dionysus. Are they god-inspired, or just brainwashed cult groupies? In the Bacchae, Euripides pits civic duty, taken to an extreme, against an immortal loose cannon. Don't bet on the young King of Thebes. For 6th@Penn, director Douglas Lay and designer Vincent Sneddom turned the small space into a jungle of palm fronds and dripping burlap. Sturdy tree trunks even support the bacchantes, who swing on their branches. The production overall's a mix. Lay has an affinity for Greek drama, especially keeping the stage alive. His cast, however, ranges from high caliber - Rhys Green's moving Cadmus shocked into exile; Bonnie Stone's instant of horrific recognition as Pentheus's mother, Agave, who tore him to shreds - to amateurish. Most speeches begin with a shout, which leaves them (and Marianne McDonald's crisp, modernized translation) little room to grow. As a result the energy often tapers. The play's a wonder, though, packed with contemporary parallels and questions. It cuts two ways at once: is it pro- or anti-ritual? Proor anti-civic authority? Where does religion end and the state begin? Worth a try.

6TH@PENN THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AV-ENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH DECEM-

BER 23; THURSDAY THROUGH SATUR-DAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 4:00 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M 619-688-9210.

Bad Dad, a Comedy of

In Mark Whitney's comedy, Dad opens a Ben & Jerry's. The FBI investigates. "Dad goes to the cooler, but who really gets licked?" WAREHOUSE THEATRE, 11211 SOR-RENTO VALLEY ROAD, SUITE M. SOR-RENTO VALLEY, THROUGH DECEM-BER 16; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 888-567-4464

A Christmas Carol

Julian Theater Company stages the classic tale of un-curmudgeoning, adapted by Don Winslow and directed by Scott Kinney. JULIAN TOWN HALL, 2129 MAIN STREET, JULIAN, THROUGH DECEMBER 16; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, PRESHOW AT 6:30 P.M., CURTAIN AT 7:30 P.M. 760-765-1688.

A Christmas Carol

Applauz Theatre presents David Weiner's new adaptation of Dickens's story, which includes a Greek chorus, and music and dance numbers. James Dublino directed. APPLAUZ THEATRE, 450 FLETCHER PARKWAY, SUITE 250, EL CAJON, THROUGH DECEMBER 17; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-440-6714.

Premiere Productions stages its 11th annual holiday festival. Shows include The Queen of Bingo, The Littlest Angel, Gifts of the Magi, and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. BROADWAY THEATRE 340 FAST BROAD-WAY, VISTA, THROUGH DECEMBER 23; THE QUEEN OF BINGO THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY AT 7:30 P.M., THE LITTLEST ANGEL, MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 P.M.; AVO PLAY-HOUSE, 303 MAIN STREET, VISTA RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, AT 2:00 P.M.: THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI. THURSDAY, AND TUESDAY. DECEMBER 19, AND SATURDAY, DE-CEMBER 23, AT 7:30 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, AT 2:00 P.M. 760-806-7905.

Christmas Theater Festival

Hank Williams: Lost Highway

If you only saw Act One of Lost Highway, you'd think the great "hillbilly" singer lived a charmed, sitcom life. If you only saw Act Two, you'd want more facts to sup port allegations about drug and alcohol abuse and spiritual decay. Randall Myler and Mark Harelik's book's actually an improvement over the yummy version the Old Globe staged over a decade ago. but it still doesn't multi-task in one of the trickiest of genres: the entertaining cautionary tale. The performances, however, are quite good. Mississippi Charles Bevel's blues riffs, like antiphonal responses to Williams's country crooning, cut



Jay Goede in How the Grinch Stole Christmas

through the night with an ancient, authentic ring. The backup band's high quality (Russ Wever's steel guitar's so lonesome it cries). Van Zeiler has Williams's nervous ticks and signature yodeling down pretty pat. But it's the combination of Zeiler and the band that create the Williams aura best. And there are times, as when the nervous group first performs at the Grand Ole Opry and Zeiler belts out "Lovesick Blues," they transport you back to Nashville's old Ryman Auditorium, "the mother church of country vocals," and you become part of a stunned crowd hearing Hank Williams for the first time.

SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH DECEMBER 17; SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-544-1000

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Worth a try.

Reviewed this issue. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THROUGH DECEM-BER 29; TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 2:00 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 1:00 P.M. 619-234-5623.

It's a Fabulous Life!

Diversionary Theatre presents a gay holiday musical borrowing its premise from It's a Wonderful Life. David Brannen directed and chore

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BOULEVARD, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. THROUGH DECEMBER 17: THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-220-0097

It's a Wonderful Life Reviewed this issue.

CYGNET THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, COLLEGE AREA, THROUGH DECEMBER 24; TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT

Lamb's Players Festival of Christmas

Lamb's Players sets this year's story in San Diego. It's 1949, and Anthony Gabbiano becomes torn between family responsibility and becoming a big-time musician. Deborah Gilmour Smyth directed. LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 OR-ANGE AVENUE, CORONADO, THROUGH DECEMBER 30; TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P M MATINEE SATURDAY AT 4:00 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-437-0600.

La Pastorella de la Estrella

Teatro Méascara Méajica presents its popular holiday show about the shepherds' journey to Bethlehem (and in this year's version they run into Nacho Libre, Howie Mandel, and Superman). William Virchis directed. CASSIUS CARTER CENTRE STAGE, SI-MON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PER-FORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THROUGH DECEMBER 23: WEDNESDAY (AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19) THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-234-5623.

Readings of August Wilson's Plays: Ma Rainey's **Black Bottom**

The San Diego Black Ensemble and Cygnet Theatre could do for the late August Wilson what "Grassroots Greeks" did for ancient Greek drama in San Diego. The companies present a series of staged readings of one of the American theater's rarely performed but most important play-

wrights. Twice winner of the Pulitzer Prize (for Fences in 1987 and The Piano Lesson in 1990), Wilson wrote a cycle of dramas that probe the African-American experience through the decades of the 20th Century (he concentrated, he said, on the "largest idea that confronted blacks in each decade"). The readings will also be staged at the Performance Annex in City Heights and other locations. The series will culminate in a week-long staged reading festival of all the plays at Cygnet in June 2007. Next offering: Calvin Manson directs Ma Rainey's Black Bot-

Worth a try.

CYGNET THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, COLLEGE AREA, THROUGH MAY 8; MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, AT 7:30 P.M. FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF READINGS AND LOCATIONS CALL 619-337-1525 X3

San Diego Theatresports: The FunHouse A cross between improvisational

comedy and Family Feud. Improv, making up a funny scene as you go along, is tough enough. Add competitive scene making, with the audience awarding points to the winning team. Purists might balk at the odiousness of comparisons used in this format, but the "game show" — on Fridays — is a hoot. The 90-minute evening offers different bits. The show I caught had "Team Sports" — two pairs of players competed, taking suggestions from the audience; and "Gorilla Theatre" - five directors invented scenes, using the other four as actors. The winner got a banana, the loser a "forfeit" (other formats include "Micetro" and "Improv Survivors"). Some attempts went nowhere (I repeat: improv is tough; I did it in my, as hindsight reveals, callow youth). Others made amazing twists and turns. The group makes the hits much more frequent than the misses. Their guru, Keith Johnstone, wrote one of the very best books I've ever read about making theater. And they put his pearls to good use. Their motto: "Remember, when it's not funny, it's art."

Worth a try.

THE FUNHOUSE, 6822 EL CAJON BOULE-VARD (BETWEEN 68TH AND 69TH), COL-LEGE AREA, FRIDAY AT 7:45 P.M. SAT-URDAY AT 7:45 P.M. AND 9:45 P.M. 619-465-7469

Sister's Christmas Catechism

The Theatre in Old Town offers a holiday version of Late Nite Catechism in which Sister solves the mystery of the Magi's gold. THEATRE IN OLD TOWN, 4040 TWIGGS STREET, OPEN-ENDED RUN; SUNDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY AT 7:30 P.M. 619-688-2494.







The Tin Soldier

North Coast Repertory Theatre presents the "tale of a toy come to life." Joe Powers directed. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE. 987 LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SUITE D, SOLANA BEACH THROUGH DECEMBER 31; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 858-481-1055.

Traditions of Christmas: A Musical Spectacular

Christian Community Theater's vuletide show includes a cast of 130, Rockette-style dancers, Christmas elves, and a live Nativity pageant.

FAST COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CEN-TER, 210 EAST MAIN STREET, EL CA-JON, THROUGH DECEMBER 23; THURS-DAY THROUGH SATURDAY (AND WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20) AT 7:00 P.M. SLINDAY DECEMBER 17 AT 6:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (AND WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, AND FRIDAY, DECEM BER 22) AT 2:00 P.M. 619-588-0206

Triple Espresso: A Highly **Caffeinated Comedy**

Hugh Butternutt's done his lounge act at the Triple Espresso Coffee

house 20 years to the day. While patrons sip a house blend - "Grape," "Scandinavian Blizzard," or "Mokoko Cocoa Mocha" — Hugh plays '70s tunes on the piano. He and his companions, here to celebrate Hugh's anniversary, got stuck in the '70s. The trio used to be Maxwell, Butternutt, and Bean, a comedy group that never went far. They're "losers," they admit, but not "ordinary" ones. And, hey, their reunion could help them face searing issues from their mediocre pasts. A formulaic story line? Yep. Straight from Forever Plaid. There's also the Forever Plaid problem: the three comedians are far too talented to play inept characters. One's a whiz at the piano. Another's a first-rate mime, and the third's a crackerjack magician. The trio is so talented, when the plot has them complain of difficulties to overcome, you wish they'd quit trumping up the pseudo-drama and get on with this highly entertaining, if lightweight show. (Note: the original cast members have been replaced.) Worth a try.

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVENUE, GASLAMP QUARTER, OPEN-ENDED RUN; WEDNESDAY AND THURS-DAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SATURDAY AT 5:00 AND 8:00 P.M. SUN- DAY AT 3:00 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M.

Win, Place, or Die...My Jockeys Are Killing Me!

Mystery Cafe Dinner Theatre pre sents James Pascarella and Patricia Harris-Smith's interactive "racetrack romp." It's opening weekend at Upson Downs, and the Thoroughbred Club'll never be the same. Pascarella directed. IMPERIAL HOUSE RESTAURANT, 505 KALMIA STREET, HILLCREST, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-544-1600.

The Wonder Bread Years

Pat Hazell's solo "field trip back in time" sounds like yet another superficial romp through the '50s and '60s, glancing here and careening there off familiar icons with the nutritional content implied by its title. What sets the piece apart, along with Hazell's ability to interact with an audience (and with what it's thinking, rather than with what he wants it to think) is his knack for talking about the familiar in fresh ways ("Childhood was the time when you could fall asleep anywhere and wake up in your own bed"). He talks about traditional

subjects — breakfast, going to school, Thanksgiving ("the day eggnog becomes street legal") and creates a commonality with his listeners. He doesn't always achieve his aim — "to explore our sense of wonder: where we lost it and how to get it back" — but often coaxes memories of events and things long since forgotten, like "gyp" houses at Halloween, or Kool-Aid ice cubes, or the table for 12-year-olds at Thanksgiving, which had the same seating arrangement even when the 12-year-olds were 22. Hazell, who wrote for Jerry Seinfeld, dresses a bit like Howdy Doody's Buffalo Bob, minus the cowboy hat, and performs with a folksy ease. Occasionally he demonstrates more than just a gift for gab, as when he balances various items on his nose or a wooden chair on his chin. But he's at his best as a conjurer of the telling detail.

Worth a try.

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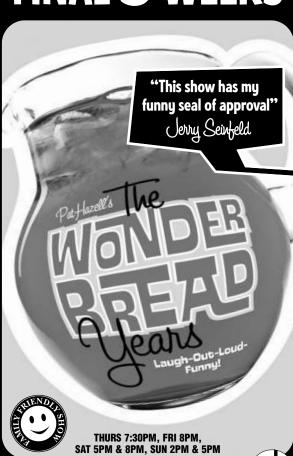
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More Than Music

House of Blues' stated mission is to celebrate African-American cultural contributions to America's music, art, and cooking. Founded with financial backing from Dan Aykroyd, James Belushi, Aerosmith, and other celebs, HOB (as they abbreviate it) opened in a converted historic mansion in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on Thanksgiving 1992, with a meal for the homeless. (It continues that tradition today.) Since then, it's expanded nationwide into a chain of restaurant-nightclubs and larger performance venues.

The dining rooms are separate from the nightclubs, so you don't have to go to a performance to eat there. And in this season of strained wallets, you don't have to spend much to have a good meal and a great time.

At the San Diego HOB, decor is down-home and colorful. Every free inch of wall space is festooned with the fabulous folk art of the African diaspora — New Orleans, Haiti, the rural South, etc. To my tastes, it's the best art museum in town. You can eat on the outdoor patio on Fifth Avenue, or inside in a simple dining room with wooden tables and chairs (with a little padding). No carpet, no tablecloths — just that vibrant art to feast your eyes on (plus several large TV screens if that's your preference) and a blues soundtrack to go with it.

The menu, common to all of the chain's locations, is designed to appeal to every taste and budget - Southern-inspired fare with an emphasis on Cajun/Creole dishes, mildly creative pub grub, and vaguely Mediterranean comfort food. Michael Catalano (formerly of Molly's) is executive chef of the San Diego kitchen, but chefs from all over collaborate on the recipes, with the strongest input from the Los Angeles outpost. As an aficionado of Louisiana cooking, I approached the restaurant with skepticism. Could a committee of corporate chefs devise an authentic version of such a distinctive cuisine? To answer that question, I started cautiously with the Gospel Brunch buffet (see below) and, when that passed muster, returned for dinner with the Lynnester, Samurai Jim, and my

We began with the Cajun smoked turkey and shrimp filé gumbo (ordered from a menu section called "From the Stock Pot"). It was surprisingly acceptable, based on a well-made *roux*, with plenty of meats and veggies and just the right amount of rice afloat in a tasty broth. (It's a sin when restau-

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REVIEW

NAOMI WISE

rants dump too much rice into gumbo.) It was a little short on spice, so we asked for hot sauce. The waitress brought us a bottle of HOB's own Bayou Heat, which resembles Louisiana Red. Now, all along the southern Mississippi, good cooks have

their own special gumbo recipes — no two identical. In some circles, it's considered rude to ask people what they put in their gumbo, unless you're a close friend. HOB's

rendition, on the other hand, is in no way personal or eccentric. It's still very nice — Gumbo 101, with an easy passing grade.

Voodoo Shrimp is inspired by the New Orleans' misnamed "barbecue shrimp" (which is simmered, not barbecued). It offered tender shrimp in a smooth bittersweet sauce, the bitterness coming from a reduction of Dixie beer and piney sprigs of rosemary. The sweetness came from hunks of rosemary cornbread soaked in the sauce. Jim liked it so much, he threatened to eat it all.

A duo of grilled sausages included semi-spicy, full-flavored Louisiana andouille, and boudin, a milder Cajun sausage. The andouille was what it should be. The full-flavored boudin was neither

the loose, plump, creamy white boudin from south of Lafayette, nor the funky, liverish brown boudin of the Cajun Prairie. In fact, I suspect it's not boudin at all, but another middling-spicy Cajun sausage called chaurice. Whatever its name, it's delicious.

The sausages come plated over mild Creole mustard-cream sauce, surrounding a hill of stiff, lumpy, skin-on mashed potatoes, topped with diced roasted red peppers,

chopped tomatoes, and canned black olives — a flavorful, minimalist version of a pasta sauce.

We wanted to try one non-Southern appetizer, just to get a more complete picture of the cooking. We chose the wrong one: "Mediterranean" fried calamari. It was overcooked, oversalted, and undersauced (and the sauce wasn't very good either); anything else has to be better.

If you don't want a serious entrée, you can choose a main-course salad, sandwich, burger, or individual pizza. We *did* want serious entrées, and for those, we returned to the banks of the Mississippi and the Atchafalaya. The jambalaya was a tight mixture, with flavors well mingled (not the lazy cook's simplified version with Creole red sauce

House of Blues

★★½ (Good to Very Good)

1055 Fifth Avenue (north of Broadway), downtown, 619-299-2583, www.hob.com/venues/club venues/sandiego.

HOURS: Monday–Thursday, 11:30 a.m.–midnight; Friday until 2:00 a.m.; Saturday, 4:00 p.m.–2:00 a.m.; Sunday, 4:00 p.m.–midnight. "Lightning Lunch" prix fixe, Monday–Friday, 11:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

PRICES: Dinner appetizers, \$6–\$12; soups, \$3–\$5; salads, \$6–\$12; sandwiches, pizzas, lunch dishes, \$7–\$10; entrées, \$10–\$30; sides about \$4; desserts, \$5–\$6.50.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Southern soul food with a Louisiana slant, plus slightly creative pub grub, sandwiches, burgers, pizzas. Anemic wine list, full bar with fun cocktails.

PICK HITS: Voodoo shrimp; sausage appetizer; gumbo; jambalaya; sweet potato fries; rosemary cornbread, pamarita cocktail.

NEED TO KNOW: Dinner reservations essential. Dinner packages available with access to shows. Additional (less busy) box office/will-call and entry on Sixth Avenue, parallel to Fifth Avenue main entrance. Valet parking \$12 at main entrance during dinner hours. (Numerous pay lots nearby.) Several lacto-vegetarian choices. Handicapped access: use main entrance to avoid stairs. Handicapped seating for shows must be reserved at least 48 hours in advance.

Ratings reflect the reviewer's reaction to food, ambience, and service, with price taken into consideration. Menu listings and prices are subject to change.

Go to SanDiegoReader.com to find hundreds of past reviews.

over boiled rice). It offered shrimp, chicken (including drumettes, which were better than the dryish breast pieces), andouille, tasso (spicy Cajun smoked ham made from pork loin), and whole roasted scallions. We stirred in a splash of Bayou Heat to help it along.

The rack of slow-smoked Tennessee-style babyback ribs proved so tender and mild, you know it had to spend more time simmering than smoking, even though there's a smoker on the premises. The





Jim Beam BBQ sauce is simple and molasses-sweet. The combo doesn't strike me as typical of Tennessee barbecue — unless maybe they mean backyard barbecue from the white suburbs of Nashville. Certainly, it doesn't taste like spicy-tangy-sweet downtown Memphis Q, nor fiery-smoky rural African-American Q, like the long-gone Red Devil of Tullahoma, Tennessee. (Where the devil did he go?) But it's an amiable dish, especially with buttery mashed sweet potatoes alongside.

The huge slab of "Cajun" meatloaf is light textured and initially enticing, but its simple flavor soon wears out its welcome. It comes with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, and, that night, undercooked baby carrots (those bagged pared-down carrots from Florida, not real babies). The bronzed catfish fillet also makes a stab at Louisiana cuisine, with lightly battered fried-fish pieces, carefully cooked but somehow lacking. "They've got all the right Cajun spices," said Iim, "but no Caiun flavor." The fish's companion was a mound of fascinating fiery chipotle risotto, sticky reddish rice similar to the jambalaya but spicier and also richer. "It almost tastes like there's sour cream in there," said my partner. It wasn't a bad guess — there is dairy in the mixture, butter and Parmesan cheese.

Entrées come with vegetables, but you can amend any dish from a group of tasty, inexpensive sides. We invested in a side of sweet potato fries with lively house-made ketchup. It was a winner on both counts.

The wine list seemed so

dreary — mainly top-shelf supermarket bottlings — that I passed on it entirely and thumbed through the bound stack of colorful cards depicting house-specialty cocktails. The best drink we sampled was the bright, tangy pamerita, a cerise-colored margarita with pomegranate juice.

For dessert, we shared a white chocolate banana bread pudding with whipped cream and caramel. Like most New Orleans—style bread puddings, it was on the dry side, and it had little white chocolate character. The portion was sufficient for four to share and not quite finish.

Overall, we felt that the Southern cooking here is enjoyable but not extraordinary. Extraordinary food requires personality and the courage to take chances, which a chain can't risk if it's going to please everybody. But the price is right, and the scene is a lot of fun, whether you're dating, hanging out with friends, or getting together with family. You can kick back, eat agreeable food, listen to the blues, and let the bon temps roulez — good times permeate the building.

HOB GOSPEL BRUNCH BUFFET

HOURS: Sundays, 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

PRICES: Tickets, \$35 adults (13 and over) in person; children 6–12, \$18.50; free for 5 and under, but reserve seats for each tot. All phone orders have a \$2 per ticket surcharge.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Vast buffet of American breakfast foods, Southern dishes, salads, with omelet and carv-

ing stations and separate dessert

station. Plenty of everything. Nonalcoholic beverages included in price, alcohol extra. **PICK HITS:** Smoked roast beef; omelets; peel-and-eat shrimp; cheese grits; biscuits and gravy; jambalaya; smoked barbecued chicken; breakfast potatoes with peppers; wild mushroom pasta.

NEED TO KNOW: For best choice of dates and hours, buy tickets well ahead and be flexible. Call this minute for dates before New Year's - most brunches sell out during the holiday season. Handicapped access: use Fifth Avenue entrance to avoid stairs; take elevator down to brunch. (Mobility-impaired patrons may want to wait for crowds to clear at opening time to ensure elevator access, and again before tackling buffet; the food won't run out.) Many lacto-vegetarian items, very few for vegans.

The room where the Gospel Brunch takes place is in HOB's subterranean depths. As you start down the stairs with the rest of the crowd, in small groups each led by a server, the colorful art on the walls makes you feel as if you're entering the old Tunnel of Fun at Coney Island — but then, as you march down, down, down, thoughts of Alice and rabbit holes come to mind. Finally, you reach bottom, a vast, semidark room with a bar along one side and a curtained stage opposite. While loud recorded gospel music plays, the server shows you to your assigned seats at one of several long communal tables. The unpadded metal folding chairs are horrendously uncomfortable. We

lucked out with our tableneighbors — Charlene and three girlfriends were celebrating her 50th birthday with mimosas and quiet, contagious joy. They were the very people whose company you'd want at a gospel concert.

Once you're settled, you rise again to head for the buffet in a better-lighted adjoining room. Clearly, many of the patrons were veterans of the Gospel Brunch — they were less pushy and tense than the average buffet-hound, because they knew that at HOB, none of the selections — not even the most desirable dishes — would run out.

The food quality? Well, it is

a buffet. The pros: a huge and interesting spread, with plenty of flavorful dishes along with the inevitable blah selections. The cons: it's still a buffet. HOB doesn't use Sterno or steam trays to keep the food hot. Warm dishes soon cool to room temperature, which may not be so hot when it comes to items like biscuit gravy and baked macaroni — but the food doesn't congeal over continued heat, nor does it suffer risky, bacteria-breeding sub-simmer temperatures. (Two hours at room temperature is actually safer after that, the party's over.) Between the two shows (at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.), the staff rings out the old dishes and brings in fresh batches.

Although HOB's website boasts of the buffet's "Southern specialties," most offerings are regionless American breakfast and picnic dishes. First go-round, I zeroed in on the Southern food. I liked the bis-

cuits and the light sausage cream gravy (even if it had cooled), with a choice between well-browned or pale biscuits (they're in separate bins next to each other). I loved the very cheesy Cheddar grits, pure comfort food. (Despite their ugly name, grits are much the same as the soft polenta you eat at Italian restaurants — moist cornmeal pudding.) The peeland-eat shrimp were tender, cooked in a well-seasoned boil — HOB's own house blend, as it didn't taste at all like Zatarain's, Chachere's, or Old Bay. When brunch-veteran Charlene got back to our table, her plate was piled high with

them, for good reason.

The jambalaya was different from the dinner version, proving that it's cooked by humans, not robots. It was spicier and moister, more soulful than the version upstairs. Another hit was the smoky barbecued chicken, with tender flesh and crisp skin glazed with sweet barbecue sauce.

Also on hand are numerous salads, pastas, and potatoes. We liked the country-style breakfast potatoes with peppers and onions (better than the vinegary "Creole" potato salad), the penne with wild mushroom cream sauce, and (before it got too cold and sticky) the baked mac'n'cheese. On the downside, the fresh fruits, bacon, and link sausages were nothing to get excited about, and the crawfish cheesecake was leaden. The rosemary cornbread with maple butter is served stone cold, which takes some of the glamour off it, and in a salad of cheese tortellini with lobster,

the pasta was gummy. We didn't bother with the several green salads.

The best way to approach the omelet and carving stations is to wait a bit and make a second buffet excursion after the initial crowds thin. The omelets are made to order, with plenty of point-and-shoot ingredients to choose from, including crawfish. The carving station's smoked prime rib roast is no less than magnificent.

If you're still hungry, there's a separate dessert station at the foot of the stairs. (Our appetites never made it that far.) Servers bring beverages to the tables. Excellent fresh orange juice flows freely, while coffee, soft drinks, and hard drinks arrive by request. You have to pay for alcohol; otherwise, beverages are free.

Just as we were starting to feel full, drowsy, and restless in those hard chairs, we heard a burst of live music. The curtains swung open, and a band onstage launched into its first number. The gospel concert starts about an hour after the buffet opens, runs for an hour, and wakes you right up. The performers encourage the crowd to clap and sing lines of call-and-response. After a few numbers, audience members who want to sing in public are invited to come to the front of the stage and solo a line or two — it's amazing what vocal talent there is in the room. (This is not karaoke!) During the final number, the stage fills with audience members dancing with the band. And the very best dancer onstage that morning? "Our" Charlene! ■













Famous First Words

"Dahling. Beverly's offered to take us to lunch. You can hear all the prose we've written."

ED BEDFORD

as Vegas weddings: kitschy, funky, depressing, romantic.' Uh, no. Next?

"The British are frequently criticized by other nations for their dislike of change...

Thank you, thank you. Don't call us, we'll call you. Next?

"Edward looked back into the mirror just as a third eye started to bust through the skin on his forehead..."

Okay. I made that one up. But heck, I'm getting desperate here to find a book with an opening line that makes you want to read on.

I'm sifting through all this stuff 'cause I need inspiration. Yeah, I'd like to write a book. Carla keeps going off to writing classes with her friend Beverly, and, well, I'm feeling ye olde competitive spirit welling up.

Specially since I agreed to meet her here at the Upstart Crow (seems that's what some rival writer called Willy Shakespeare). Carla and Beverly are doing their "creative writing" thing right now. They want to come here after and "talk about it." And man, this Crow place has the right feel, even though it's in rinky dinky touristy Stewpot Village, as Hank calls it. Seaport Village is a fine place, but really, there's nothing real about it. For starters it's an East Coast seaport. Whose idea was that? And nobody actually lives here. So we're talking outdoor mall. Period.

Except for the Upstart Crow. These people are serious. Fifteen thousand titles in a white stucco, sloping, shake-roofed place with blue trim and the feel of a mountain house. Inside, there's parquet floors, open rafters, plank stairs going up to a loft space under the roof, all kinda brown and woody. And what's nice is how they have café tables set out amongst the books. You can see people reaching for tomes to glance at

while they sip their cawfees, and nobody freaks out.

Man. One o'clock already. My gut's talking to me. "Let's r-rr-rumble!"

"Okay, okay," I say. I take off for the coffee station, a big square counter in the middle of the main groundfloor space, with a real stuffed crow

sitting up on a rafter. A lady ahead of me orders a quiche and salad. Huh. Thought they only did java here. Then I spot a little blackboard. "Quiche, salad, spinach and mushroom or broccoli, \$4.95."

Hmm. Think that means you can get either a spinach and mushroom quiche with salad, or a broccoli quiche with salad. Whatever, that should hold the fort. Earlier Carla had mumbled something about Beverly "taking us to lunch."

Fine. But what if they're another hour? So I order that spinach and mushroom quiche, with raspberry dressing (I could have had Caesar) to go on the salad. They also have bagels and cookies and apple pie slices. But this is their one pitch for not-all-sweet grub.

Guy named Charles puts the quiche in the microwave and serves it on a wavy glass plate, with the salad, on a good nonslip cork-lined tray. I get a coffee too (\$1.50, 50-cent refills), in a cup that has some spidery signature on it. Hey, think it's Will Shakespeare himself. Guy should a been a doctor, with that scrawl.

I go back and sit next to a bookshelf stuffed with Classics. Over the sound system, piano's playing "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" in a tuneless, jazzy sort of way. "She's my personal shopper," says this woman, talking about one of the employees to her tall companion. They come and sit down at the next table.

The Personal Shopper appears. "Can I buy one of your Upstart Crow aprons for my winery?" asks the tall guy.

Me, I'm head down into the salad, thinking, how come he's got a winery and I haven't? Gotta write that bestseller! I reach out and grab the first 'classics" I touch.

In a village in La Mancha... Ah. My man. Don Quixote.

Wilson sat on the balcony of the Bedford Hotel with his bald pink knees thrust against the ironwork. Graham Greene, The Heart of the Matter. Not bad.

On a brilliant day in May... Henry James, The American.

That's good thinking there, Cool Breeze. Tom Wolfe, The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test.

Dammit, my little quiche has gone cold. And tough. I take it back to Charles and have him renuke it. Now it's hot — and still tough. Not their fault. Mine, for screwing round.

Actually, I'm getting to enjoy the combo. I mean the combo of quiche (and salt), straight salad of slightly bitter kale and lettuce, with that raspberry gunk spread through it, along with the woody feel of this place, the whine of the coffee grinder — and even the educated, big-word crowd, who can afford to spend afternoons chatting, supping, and buying all these books. There's one gal who's been sitting here as long as I have, sipping latte, grabbing stuff from the women's section. The Woman's Book of Confidence. Snap Out of It! Uppity Women of the Renaissance.

Still no Carla. I go back and get a coffee refill and — what the heck — one of those caramel apple pie slices (\$3.95). I kinda knock it back dee-lish, crumbly hot, with whipped cream on top — in case the ladies arrive mid-gulp. I'm just swallowing the last bit when I hear a voice.

"Da-ahling!"

It's Carla, going all literati on me. And Beverly. I put my book down (James Joyce: There was no hope for him this time), wipe my lips, give her a big smooch. She knows I've eaten. I can tell.

Dahling, Beverly's offered to take us to lunch. Right next door at that beautiful Harbor House. You can hear all the brilliant prose we've written."

"If you haven't already eaten," says Beverly. "Absolutely not," I say.

Carla's eye flicks. She says nothing. Afterwards, I'm dead. I know that.

Still, I got me an opening line for my best seller (drum roll, please):

"Who said there was no such thing as a free lunch?"■

The Place: The Upstart Crow Bookshop and Coffee House, 835 West Harbor Drive, Seaport Village, downtown,

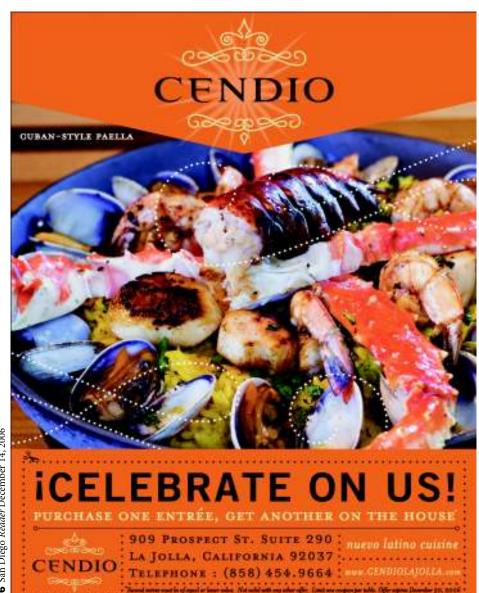
Type of Food: American

Prices: Quiche (broccoli or spinach and mushroom) and salad, \$4.95; various cookies, \$3.50; apple pie, \$3.95; coffees, teas

Hours: 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. seven days

Trolley: Orange Line

Nearest Trolley Stop: Seaport Village







Up Front and Visible

"I believe in putting everything on the floor.... Stack it high and watch it fly."

aul Karcho's campaign to buy landmark downtown wine shop the Wine Bank began eight years ago and concluded early last August. Since then, he's been remodeling and retooling, and now that the dust is beginning to settle, he's willing to chat about

Karcho, who still owns a wine shop back in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, recalls that the saga began while he was visiting his new in-laws in the Mount Helix–El Cajon area. Feeling restless, he asked his wife to join him on a survey of

the local wine retailers. "I like seeing what other stores are doing, finding out where I'm lacking, what I can learn. So I opened up the Yellow Pages. He stopped at Vintage Wines, San Diego Wine Company, "and then the Wine Bank. I went downstairs, and I was like a kid in a candy store – all the different labels, all the hard-to-get stuff. I thought, 'Whoa — this would be a dream store to have.

Back up at the checkout, he started chatting with owner Mike Farres. "I found out that he's Lebanese, and I told him I'm Chaldean. We started talking, and I told him that I was in the business.' After a while, Karcho noticed a half-bottle of '82 Mouton Rothschild on the counter.

'What do you want for that?'

"A hundred bucks."

Karcho fished out the money, bought the wine,

and asked, "You have more?"
"Yeah."

"Give me some more."

"No. That's all you get — one. If you want more, you have to come back. Every time you

come back, you can buy one. "But I'm from out of town!"

"That gives you a reason to

Karcho decided to inquire after another sort of purchase. "I said, 'Do you want to sell the store?

"Kid, do you know how many people I get a day asking me that question? Everybody wants to buy this store. It's not for

"Okay. But if you ever decide to sell it, will you think about giving me a chance?"

'Yeah, okay.

And so Karcho began the wait, and to woo. Every year or so, he called Farres from Michigan so as to stay on his radar. He sent customers who decided to visit San Diego to the Wine Bank. Then, in October of 2005, Marketwatch magazine ran a profile of Farres and the Wine Bank. Karcho called to congratulate him. "He was very happy to hear from me, very excited. I said, 'I want to be just as successful as you are.' He said, 'Hopefully, you will be. Just keep doing what you're doing.' He was very sincere with me."

"Mike, if you ever want to sell, I'm your guy."

"I know. You're my guy, and I'm ready to sell. I'm ready to retire."

"I can be out there tomorrow."

"No, no, no. Wait a week. Come next Thursday."

Karcho came the next Thursday. "I got here, and Mike said, 'What are you doing here?' I said, 'You told me to come Thursday.' He said, 'Yeah, but I didn't think you were coming.

Eight trips and "a lot of time and money later, they closed the deal. "At the closing, I asked him, 'Mike, why did you want me to own the store?' And he said, 'I want the legacy to live on.'

Once he took possession, Karcho set about taking what he loved best about the Wine Bank — its ability to source and sell the stuff most folks only read about — and ramping it up. You can see it from the moment you walk in the door: Silver Oak Napa Cabernet, floor-stacked just inside the entrance, \$89.99. This is a wine that has its devotees and there are many — calling shop to shop, asking if they can get any. And here you have case upon case. At the bottom of the stairs, the display becomes even more astonishing: an artfully arranged tableau of wooden boxes and bottles from Italian superstar Gaja. The Sori San Lorenzo from '98 and '00; the Sperss, the Sori Tilden, even a smattering of magnums. These are wines that often never see the shelf but rather wait in some dark, cool place for collectors to ask for them by name.

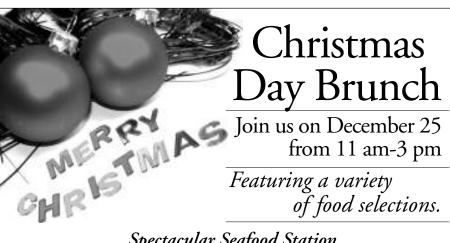
There's no back room anymore," says Karcho. "I don't believe in storage. I believe in putting everything on the floor; my philosophy has always been 'Stack it high and watch it fly.' I like the product visible: if you build it, people will come. You can walk in here with your list of Wine Spectator's Top 100 wines and find them all over the place" including the floor stacks. For instance: over in the Bordeaux department, there's the Château Léoville Barton, the Number Three wine on the list.



Gaia display at the Wine Bank

Stacked up against it: Château Mouton Rothschild. Other high scorers sit on the floor throughout the store, casually sporting their 95s from Parker. It's an unusual move but also a calculated one. When I arrive, Karcho is negotiating with a rep to get all the Cristal Champange he can buy: "Three liters, one point fives, rosés. If you've got it, I'll order it.' To me, he says, "It's things people would never expect to see on the floor. That's what they get boggled by." This is what the Wine Bank can do.

That ethos of the-same-only-more-so is visible upstairs as well. Before Karcho, the liquor was mostly relegated to a set of shelves behind the counter. The selections were interesting, carefully chosen, often harder to find, often expensive.



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Now, wood-fronted shelves line most of the upstairs wall space. with more on the way, and Karcho is midway through his effort to "do the same thing with what we've done with wine. Stuff you can't find everywhere; that's what we want to specialize in. Right now, we probably have one of the best selections of vodkas around.' Tequila already fills two banks of shelves, but Karcho wants more, along with "a huge selection of Scotches and Cognacs."

The new shelving and the abolished storeroom (which will eventually be given over to rented cellar space) are just two of the physical changes Karcho wrought. Pretty much every downstairs wall that wasn't load bearing came out; what was a meandering succession of themed rooms (Champagnes, dessert wines, Italian and Spanish, large-format, etc.) is now a few wide-open spaces. It's not the sort of place through which a devotee might be tempted to wander and browse and get lost

anymore. It's more orderly, more open, more user-friendly. It's not a warehouse: the ancient and massive beams overhead together with a low, woodplank ceiling and blocky wooden supports - see to that. But it is more efficient than it was, and there's more to come.

"Our goal is to be an online store," says Karcho. General manager Bryan Farres elaborates. "To move things like the Gaja, we need nationwide exposure, not just local." Farres is happy with the recent proliferation of wine shops, thinking that more venues only serve to fan the flames, but even with the downtown boom, you need a broader base to unload that much premium product. You need your shop to come up on Google searches, and you need to be able to sell product online.

What hasn't changed: most of the staff survived the transition, including Farres. Karcho professes a deep commitment to service, and there, Farres is his exemplar. "Look at that," he says, watching Farres advise one customer as he builds an impromptu gift box for another. "Just so he can please the customer. Can you get that from a big-box store? Here you have people coming in and saying, 'Bryan, what did you get in that's really cool today?' And Farres will tell them. ■

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

The Reader's Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Barbara David, Ambrose Martin, Shari McCullough, Max Nash, Eleanor Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of over 500 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at

SanDiegoReader.com

Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a mid-range entrée. Inexpensive: below \$10; moderate: \$10 to \$19; expensive: \$20 to \$24; very expensive: more than \$25. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

NORTH COASTAL

Bubby's Gelato 937 South Coast Highway 101, Lumberyard Shopping Center, Encinitas, 760-436-3563. This tiny storefront does only a few things (sandwiches, gelati, and sorbet), but does them exceedingly well. The "gourmet sandwiches" really do live up to their designation, with intriguing Mediterranean combinations (artichoke hearts, black olives, grilled eggplant, Gorgonzola are among the choice of ingredients) on soft, round Italian bread. (Or you can just get a tuna melt if that's your flavor.)

Gelati are about twice as rich as Häagen-Dazs, and feature an ever-changing array of bold flavors, e.g., vanilla rosewater and chocolate cinnamon. Open daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., closes later on Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive. — N.W. (10/01)

Fidel's Carlsbad 3003 Carlsbad Boulevard (at Carlsbad Village Drive), Carlsbad, 760-729-0903. It's not upscale modern Mex - no cumin-infused. mango-corn salsa on Fidel's menu but who gives a flyin' faiita when you can order just about any traditional SoCal-Mexican dish and know it's gonna be good? Whether you try the chicken-andrice soup with fresh cilantro and avo-cado chunks, fluffy chile rellenos, a crab enchilada, carne asada with all the trimmings, or a lonely à la carte chicken burrito, you're going to be a happy camper. Add a reliable margarita or a beer and you're set at this popular North County mainstay. Open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — S.M. (12/03)

Firenze 162 South Rancho Santa Fe Road (at Manchester), West Village Center, Encinitas, 760-944-9000. This big, beautiful, gracious restaurant (located in the same mall as Harvest Ranch Market, just north of Rancho Santa Fe) offers both a handsome interior and a romantic fire-lit patio. The well-spaced tables are laden with huge portions of accomplished, multiregional Italian cuisine and reasonably priced Italian and California wines (with 1/2-price wines Monday nights). Vegetarians will rejoice in the two dozen meatless selections. Lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, dinner only on Sunday. High moderate.

Hill Street Coffee House 524 South Coast Highway 101, Oceanside, 760-966-0985. Organic in Oceanside? Really! Look for the sign: "Organic Restaurant and Espresso Bar" in front of a restored vellow-and-white Victorian house from O'side's past. All their meats, poultry, fish, and veggies are organic and the menu is full of healthy dishes: tofu/spinach breakfast scramble, frittata espinaca ("Greek eggs"), and pain perdu (for us peasants that's French toast) with fresh fruit and syrups. Some vegan items. After 11 a.m., try their Cajun chicken. Open daily, breakfast to dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/00)

I Trulli Trattoria 830 South Coast Highway 101 (between G and H streets), Encinitas, 760-943-6800. An enduring hit in Encinitas (where there's no shortage of Italian restaurants), I Trulli serves modern Italian food with fashionable new ingredients. The menu, subtitled "Nouvelle Italian Cuisine," resembles the somewhat ambitious, generically "northern Italian" bills of fare that you encounter all over Hillcrest and the Gaslamp. (It is, in fact, a sister restaurant to Hillcrest's Arriverderci.) The signifiers of seriousness are the pink pep percorns, goat cheese, sun-dried tomatoes, and light cream sauces that coexist with the more traditional mozzarella-tomato sauce arrays. Best bets are the daily specials, which offer the greatest chance for fresh ingredients and creativity. Busy, cramped, painfully loud inside. Street patio next to highway is also noisy. Reserve for dinner on weekends or expect an hour's wait. Open daily, lunch and dinner, Moderate. — N.W. (11/01)

Johnny Manana's 308 Mission Avenue, Oceanside, 760-721-9999. Local teachers hang out at this green- whiteand red-tiled place because it's such good value. Most dishes are Mexican. There's a Caribbean chocolatey, black bean, paprika, curry-in-the-rice thing going on. Pescado Veracruz (fish marinated in

green salad) is good. The roasted chicken is delicious. The Big Breakfast Burrito Special (eggs, onions, beans, cheese, and potatoes, wrapped in a large flour tortilla) is *muy popular*, but then so is J.M.'s Great All-American Cheeseburger. Open daily. Inexpensive. — E.B. (12/01)

Osteria del Pescatore 1201 Camino Del Mar (at 12th Street), Del Mar, 858-509-9293. The restaurant's name means "Fisherman's Hostelry," and you'll find expert, courteous serv ice and well-crafted seasonal Italian fare here with a strong emphasis on zesty fresh seafood. Go straight to the single-spaced page-long list of daily specials for the most exciting dishes, including spaghetti *a cartoccio* (baked in parchment paper) and lobster risotto. But save room for dessert, especially if the day's offerings include *torta alla nanna*, a rose-scented nut confection. Parking behind restaurant (turn east on 12th Street); heated dining patio available. Interesting international wine list. Reservations advised. Lunch Tues-day through Saturday; dinner nightly. High moderate to expensive. *N.W.* (5/05)

Pacific Coast Grill 437 South Coast Highway 101 (Beachwalk Plaza), Solana Beach, 858-794-4632. Chef Hannes Cavin turns out a free-form menu of Pacific Rim cuisine featuring fine ingredients and integrating Mexican, Hawaiian, and Asian flavors into So-Cal comfort cooking. Try the green salad with vibrant cranberry vinaigrette, the "Bag of Bones" smoked pork ribs), the brick-roasted free-range chicken, and whatever "fruit creation" is on the dessert menu. Busy and noisy; reservations urged for weekend dinners and all summer. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Full bar. Moderate to expensive. — N.W. (6/05)









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Santa's Kids' Buffet

Under 5: Our Guest

Red Tracton's 550 Via de la Valle, Del Mar, 858-755-6600. Even though you know you're a half mile from the Pacific Ocean and across the street from the Del Mar Racetrack, one step inside Red Trac-ton's dining room sends you reeling back in time to an upscale, dimly lit, maroon-and-gilt restaurant of 1960s Chicago. The only thing missing is the scent of cigars. Food portions are enormous: The lobster sandwich (a touch heavy on the mayo) easily packs a half pound of lobster. The selection is generous: steaks, prime rib, seafood, chicken, and pork—all expertly prepared and served in record time. On days when you don't give a rip about the Surgeon General's latest warnings, run to Red Tracton's and indulge your All-American appetite. Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner nightly; 11 p.m. closing Friday and Saturday. Expensive. — S.M. (3/04)

Spices Thai Cafe 3810 Valley Centre Drive, Piazza Carmel Shopping Center, Del Mar (east of Carmel Valley turn-off), 858-259-0889; 6785 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-552-8845; 16441 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-674-4665. Superb Thai restaurant that's not only elegant but whose food contains no MSG and very little fat. The seafood dishes rate highly Among other delicacies are duck and frog legs. Put Spices Thai Café at the top of your list. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. *E.W.*

Tomiko 87 Encinitas Boulevard (at Best Western, just west of I-5), Encinitas, 760-633-3587. In a lovely setting overlooking Moonlight Bay you can enjoy Japanese and Pacific Rim fusion cooking and sushi in a serene but lively dining room. When the sushi bar is free from the weekend rush, the quality can be amazing: stunningly fresh *uni*, worldbeating silky *toro*. The sushi-master also keeps an eye on the restaurant's seafood purchases, so they meet exacting stan-dards. Appetizers such as "salmon tower tartare" and "drunken black cod" are rewarding, as are the simple, excellent fusion-tinged seafood entrées. Reserve for weekends, especially for sushi bar. Dinner nightly. Moderate. — N.W. (3/02)

Tuscan Sun Italian Deli 1070 North El Camino Real, Encinitas, 760-633-4546. A town abounding in Italian restaurants ought to have a great Italian deli, and it does. You'll find domestic and imported deli meats and cheeses, fresh-baked breads and focaccia, marinated veggies, and a wealth of gourmet products from Italy. The specialty is the "Caprese" (tomatoes-plus) sandwich on focaccia bread with a variety of fillings, best served grilled and dressed with pesto. The eat-in/take-out menu includes pizza, pasta, salads, and a host of sandwiches. Open daily. — N.W. (8/03)

NORTH INLAND

Ashoka the Great 9474 Black Mountain Road (off Miramar Road), Mira Mesa, 858-695-9749. Seek out this splendid Indian restaurant. The setting is lovely, the service excellent, and the food first-rate. Don't overlook the tandoori dishes. Numerous selections are available for vegetarians. An all-you-can-eat lunch buffet is served daily. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.W.*

Athens Market Cafe 11640 Carmel Mountain Road, Suite 124, near Pacific Theatres, Carmel Mountain Plaza, 858-675-2225. At this offshoot of Mary Pappas's downtown Athens Market, sister Vickie's food is just as good. If you want a big start, order the saganaki, a cheese appetizer that comes flaming to your table. And you can't lose with mezedakia, a big oval sampler of dolmades (stuffed grape leaves), lokaniko (a delicious Greek sausage), spanakopita (spinach in filo pastry), tomatoes, cu-cumbers, *tzatziki* dip, hummus, feta cheese, and olives. But come for the lamb. It's wonderfully flavorful, skewered in the souvlaki entrée (which comes with beans and rice) or as lamb chops. Moussaka (baked eggplant, zucchini, and ground beef) goes down well too. Or what's wrong with a simple plate of feta cheese, kalamata olives, and a glass of Greek red? Open daily, 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. *E.B.* (1/06)

Bamboo Hut Black Mountain Village, 9172 Mira Mesa Boulevard (one driveway west of Black Mountain Road), Mira



Mesa, 858-348-0414. You'll find a taste of Hawaii in a strip mall in a neighborhood that's all-mall. The bright little "hut" has bamboo chairs, a bamboo ceiling, bare floors, and unclothed tables, with a sushi counter next to a tiny kitchen with a roaring gas grill. A large lattice awning offers outdoor seating a few steps from the door. The quality of the food is all over the map, though this is not the place to try your first Spam sushi. The seafood sushi is good, though, including a fine Rainbow Roll with really sweet crab; the more creative rolls run to cream cheese and hot sauce. "Local food" choices include a tasty ahi poké and excellent chicken *katsu*; the *kalbi* short ribs are tough, though. Plate lunches include one to three entrées (priced accordingly) with steamed or mildly garlic-flavored rice, macaroni salad, and green salad with bright orange dressing à la Kraft French. Be sure they deliver what you ordered; there may be slipups. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Very inexpensive. — N.W. (8/03)

Bistro 221 221 East Grand Avenue (near Kalmia), Escondido, 760-737-7398. This genteel bistro — with comfortable chairs and linen-covered tables inside and a shaded patio on the sidewalk — is especially tasty at

lunch, with its sophisticated quesadillas and a classic burger and fries cooked your way. At dinner simple starters shine, including a "blonde" Florida version of gumbo and Maryland crab cakes with minimal filler. The dinner entrées are also the best, including beef tournedos with Gorgonzola and grouper caught just off the Florida shores. A "Louisiana" bread pudding is moister (hence more pleasing) than most of its namesakes. No wheelchair access for restrooms. Free parking behind restaurant. Ordinary wine list. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Friday; dinner Satur-day. Lunch moderate; dinner moderate to high. — N.W. (10/04)

La Tapatia 340 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-747-8282. Take a walk on the mild side at this family-owned fa vorite, in business since the 1930s. You'll find standard Mexican fare in a comfortable dining room or, in good weather, a lovely, arbor-like stonepatio. The most celebrated dish is the "cheese crisp," a large tostada covered one-third in ground beef, one-third in beef chunks, and one-third in beans, with cheese, avocado puree, and sour cream over all. Many preparations (grilled seafoods, etc.) are healthy, and veggies taste fresh. Seasonings are rather de-tuned, but there's a saltshaker and a lively salsa on the table. Open daily, three meals. Moderate. — N.W. (5/01)

The Place: El Parque 2659 Reche Road, Fallbrook, 760-731-2775. Just think Little Red Riding Hood - this is

Grandma's place. Okay, it's not a little old, thatched cottage — it's a creampainted metal shed with a gazebo in front. But it is in the Live Oak woods, and you can sink your teeth into some pretty fair Mexican food here, sitting alongside an interesting bunch of agricultural workers and maybe some ruby miners. Good combination plates include the tostada and beef taco, and burrito and enchilada. The time to be here is Sunday morning, when those aggies pour in here for the *menudo*, cooked in a three-foothigh pot. Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive. E.B. (12/04)

The Wayside Cafe 507 South Main Avenue, Fallbrook, 760-723-9633. Lo cals love meeting and eating in this long low-porched building — partly because it all just feels small-town America. The place used to be Mahrs' Service Station. You can even sit in the old Lube Bay to eat. Count on generous servings, especially the mountain-piles of red-skinned home-fries as a side at breakfast. Open for breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — E.B. (12/01)

LA JOLLA

Barbarella 2171 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla Shores, 858-454-7373. This popular restaurant sits nestled in an English garden just blocks from the beach. You can dine amidst the flora at street-side taamidst the flora at street-side ta

bles, in the enclosed patio, or in the small dining room. Once you're seated, the friendly staff provides fresh-out-of-theoven sourdough wheat bread to nibble on. The menu changes daily, offering fresh fish, steak, chicken, pastas, soups, and pizzas, all cooked with a twist of imagination that delivers on the flavor. For instance: pizza topped with smoked salmon, crème fraîche, chives, and fried capers. Or delicate Alaskan halibut served over creamed spring onions with a watercress salad. If a fresh fruit crêpe happens to be on the dessert menu, leap on it! Open for lunch and dinner daily.
— S.M. (4/04)

Daily's Restaurant 8915 Towne Centre Drive, La Jolla, 858-453-1112. The idea is brilliant: Just serve food that's really, really good for your customers. Low fat, low calorie, low sodium. Brainchild of cardiac surgeon Pat O. Daily. So what's the problem? It's the "B" word. Bland. Not that they don't fight hero-ically to make all the dishes interesting, but lots of items have that lentil-y, bean-y feel. Or naked salad-y. Or steam-upyour nose veggie. Among the more interesting choices is the Cajun chicken with black beans and brown rice with cayenne-paprika in the spices. The most opular lunch order, the buffalo burger, has a little gamy aftertaste - but that just proves it is the legendarily lean prairie beast. Nice outside seating in Restaurant Row, except you've gotta resist the smells from the more wicked eateries that aren't on the same crusade Inexpensive. Three meals, Monday through Friday; open until 4 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday. — E.B. (1/06)

The Marine Room 2000 Spindrift Drive (off Torrey Pines Road), La Jolla, 858-459-7222. High cuisine, high adventure, high seas — at only moderately high prices. With chef Bernard Guillas as top toque, the Marine Room has become the quintessential great San Diego restaurant. The exhilarating coastal view meets Cal-French-Pacific Rim cuisine that's as exuberantly out-front as the waves whacking the windows. Guillas's oceanic culinary inventiveness with ultra-fresh, exotic ingredients makes every visit a voyage of discovery, and preparations are so elaborate that each listing on his precise menu reads like a whole tasting dinner. Reservations requested; slightly dressy but not stuffy. Easiest route: Make a right from westbound Torrey Pines onto Roseland or Viking and go left on St. Louis, which runs into Spindrift. Wheelchair ramp to the left of front door. Noisy when crowded. Dinner nightly, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Expensive.

— N.W. (9/02)

Michele Coulon Pastries 7556-D Fay Avenue (across the street from Vons parking lot), La Jolla, 858-456-5098. The daughter of Don Coulon (retired chefowner of The Belgian Lion restaurant) and her son preside in turn at this delightful little café/bakery. (Look for it behind the octagonal sandwich shop that fronts its mini-mall.) Every ingredient is fresh and of top quality. Cakes are light, moist, rich, and available as wholes,

slices, and even "miniatures," plus you can choose tarts, chocolates, ice creams, and breakfast pastries. Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday (closed Sunday). Moderate.

Nine-Ten Restaurant Grande Colonial Hotel, 910 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-964-5400, Chef Jason Knibb's level of craftsmanship shows a culinary sophistication that would be at home in an Francisco or New York. You'll find adventurous, seasonal cuisine emphasizing "market fresh" local produce (much of it organic or sustainably raised), naturally raised meats, and wild seafood. It's not just the food that's fresh — the ideas are, too, and the flavormatches are flawless. The wine list is superb, and new personnel in the front of the house have brought up the standard of service. Validated valet parking, full bar. Reservations urged. Open daily, three meals. Expensive. - N.W. (10/05)

Sante Ristorante 7811 Herschel Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-1315. The name is Italian for "saint," and the Northern Italian/regional cooking shines here, especially the fish and seafood dishes. Fresh seafood specials are available every night, in addition to those on the menu. Excellent pasta with mushrooms, ravioli with quail, and lamb chops. Separate room for bar; separate private dining room. Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner nightly. Enclosed patio for lunch. Not to be missed. Moderate (pastas) to expensive. — E.W. (4/99)

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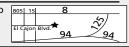
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this ad.







Sushi on the Rock 7734 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-1138. This noisy, high-energy spot — a boxy, saloon-like space with a sushi bar in back — draws a lively twenty-something crowd (al-though older folks will have plenty of company, too). Unlike more traditional sushi bars, there's a vast selection of "rock and rolls" — huge, creative party sushi. And they're fabulous, with sparkling fresh seafood and immensely clever combinations. Try, for instance, the shrimp tempura roll, which wraps fried shrimp, crab shreds, *daikon* sprouts and Japanese mayo in deep-fried salmon skin — the combo would be just as impressive as an appetizer at a top Cal-French restaurant. The Orange Crush is another sublime invention, fresh and crunchy with veggies and tobiko wrapped in suave salmon. Even simple rolls are so well conceived, and the rice so nicely seasoned, you won't need soy-wasabi dip. No reservations, long waits (in cramped entryway) on weekends. Good sake list Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly, with deep discounts for happy hour specials. Moderate. Second (quieter, but with full bar) location at 1923 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad, N.W. (11/04) 760-436-6261.

MISSION VALLEY & THE MESAS

King's Fish House 825 Camino de la Reina (west of Mission Center Drive) Mission Valley, 619-574-1230. To find King's in the mega-mall, go slightly west of Koo Koo Roo and follow the line of cars to the free valet parking. It's a chain, but it's a classy chain, offering fish and seafoods of a quality that's well above average, including crustaceans from a live tank and a half-dozen varieties of pristine oysters. Generously-sized entrées come with soup or salad (including a Caesar that's above suspicion) and two hefty side dishes. The vast menu of American-style preparations changes daily to reflect the fresh catch, and includes some rotating regional specialties (e.g., New Orleans, Hawaii, New England). Don't miss the prawn pot-sticker appetizer, if available, and for dessert,

the miraculously light bread pudding. The atmosphere is good-timey (with two patios and a barroom as well as a dining room), the service is enthusiastic, and the management will accommodate spe cial requests if you call ahead. Kiddie menu available. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — N.W. (5/02)

The Philadelphia Sandwich Co.

3904 Convoy Street (south of Othello), Kearny Mesa, 858-571-0888. This clasculture, including sports pennants, his-toric photos, and colorful mummers costumes. The menu is equally devoted to the city's cuisine, especially its two great cult sandwiches: the hoagie and the cheese steak. The mixed-meat hoagie is way more than a hero — its flavor array is similar to (and just as intense as) a New Orleans muffulletta. As for the cheese steak, it starts with steak strips onions and your choice of cheese, and expands from there. Philly natives may like the simple version with Cheez Whiz, but the luscious "Everything" with provolone is more likely to seduce the innocent. "Philly fries" (with garlic) are the right go-with. The menu also offers Pennsylvania-packaged foods ("Philadelphia Scrapple" to go, Tastykakes, Wise potato chips) to nos-talgic émigrés. Lunch to early dinner nightly. Inexpensive. — N.W. (10/04)

San Tong Palace 4690 Convoy Street (between Engineer and Balboa), Kearny Mesa, 858-571-6837. This unassuming, strip-mall restaurant is easy to overlook but once found, impossible to resist. San Tong's hybrid Korean-Chinese menu draws from these regions' tastiest styles. The Rainbow Salad demonstrates this combination deliciously, and San Tong's dumplings are outstanding. The seafood dumplings are especially remarkable. For the adventurous, I recommend the iellyfish salad, a novel treat for westerners. At San Tong Palace, curious appetites are rewarded well. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — M.N. (4/99)

Tofu House 4646 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-576-6433. This stylish little eatery is proof positive that our city has matured for its specialty ethnic foods. Tofu House is a Korean restaurant serving up specialty tofu dishes. Flavorful, healthy foods. I highly recommend the

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soontofu soups (beef, pork, seafood, or mushroom) with raw egg drop you drop yourself and a side of tasty fresh kimchi. Deliver yourself from sorrowfully generic foreign food — Tofu House serves vivid ethnic food. Open daily. Inexpensive. — M.N. (2/99)

THE BEACHES

Cafe Athena Pacific Mall, 1846 Garnet Avenue (at Lamont), Pacific Beach, 858-274-1140. With a more upscale, eye catching decor and a longer and more serious menu than most Greek cafés, this is a popular destination, so be sure to reserve for dinner or you'll risk a long wait. The choices include good soups and appetizers (except for a sub-par tara-masalata), outstanding moussaka, above-average gyros, and interesting, unusual desserts. There's plenty for vegetarians. Rather noisy when crowded. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W. (3/02)

Cantina Panaderia 966 Felspar Street (at Cass), Pacific Beach, 858-272-8400. This cheerful café instantly became a gathering spot for many PB-ites, in-cluding the forsaken population of adults Chef-owner Isabel Cruz, who calls herself "Food Girl," has imported much of her Mission Cafe menu of Latin-Asian-sorta-health-food to the beach, A self-confessed "lazy cook," she

focuses on wholesomeness rather than authenticity. Breakfast and lunch are the main meals here and include competent eggs, luscious scrambled eggs, huge sandwiches, and weighty slabs of co-conut French toast. Competent Latinstyle dishes include tamales with airy masa. Devotees of Southeast Asian cuisines, however, may be disappointed by the simplistic stabs in that direction. If your dish is too mild, house sauces (chili oil, salsa, chipotle sauce, etc.) are available on request. Beer and wine. Small, free front parking lot; pay lot across the street at west end of the block. Three meals daily; closed 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Inexpensive to low moderate. -N.W. (10/04)

Costa Brava 1653 Garnet Avenue (at Jewel), Pacific Beach, 858-273-1218. Cordial owner-host Javier Gonzalez opened this charming restaurant so that local Spaniards would have a place to gather with an authentic atmosphere of home, and indeed, the "Euro" atmosphere and late hours give a truly Iberian feel. The lively garlic-rich dishes here include a wide array of tasty tapas and, among the entrées, a paella that's made to order (sized to serve two or four; call ahead for larger groups). Patio seating in good weather. Parking lot and wheelchair access via the alley behind the restaurant. Open daily 11 a.m. to mid-night, with bargain prices at Sunday brunch. Reservations advised for weekend evenings. Moderate. — N.W. (2/02)

The Fishery 5040 Cass Street, Pacific Beach, 858-272-9985. Pacific Shellfish Seafood Company founder Judd Brown got his start as a commercial fisherman. He doesn't fish anymore, but he does everything else — supplying product to top-tier restaurants, retailing glistening specimens to hungry shoppers and serving patrons who want to dine in amid the blue walls and gorgeous trophy fish. The Fishery's menu is equally extensive, covering SoCal basics (excellent mahimahi burrito), lunchtime standards (sandwiches, fine malt-dredged fish and chips), sushi, and an ambitious lineup of dinnertime entrées, some of them whimsically creative (tortilla-encrusted Mexican black bass). If ambition occasionally outstrips execution, an obsession with freshness helps compensate,

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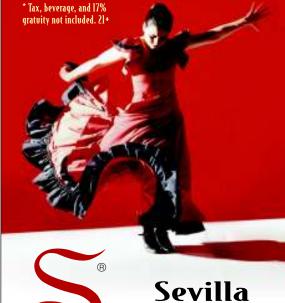
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Calendar RESTAURANTS

and you get the sense that things are getting better all the time. The wine list is relatively inexpensive and carefully selected. Casual atmosphere. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. — A.M. (12/03)

Humphrey's by the Bay 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island, 619-224-3577. Most diners at this resort/concert venue restaurant eat at the prix fixe pre-show dinners because they guarantee good seats for the concerts at the next-door ampitheatre. But better food emerges once the music-mavens leave the premises. The kitchen features fine seafood, juicy meats, and prime steaks with seasonal veggie garnishes. Preparations are pleasing but in no way startling—it's a hotel restaurant, after all. Reserve for show-nights or to snare a window table with a gorgeous marina view. Free parking when there's no concert, valet parking when there is. Dining room pleasantly quiet. Open daily breakfast through dinner; brunch buffet Sunday. Pre-show prix fixe upper moderate, à la carte expensive/very expensive. — N.W. (2/06)

Kabuki Sushi Restaurant 4475 Mission Boulevard (entrance on Garnet), Pacific Beach, 858-270-1986. This place has a unique system of delivering tempting dishes to you via boats float ing along a mini-canal that surrounds the sushi bar. You take food off and pay according to the plate size. The sushi chefs - they can be a show in themselves — have the usual panoply of sushi, sashimi, nigiri. The dragon rolls (crab, shrimp tempura, eel, avocado) and spider roll (soft-shelled crab) are tasty too. It's young and crowded here - is that because you don't have to sweat the menu, just grab what you like off the boat and chew? Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday to Saturday; dinner only Sunday; closed Monday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (1/04)

Kaiserhof 2253 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, Ocean Beach, 619-224-0606. Even on weeknights, crowds fill this restaurant and *biergarten*, chowing down on hefty, hearty German cooking in a festive atmosphere. Flavors are authentic, but can be monotonous due to the

kitchen's reliance on commercial products (especially a heavy-flavored beef base that makes all the sauces taste alike). Good schnitzels, potato pancakes. The excellent apple strudel is the only dessert made in-house. Reservations advised, especially for patio seating. Full bar. Lunch Friday through Sunday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — N.W. (6/02)

Red Sails 2614 Shelter Island Drive Shelter Island, 619-223-3030. One of the city's oldest eateries has been renovated to look like it always has, but fresher. The dining rooms resemble those on a river paddleboat or a small, rakish cruise ship, while the bayside patio is a funky waterside pleasure, beset by pigeons. The menu runs to simple seafood and steaks (wet-aged USDA Choice), but quality is uneven. Tasty starters include briny littleneck clams on the half-shell, an interesting clam chowder, and a classy house salad (but ask for vinegar and oil on the side to dress it). The coconut shrimp entrée is a good, guilty pleasure, but the fin-fish and fried entrées taste like supermar-ket frozen food. For the starch accompaniment, baked potato is the most flavorful option. Full bar, strong cocktails, weak wine list. Kiddie menu available. Daily three meals until 11 p.m. Low moderate. — N.W. (10/04)

CENTRAL SAN DIEGO

El Comal 2822 Imperial Avenue, Grant Hill, 619-239-7101. (Other location at 534 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-420-3811.) No border compromises here — just great home-cooking from Michoacan, Guerrero, Jalisco, and Oaxaca, prepared by Luz Herrera Ibarra, a biology teacher from Acapulco. Try the huarache (cactus slices with carne asada, frijoles, cheese, and onions) or the mulita carne adobada (pork, melted cheese, and guacamole inside two tortillas) and have a glass of nuez (a refreshing walnut drink). Chula Vista location has parrillada meats. Breakfast through dinner until 8:30 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/00)

Lefty's Chicago Pizzeria 3448 30th Street (at Myrtle), North Park, 619-295-1720. An eight-pound pizza? That's what Lefty claims his "king of all pizzas" weighs at his often-crowded little corner pizzeria. Truth is, you can't help but be drawn, especially at night, to the little ribbon of lights framing the sidewalk canopy with its tables and benches. Lefty is determined to bring "the real Chicago" to San Diego. So of course we're talking deep-dish pizzas, as well as some thin and crispy. But the ultimate is his "stuffed" pizza, a 14-inch, eight-pound monster that needs one hour's "make and bake" time. They also do Chicago hot dogs, char burgers, beautiful spicy fries, juicy Italian beef au jus sandwiches, and a decent "Lefty's carbonara" (spaghetti, eggs, bacon, Parmesan, and cream). Open lunch and dinner six days, closed Mondays. — E.B. (5/05)

Old World Restaurant 3930 30th Street, North Park, 619-238-0568. This is a delight for anyone who loves Northern European food. Their "Great Grilled Grueben" — homemade corned beef on rye with Swiss cheese, sauerkraut, Thousand Island dressing, and mustard is, as they say, "gemütlich." Also, try the sausage platter: grilled bratwurst, kielbasa, sauerkraut, potato salad, spicy mustard, and rye bread. Open for breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (8/01)*

Red Sea Restaurant 4717 Univer-

sity Avenue (at Euclid), City Heights, 619-285-9722. You'll find richly seasoned (and potentially very spicy) Ethiopian cuisine, served communally on a tray lined with a porous pancake, *injera*, which looks like an edible dish towel and serves as both an edible spoon and an edible tablecloth. (Use pieces of it to scoop up morsels in your right hand.) The meat combination platter here isn't nearly as exciting as several of the specialties. The *kitfo* (spicy beef tartare) is very good, the *gored-gored* (meat cubes in spicy butter) is excellent; both are cooked (or not cooked) to your order, and seasoned to your specifications (if you say "hot," expect fire). Vegetables are fine, too; the yellow split peas, especially, sing with flavor. Restrooms not wheelchair-accessible. Vegetarian friendly. Can be noisy on weekend evenings. Open daily. Very inexpensive. — N.W. (12/00)

Sister Pee Wee's Soul Food 2971-1/2 Imperial Avenue, Grant Hill, 619-236-0470. One of the oldest, best soul food cafés in the county, but get there early (it closes at 6 p.m.). Sister

Pee Wee says her daily lunch and dinner menu depends on what she feels like cooking that day—you might find big pork ribs with mashed red-skin potatoes, black-eyed peas, collard greens and two-inch-thick corn bread, or Southern-fried chicken, or catfish fillet with all the trimmings. Sister's special is chitlins and catfish. (Call ahead about the availability of chitlins.) Breakfast includes eggs, bacon, ham, sausages, and hominy grits. Inexpensive. — E.B. (10/01)

Tazablanca 3946 Illinois (north of University, two blocks east of 30th Street), North Park, 619-294-8292. This warm-colored, lively café offers the homey, tropical food of Cuba and some pan-Latin appetizers cooked with Cuban styling. The fried calamari is light, the papa rellena (stuffed potato) is lively, the lechón (marinated roast pork) is moist and flavorful, and the vibrant chicken fricassee with capers is irresistible. All entrées come with a salad, and the tequila-lime dressing is especially fresh tasting. Reservations for groups of six or more. Park behind the restaurant (via Grimm and the alley) or in Lumberjacks's lot. Live band plays Thursday through Saturday evenings and is quieter than the ambient music when there's no band. Patio seating in fair weather. Dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Full bar including *mojitos*, Mexican beers, mainstream wines, and Latin soft drinks. Moderate. — N.W. (1/06)

Uncle Joe's Pizzeria 4591 El Cajon Boulevard, Talmadge, 619-584-2535. The owner's a retired Navy medic, one of the first women to serve in the Middle East combat zone. She's named sandwiches for career stops, like "The Recruit Training Center, Orlando, Florida" (chicken breast, bacon, avocado, provolone cheese, spinach, tomato, and onion) or "North Island Dental Clinic" (turkey, ham, bacon). But try a main dish like eggplant Parmesan or chicken with sautéed mushrooms. Or a massive chunk of lasagna, plus bread and salad. Coffee? You get a huge French-style press-thecoffee-down affair. Your big decision: eat out on the flower-strewn boulevard patio or inside among black leather easy-chairs and a giant screen? Open for lunch and dinner daily, until 2 a.m. Thursday through Sunday. Inexpensive. — É.B. (6/06)

EAST COUNTY & COLLEGE AREA

Greek Town 345 West Main Street, El Cajon, 619-441-9708. Just another Greek buffet? Well, yes. Your choices are standard: gyros meat, spanakopita, moussaka, dolmades. And the decor is the usual blue and white with Greek island posters. But it's the customers who give it an exotic feel, speaking languages from Russian to Greek to Somali. And if you're hungry, this all-you-can-eat deal is great. Have gyros meat, but also try the chicken souvlaki (grilled lemon chicken), or start with the excellent dolmades (grape leaves wrapped around beef and rice). The leaves' tangy taste and the lemony sauce inside get your juices running. Don't forget salad...or the dessert table (how could you leave without baklava?). Open for lunch and dinner, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B. (1/04)

Grossmont Student Center Cafeteria Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon, 619-644-7000. This is no UCSD, with its dozen food franchises and Persian and Somali food tents on campus. Grossmont's single cafeteria (open to the public) is big, echoey, and sticks to standardissue food like crumb-coated chicken katsu, cheeseburgers, burritos, and really, really cheap pizzas. Breakfast? How about a sausage and tater tot burrito? Health fans do have a plentiful salad bar. It's quite an experience, sharing lunch with local and foreign students, looking over the rolling hills to El Cajon — like being at an international finishing school in, well, Switzerland. Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Thursday; till 2 p.m. Friday. Closed weekends. Inexpensive. — E.B. (6/06)

Mario's de la Mesa 8425 La Mesa Boulevard (at Grant), La Mesa, 619-461-9390. The man on the burro leaves of the control of the control of the control of the control of the U.S.A. — very appropriate. Few dishes (except maybe the menudo) will push the paler palate too far in any direction, but gosh-all, everything is so darn tasty. Tamales are a house special: rich, pillowy clouds of cornmeal surrounding richer shredded pork scattered with raisins for a smidgeon of sweetness. Pork also gets loving treatment in the carnitas rojas, big chunks browned to the barest crisp, which falls away to melting ten-

derness. Great marinade (cumin?) on the carne asada, intense flavor and buttery richness on the "machaca sonotstyle" (dry-roasted shredded beef). Beans are so light as to seem whipped; rice is studded with peas and spicy carrots. Service is fast and friendly. Breakfast and lunch Sunday and Monday; three meals Tuesday through Saturday. Inexpensive. — A.M. (7/01)

Ranas.Com 9683 Campo Road, Suite A, Spring Valley, 619-589-1792. With 33 Mexican restaurants in the area, this Mexico City eatery has got to be good. It's a cheery place with lime green walls and orange accents. Cooking from the capital tends to be less bitingly hot than some northern food, with unexpected taste combos, like pollo en salsa de cacahuate (an almost Thai-tasting chicken in peanut sauce which comes with rice, beans, and tortilla). Or try the delicious pelangoches, a mess of bacon, pork, pineapple, mushrooms, bell peppers, onions, and cheese. Aztec huarache (cactus with potato, cheese, lettuce, sour cream, and salsa) is also easy to love. Inexpensive. — E.B. (9/04)

Woodstock's Pizza 6145 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-265-0999. It's a college pizza joint, but the fare rates well above standard beer ballast. For that matter, the beers — Karl Strauss and Wyder's Ciders (along with the usual Coors Light and Bud) — aren't exactly chug-suds. Crusts — white or sweetly robust whole wheat — are pressed, tossed, and then folded over at the edge, producing a spongy, crunch-crusted rim. The mozzarella is rich, gooey wholemilk; the marinara sauce is dark and spicy; and the toppings are fresh, hearty standouts. Watching your weight? Two low-fat combos (half the cheese) are available. Inexpensive. — A.M. (4/02)

FAR EAST

The Hideout Steakhouse and Saloon 27413 Highway 76, Santa Ysabel, 760-782-3656. If you're a Harley-Davidson weekend warrior, this is for you: an old dark timbered roadhouse peeking out of the trees, with its own spring-fed water wheel, 3000 feet up the mountains. Back in the thirties, Hollywood celebs (Roy Rogers, Alfalfa, et al.) used to hang out here on huntin' and fishin' trips. Now, bike enthusiasts make it their weekend day-trip destination. It still has



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a 1920s fireplace roaring at one end, a big pot-belly stove at the other, a honkytonk upright piano, and a forty-foot-long oakwood bar. Cheeseburgers are the default dish. Available are a "Texas-sized baked potato," vegetables, salad, and squaw bread. Open Saturday and Sunday only. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (5/02)

Owl Cafe 674 Main Street (between 6th and 7th), El Centro, 760-336-0298. This classic American café is over 50 years old and still serves good rib-sticking food morning, noon, or night. Try breakfast special #1: pancakes, two eggs, and two bacon strips. For lunch, the French dip sandwich. Full-plate dinners — and they are full — include roast beef and chicken-fried steak. Open Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. (bar until 2 a.m.); Saturday, bar only. Closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (8/01)

UPTOWN & OLD TOWN

Alex's Brown Bag 2550 Fifth Avenue (at Laurel), Suite 171, uptown, 619-231-2912. The reborn Alex's (now in the Mr. A's building) is rightly famous for its "Original Philadelphia cheese steak sandwich" (with fried bell peppers, onions, mushrooms, and mozzarella). The owners say what makes their sandwiches so special is that they have the meat trucked in from cheese steak central, South Philly itself. Other Italian-American goodies include the Italian Stallion (Genoa salami, capocolla prosciutto, and mortadella sausage meat), eggplant parmigiana with hot garlic bread, grilled pastrami, and cheese on rye. Open for breakfast, lunch, and just-after-work dinner weekdays. — E.B. (9/01)

Busalacchi's Ristorante 3683 Fifth Avenue (at Pennsylvania), uptown, 619-298-0119. Remember Olympia Dukakis in *Moonstruck* retreating for comfort to her local trattoria? Busalacchi's has that settled, warm feel, but it's more interesting. Multi-levels create nooks and crannies for liaisons dangereuses, or there's the streetside casual level. Niche fountains and faux marble columns make it feel old-fashioned. Being Sicilian, they have plenty of the tomato-sauce-dominated dishes (like torta di melanzana, eggplant layered with mozzarella). But also try the excellent calamari niccata, a calamari "steak' bathed in butter, mushrooms, lemon, capers, and white wine. Simple but delish. Or salads like insalata di fileto with filet mignon, goat cheese, walnuts, eggs and arugula. And hey, if you want to



with spaghetti della casa. Lunch Tuesday through Friday; dinner nightly. Moderate to expensive. — E.B. (2/04)

DMood 4628 Park Boulevard (at University Heights overhead street sign), 619-297-6663. This delightfully decorated bistro offers eclectic Middle Eastern cuisine that's primarily Persian but offers touches of North Africa, India Southern Europe, and the U.S. Don't miss the splended appetizer sampler (a full array of luscious Middle Eastern tapas), the pomegranate-glazed game hen stuffed with basmati rice and fruit, or the skewered lamb. The daily fresh fish gives talented chef Cecilia Tajonar a chance for creative play. Persian ice creams in sexy flavors (rosewater, orange blossom, pistachio) are among the dessert choices. Live entertainment at many brunches and weekend dinners provide vibrant cultural experience. In teresting teas (including Persian and Moroccan); okay wine list; full bar. Reservations urged for large groups (call after noon). Street parking. Street patio in front and courtyard in back for al fresco dining in fair weather. Numerous vegetarian/vegan choices. Half-size salads available by request. Dinner Tuesday through Saturday; Saturday and Sunday brunch.

N.W. (2/06) Moderate.

Extraordinary Desserts 1430 Union Street (at Ash), Little Italy, 619-294-7001; also 2929 Fifth Avenue, uptown, 619-294-2132. Patrons looking for a quiet dessert still cling to the original charming cottage near Balboa Park. Those wanting more of a meal head for the newer Little Italy location, a vast, noisy space with industrial-chic decor and a menu of eclectic small plates mezze spreads, bruschettas, sandwiches, and cheese plates. Flavors tend to be intense; some creations (such as a baconcured salmon sandwich and pantelleria a celery-date spread) are wonderful, others are exhausting even in small portions. Both locations offer pastry cases full of desserts that live up to "extraordinary," to eat on-site or to take home. Chefowner Karen Krasne incorporates flavors inspired by the global reach of her travels, from the cooking schools of Paris to the rice fields of Bali. The white cakes are food for angels. Wines (including

champagnes), beers, fruit elixirs. Vegetarian-friendly menu. Both locations are open seven days, three meals, closing at 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and at midnight on weekends. Moderate

Gulf Coast Grill 4130 Park Boulevard (between University and El Cajon), Hillcrest, 619-295-2244. The Gulf's faux-rustic, woodsy dining rooms and patio are great hangouts if you like a restaurant with a noisy party atmosphere. The menu focuses on the cuisine of the South and Southwest, with an emphasis on Louisiana and a heavy hand on the salt shaker. The kitchen does best with the straight Southern dishes, turning out divine fried soft-shelled crabs, airy hush puppies, and delicious little corn uffins. If you're deeply familiar with Cajun-Creole flavors, though, don't look for pure authenticity — you'll do better with jambalaya, étouffée, or the lunchtime oyster po' boy than with the soulless gumbo or the misconceived red beans and rice. Heated, smoker-friendly front patio. Wheelchair elevator to restrooms next to stairs. Free parking lot left of the door. Full bar. Lunch Monday through Saturday, brunch Sunday, dinner nightly (early closing Sunday). Moderate to slightly expensive. N.W. (4/03)

Harney Sushi 3964 Harney Street (off Congress), Old Town, 619-295-3272. This friendly little spot on a side street serves as a secret haven of pretty-good sushi just a few steps from Old Town's nonstop tacos and margaritas. You can also get sashimi, Japanese appetizers, and a few mixed-ethnicity entrées (noodles, pasta, teriyaki, tempura) made with seafood or chicken breast. Beef is served, but numerous dishes are vegetarian. Good sake list. Sound system runs loud inside; patio dining available in warm weather. Reservations for sushi bar accepted but not necessarily honored. Open weekdays for lunch, dinner nightly until midnight, with a DI on Friday and Saturday. Sushi prices lower than most, entrées inexpensive to moderate. -N.W. (4/03)

Joe's New York-Style Deli Royal Food Mart, 3401 First Avenue (at Upas), Banker's Hill, 619-295-7666. You enter a time machine: A cavernous concrete







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floored deli that dates back to 1902, with a high ceiling, acorn-shaped hanging lights, and a big old-fashioned coolercounter packed with cheeses, hams, and sausage meat. Old display cases carry olives, pâté, Ryvitas, A sawed-off wooden barrel bulges with Hungarian wines. Go for wraps, jumbo hot dogs with sauerkraut, or East Coast-generous sandwiches like corned beef, dry Genoa salami, cotto salami, bologna, or liver wurst. That Boars Head liverwurst is da bomb. Caesar salad with chicken or a cup of tortellini soup are good light alternatives. Open breakfast through early dinner daily. — *E.B.* (4/05)

Lotus Thai 3761 Sixth Avenue (at Robinson), Hillcrest, 619-299-8272. Also at 906 Market (at Ninth Avenue), downtown, 619-595-0115. This restaurant has taken a giant step up from standard Thai eateries. Most of the menu consists of the usual dishes, but each branch also offers a selection of chef's specialties. Some of these are more authentic; others are more creative than the norm. The chefs are from northern Thailand, and something in their cooking hints of their region - a certain zestiness, a love of strong citruses and fresh herbs that speaks of the Ping River and the hills of Chiang Mai. Well-chosen, affordable wine list, Asian and American beers, and cocktails based on *soju* (Asian lowerproof rice liquor), including a vummy rambutan cosmo. Noisy when crowded Reservations recommended for Hillcrest on weekends. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Low moderate. - N.W. (4/06)

Prado House of Hospitality, Balboa Park, 619-557-9441. In a magical space at the heart of Balboa Park, Prado fea-tures cute neo-Nouveau decor and a something-for-everyone menu of American-Mexican-Italian-with-Asiantouches cuisine. The food brings few surprises, but is flavorful and served in huge portions. Top choices include meaty crab cakes and an astonishingly tender, slow-roasted pork loin. A meringuebased banana tres leches cake is everyone's favorite dessert. The bar makes a nice stop during a museum-crawl and offers ethereal fried oysters and a range of gussied-up margaritas. Keep an eye out for special prix fixe dinners that in-clude tickets to museum exhibitions. Dinner reservations vital. Vast interior can be noisy, but heated, umbrella topped terrace tables are quiet and scenic. Moderate to a little expensive,

with reasonable wine list. -N.W. (12/00)

Rannoush 3890 Fifth Avenue (south of University), Hillcrest, 619-325-1360. The full menu of Lebanese-Jordanian cuisine runs from mezze (tapas) to house-made sausages and kebabs to desserts — and includes fabulous falafel that's actually good enough to eat (especially the stuffed version). At this petite, pretty place with Scheherazade decor, all the cooking is from scratch — no nasty instant falafel mix or any other shortcuts, and you can really taste the difference. Other great dishes include vegetarian kebbeh, soujok sausages, and shrimp kebabs. Desserts include exotic ice creams in sexy flavors like cardamom and honey-lavender. Wines and beers include food-friendly imports from Lebanon. Open daily, lunch 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. — (3/06)

Zocalo Grill 2444 San Diego Avenue (a block north of Old Town Cemetery), Old Town. 619-298-9840. This casual, festive spin-off of the Brigantine chain features "Pacific coastal cuisine," an eclectic international hodgepodge with a faint Mexican accent and "something for everyone." And some of those somethings are delicious — a stacked salad of shrimp and avocados, or coconutshrimp kebabs emerging from a pineap-ple, or a huge, beautifully grilled spiny lobster with avocado salsa. Appetizers are discounted at happy hour, and you can make a whole dinner out of sub-stantial "tapas" sized for sharing. The heated, semi-roofed outdoor terrace encourages al fresco dining year-round. Full bar with creative margaritas, eight draft beers, and California wines including Brigantine's own custom blends at good prices. Wheelchair lift in back, ramp at south side of terrace. Reservations strongly advised for weekends. Open daily, lunch through dinner. Moderate. — *N.W.* (10/02)

DOWNTOWN

Bandar Fine Persian Cuisine 825 and 837 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-238-0101. In a comfortable setting, the Persian menu offers just a "pick hits " of popular dishes culled from this fabled cuisine, but the cooking is first rate, featuring fine ingredients prepared with care, skill, and healthfulness. The "Bandar Special" entrée combo lets you choose any two kebabs (chicken, game hen, or beef), beautifully marinated and cooked to vour order. Entrées featuring rice with poultry are elaborate and refined, spiked with tangy barberries, sour cherries, or lentils and dates. The list of Persian desserts now includes Persian ice

cream, a rose-scented exotic treat. Open daily for lunch (limited menu) and dinner. Moderate. — N.W. (1/04)

Blue Point 565 Fifth Avenue (at Market), Gaslamp, 619-233-6623. In a hand-some, plushy dining room, pristine seafood and Prime-grade steaks and chops are featured in well-focused preparations highlighting Pacific Rim and Mediterranean flavors. A fine lobster bisque includes plenty of lobster, and crab-stuffed trout and dayboat scallops are among the highlights of the menu. But at this conventioneers' favorite, be sure to specify the doneness you prefer, especially for fish, which defaults to welldone. Valet parking onsite, or inexpensive self-parking one block east at Park It On Market. Large sidewalk dining patio. Business-casual dress looks best here. Reservations urged. Dinner nightly. — N.W. (9/05)

Broadway Pizza 1008 Broadway (at Tenth Street), downtown, 619-232-6264. This restaurant, near the downtown Senior Center and City College, offers no nonsense Italian-American food. And they're not skimpy: from a pizza slice to barbecue beef sandwiches to a Louisianastyle sausage link sub, portions are generous. If you want a hearty dinner, try the whole slab of beef ribs, with veggies, garlic bread, and salad. Unfortunately, the quality has dropped; the formerly fine pizza, for instance, is now marred by oily, low-grade mozzarella and not-so-great optional deli-meat toppings. But the main thing is, while the rest of downtown snores, they're still open, from 10 a m to to 3 a m, seven days And they'll even deliver to nearby neighborhoods. Inexpensive. — N.W. (9/03)

China Too 916 Fifth Avenue (near E Street), Gaslamp, 619-239-4283 or 619-239-1456. Don't blink or you'll miss this Gaslamp bargain. The menu claims "New York-Style Fine Chinese Cuisine." Would you settle for decent Brooklynor Bronx-style eat-in/take-out? Here you're getting cheap-but-good Chinese fare for the price of a cup of soup nearby. Lunch specials (with soup, two egg rolls rice) include green pepper steak with onions, kung pao hot chicken, beef broccoli, shrimp with veggies — all made with no MSG and minimal cornstarch. The owner's last place was in New York, where customers ranged from Kofi Annan to Robin Leach. Chef Chen even has some of his old dishes here, on a page of multi-regional "chef specialties" (#90 to #107 on the menu). But what really makes this a "New York-ish" spot will bring joy to hungry mouths all over the restaurant-starved stretch east and south of Balboa Park: free delivery from I-8 to Harbor Drive, from Pacific Highway to 805 or even farther. Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; closed Saturday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (3/06)

Downtown Johnny Brown's 1220 Third Avenue (in the Community Concourse at Third and B), downtown. 619-232-8414. Walk up through the Community Concourse past the ship fountain and bingo! — downtown's answer to a European sidewalk café. Place has a generous patio of chairs and umbrellas. All green and white. You get two types here: sport-minded types (a dozen TV screens, Chargers, Padres, Aztecs banners inside), and city government workers. Burgers are good, but try the breast of chicken burger with soup of the day or fries. Chicken's grilled, edge-burnt, spicy. Soup's bobbing with freshcut vegetables. Also, salads: taco or Southwest Chicken. What's best: sitting outside and watching people — not traffic — bustle by. — *E.B.* (4/03)

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant 544 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-232-9840. This spirited, colorful saloon, physically transported whole-hog from the Ould Sod, offers delicious Irish music live most nights, and also attempts serious Irish cooking — with some successes. Try the lovely herb-rich Irish stew or the boxty, potato crêpes rolled around your choice from a variety of fillings (salmon, beef, etc.). Or start the day here with a huge, carnivorous Irish breakfast. Open daily. Low moderate. — N.W. (4/01)

Greystone 658 Fifth Avenue (at G Street), Gaslamp, 619-232-0225. The Italian steakhouse fare here centers on dry-aged prime beef, game meats (including exceptionally tender bison), lobster, and pastas as the main draws, with indifferent starters and desserts. An impressive wine list offers rewarding Caliornia and Italian bottlings at \$35 to \$50, but roars up to the stratosphere of first-growth Bordeaux, super-Tuscans and scandalously overpriced Napa reds. Bossy, sometimes-abrasive waiters push higher-priced choices. Patrons are mainly "suits" with deep expense-account pockets, loudly talking business or enjoying raucous office parties in a testosterone-high atmosphere. Wheelchair access to the street patio and bar area only (dining rooms are up or downstairs). Reservations urged, but may not be honored promptly. Dinner nightly. Extremely expensive. — N.W. (12/01)

Monsoon Exotic Cuisine of India

729 Fourth Avenue (off G Street), Gaslamp, 619-234-5555. The younger sister to Hillcrest's Bombay Exotic Cuisine shares the same chefs and serves much the same standard repertory of 'Northern Indian cuisine made easy.

with a few tropical additions vaguely inspired by Southern flavors. Curries are indistinct from each other and run to the mild side, no matter what you specify. Breads are good; tandooris disap-pointingly soft-surfaced. A room-dividing fountain recreates the roar of the namesake tropical downpour. Add a lively dinner crowd and it's a (Gunga) din. Solid wine list, some Indian beers, full bar specializing in sweet cocktails, Open daily. Inexpensive buffet lunches; moderate à la carte dinners until 11 p.m. - N.W. (10/04)

Osetra 904 Fifth Avenue (at E Street).

Gaslamp, 619-239-1800. Possibly the most expensive restaurant in San Diego. Osetra is named for a precious, near-endangered caviar (which it serves) and attracts patrons who enjoy throwing their money around. The atmosphere is pure Las Vegas, with two floors of loud ambient music, glitzy decor, and a "wine angel" in black tights hoisting herself around a gleaming glass tower to fetch your precious bottle. Celebrities and big spenders get attentive service, others take their chances. The menu is mostly seafood, but it, too, carries the Vegas imprimatur of vulgar bad taste. Too many bold flavors are at war on almost every plate, and even the simplest dishes are overwrought frenzies of fusion. Best bets for satisfying your palate and curiosity: raw oysters, the cold seafood platter, caviar (if your wallet and conscience can afford it). Disabled access to first-floor dining room only. Full bar. Dinner nightly, Sunday through Thursday to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday to 11:30 p.m. Reserve well ahead. Exorbitant. — N.W. (10/04)

The Palm 615 J Street (at Sixth Avenue), Gaslamp, 619-702-6500. This up-market chain steakhouse, open since 1926, claims to be the oldest family-or erated white-tablecloth restaurant in the country, and it's spread all over the country as well. The Gaslamp branch, its 30th, is just like all the other branches, even down to decor details, which is the whole point — business travelers with contacts to impress can rely on it wherever they go. The fare features tender, wet-aged USDA Prime beef from the chain's own wholesale butcher and, for the really high-rollers, monster-sized Nova Scotia lobsters. Other good dishes are Shrimp Bruno (with a Dijon sauce), baked crab cakes with no filler, and the "Slater Special" which combines the last two in an appetizer. Don't eat meat, but do eat garlic? Try clams and shrimp *posillippo* and scare off the vampires. All dishes à la carte. Portions are generally gigantic on up. Key lime pie (a normal-sized wedge) makes a good, tart dessert, and clean *macchinettas* make outstanding espresso. Excellent wine list, plenty by the glass; full bar. Valet parking. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Very expensive. N.W. (2/06)

Panda Inn 506 Horton Plaza (top floor), downtown, 619-233-7800. Behind all the Panda Express fast-food stops is the smaller, more serious Panda Inn chain which originated many of the now-familiar dishes of semi-Americanized "Mandarin" cuisine (they claim to have invented orange chicken, and their version is vastly better than those at the 99-cent joints). Salt-and-pepper shrimp, tofu with eggplant, and meatball casserole with Chinese cabbage are among the more authentic choices. Preparations here are generally clean and greaseless with well-balanced flavors; spicy dishes are moderately hot unless you request otherwise. It's not the spot for high adventure, but it does offer dishes for all tastes. Moderate-priced banquet menus make this a good choice for family gatherings. Full bar. Validated parking in Horton Plaza garage; heated patio seating in dry weather. Lunch and dinner daily. Lunches inexpensive, dinner moderate. — N.W. (1/06)

Po Pazzo 1917 India Street (at Grape), Little Italy, 619-238-1917. The restaurant's name means "a little crazy," but owner Joe Busalacchi was crazy like a fox to open the first seriously swanky eatery in Little Italy. The decor resembles the set of a Manhattan supper club in a black-and-white movie, right down to the gray color scheme and curvy booths. Music plays loudly (with a live pianist Thursday through Saturday), keeping the energy and noise levels high. You almost expect to see Frankie and Dino at the next table. The USDA Prime steaks are flash-roasted in a special oven at 1700 degrees (in the style of Ruth's Chris), and if they're a little chewy, they're also flavorful — especially the "Sicilian steak." But the pasta dishes are even better, and the veggies accompanying the entrées often outshine the proteins — the kitchen is still Italian at heart and the fundamental things apply. Full bar. Lunch and dinner weekdays, dinner only weekends. Reservations advised. Expensive. -N.W. (10/04)

Samba Grill 510 Fourth Avenue (Horton Plaza, top level), Gaslamp, 619-236-1000. This huge restaurant serves Brazilian food and Brazilian spirit. The format is a *rodizio* — waiters circulate through the room with tall swords, impaling an ever-changing assortment of grilled meats (highly salted and cooked well done, but zesty nonetheless). On the side is a vast buffet of additional Brazilian entrées, vegetables, and salads. The staff are charmers, but make sure to ask for appetizer and dessert



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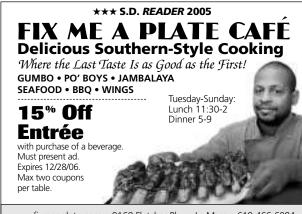
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menus and the 100-bottle wine list if the server forgets to offer. Full bar includes authentic, irresistable Brazilian caipirinha lime cocktails, made by a roving "caipirinha girl." Exciting capoeira (martial arts-dance) performances Saturday nights on patio, about 6 p.m. Live band inside follows on weekends. Lunch and dinner daily, until 11 p.m. weekends. \$35 buys a more-than-full meal. Half price for kiddies; reduced price for buffet food only; extra cost for a special "gaucho feast" that includes additional meats, plus wild game choices upon request. — N.W. (6/106)

Sluggers by the Ball Park 1219
Market Street (at Park), downtown,
619-546-5973. Not your typical hot dog
stand. Sluggers café is all glass, steel, cinder block, and new. This eatery catches
much of the Padres business, selling Vienna-brand beef hot dogs and Polish
sausages. "Served Chicago-Style" —
meaning, the dog's topped with tomato
wedges, mustard, pickle, relish, onions,
and peppers, all, they say, on a steamed
poppy-seed bun from Chicago. Other
goodies from the Windy City include the
Comiskey Park Pole (a charbroiled Polish sausage dog) and the Italian Stallion
(charbroiled Italian sausage in bun).
Place is still a little cinder blocky but a
good rendezvous for a brewski and a dog
after work. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — E.B. (3/05)

Taka 555 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-338-0555. The seafood at this always-packed sushi bar and Japanese appetizer-restaurant is top quality. *Ama ebi* (sweet shrimp) from the live tank go down soft and silky smooth, unlike their frozen brethren. And the chefs are highly skilled: the well-seasoned rice is freshly made all evening, and for once the spicy scallop hand roll has scallops, mayo, cuke, and hot pepper running all the way through, not just plopped on top. Sa-

vory appetizers supplement the sushi, including miso-baked black cod and mushroom-topped agedashi (lightly-fried) tofu. The one problem: the later you arrive, the louder it gets. Make reservations, and if you value your ears, go at an early hour. Dinner nightly. Most dishes inexpensive, but many little bites can eat a hole in your wallet. — N.W. (7/04)

Tamale Cart Outside Rancho Fresco. 1852 National Avenue, Barrio Logan, 619-338-9140. If you've ever wondered what it would be like to eat as the Aztecs ate, come here and try some of the tamales — classic Aztec food — in all their flavors. Tamales are sort of steamed cornmeal dumplings wrapped in corn husks, served with sauce. The choice of goodies stuffed in the middle can include strips of pork, beef, chicken, or cheese, as well as pineapple, strawberries, or coconut. While you're at it, try the traditional accompaniment, the champurrado drink: milk mixed with masa - ground corn meal — chocolate, and cinnamon. In this mainly Spanish-speaking market you can sit, watch, and pick up a few bar-gains too. Tamales make a great breakfast. Three should do you. These are made by the Restaurant Chiapaneco up at 25th and Market. Open breakfast through late lunch, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B (10/02)

Top of the Market 750 North Harbor Drive, downtown, 619-234-4867. The upper-crust upper floor of the downtown Fish Market (see Multiple Locations listing) has largely the same food as the downstairs, plus a few luxury items (e.g., abalone) and occasionally some creative appetizer specials. Prices are about 25% higher for identical items, in exchange for a slightly elevated view and a dressier, white-tablecloth setting that's almost "formal" by San Diego standards — flip-flops and tank tops

aren't allowed on men, and collared shirts (e.g., polos) are suggested at dinner. That doesn't mean that the atmosphere is quietly gracious — the room's just as huge, packed, and raucous as the lower realms, even on the terrace. Reserve, and expect a short wait anyway. Elevator provides wheelchair access. Open daily. Expensive. — N.W. (9/01)

SOUTH BAY & CORONADO

El Dorado 311 Palomar (at 3rd Avenue), Chula Vista, 426-4545. The food of Peru is arguably the zestiest in South America, and Chula Vista's growing Peruvian community expects authenticity. El Dorado is there for them. The *papa* relleno is pure bliss — a little football of creamy mashed potatoes, lightly fried around a filling of ground beef, olives, and raisins. Seco de cabrito features young goat in a complex, herbed stew exploding with cilantro. Peruvian ceviche is lively and garnished with chancho, smoked hominy-corn kernels. Alas, here in the far north, the cuisine's fire is tuned way down for the kiddies - but there's always hot sauce. Reflecting the local population, half the menu here is Mex-- not tacos but more serious dinner dishes, especially seafood, carried out with above-average flair. Three meals, seven days. Inexpensive to moderate. —

The Family House of Pancakes 562 Broadway (across from Chula Vista Center), Chula Vista, 619-425-5133. This is a great place for three things: your family, your kids, and your appetite. The restaurant is famous for its "Grandma's" buckwheat pancakes, its banana-pecan pancake, and its rolled pancakes, oozing

with berries and topped with cream and powdered sugar. Just try and survive their 8-12 egg omelet! Other good bets include a deluxe burger with French fries, tomatoes, and house sauce, and a grilled tuna sandwich with fries. Breakfast/lunch only, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/00)

Island Pasta 1202 Orange Avenue (at Loma Street), Coronado, 619-435-4545. This unassuming, spill-out-on-the-street restaurant somehow got it right. Simple tables on the sidewalk, daily made-on-the-premises semolina pasta, most dishes costing in the single digits. A simple fettuccine Alfredo is a pleasure al fresco with a glass of wine, sparkling against the fresh flowers on the table, watching Coronado's world go by. One good — and vegetarian — special to ask for is the verdure pasta, a combo of artichoke hearts, spinach, capers, mushrooms, onions, and olives over spaghettini. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — E.B. (10/01)

La Bella Pizza Garden 373 Third Avenue (at F Street), Chula Vista, 619-426-8820. From the outside, La Bella looks like an Italian farmhouse, with geraniums, bright green shutters, and maroon canopies. A real extended family runs this business. Their secrets are: long hours (from breakfast until after midnight daily), big meals, and small prices. The menu includes standards like spaghetti with meatballs or lasagna, including sides of garlic bread, soup, or salad. The hit with kids is "Papa's Favorite," an 8-inch pizza with mushrooms, pepperoni, and sausage. Open daily, three meals. Inexpensive. — E.B. (3001)

Mary J's Cafe 1930 Cleveland Avenue, National City, 619-477-6645 or 619-477-5306. Mary J and her café have been around for 40 years and about the

only thing to change is the prices. This is the real National City. The regulars start piling in at 5 a.m. Mary always has specials going, but check the big board menu above the stove too. One of their most popular items is the Trucker's Breakfast (three eggs, ham, bacon or sausage, home fries, and toast), or steak and eggs with hash browns and toast. Mary's son Vic, the morning cook, always gives you more than enough. For lunch or early dinner, try the meat loaf with mixed veggies, boiled potatoes covered with gravy, toast, and soup or salad. Or chicken-fried steak with all the fixings. Also hefty: cheeseburgers or tuna melts (with fries plus soda included in the price) and that old American favorite, a fried egg sandwich with chips. Open 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Inexpensive. — E.B. (6/02)

Miguel's Cocina 1351 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-437-4237. Also 2912 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island, 619-224-2401, and 970 Eastlake Parkway, Chula Vista, 619-656-2822. Cached inside the courtyard of a "Spanish Colonial" mini-mall, Miguel's breezy trellised patio draws a dense dinner crowd from the nearby Del. The prime-time wait for a table may be worth it if you're in a gringo-Mex mood, especially if you've got kids in tow. Although the cooking is blandly pleasant (even the guacamole is under-seasoned), it's surprisingly painstaking. Soups are built on fine stocks, salads can be vibrant, and seafood is treated so tenderly that the numerous shellfish-stuffed tortilla concoctions (shrimp enchiladas, lobster burritos) are positively luscious. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — N.W. (9/00)

Tin Fish Imperial Beach Pier, 910 Seacoast Drive, Imperial Beach, 619-628-8414. At a table by this fish shack at the far end of the pier, you can watch people and pigeons (and people

feeding pigeons) as you dig into huge portions of simple seafood, appetized by the sea air. The bill of fare features fish fried, grilled, chowdered, or wrapped into burritos, tacos, or sandwiches. The big fried combos are about what you'd expect, but more piquant pleasures come in smaller packages. (Portions are generous, whatever you order.) The spicy fish tacos are really spicy, while the fried onion rings are of surpassing delicacy. Best of all, the crab cakes are huge and seriously crabby, with plenty of meat and very little filler. With a call, they'll give you a lift from the parking lot to their restaurant. A second branch at 170 Sixth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-238-8100, offers patio dining across from the Convention Center, with live music during summer. Both locations open daily for lunch and early dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W. (7/01)

BAJA

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

Chiki Jai Avenida Revolución #1388 (at 8th), Zona Centro, Tijuana, 685-4955. Eat here and you're surrounded by ghosts: Errol Flynn, John Huston, Rita Hayworth, Anthony Quinn, Ava Gardner, and, they say, Ernest Hemingway, who all ate — and drank vino tinto — here. Plus the great stars of boxing and bullfighting. But mainly it was a haven for Spanish jai alai players desperate for Old Country food. This is one of Tijuana's great historic eateries, its tale written on the walls. Old border photos, Don Quixote art, fighting bull ranchos' brands, and a matador's framed green cape with his blood



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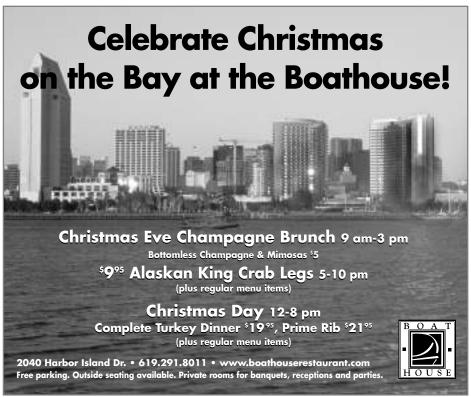
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911 Camino Del Rio South (at Hwy. 8 & Mission Center Rd.) 619.298.FUJI (3854) Open daily 11 am-2:30 pm • 5-10 pm Open Friday & Saturday until 11 pm







still on it. The food's all Spanish, so paella is big (with soup, salad, French bread, and bleu cheese), but also try the baby eel appetizers, chorizo (pork sausages), bacalao (cod fish) a la Viz-caina, trout with olive oil and garlic, and Gallican octopus. Open daily. In-expensive to moderate. — *E.B.* (5/02)

El Nido Boulevard Benito Juárez #67 (1-1/2 blocks north of Hotel Festival Plaza), Rosarito Beach, Baja, 661-612-1430. Head south if you're looking for a great dry-aged, mesquite-broiled steak at a bargain price — but don't stop there. Try the house specialty, quail with garlic sauce (codorniz al mojo de ajo), or venison, especially the savory machaca de venado (strips of meat with peppers, onions, and tomatoes). Both are locally raised on the restaurant's own ranches, and may be united in a brilliant breakfast of quail eggs with deer *machaca*. Seafood and surf-and-turf variations are tasty, too. The restaurant's name means "the nest" and the amusing indoor-outdoor decor is a sort of multiroom aviary with birds nging, chirping, and fluttering all over. Full bar. If sensitive to smoke, don't sit next to the mesquite-burning hearth on the roofed patio. Dressy-casual. Bilingual staff and menu. Open daily, early morning to late evening. Mostly moderate; cash only. — *N.W.* (4/03)

La Diferencia Avenida Sánchez Taboada 10611-A, Zona Río, Tijuana, 634-3346 or 634-7078. Mexican haute cuisine, with inventive combinations of traditional flavors. The creative menu reframes the old dishes and devises new ones. Wine list centers on Baja winer ies (Monte Xanic and Cetto) at reasonable prices. Secure, free valet parking next to exterior courtvard. Menu is in Spanish (in a hard-to-read font), but some staffers speak some English. The restaurant is often noisy, even louder when mariachis play. Smoking permit-ted. Wheelchair access marginal. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive.

Los Pelícanos Calle de Cedro 115 #45 (west of Juarez), Rosarito Beach, Baja, 661-612-0445 or 661-612-1757. This hotel dining room is El Nido's lit-tle (and less gifted) sister, with a shorter menu and perhaps less careful cooking. It serves good steaks and surf-and-turf in a handsome room and, at lunch, on a pretty ocean-view terrace. To find it, look for large sign on west side of Juarez, north of the tourist hub, directing you to the site. One winding flight up to the restaurant, no elevator. Bilingual staff and menu. Full bar. Open daily, three meals. Moderate; cash only. — N.W. (4/03)

Mercado Sobre Ruedas (From Tiiuana, on toll road, take first Rosarito

exit; turn left at third traffic light then an immediate right onto Colonia Lucio Blanco.) Don't miss this huge flea market that materializes every Sunday (from morning until mid-afternoon) a couple of miles north of the tourist part of town. Its dozens of food-booths offer a vast variety of local treats, ranging from barbecued mutton (borrego) to savory Jalisco-style goat stew (birria de chivo) to all manner of tacos, made-toorder hotcakes with syrup, "Mexican hamburgers," and Sno-Kones (don't worry about the ice; by law, it has to be made with purified water). The food is totally authentic, cooked to Mexican tastes, and it's a carnival for the mouth. Many vendors speak some English. Rock-bottom prices; cash only. -N.W. (4/03)

Tacos Varios y Aguas Frescas Corner of Constitución and 3rd, Tijuana. This is "just" a cart, but don't let that stop your making the effort. Students, local businesspeople, and workers agree: this is the real thing. It's always causing a people-bulge on the sidewalk. However, the cart is only here from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., so you have to time it right. But from tongue to chicken mole, to *milanesa*, steak ranchero, carne asada, chile relleno, and pescado (fish), they create really big taco meals right there. Bonus: standing around chomping in the street is a great way to meet people and practice your Spanish. Nighttime only. Inexpensive. _ E.B. (1/04)

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Anthony's Fish Grotto 1360 North Harbor Drive (at Ash Street), downtown, 619-232-5103; 215 West Bay Boulevard, Chula Vista, 619-425-4200; 9530 Murray Drive, La Mesa, 619-463-0368. You're going to get a sore neck at the downtown flagship of this local chain, splitting your time between your meal, your partner, and the harbor scene outside. If you don't want overcomplicated food, Anthony's obliges. Fish and chips is still the simplest and the best. Or Mama's Platter, cod combined with batter-fried calamari, shrimp, oysters, scallops, and clam strips. An thony's has been up and running for six decades now, with the buying power to get the pick of the catch. The menu offers 18 different seasonal fish to choose from, plus - if you've got the bread delicious lobster dishes (in season) like lobster thermidor with a creamy, winey sauce. Try to be there at sunset when the water-sky show will do its darndest to distract you. No reservations. Open daily, lunch through dinner. Moderate. — E.B. (12/05)

Fish House Vera Cruz 360 Via Vera Cruz (in back of "Restaurant Row"), San Marcos, 760-744-7346. Additional locations in Carlsbad and Temecula, This affordable seafood eatery packs in diners like sardines. Fresh fish and lots of it is the happenin' thing. On a recent day, 23 different fresh fish selections were available as daily specials, on top of the regular menu of crab, lobster, oysters, shrimp, catfish, etc. All fish are grilled plain, with nothing added but a dab of tartar sauce. The seafood is so fresh you don't really mind. Each entrée includes a choice of side dishes, two for lunch and three for dinner. The Manhattan chowder is especially tasty, as is their "krab" salad. This is an ideal place for families. but don't even think of it for a romantic meal out. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *S.M.* (3/04)

The Fish Market 750 North Harbor There's something fishy about these crowded, noisy, ever-multiplying restau rants — namely, mesquite-grilled, skew-ered, steamed, or panko-fried seafood, plus piscine chowders, pastas, and salads. Preparations are generally simple and consistent among locations. All the raw seafood is processed at the chain's Northern California facilities, so when the menu refers to a "local" species it merely means it's from somewhere in the Pacific. Small retail fish market in the downtown branch offers slightly fresher products than at most supermarkets. Identical products and dishes are served in the dining room, the oyster bar, and at Top of the Market. But the sushi bar is emphatically the top Fish Market venue, with just-right rice, pristine seafood, and expert preparation. The

"Ichiban Hamachi" (also available in the dining rooms) is outstanding - and for a sexy treat, share a pair of "Honeymoon Oysters" with your honey. No reservations, but the space is vast so waits are brief. Restaurant open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. Also in Del Mar at 640 Via de la Valle, 858-755-2277; mini-branch near Fashion Valley, 2401 Fenton Parkway, 619-280-2277. — *N.W.* (9/01)

Il Fornaio 1333 First Street, Coronado. 619-437-4911. Also at Del Mar Plaza, 1555 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, 858-755-8876. Il Fornaio's defensive architecture walls it off from the Great Unwashed — the tourists wandering around Coronado's Old Ferry Landing — but it's worth breaching if only to get your teeth into their to-die for bread. "Il fornaio" means "the baker," after all. Beyond bread, we're talking rus tic-feeling, herbal, ultra-fresh salads, and everyday Italian dishes ranging from sfi-latino con bistecchina (thin grilled steak on a baguette with creamy dijon and salad) to a giant mesquite-grilled 22-ounce *bistecca alla fiorentina*, with lots of vegetarian and pasta dishes in between. A simple penne alla sorrentina pasta tubes with a tomato, mozzarella, and basil sauce — is charming. Pizza put-tanesca is heaven too, if you're into anchovies. Interesting regional menus from different provinces of Italy pop up during the first two weeks of each month. Most staffers seem mind-blowingly knowledgeable. Moderate. — E.B. (1/02)

Restaurant Coupons and Menus SanDiegoReader.com

Restaurants listed without coupon offers have only menus online. Restaurants with • have multiple locations. See online menu or coupon for all locations.

Pacific Beach, Mission Beach & Ocean Beach

Atoll at the Catamaran Hotel

Broken Yolk **\$2 off breakfast or lunch**

Canes Free wing basket

Chateau Orleans 50% off

Costa Brava Free tapa for lunch French Gourmet **Free dessert**

Great Moon Buffet 10% off total bill

Gringo's **\$2 off Sunday Brunch**

Lahaina Beach House Free breakfast Limónz Rostizados 20% off chicken or ribs

Pacific Beach Bar & Grill 2 for 1 entrée

Pacific Rotisserie Free entrée

Sam's by the Sea

Saska's Free sushi or 25% off bill

TJ Oyster Bar 2 for 1 tacos/tostadas

Tower Two Beach Cafe 1/2-price appetizers

Aurora Trattoria 2 for 1 dinner Cafe Milano Free Comedy Store tickets

Cendio Clay's La Jolla

Ginza-Sushi **Sushi dinner for 2 \$15.95**•

Harry's Coffee Shop 20% off

La Jolla Brew House Free lunch or dinner entrée

Marrakesh 50% off lunch

Regents Pizzeria Free large salad

The Shores 20% off dinner

Su Casa 20% off entire check®

Vida Gourmet

North County

The Beach Club **50% off entrée** Big Jim's Old South Bar-B-Q 50% off entrée The Blvd ${\color{red} {\bf Free\ Happy\ Hour\ appetizer}}$ Del Mar Rendevous 20% off Greek Village Free saganaki Jamroc 101 Free island sampler Ki's Restaurant Free appetizer or dessert Mikko Japanese **50% off sushi** Noodles & Company Pho Lucky 10% off entire check Wild Note Cafe

South Bay & Coronado

Batter Up! 50% off Batter Up! basket Chick-Fil-A 10% off catering Lai Thai 50% off entrée Mariscos La Costa Azul Free combo plate

Uptown & North Park

A La Française

Awash Ethiopian 1/2-price entrée

B Fried Rice

Baby Back Jack's \$2 off

Hob Nob Hill **\$2 off entrée**

House of India Free dinner

India Princess Free dinner•

Lips 50% off dinner Rannoosh Free entrée

Rudford's **\$2 off entrée**

San Filippo's Pizza & salad \$15.45

Midway, Old Town & Mission Valley

The Amigo Spot 15% off bill

Bali Thai Free entrée

Bennigan's **\$5 off lunch or dinner**

Chiba Japanese \$2 off lunch or dinner

Forever Fondue 2 for 1 entrée

Fuji Japanese Steakhouse 10% off

Lot 81 Free appetizer

Old Town Mexican Cafe

Paradise Yogurt **50 cents off a smoothie**

Pizza Bella **Free wine dinner**

Shanghai Chinese \$1 off Mongolian BBQ

Tio Leo's **Dinner combos \$8.99 each** •

Todai 10% off lunch or dinner

East County & State College

Alpine Inn Sunday prime rib \$18.95

Aroma Thai Free entrée

Cereal Port Cafe Free energy drink Fix Me A Plate Cafe 15% off any entrée

Greek Town Buffet 50% off dinner buffet Habana Cuban Free entrée

Lucky Star Buffet 50% off dinner Shakey's Pizza Lunch buffet \$4.95

Clairemont, University City, Miramar Rd., Poway, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch & Kearny Mesa

Ashoka the Great 50% off lunch or dinner Bangkok West Thai Cafe Free Thai iced tea Filling Station **Free appetizer**

Honey's Cafe

Indian Asian Buffet **\$1 off lunch**

Joe's Pizza 2 large pizzas \$20.99

Pampas Free empanada

Philadelphia Sandwich Co. Free sandwich

Thai Cafe **\$1 off buffet**

Downtown & Point Loma

Alambres Free soup

Blue Water Seafood 25% off

The Boathouse **2-for-1 entrée**

Dae Jang Keum Korean BBQ 50% off Korean BBQ

Dublin Square 15% off or free lunch

Embers Grille 50% off entrée

The Field **Free lunch**

Hard Rock Café

Hornblower Cruises

House of Blues 20% off restaurant receipt Humphrey's

La Cantina Prime rib, crab, wine \$19.95 Lotus Thai Cuisine Free entrée

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant

Mister Tiki Mai Thai Lounge

Olé Madrid 2 for 1 lunch or brunch entrée

Puerto La Boca Free Argentine dessert

RA Sushi

Rei do Gado

Saigon on Fifth 20% off

Samba Grill Free all-you-can-eat Brazilian feast

Sevilla

The Shout House

St. Tropez Bakery-Bistro 10% off •

Star of India 50% off entrée

Thai Time II Free fried spring rolls

Visions **25% off sushi** Whiskey Girl

Xavier's Free appetizer

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of release and by rating, are available online at SanDiegoReader.com

Apocalypto — Evidently Mel Gibson is in it only for the barbarity. Scouring the globe, roaming the pages of history, he has alighted here on the illuminating example of the Mayan people, past their civilized peak, where a happy, peaceable, practicaljoking tribe of jungle dwellers (sample joke: the prescription of a red-hot herb as a topical fertility drug, so that the duped hubby must, in full view of the guffawing villagers, hop around buck naked and plunk down his burning loins in a water trough — wait, it gets even better — and his wife must pour a pitcher of water down her gullet) is cruelly set upon and rounded up by a storm troop of fearsome, bloodthirsty, bone-inthe-nose killjoys in search of sacrificial offerings to their god Kukulkan. A paradise, in other words, no less than turn-of-the-13th-century Scotland in Braveheart or 1stcentury Palestine in The Passion of the Christ, where Gibson may indulge his appetite for mayhem, persecution, torture, martyrdom. (The nine-tenths-naked natives enable him, further, to indulge his lesser appetite for homoerotica.) The English subtitles and the no-name cast might almost lead you to believe, were it not for the telltale slickness and the Gibsonian slomo for dramatic stress, that you're watching a product of, say, the Guatemalan New Wave or the Undiscovered Belizean Cinema. At the very least, the film should do nothing to fan the flames of Gibson's sus-



pected and substantiated anti-Semitism. And at the next least, the last-minute arrival on the scene of Christianity is not openly - and politically incorrectly applauded. That might be the film's one and only instance of restraint. Rudy Youngblood, Dalia Hernandez, Jonathan Brewer, Morris Bird 2006

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN: CHULA VISTA 10: CIN-ERAMA 6: ENCINITAS 8: ESCONDIDO 16: FASH-ION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GALAXY 6; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA

COSTA 6: LA JOLLA 12: MIRA MESA 18: MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20: OCEANSIDE 16: PALM PROME-NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA CAMINO REAL; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SOUARE 14: VISTA VILLAGE)

Babel — Communication problems the world over. An American tourist is struck by rifle fire in Morocco, arousing erroneous worries of terrorism. An illegal-alien nanny

drags along the two towheads in her care to a Mexican wedding, and runs afoul of the Border Patrol on their return. And a horny pantyless deaf-mute Japanese girl can't get a man, any man, to take an interest in her. These three storylines are fashionably "interlocked" (anyone who can recognize the voice of Brad Pitt over the telephone will immediately know the connection between two of them), and the film strategically ends in the same place, from a different point of view, as it begins, coming full circle. The illusion of complexity, for all that, could scarcely be more transparent. Mexican director Alejandro González Iñárritu, much in the manner of his Amores Perros. achieves depth only in the way that a hero sandwich achieves it; and it achieves length — almost two and a half hours of it — in the same way as a footlong at any Subway shop. Tenuous in construction, slack and sluggish in pace, sketchy and farfetched in plot, the film does nothing to justify its epic length or its cosmic ambitions. (The Mexican storyline, particularly weak, goes nowhere until it goes bananas: a series of decisions so bad as to forfeit all sympathy for the characters, let alone for the storyteller who compelled the characters to make the decisions.) With a somewhat calmer camera than his norm, however, the director does some nice scene-setting, some impressionistic documentation of the locales, to help realize his goal in sheer duration. With Cate Blanchett, Adriana Barraza, Gael García Bernal, Koji Yakusho, and Rinko Kikuchi.

★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE: MISSION VALLEY 20: PALM PROMENADE 24)

Blood Diamond - Serviceable actionadventure despite frequent interruptions for sermonettes on human rights and capitalist wrongs. The ripped-from-the-headlines story (yesterday's headlines: civil war in Sierra Leone, 1999) features the stock figures of a self-interested soldier of fortune, in league with slaughterous rebels and unscrupulous jewellers, an engagé foreign correspondent, and a hapless native peasant enslaved in the diamond mines and separated from his family, all united on a treasure hunt for a priceless buried gem, "a pink," big as a walnut. Without the politics, the strong-arm manipulation of emotions would be inexcusable. Or rather, more clearly inexcusable. It's still inexcusable even now. (The on-screen standing ovation at the final curtain is an unsubtle elbow-inthe-ribs to the moviegoer.) Behind the oped posturing, the film roughly resembles a middle-period, middle-drawer Robert

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Mitchum vehicle, except that Leonardo Di-Caprio, affecting an acceptable Afrikaner accent, is no Robert Mitchum. For all his recently acquired bulk, including the heftiness of his credits in Martin Scorsese's oeuvre, he remains too boyish to be a persuasive action hero: Robby Bensonitis, let's call it. Jennifer Connelly, meantime, is both capable and decorative as the journalist. And the only thing keeping Djimon Hounsou from total sympathy is the sanctimony in which his director, Edward Zwick, enwraps him. All three, along with their Dark Continent environs, are nicely, cleanly, warmly photographed by Eduardo Serra. 2006.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN: CHULA VISTA 10: ES-CONDIDO 16: FASHION VALLEY 18: FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROME-NADE 24: PARKWAY PLAZA 18: POWAY 10: RAN-CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Bobby — One day at the former Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, the fateful day of June 4, 1968, when Bobby Kennedy, on

in the California Primary, and Don Drysdale, on the mound for the Dodgers, was going for the record of consecutive score less innings pitched. A tapestry of lives, from the Mexican menials in the kitchen to the Hollywood headliner in the showroom, woven together in the pattern of Grand Hotel, which is explicitly referenced in the dialogue, or just plain Hotel, which had been released the previous year, 1967. Director (and democratic role player) Emilio Estevez, who was six years old at the time, churns up a lather of nostalgia for political idealism, seemingly missing, now, in a parallel time of an unpopular foreign war. The seriousness of intent does not lessen the hokeyness, though, and the politics tend to load down the soap operatics at least as much as the soap operatics lighten and cheapen the politics. Solid contributions from William H. Macy as the hotel manager, a self-proclaimed "equal opportunity kind of guy," Anthony Hopkins as the retired doorman who still haunts the premises daily, Laurence Fishburne as the head chef, Freddy Rodriguez as a humble kitchen worker with tickets to the big game, and Martin Sheen, the filmmaker's famously Left-leaning father. Among others. All of the women "of a certain age" Demi Moore, Sharon Stone, Helen Hunt exhibit identical gaunt elongated faces, in the Mannerist manner, that appear to have come through the same plastic surgeon's office and spoil the illusion of a period piece. And Ashton Kutcher in a headband

and a House-of-Stuart wig looks like a Halloween hippie. Liberal masochists who simply crave an occasion to relive the day, however, will get what they need, especially in the newsreel footage of Kennedy on the stump, and in the agonizingly drawn-out re-enactment of his death, and in the final reprise of one of his eloquent speeches, in which he sounds, first, as if he knows and understands what he's saying, and, second,

as if he means it. Wouldn't it be swell to have a President like that? With Heather Graham, Lindsay Lohan, Elijah Wood, Christian Slater, Nick Cannon, Harry Belafonte. 2006.

★★ (FLOWER HILL 4)

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan — For anyone who hereto-

fore hadn't encountered the character on HBO, Borat Sagdiyev will need an introduction. He is one of the personas of British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen on Da Ali G Show, a Kazakh TV reporter dapperly dressed in a dove-gray suit, bristlingly mustachioed, blissfully sexist, superstitiously anti-Semitic, and not yet toilettrained (he splashes water on his face from the commode in his New York hotel room, takes a doggy-style dump in the bushes of a public park, jerks off in front of a Victoria's Secret display window, and so on), ostensibly dispatched to America to shoot a documentary for home consumption — a builtin excuse for bad camerawork. Scripted scenes, or at any rate pre-planned scenes, primarily involving Borat's obese and camera-shy producer, Azamat Bagatov (Ken Davitian), secondarily involving a slightly less obese African-American call girl (Luenell), and presumably also involving the proprietors of a Jewish B&B (how can we be sure?), alternate with unscripted performance-art pieces, so to call them, in which assorted innocents, dupes, patsies, and joke-butts are lured into the gag unawares. These unrehearsed bits, no doubt more compelling, more riveting, more nerve-racking than the planned-out parts, naturally give rise to thoughts of their comedic antecedents and analogues: Candid Camera, the practical jokes on a Dick Clark Bloopers special, MTV's copycat Punk'd, the crank calls of any wisenheimer radio deejay, Andy Kaufman's chauvinistpig wrestling career, the Yes Men (and their eponymous film of a couple of years previous), etc. At the same time, they give rise to moral concerns — to say nothing of legal ones — that far overshadow artistic ones. Can, as an example, an Alabama minister's wife — bluntly insulted for her dearth of pulchritude — be safely assumed to be less of a human being than our fearless guerrilla artiste, or has the latter's sexism perhaps crossed over, there, from fiction into reality? Any diversion afforded by such thoughts is all to the good, because the general impression of the film, right down to the spottiness of its laughs, and regardless of whether staged or not, is amazingly similar to that of your average Will Ferrell comedy. In a word, over-the-top and high of the target. Directed by Larry Charles. 2006. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN: DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8: ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSS-MONT CENTER: HORTON PLAZA 14: LA JOLLA 12: MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARK-WAY PLAZA 18: RANCHO DEL REY 16: RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VIL-

 Australian addiction drama, with Heath Ledger, Abbie Cornish, and Geoffrey Rush, directed by Neil Armfield. (HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 12/15)

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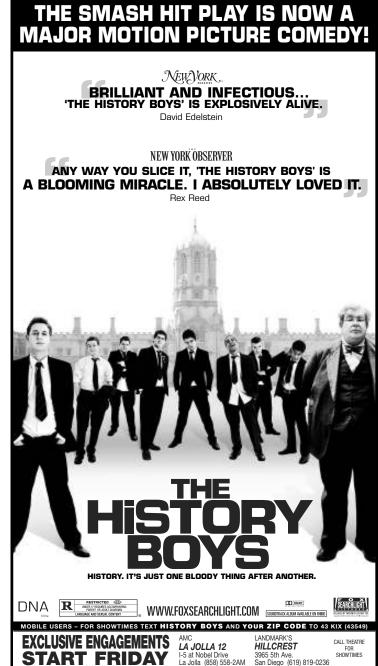
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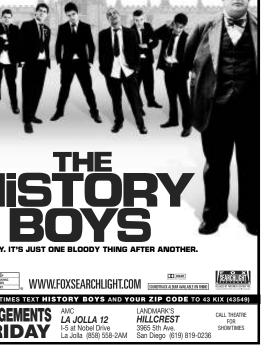
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Ian Fleming's first James Bond novel, the 007 franchise approaches the opportunity of a new James Bond as the opportunity of a new beginning. The new Bond, Daniel Craig, is not just another pretty face, in fact is a pretty craggy face (Craiggy face, perhaps that should be), and it can pretty well express itself in the bargain. Granted, noises were made about a similar rollback toward reality when Timothy Dalton came on board; and even in the midst of the reign of Pierce Brosnan, noises were made about toughening up his act. These proved to be only noises. The new noises are more. The obligatory pre-credits sequence, in blackand-white and sprinkled with flashbacks, shuns spectacle in favor of blunt brutality; and the action to follow seems to be under no compulsion to "top" all previous action. While Judi Dench reprises the role of "M," Bond himself has only just been promoted to double-0 status (a new beginning for sure) and has vet to earn his boss's trust. There is no equivalent of "Q" and his cute presentation of the gadgets du jour. There is no casual bedding of "Bond girls," and the one romantic relationship (with the enigmatic, darkly eyelined Eva Green) attains an emotional weight beyond even the allthe-way-to-the-altar affair of On Her Majesty's Secret Service. The hero's lame quips and puns, meantime, have thoroughly been expunged from the script. And "I don't give a damn" is his response to the bartender's inquiry as to whether he'd like his vodka martini shaken or stirred. All these changes are definite improvements. And yet, and yet, and yet.... The action, even if somewhat scaled back under the one-time Bond director Martin Campbell (Goldeneye, the beginning of the Brosnan Bonds, but scarcely a new beginning), is still more than sufficiently cartoonish. The plotting is skimpy. The whole thing runs on far too long. And then there's the fundamental

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8: ENCINITAS 8: ESCON-DIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER: HORTON PLAZA 14: LA JOLLA 12: MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10: RANCHO DEL REY 16: RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

question: if you want to do an alternative to James Bond, why call him James Bond?

his age he belongs? Mads Mikkelson, Jeffrey

Why not put him out to pasture where at

Wright, Giancarlo Giannini. 2006.

The Cave of the Yellow Dog - Mongolian movie from one of the two directors of The Story of the Weeping Camel, Byambasuren Davaa. This one tells the story of a little girl and a stray dog, not a yellow dog, but white with a black face and a black spot on his back, hence his christening as Zochar (translation, Spot), and cute as the dickens, though the girl's father worries that the dog, likely mingling with wolves, cannot be trusted around the family sheep. In spite of an uneventful narrative and a glacial pace, the feeling for unspectacular landscape (low mountains, wide valleys), the sense of open space, and the placement of people within it are authentically cinematic. 2005.

★★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE, THROUGH 12/14)

Charlotte's Web - Gary Winick's rendition of the children's book by E.B. White, starring Dakota Fanning, with Julia Roberts as the voice of the spider.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN: CHULA VISTA 10: CIN-ERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16: FASHION VALLEY 18: GALAXY 6: GROSSMONT CENTER: HORTON PLAZA 14: LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13: MISSION VALLEY 7: MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROME-NADE 24: PARKWAY PLAZA 18: POWAY 10: RAN-CHO DEL REY 16: RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15: SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 12/15)

Deck the Halls — The Christmas spirit turns competitive — keeping ahead of the Ioneses, straight across the street — and the competition is laughlessly lopsided. With Danny DeVito, Matthew Broderick, Kristin Davis, and Kristin Chenoweth; directed by John Whitesell, 2006.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN: FASHION VALLEY 18: GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEAN SIDE 16: PALM PROMENADE 24: PARKWAY PLAZA 18: RANCHO DEL REY 16: RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Déjà Vu — Requires you to park your reason, along with your car, outside the theater. A ferry boat blows up in post-Katrina New Orleans, killing 543, mainly returning Navy men and their welcoming families; and the uncounted body of a young woman bearing residue from the explosion has been fished out of the water a few minutes before the blast. What's the connection? The chief investigative tool proves to be a fanciful science-fictional device that allows the feds, through satellite imagery and computer projections, to view events from four days and six hours earlier, even inside the apartment (and the bathroom shower) of the deceased young woman: an audiovisual time machine. In addition, a portableheadset version of the device facilitates a truly unique car chase, in the lengthy annals of car chases on screen, whereby one vehicle is four days ahead of the other, which has to steer through a totally different pattern of traffic to keep pace. The bagof-tricks filmmaking technique of Tony Scott, really more of a weathercock than a director, throws a few smaller obstacles in your path. Still, if you consent to ride out the bumps, the film works up plenty of forward momentum and climactic tension (en route to a have-it-both-ways ending); and the preposterousness in no way limits

the level of engagement, or engagingness, of Denzel Washington. With Paula Patton, Val Kilmer, James Caviezel. 2006.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN: CHULA VISTA 10: DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12: MIRA MESA 18: MISSION MARKET PLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24: PARKWAY PLAZA 18: RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

The Departed — Martin Scorsese's career-changing turn to the overblown epic, a turn marked by Casino, would seem to be a course difficult to reverse. Kundun ... Gangs of New York ... The Aviator.... And now even a trashy light diversion, adapted from an average-length Hong Kong action film, will get dragged out to two and a half hours — this despite the delivery of dialogue at the machine-gun tempo of a hopped-up auctioneer (or of Scorsese's own casual conversation), and despite, too, the mere semblance of speed imparted by the free-associative cutting and the incongruous rockabilly beat of the background music, whenever the filmmaker isn't trotting out his collection of rock-and-roll oldies. The convoluted plot verges on farce: an upwardly mobile underworld spy in the Massachusetts State Police (Matt Damon, raising his eyebrows in an ostentatious show of innocence) and a downwardly mobile police spy inside the mob (Leonardo DiCaprio, giving himself away with his

meat-cleaver worry line) both become involved, first as clients and then as suitors, with a Harper's Bazaar idea of a psy chotherapist (Vera Farmiga, she of the prow-like cheekbones, life-raft lips, blue-lagoon eyes). Not even the take-no-prisoners crescendo of gore toward the end, jolting though some of it is, can pull the movie back from the farcical brink. And Jack Nicholson, as showy an actor as Scorsese is a director (when he's only in it for the money, anyway), plays the mob boss at a pitch barely below his Batman Joker. With Mark Wahlberg, Martin Sheen, Alec Baldwin, Ray Winstone. 2006.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14)

Eating Out 2: Sloppy Seconds — Gaysequel with Jim Verraros, Marco Dapper, and Mink Stole, directed by Phillip

(HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 12/15)

Eragon — Heroic fantasy with Edward Speleers, Jeremy Irons, Sienna Guillory, Robert Carlyle, and John Malkovich, directed by Stefen Fangmeier.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN: CHULA VISTA 10: DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKET-PLACE 13: MISSION VALLEY 7: MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN

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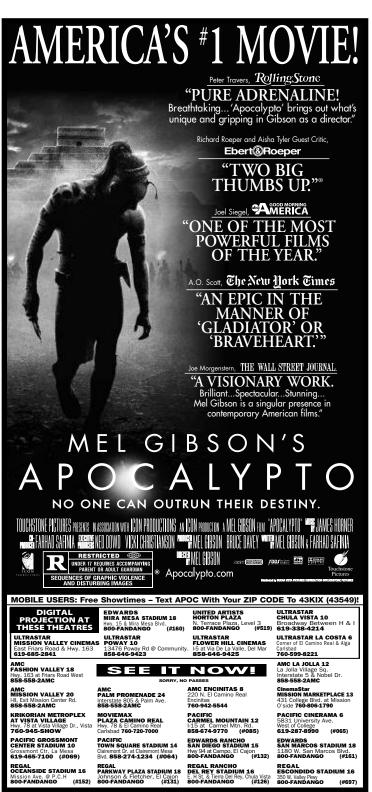
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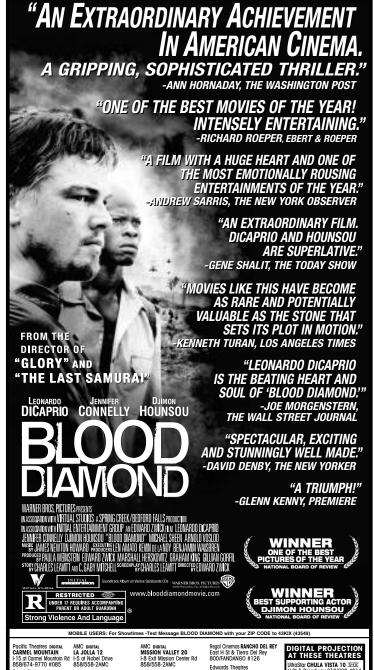
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CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18: SANTEE DRIVE IN: TOWN SOUARE 14: VISTA VILLAGE: FROM 12/15)

Fast Food Nation — Multicharacter fictionalization of Eric Schlosser's nonfiction exposé of the same name. With it, director Richard Linklater picks up a placard and joins the radical parade of American fictioneers from Frank Norris and Upton Sinclair and Jack London and John Steinbeck and on down. The major issues, too many to fit on one placard, are corporate cornercutting and penny-pinching, the exploitation of undocumented workers, the brandnaming of America, the brainwashing of its citizens, and the like. Undisguisedly didactic in intent, often clunky and chunky in dialogue ("Right now I can't think of anything more patriotic than violating the Patriot Act"), it is surprisingly watchable, with its large assemblage of life-sized characters (Ashley Johnson, special mention, as a perky fast-food clerk with incipient scruples) and its smooth-flowing narrative, following two principal paths to its central arena of Cody, Colorado: the investigation by a Mickey's marketer (Greg Kinnear) into allegations of elevated fecal content in their Big One burger ("There's shit in the meat.... This could be a problem for us") and the importation of Mexican laborers (Wilmer Valderrama, Catalina Sandino Moreno, Ana Claudia Talancón) to staff the Uni-Globe Meat Packing plant. The first path, though, trails off long before the fin-





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Calendar MOVIES

ish, yielding to a new and unavailing path of local consciousness-raising. And the rhetorical climax on "the kill floor" is, from any angle, overkill. Particularly from the vegetarian angle. Ethan Hawke, Patricia Arquette, Kris Kristofferson, Bruce Willis, Bobby Canavale, Paul Dano, Esai Morales. 2006.

★★ (GASLAMP 15)

Flushed Away — Animation from the Aardman Studios, not claymation, like their signature Wallace and Gromit series (and not Nick Park directing), but instead compliant, acquiescent computer animation, and a compliantly, acquiescently crasser and cruder sense of humor to go along with it. (Traces of which began to creep into the feature-length Wallace and Gromit outing a year earlier.) The basic plot premise: a housebound tux-wearing pet mouse, in his owner's absence, gets dispossessed by an intrusive sewer rat, literally flushed down the loo, to discover an alternative, miniature London in the underground, plus a feisty feminist mouse, a villainous toad and his toadies, a French-accented frog (get it?), among others. The trademark ping-pongball eyes are still in place, although all sign of a human touch in the modelling of the

figures has been smoothed out, and the three-dimensionality — the light and shade and all the rest — is blatantly counterfeit, and the total effect is markedly less distinctive. Still, a good deal of skill went into it, in matters of pacing and timing and elementary draftsmanship. Hitting the hero in the nuts in a variety of ways in rapid succession is almost as ingenious as it is low. Almost. With the voices of Hugh Jackman, Kate Winslet, Ian McKellen, Jean Reno, Bill Nighy; directed by David Bowers and Sam Fell. 2006.

★ (GASLAMP 15; PALM PROMENADE 24)

For Your Consideration — Filmmaker Christopher Guest goes back to the target area of his very first film, The Big Picture namely the movie biz, more narrowly the Oscar buzz — and back before he chained himself to the mockumentary format, Waiting for Guffman, Best in Show, A Mighty Wind. Any sense of liberation therefrom has not spilled over into comic invention. The behind-the-scenes satire is sufficiently old-hat that there must be a lot of truth in it, even if not a lot of laughs in it. And the parodies of on-screen Hollywood, both big budget and small, are so far outside the realm of possibility as to spare everyone's feelings, moviegoer's included. Guest is more on the mark with the assorted inanities of the P.R. game - the studio publicist, the "infotainment" industry, the talk-show circuit. And Catherine O'Hara, among his stable of repertory play



The Holiday

ers (Harry Shearer, Eugene Levy, Michael McKean, Parker Posey, Fred Willard, Jane Lynch, et al.), stands out as an over-the-hill actress who, try though she mightily might, cannot hide her vanity and her ego. Her surgical overhaul for awards season is truly gruesome, and indeed the outward aspect

of the cast in general shows a loving, or rather a loathing, attention to detail. For your consideration: Best Makeup. 2006.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; LA

PALOMA, FROM 12/15)

The Fountain — Loopy science fiction in

(HIGHEST RATING!)

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-David Elliott, SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE
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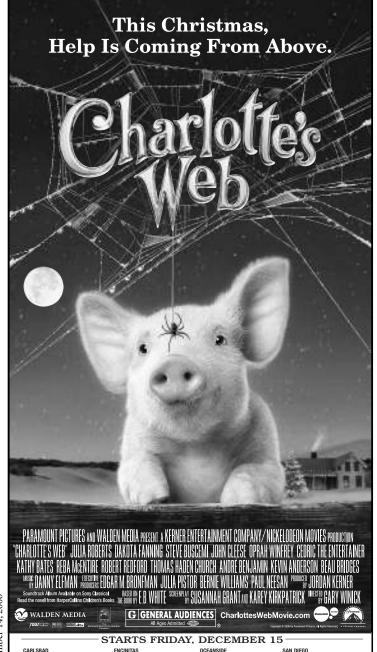
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orbit around the dream of life and love everlasting. It unfolds in three different time zones, that of the Spanish Inquisition, the present day, and some indeterminate future inside a floating bubble in outer space. These three spheres are tied together by the presence in each of them of Rachel Weisz and Hugh Jackman, as, by turns, Queen Isabella and a conquistador called Tomás, commissioned by Her Majesty to find the Tree of Life in the land of the Mayas, and then their apparent reincarnations (or carbon copies or clones or something) in the form of a dying novelist named Izzi, at work on a book titled *The Fountain* about Queen Isabella's quest for the Tree of Life, and her faithful husband Tommy, a research scientist in quest of a cure, and then, lastly, a ghost of her former selves and an ageless hairless Tom, keeping himself alive artificially (on the bark of a Tree of Life, it would seem) while carrying on into eternity seeking a cure for his wife's death, "a disease like any other." The film has uncommon intensity, even if much of that intensity consists of closeups so close that the



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CHULA VISTA IltraStar Chula V

faces won't fit on the screen, and much of the rest of it consists of our peering into the semidarkness (a darkness that engulfs science labs, hospital corridors, operating rooms, reading lamps) simply to make out what's in front of our eyes. Writer-director Darren Aronofsky, the Pi man, has worked things out elaborately in terms of visual and verbal motifs (the tree, the ring, the refrain of "Finish it," and so on), but the spectator might be more compelled to sort it out if he were more compelled to look at it. This is a type of science fiction generally restricted to the printed page and banished from the screen, and it does not here establish much of a beachhead. With Ellen Burstyn. 2006. ★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

Happy Feet — Computer-animated message movie about the pressure of conformity and (separate message) the plunder of nature, more specifically about a species of pop-song-singing penguins, into whose midst is born a "different," an aberrant, tap-dancing penguin (try, if you can, to put the pudgy trudging birds of March of the Penguins out of your mind), and about a runtier breed of Latino penguins, some menacing seabirds, a scary seal, a couple of humongous orcas, and a race of "aliens" who are not computer-animated at all. The interface with these aliens near the end is moderately mind-blowing, if only from a mixed-media standpoint, but the alleged alienness of the human race would carry more rhetorical clout if the penguins hadn't all along been borrowing so freely from its popular culture. (The natural state holds no accommodation for vintage rock-and-roll.) And you cannot feel entirely happy about a happy ending in which it's suggested that humans might show more respect for their fellow creatures on the planet if only the fellows would learn some nifty dance steps. Although the direction by live-action man George Miller has some nice touches and clever angles, the action, approximately 60mph faster than the action in his Mad Max movies, is approximately 65mph too fast. With the voices of Elijah Wood, Brittany Murphy, Robin Williams, Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, Anthony LaPaglia. 2006.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The History Boys — Alan Bennett's prize-winning play comes to the screen under Nicholas Hytner's direction, along with the stage cast headed by Richard Griffiths.

(HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA 12; FROM 12/15)

The Holiday — Writer and director Nancy Meyers arranges an Internet home exchange, for two weeks at Christmastime, between two wounded women desperate to get away: a London newspaper columnist (Kate Winslet) with a cozy cottage in Surrey, and a Hollywood trailer-cutter (Cameron Diaz) with a modernist mansion in Beverly Hills. The agreed-upon date of "tomorrow" initiates a pattern of timecompression that effectively removes the action from the realm of the real world. But then, Meyers does not seek to inhabit the real world. Underneath her superficial smooth talk, she's really just a seductive dope peddler, chumming up to her susceptible sisters on the subject of romantic disillusionment, and then hooking them on the same old delusions — the grooved path, greased wheels, and phantom obstacles en route to Mr. Right. The film, at best, is a testament to the dearness of the dream. The sample of the trailer-cutter's work — an imaginary action thriller starring Lindsay Lohan and James Franco — is dead funny: the two stars running straight at the camera and away from a mushrooming fireball, the male star diving sideways in slo-mo with two guns blazing. But the fantasies wherein she sees her own life in terms of a movie trailer never really take flight. Meyers's affection for Golden Age Hollywood chiefly funnelled through the character of

Eli Wallach as a widowed Oscar-winning screenwriter grumpily resisting a lifetime-achievement award from the WGA — is doubtless genuine, but our agreement with her must stop short of her persistent hints that she herself should be painted golden. With Jude Law, Jack Black, Rufus Sewell, Edward Burns. 2006.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Imitation of Life — Douglas Sirk's unsettlingly slick and glossy treatment of race relations in America: the old Fannie Hurst chestnut about a lifelong friendship between a white and a black woman. The cast is worse than usual (John Gavin worse than Rock Hudson, Lana Turner worse than practically anyone), and the passage of time makes hilariously (but intentionally?) little impact on the glamorous principals - excepting the ones we first meet in childhood. (Gavin's rendering of the line, "And not little anymore," with reference to all-grownup Sandra Dee, is the biggest scream in the movie.) Splendid start and finish: a swooningly materialistic credits sequence and a climactic funeral parade at which Mahalia Jackson firmly silences all impulse to snicker. With Juanita Moore and Susan

 $\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar$ (BIRCH NORTH PARK THEATRE, 12/14 AND 17)

The Last King of Scotland — The self-conferred title of Ugandan strongman, and madman, Idi Amin Dada, a facile role for Forest Whitaker, who pitches into it with gusto. The true central character, however, is a fictitious young Scottish doctor (James McAvoy), the President's personal physician, "closest advisor," illicit lover of Wife Number Three, and all-around trivial distraction. With Kerry Washington, Gillian Anderson, Simon McBurney; directed by Kevin Macdonald. 2006.

★ (KEN)

Little Children — Todd Field's sophomore directing effort, following up his quietly sensationalized In the Bedroom, is less quietly sensationalized, in other words more blaringly sensationalized, and truly more sophomoric. The adaptation of a Tom Perrotta novel, complete with a snooty third-person-omniscient (i.e., know-it-all) narrator, undoubtedly tells us less about the malaise of our young middleclass suburban parents today than about the jaded palates of our moviegoers and/or moviemakers. An adulterous playground liaison - between a killingly handsome Mr. Mom (Patrick Wilson, with his New man-esque blue eyes and jutting upper lip), a graduate of law school but a flunker of the bar exam, and a latter-day Madame Bovary (Kate Winslet, the sleeker edition), who, married to a clod, champions her literary forerunner as a proto-feminist in her book-discussion group — cannot be considered sufficiently spicy without the added tang of a neighborhood sex offender, a vigilante ex-cop with innocent blood on his hands, and a married Internet porn addict in secret correspondence with Slutty Kay. To have three separate male characters masturbate on screen on three separate oc casions must set some sort of record. And there's not even any clear evidence of developing skills since the director's freshman effort, which really was praised too highly, perhaps too intoxicatingly. See, for example, the flash-cut fusillade of innocuous bric-a-brac at the outset. Or see the overly choreographed scene at the public swimming pool when the sex offender's arrival in snorkel and flippers gets everyone out of the water faster than if he were a Great White accompanied by the theme from Jaws. Or see the treatment of the nightleague amateur football players, through distorting wide-angle lenses, as sneering bruisers suitable for an Adam Sandler comedy. In short, see, all too ostentatiously, the

director direct. With Jennifer Connelly,



LAURENCE EDWIN

Retired

I would have to pick three films with my favorite actor, Errol Flynn: The Adventures of Robin Hood, Captain Blood, and The Sea Hawk. These are great films. Period. I was nine years old when I saw The Adventures of Robin Hood, and it had everything a kid would want in a movie - adventure, action, and a little bit of romance. If my grandkids lived in town I would definitely expose them to all these great classics. Olivia de Havilland played Maid Marian to Flynn's swashbuckling Robin Hood and was the love interest in Captain Blood. Basil Rathbone played the villainous Sir Guy of Gisbourne in Robin Hood. But I also love him for the work he did as Sherlock Holmes. I don't like watching any of the bonus features because those films seemed so real to me as a kid - I don't want to find out how they were made.

THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (USA) 1938,
Warner Home Video
List price: \$26.98 (two discs)
CAPTAIN BLOOD (USA) 1935,
Warner Home Video
List price: \$19.98
THE SEA HAWK (USA) 1940,
Warner Home Video
List price: \$19.98

DANNY HSU ACCOMANDO

Filmmaker and DVD producer

Good suspense films play better on a small screen, where they seem more intense. Wages of Fear is a simple tale of men hired to transport nitro. It promises an explosion but is really about the building tension and watching relationships explode rather than nitro. The DVD boasts a documentary on director Henri Clouzot.

Also self-contained and simple is *Dog Day Afternoon*, about a bank robbery that turns into a media circus. You're trapped inside a bank and watch the chaos unfold through the eyes of Al Pacino. The DVD has a four-part "making of" documentary and commentary by Sidney Lumet.

Hitchcock's Rear Window takes self-containment to the extreme. Not only are you stuck inside an apartment, but you're Jimmy Stewart confined to a wheelchair and watching an apparent murder unfold. You hang on every piece of information, not knowing what's true and if you'll be in danger. These films make you sweat.

THE WAGES OF FEAR (France)
1953, Criterion Collection
List price: \$29.95
DOG DAY AFTERNOON (USA)
1975, Warner Home Video
List price: \$26.98 (two discs)
REAR WINDOW (USA) 1954,
Universal
List price: \$19.98

BETH RENO

CFO, Four Square Creative, and slate girl for *The Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*

Police Squad! is a short-lived TV series that was cancelled after six episodes — I have no clue why. It apparently had no laugh track, but I was laughing too hard to notice. I've been waiting a long time for this hilarious spoof of Quinn-Martin crime shows to hit DVD.

The darkly funny *Profit* is another cancelled TV show.
Adrian Pasdar plays a messed up corporate executive who's ruthless, evil, and even hitting on his stepmother. The main character slept naked in a cardboard box every night. The show was creepy, but Pasdar was hot. I bought the DVD so that I could see the whole series, and the DVD includes the unaired episodes.

As a kid, I remember hearing the opening notes of the Perry Mason theme and running in from wherever I was to catch the show. It was great because Perry solved every case. And thank god for Paul Drake.

POLICE SQUAD! (USA) 1982,
Paramount
List price: \$19.99
PROFIT: THE COMPLETE SERIES
(USA) 1996, Anchor Bay
List price: \$29.98 (two discs)
PERRY MASON: SEASON ONE

(USA) 1957, Paramount List price: \$89.99 (ten discs)

Jackie Earle Haley, and Noah Emmerich.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS, THROUGH 12/14; LA JOLLA VILLAGE, FROM 12/15)

Marie Antoinette — Sofia Coppola, possibly drunk on power after the reception of Lost in Translation, has gained in ambition as an artist without really gaining in confidence as a technician. She has all the costumes her heart could desire, and all the access to Versailles, but her color palette is a bit bleached and her narrative manner rather starchy. (She spends an inordinate amount of time on the delayed consummation of the royal marriage, and then must bustle through the little business of the Revolution.) The foremost sign of her drunkenness, though, is her use of contemporary pop songs on the soundtrack, a lapse in judgment limited pretty much to a quarter-hour stretch, an hour and a quarter into the film. Kirsten Dunst, Jason Schwartzman, Steve Coogan, Judy Davis, Rip Torn, Asia Argento. 2006.

• (GASLAMP 15)

The Nativity Story — A bearably dull Christmas worship service, fully supernatural in its vision (the voice of God, a luminous Messenger, an avian Holy Spirit), yet full of luxuriously tactile costumes, solid sets, atmospheric locales, and earthy Mediterranean faces. (The half-Maori

Keisha Castle-Hughes, though harmoniously olive in complexion, seems a bit overwhelmed in the role of the Virgin. Understandably.) The treatment hits all the essential points of the story without pulverizing them into mush: the three Magi on camels, Mary on a donkey and Joseph on foot, the sheep in the stable, the spotlighting star, the swell of orchestra and chorus in the epic mode of Miklos Rozsa. After the adolescent drug problems of Thirteen and the pace-setting skateboards of Lords of Dogtown, this makes an odd project for director Catherine Hardwicke, who hereby renounces trendiness and embraces tradition. Although her focus quite reasonably is on the plight of a pregnant teen, the filmmaker has made no attempt to "reimagine" the character for a new age, simply to imagine her as she might have been, a treacherous assignment carried out with unforeseen taste and composure. Oscar Isaac, Ciarán Hinds, Shohreh Aghdashloo. 2006 ★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN: ESCONDIDO 16:

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN-CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SOUARE 14)

The Prestige — Not the best film of its year to deal with the subject of magic and

to feature both Scarlett Johansson and Hugh Jackman. That distinction would belong to Woody Allen's Scoop, which was unchallenged as well (except insofar as the air pressure in Jessica Biel's lips may have challenged Scarlett Johansson's) by that intervening magic film, The Illusionist. Between the two also-rans, it's pretty near a toss-up, two turn-of-the-century period pieces tangled up in their compulsive twists and turns. Christopher Nolan, the present director, is somewhat less adept at concealing his tricks, despite trying diligently to lose the viewer in a maze of flashbackswithin-flashbacks. Even had he succeeded, his reliance on the plot expedience of dead ringers is taken to lengths of absurdity surpassing even daytime soap operas. Lengths, to be more exact, of the flightiest science fiction. The plot premise of a professional and personal rivalry between a couple of London stage magicians (Christian Bale, Christopher Nolan's Batman, in addition to Jackman) is fractionally more involving than the hanky-panky of the separated lovers in The Illusionist, and Michael Caine adds a touch of class, David Bowie a touch of mustache. 2006. ● (GASLAMP 15)

• (GASLAMP 15)

The Pursuit of Happyness — Italian director Gabriele Muccino makes his Hollywood debut, with Will Smith as a Wall Street upstart.

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

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4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234) **Apocalypto** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (11:45) 4:15, 7:15, 10:15; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (1:25) 4:20, 7:25, 10:35 Sun. (1:25) 4:20, 7:15, 10:10; Casino Royale (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (11:20, 2:35) 6:45, 10:00; Charlotte's Web (G) Fri.,-Sat. (11:00, 12:00, 1:20, 2:30, 3:45) 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15, 9:45 Sun. (11:00, 12:00, 1:20, 2:30, 3:45) 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (11:40, 3:40) 6:40, 10:05; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (11:15, 12:10, 2:00, 2:40) 4:40, 5:20, 7:00, 7:45, 9:40, 10:30 Sun. (11:15, 12:10, 2:00, 2:40) 4:40, 5:20, 7:00, 7:45 9:40; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:10, 1:50) 7.430, 6:55, 9:30; The Holiday (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (12:15, 3:55) 7:20, 10:20 Sun. (12:15, 3:55) 7:20, 10:15; The Nativity Story (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:55, 2:20) 4:45, 7:05, 9:25; The **Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (11:30, 1:40, 2:15) 4:25, 5:15, 7:10, 8:00, 9:55, 10:40 Sun. (11:30, 1:40, 2:15) 4:25, 5:15, 7:10, 8:00, 9:55; Unaccompanied Minors (PG) Fri. (11:35, 2:10) 4:55, 7:40, 9:50 Sat. (11:35, 2:10) 4:55, 10:20 Sun. (11:35, 2:10) 4:55, 7:40, 9:50

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15

701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400) **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (1:30, 3:45) 4:45, 7:00, 8:00, 10:10; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (1:20) 4:20, 7:10, 10:05; **Fast Food Nation** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (1:45) 4:35, 7:20, 10:00; Flags of Our Fathers (R) Fri.,-Sun. 7:25, 10:20; Flushed Away (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (1:10, 3:15) 5:20; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (2:20) 5:00, 7:40, 10:15; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (1:00, 3:00) 4:15, 6:45, 7:30, 9:45, 10:40; **Marie Antoinette** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun (1:40) 4:25, 7:05, 9:55; The Nativity Story (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (1:05, 2:15, 3:30) 4:40, 5:50, 7:15, 8:15, 9:40; **The Prestige** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (1:15) 4:10, 6:55, 9:50; **Running** with Scissors (R) Fri.,-Sun. (2:00) 4:50, 7:35, 10:25; Stranger Than Fiction (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (2:10) 5:05, 7:50, 10:35; Turistas (R) Fri.,-Sun. (2:25) 5:40, 8:05, 10:30

Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM) **Apocalypto** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (9:15, 12:20, 3:25) 6:35, 9:40 Fri. (10:00, 1:05, 4:10) 7:15, 10:20 Sat.,-Sun. (10:00, 1:05) 4:10, 7:15, 10:20; **Borat** (R) Fri. (9:55, 12:05, 2:15, 4:20) 6:25, 8:35, 10:45 Sat.,-Sun. (9:55, 12:05, 2:15) 4:20, 6:25, 8:35, 10:45; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri. (9:45, 12:30, 1:00, 3:35, 4:15) 6:40, 7:25, 9:50, 10:40 Sat.,-Sun. (9:45, 12:30, 1:00, 3:35) 4:15, 6:40, 7:25, 9:50, 10:40; Charlotte's Web (G) Fri. (9:00, 10:35, 11:30, 1:10, 2:10, 3:50, 4:50) 6:30, 7:30, 9:10, 10:10 Sat.,-Sun. (9:00, 10:35, 11:30, 1:10, 2:10, 3:50) 4:50, 6:30, 7:30, 9:10, 10:10; The Departed (R) Fri.,-Sun. (9:10, 12:25, 3:40) 6:55, 10:20; Eragon (PG) Fri. (9:30, 10:15, 12:00, 12:45, 2:30, 3:10, 5:00, 5:40) 7:35, 8:10, 10:00, 10:35 Sat.,-Sun. (9:30, 10:15, 12:00, 12:45, 2:30, 3:10) 5:00, 5:40, 7:35, 8:10, 10:00, 10:35; **The Fountain** (PG-13) Fri. (10:10, 12:40, 3:05, 5:30) 7:50, 10:15 Sat., Sun. (10:10, 12:40, 3:05) 5:30, 7:50, 10:15; **Guadalupe** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (9:50a.m.); **The Pursuit of Happy-ness** (PG-13) Fri. (10:30, 11:15, 1:15, 1:55, 4:05, 4:35) 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30 Sat.,-Sun. (10:30, 11:15, 1:15, 1:55) 4:05, 4:35, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30; **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG) Fri. (9:40, 11:55, 2:20, 4:30) 6:45, 9:00 Sat. (9.40, 11.55, 2.20) 4.30, 9.50 Sun (9.40, 11.55, 2:20) 4:30, 6:45, 9:00; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Sat. 7:00p.m

LA JOLLA

% La Jolla 12 % 8657 Villa La La

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)

Apocalypto (R); Blood Diamond (R); Borat (R); Casino Royale (PG-13); Charlotte's Web (G); Déjà Vu (PG-13); Eragon (PG); Happy Feet (PG); The History Boys (R); The Holiday (PG-13); The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13); Unaccompanied Minors (PG

42

La Jolla Village 8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236) Babel (R); For Your Consideration (PG-13); Little Children (Not Rated); The Queen

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa 18

10733 Westview Parkway (858-635-7700) Apocalypto (R) Fri.,-Sun. (11:45, 2:55) 6:30, 9:40 Fri. (1:15, 4:45) 7:45, 10:45 Sat.,-Sun. (1:15) 4:45, 7:45, 10:45; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri. (9:45a.m.) Fri. (10:30, 12:50, 1:40, 4:20) 7:35, 9:10, 10:40 Sat. (12:50a.m.) Sat. (9:45, 10:30, 1:40) 4:20, 7:35, 9:10, 10:40 Sun. (9:45) 7:35 Sun. (10:30, 12:50, 1:40) 4:20, 9:10, 10:40; Borat (R) Fri. (4:50) 6:55 Sat.,-Sun. 4:50, 6:55; Casino Royale (PG-13) Fri. (9:30, 11:50, 12:55, 3:05, 4:10) 6:20, 7:25, 9:30, 10:35 Sat.,-Sun. (9:30, 11:50, 12:55, 3:05) 4:10, 6:20, 7:25, 9:30, 10:35; Charlotte's Web (G) Fri. (9:15, 10:00, 11:35, 12:30, 2:05, 3:00, 4:40, 5:30) 7:00, 8:00, 9:35, 10:30 Sat.,-Sun. (9:15, 10:00, 11:35, 12:30, 2:05, 3:00) 4:40, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:35, 10:30; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (9:35, 12:35, 3:40) 7:05, 10:10; **Eragon** (PG) Fri. (10:15, 11:15, 12:45, 1:50, 3:15, 4:15) 5:50, 7:30, 8:25, 10:15, 11:00 Sat., -Sun. (10:15, 11:15, 12:45, 1:50, 3:15) 4:15, 5:50, 7:30, 8:25, 10:15, 11:00; Happy Feet (PG) Fri. (9:40, 12:15, 2:50, 5:20) 7:55, 10:25 Sat.,-Sun. (9:40, 12:15, 2:50) 5:20, 7:55, 10:25; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri., -Sun. (11:20, 12:25, 2:35, 3:45) 6:10, 7:20, 9:15, 10:20; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri. (11:30, 2:00, 4:25) 6:50, 9:20 Sat., -Sun. (11:30, 2:00) 4:25, 6:50, 9:20; The Pursuit of Happy ness (PG-13) Fri. (9:20, 11:00, 12:00, 1:45, 2:45, 4:30) 6:15, 7:15, 9:05, 10:00 Sat.,-Sun.

(9:20, 11:00, 12:00, 1:45, 2:45) 4:30, 6:15, 7:15, 9:05, 10:00; The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (G) Fri.,-Sun. (10:50a.m.); Unaccompanied Minors (PG) Fri. (11:40, 1:55, 4:35) 7:10, 9:45 Sat., -Sun. (11:40, 1:55) 4:35, 9:50: We Are Marshall (PG) Sat. 7:00p.m.

MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18

7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262) **Apocalypto** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (11:10) 12:10, 2:40, 3:40, 6:05, 7:05, 9:25, 10:20 Sun. (11:10) 1:35, 2:40, 4:50, 6:05, 8:05, 9:25; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (11:20) 12:05, 2:45, 3:30, 6:10, 7:00, 9:35, 10:25 Sun. (11:20) 1:30, 2:45, 5:00, 6:10, 8:25, 9:35; **Borat** (R) Fri.,-Sat. 7:35, 9:55 Sun. 7:40, 9:55; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (11:50) 3:20, 6:40, 10:05; **Char**lotte's Web (G) Fri.,-Sat. (11:30) 12:20, 2:05, 2:55, 4:40, 5:35, 7:15, 8:10, 9:45, 10:45 Sun. 12:10, 1:00, 2:50, 3:40, 5:30, 6:25, 8:10, 9:00; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (10:35) 1:35, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35 Sun. 12:25, 3:35, 6:45, 10:00; **The Departed** (R) Fri.,-Sat. 1:00, 7:25 Sun. 12:55, 6:55; **Eragon** (PG) Fri. (10:30, 11:35) 1:10, 2:15, 3:50, 4:55, 6:30, 7:35, 9:10, 10:15, 11:35 Sat., -Sun. (10:30, 11:35) 1:10, 2:15, 3:50, 4:55, 6:30, 7:35, 9:10, 10:15; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:15) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (11:45) 12:50, 3:10, 4.00, 6.20, 7.20, 9.40, 10.30 Sun (11.45) 1.25, 3:15, 4:40, 6:20, 8:00, 9:40; The Nativity Story

(PG) Fri.,-Sat. (11:55) 2:20, 5:00 Sun. (11:55) 2:20, 5:05; **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:50 Fri.,-Sat. (10:40) 12:45, 1:40, 3:45, 4:50, 6:45, 7:45, 9:50, 10:40 Sun. 12:45, 3:45, 6:50, 9:50 Sun. (11:30) 12:45, 2:25, 3:45, 5:15, 6:50, 8:15, 9:50; Stranger Than Fiction (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat 4:15, 10:50 Sun. 4:10, 10:25; Unaccompanied Minors (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:40) 2:10, 4:35,

Mission Valley 7

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841) **Apocalypto** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (10:45, 1:45, 4:45) 7:45, 10:45 Sun. (10:45, 1:45, 4:45) 7:45; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30, 10:45 Sun. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30; Borat (R) Fri. (10:00, 12:15, 5:15) 10:15 Sat. (12:15, 5:15) 10:15 Sun. (12:15, 5:15); **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15; Charlotte's **Web** (G) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30) 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30) 8:00; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45) 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45) 8:15; The Holiday (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (2:30) 7:30: Noddy Saves Christmas and Candyland: Great Lollipop Adventure (G) Sat.,-Sun. (10:00a.m.)

Mission Valley 20

1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262) Apocalypto (R) Fri. 12:15, 1:05, 3:25, 4:15 6:50, 7:40, 10:05, 11:00 Sat. (10:00) 12:15, 1:05, 3:25, 4:15, 6:50, 7:40, 10:05, 11:00 Sun. (10:00) 12:15, 1:05, 3:25, 4:15, 6:50, 7:40, 10:05; **Babel** (R) Fri.,-Sun. 9:40p.m.; Blood Diamond (R) Fri., -Sat. (11:45) 12:40, 3:10, 3:55, 6:30, 7:20, 9:55, 10:45 Fri.,-Sat. 12:40, 3:55, 7:20, 10:45 Sun. (11:45) 12:40, 3:10, 3:55, 6:30, 7:20, 9:55 Sun. 12:40, 3:55, 7:20; **Borat** (R) Fri. 12:45, 3:15, 5:35, 8:10, 10:35 Sat.,-Sun. (10:25) 12:45, 3:15, 5:35, 8:10, 10:35; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. 12:00, 3:20, 6:45, 10:25; **Charlotte's Web** (G) Fri. (10:35, 11:20) 1:15, 2:00, 4:00, 4:45, 6:40, 7:30, 9:30, 10:15 Sat., -Sun. (10:30, 11:15) 1:15, 2:00, 4:00, 4:45, 6:40, 7:30, 9:30, 10:15; **Deck the Halls** (PG) Fri. (11:25) 1:50 Sat.,-Sun. (11:20) 1:50; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri. 1:30, 4:35, 7:35, 10:40 Sat. (10:20) 1:30, 4:35, 7:35, 10:40 Sun. 1:30, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35; **Eragon** (PG) Fri. (10:30, 11:15) 1:00, 1:45, 3:45, 4:30, 6:25, 7:15, 9:15, 10:00 Sat.,-Sun. (10:15, 11:00) 1:00, 1:45, 3:45, 4:30, 6:25, 7:15, 9:15, 10:00; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (10:40) 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:45; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. 12:25, 1:10, 3:40, 4:25, 7:00, 7:45, 10:20, 11:05 Sun. 12:25, 1:10, 3:40, 4:25, 7:00, 7:45, 10:20; The Nativity Story (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (11:30) 2:05, 4:40, 7:10 Sun. 2:05, 4:40, 7:10; The Pur**suit of Happyness** (PG-13) Fri. (10:55) 12:55, 1:55, 4:05, 4:55, 7:05, 7:55, 10:10, 10:55 Sat. (10:05, 10:55) 12:55, 1:55, 4:05, 4:55, 7:05, 7:55, 10:10, 10:55 Sun. (10:05, 10:55) 12:55, 1:55, 4:05, 4:55, 7:05, 7:05, 7:55, 10:10; **The Santa** Clause 3: The Escape Clause (G) Fri. (11:35) 2:25 Sat. (11:25) 2:25 Sun. 1:35p.m.; **Stranger Than Fiction** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. 4:20, 7:25, 10:30: Turistas (R) Fri.,-Sat. 5:15, 7:50, 10:50 Sun. 4:50, 7:25, 9:50; Unaccompanied Minors (PG) Fri. (11:55) 2:30, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30 Sat. (11:05) 1:40, 4:20, 10:30 Sun. (11:55) 2:30, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Sat.

"THE HOLIDAY' IS SO ROMANTIC AND FULL OF OPTIMISM THAT IT MAKES ME THINK THERE'S HOPE FOR US ALL."

"IRRESISTIBLE."



"You will fall in love with this movie."

Mark S. Allen, CBS/CW TELEVISION GROUP



Cameron Diaz · Kate Winslet · Jude Law · Jack Black

a film by Nancy Meyers

COLUMBIA PICTURES AND UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA A WAVERLY FILMS PRODUCTION
"THE HOLIDAY" ELI WALLACH EDWARD BURNS RUFUS SEWELL MUSIC HANS ZIMMER EXECUTIVE SUZANNE FARWELL PRODUCED BY BRUCE A. BLOCK
WRITTEN, PRODUCED BY NANCY MEYERS

SONY.COM/The Holiday AND DIRECTED BY NANCY MEYERS

SUMMITTEN, PRODUCED BY NANCY MEYERS

SUMMITTEN, PRODUCED BY NANCY MEYERS SUMMITTEN AND SOME STRONGLY CAUTIONED SEXUAL CONTENT AND SOME STRONGLY CAUTIONED SEXUAL CONTENT AND SOME STRONGLY CAUTIONED AND PRODUCTION

PC-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SEXUAL CONTENT AND SOME STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SEXUAL CONTENT AND SOME STRONGLY CAUTIONED

PC-15 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SEXUAL CONTENT AND SOME STRONGLY CAUTIONED

PC-16 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED

PC-17 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SEXUAL CONTENT AND SOME STRONGLY CAUTIONED

PC-17 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SEXUAL CONTENT AND SOME STRONGLY CAUTIONED

PC-18 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SEXUAL CONTENT AND SOME STRONGLY CAUTIONED

PC-18 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SEXUAL CONTENT AND SOME STRONGLY CAUTIONED

PC-18 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SEXUAL CONTENT AND SOME STRONGLY CAUTIONED

PC-18 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SEXUAL CONTENT AND SOME STRONGLY CAUTIONED

PC-18 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SEXUAL CONTENT AND SOME STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SEXUAL CONT



NOW PLAYING

PACIFIC THEATRES
CARMEL MOUNTAIN 12 I-15 at Carmel Mountain Road 858/674-9770 #085

- ULTRASTAR Chula Vista 10 Broadway Betw 619/338-4214
- DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8 Del Mar Heights 858/646-9420 ENCINITAS 8
- 220 N. El Cami 760/942-5544

REGAL CINEMAS ESCONDIDO STADIUM 16 350 W. Valley Parkway 800-FANDANGO #519

FASHION VALLEY 18 Hwy. 163 at Friars Rd. West 858/558-2AMC GALAXY 6

Highway 76 at Mission Road 760/945-8784 PACIFIC THEATRES

GASLAMP STADIUM 15 5th Avenue at G Stre 619/232-0400 #097

PACIFIC THEATRES
GROSSMONT CENTER
STADIUM TEN Grossmont Shopping Center 619/465-7100 #069

1-5 at Nobel 858/558-2AMC EDWARDS CINEMAS MIRA MESA STADIUM 18 W. of I-15 on Mira Mesa Blvd 800-FANDANGO #160 AMC
MISSION VALLEY 20
Color Mission Center Road

I-8 Exit Mission

★ ULTRASTAR
MISSION VALLEY CINEMAS
@ HAZARD CENTER
Friars Road & Highway 163
619/685-2841 REGAL CINEMAS

OCEANSIDE CINEMA 16

Mission Ave @ Pacific A
800-FANDANGO #152

PALM PROMENADE 24 REGAL CINEMAS Parkway Plaza 18 Parkway Plaza Mall 800-FANDANGO #131

► ULTRASTAR POWAY 10 Poway Road at Community 858/646-9423 REGAL CINEMAS RANCHO DEL REY 16 East H Street & Tierra Del Rey 800-FANDANGO #126

EDWARDS CINEMAS RANCHO SAN DIEGO STADIUM CINEMA 15 Hwy. 94 At Campo 800-FANDANGO #132

Sorry, No Passes Accepted For This Engagement.

EDWARDS CINEMAS SAN MARCOS STADIUM 18 1180 W. San Marcos Blvd. 800-FANDANGO #161 PACIFIC THEATRES
TOWN SQUARE STADIUM 14 Clairemont Dr. at Clairmont Mesa Blvd 858/274-1234 #064 KRIKORIAN'S Vista Village Metroplex 12 760/945-7469

★ Presented In Digital Projection

STATE UNIVERSITY

Cinerama 6

5831 University Avenue (619-287-8990) Apocalypto (R) Fri. (3:15) 7:00, 10:05 Sat. (12:15, 3:15) 7:00, 10:05 Sun. (12:15, 3:15) (12:15, 3:15) 7.00; Charlotte's Web (G) Fri. (3:20) 5:45, 8:05, 10:20 Sat. (12:05, 2:30) 5:30, 7:50, 10:10 Sun. (12:05, 2:30) 5:30, 7:50; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri. (3:40) 7:20, 9:50 Sat. (12:40, 3:40) 7:20, 9:50 Sun. (12:40, 3:40) 7:20; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri. (3:10) 5:30, 8:00, 10:25 Sat. (12:30, 3:10) 5:40, 8:15, 10:25 Sun. (12:30, 3:10) 5:40, 8:15; The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13) Fri. (3:25) 7:05, 9:55 Sat. (12:00, 2:40) 5:35, 8:45 Sun. (12:00, 2:40) 5:35, 8:30; **Unaccompanied** Minors (PG) Fri. (3:00) 5:20, 7:40, 10:00 Sat. (12:25, 3:00) 5:20, 7:40, 10:00 Sun. (12:25, 3:00) 5:20, 7:40

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
The Last King of Scotland (R) Fri. 4:15, 7:00, 9:45 Sat.,-Sun. 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas

3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236) Candy (R) Fri.,-Sun. 1:50, 7:20; Eating Out 2: Sloppy Seconds (Not Rated) Fri. 4:35, 10:15 Sat.,-Sun. 11:15, 4:35, 10:15; For Your Consideration (PG-13) Fri. 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05 Sat.,-Sun. 11:05, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05; The History Boys (R) Fri. 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45 Sat.,-Sun. 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45; The Queen (PG-13) Fri. 1:20, 4:05, 6:50, 9:35 Sat.,-Sun. 10:35, 1:20, 4:05, 6:50, 9:35; Volver (R) Fri. 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55 Sat.,-Sun. 10:55, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center 1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)

Deep Sea 3D (G) Fri. 12:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 Sat.,-Sun. 12:00, 2:00, 5:00; Roving Mars (G) Fri.,-Sun. 1:00, 4:00, 6:00: Santa vs. the Snowman (Not Rated) Fri. 3:00, 7:00 Sa 10:00, 11:00, 3:00, 7:00 Sun, 10:00, 11:00, 3:00

San Diego Natural History Museum 1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821) Ocean Oasis (Not Rated) Fri.,-Sun. 11:00a.m.

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18

405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456) Call theater for program information

LA MESA

Grossmont Center

Grossmont Center (619-465-7100) Apocalypto (R) Fri. (12:30, 3:35) 7:00, 10:00 Sat. (12:15, 3:35) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (12:15, 3:35)

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Rancho San Diego 15

Apocalypto (R) Fri.,-Sun. (9:30, 12:30, 3:45) 7:05, 10:20; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri. (10:00, 1:10, 4:25) 7:35, 10:50 Sat.,-Sun. (10:00, 1:10) 4:25, 7:35, 10:50; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (11:45, 3:20) 6:55, 10:05; **Charlotte's Web** (G) Fri. (9:30, 10:30, 12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 3:30, 5:00) 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:00 Sat.,-Sun. (9:30, 10:30, 12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 3:30) 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:00; **Deck the Halls** (PG) Fri. (11:20, 4:35) 9:50 Sat.,-Sun. (11:20) 4:35, 9:50; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri. (10:10, 1:20, 4:20) 7:50, 10:55 Sat.,-Sun. (10:10, 1:20) 4:20, 7:50, 10:55; **Eragon** (PG) Fri. (9:45, 11:15, 12:15, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30) 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40 Sat.,-Sun. (9:45, 11:15, 12:15, 2:00, 3:00) 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (10:05, 12:50, 3:25) 6:45, 9:35; The Holiday (PG-13) Fri. (9:35, 12:45, 4:05) 7:25, 10:35 Sat.,-Sun. (9:35, 12:45) 4:05, 7:25, 10:35; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri. (11:40, 2:10, 4:55) 7:40, 10:10 Sat., -Sun. (11:40, 2:10) 4:55, 7:40, 10:10; The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13) Fri, (10:15, 10:45, 1:15, 1:45, 4:15, 4:45) 7:15, 7:45, 10:15, 10:45 Sat.,-Sun. (10:15, 10:45, 1:15, 1:45) 4:15, 4:45, 7:15, 7:45, 10:15, 10:45; The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (G) Fri.,-Sun. (1:50) 7:20; Unaccompanied Minors (PG) Fri. (9:40, 12:05, 2:25, 4:50) 7:10, 9:45 Sat., -Sun. (9:40, 12:05, 2:25) 4:50, 7:10, 9:45

SANTEE

Santee Drive In 10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447) Casino Royale (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun.; Eragon (PG) Fri.,-Sun.; The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun.; Unaccompanied Minors

SOUTH BAY CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista 10

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214) Apocalypto (R) Fri.,-Sun. (10:45, 1:45, 4:45) 7:45, 10:45; Blood Diamond (R) Fri.,-Sun. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15; Déià Vu (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (11:00, 2:00) 5:00, 7:45, 10:45; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (12:00, 2:30) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15; **The** Holiday (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00; Noddy Saves Christmas and Candyland: Great Lollipop Adventure (G) Sat.,-Sun. (10:00a.m.); Unaccompanied Minors (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7.30, 9.45

Palm Promenade 24

770 Dennery Road (858-558-2262) Charlotte's Web (G) Fri.,-Sun. (11:15) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:30) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15

Rancho Del Rev 16

East H Street (619-216-4707)
Blood Diamond (R) Fri. (10:30, 1:40, 4:50) $8:00,\,11:05;$ Charlotte's Web (G) Fri. $(11:00,\,$ 1:35, 4:05) 7:00, 9:30; Eragon (PG) Fri. (11:45, 2:15, 4:55) 7:30, 10:25; **The Pursuit of Happy-ness** (PG-13) Fri. (10:30, 1:20, 4:20) 7:15,

IMPERIAL BEACH

South Bay Drive-In

2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727) Call theater for program information

NORTH INLAND

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Carmel Mountain

11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770) **Apocalypto** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (12:15) 4:30, 7:30,

10:25 Sun. (12:15) 4:30, 7:30; Blood Diamond (R) Fri.,-Sat. (11:35) 4:15, 7:20, 10:20 Sun (11:35) 4:15, 7:20; Casino Rovale (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (12:25) 4:20, 7:20, 10:20 Sun. (12:25) 4:20, 7:20; **Charlotte's Web** (G) Fri.,-Sat. (11:30, 2:35) 5:00, 7:25, 9:55 Sun. (11:30, 2:35) 5:00, 7:25; **Deck the Halls** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (12:05, 3:05) 5:40, 7:55, 10:10 Sun. (12:05, 3:05) 5:40, 7:55; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (11:55) 4:25, 7:20, 10:15 Sun. (11:55) 4:25, 7:20; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (12:00, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:40 Sun. (12:00, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (11:40, 2:50) 5:30, 7:55, 10:25 Sun. (11:40, 2:50) 5:30, 7:55; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (12:20) 4:15, 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (12:20) 4:15, 7:15; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (11:50, 3:10) 5:35, 8:05, 10:35 Sun. (11:50, 3:10) 5:35, 8:05; The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (11:45, 2:30) 5:10, 7:50, 10:35 Sun. (11:45, 2:30) 5:10, 7:50; Unaccompanied Minors (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (12:10, 3:00) 5:45, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (12:10, 3:00) 5:45, 8:00

ESCONDIDO

Escondido 16

350 W. Valley Parkway (760-291-0119) Charlotte's Web (G) Fri. (11:30, 2:10, 4:45) 7:30, 10:00; Eragon (PG) Fri. (11:00, 1:35, 4:10) 7:00, 9:45; **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13) Fri. (10:15, 1:10, 4:00) 7:15, 10:15

FALLBROOK

Galaxy 6

5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784) **Apocalypto** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15; Charlotte's Web (G) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; Happy Feet (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (12:00, 2:30) 5:00, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (12:00, 2:30) 5:00, 7:45; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00; Noddy Saves Christmas and Candyland: Great Lollipop Adventure (G) Sat.,-Sun. (10:00a.m.); Unaccompanied Minors (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:30

POWAY

Poway 10

13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423) **Apocalypto** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (10:45, 1:45, 4:45) 7:45, 10:45 Sun. (10:45, 1:45, 4:45) 7:45; Blood **Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15; 10:15 Sun. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15; Charlotte's Web (G) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00, 11:30, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00) 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 11:30, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00) 5:30, 7:00, 8:00; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15; Happy Feet (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (12:00, 2:30) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (12:00, 2:30) 7:45; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (4:30p.m.); **Noddy** Saves Christmas and Candyland: Great Lollipop Adventure (G) Sat.,-Sun. (10:00a.m.); The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30, 10:30 Sun. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30: Unaccompanied Minors (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (11:00, 1:30,

*** None of the Best films of the Year. Will Smith gives the performance of his career."

Steve Oldfield, FOX-TV

3:45) 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 Sun. (11:00, 1:30, 3:45) 6:00, 8:15

SAN MARCOS

San Marcos 18

1180 West San Marcos Boulevard at Old California Walk (760-471-3711) Charlotte's Web (G) Fri.,-Sun. (11:30, 2:10, 4:50) 7:30, 10:10; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:00, 1:35, 4:10) 7:00, 9:45; **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (10:40, 1:25, 4:25) 7:20, 10:20

VISTA

Vista Village

Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7469) Call theater for program information

NORTH COASTAL

CARLSBAD

Plaza Camino Real

2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469) Apocalypto (R) Fri.,-Sun. (11:20, 2:10) 5:05, 8:00; Eragon (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (12:00, 2:30, 4:55) 7:15, 9:35 Sun. (12:00, 2:30, 4:55) 7:15; Unaccompanied Minors (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (11:30, 1:30, 3:35) 5:40, 7:45, 9:45 Sun. (11:30, 1:30, 3:35) 5:40, 7:45

DEL MAR

Del Mar Highlands 8

El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road (858-646-9420)

Borat (R) Fri., -Sun. (10:00, 12:00, 2:15) 7:30: Casino Royale (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15; Charlotte's Web (G) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (4:45) 9:45 Sun. (4:45p.m.); **Eragon** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (11:30, 2:30) 8:15; Happy Feet (PG) Fr1.,-Sat. (11:30, 2:30) 5:00, 7:45; 10:15 Sun. (11:30, 2:30) 5:00, 7:45; The Holiday (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (1:00, 4:00) 7:00; 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00; The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30, 10:30 Sun. (1:30, 4:30) 7:30; Unaccompanied Minors (PG) Fri. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 10:15 Sun. (10:00 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45; We Are Marshall (PG) Sat. 7:30p.m.

Flower Hill 4

2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425) **Apocalypto** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30, 10:30 Sun. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30; **Bobby** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (11:15, 2:15) 5:15, 8:00, 10:45 Sun. (11:15, 2:15) 5:15, 8:00; The Queen (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:15

ENCINITAS

Encinitas 8

220 North El Camino Real (760-942-5544) Apocalypto (R); Casino Royale (PG-13); Charlotte's Web (G); Fragon (PG); Happy Feet (PG); The Holiday (PG-13); The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13); Unaccompanied Mi-

La Paloma

471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-SHOW)

For Your Consideration (PG-13) Fri. 7:00, 9:00 Sat.,-Sun. 4:00, 7:00, 9:00

LA COSTA

La Costa 6

6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221)

Apocalypto (R) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15; **Charlotte's** Web (G) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **Deck the Halls** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (10:00, 12:15) 5:15, 7:30; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri. (12:00, 2:30) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sat. (2:30) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (2:30) 5:15, 7:45; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (2:45) 9:45 Sun. (2:45p.m.); Noddy Saves Christmas and Candyland: Great Lollipop Adventure (G) Sat.,-Sun.

OCEANSIDE

Mission Marketplace 13

College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790)

Apocalypto (R); Blood Diamond (R); Casino Royale (PG-13); Charlotte's Web (G); Deck the Halls (PG); Déjà Vu (PG-13); Eragon (PG); Happy Feet (PG); The Nativity Story (PG); The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13); Unaccompanied Minors (PG)

Oceanside 16

401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733) Charlotte's Web (G) Fri.,-Sun. (12:15, 2:35, 4:55) 7:15, 9:35; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:55, 2:20, 4:40) 7:00, 9:20; **The Pursuit of Happy**ness (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (12:00, 2:40, 5:20) 8:00, 10:40



STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

PACIFIC THEATRES CARMEL MOUNTAIN 12 I-15 at Carmel Mountain Road 858/674-9770 #085

ULTRASTAR Chula Vista 10 Broadway Between H & I 619/338-4214 PACIFIC THEATRES CINERAMA 6 University Avenue West of College 619/287-8990 #065

DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8 El Camino Real/Del Mar Heights 858/646-9420

AMC Encinitas 8 REGAL CINEMAS **ESCONDIDO STADIUM 16** 350 W. Valley Parkway 800-FANDANGO #519

AMC FASHION VALLEY 18 Hwy. 163 at Friars Rd. West 858/558-2AMC PACIFIC THEATRES GROSSMONT CENTER STADIUM TEN

UNITED ARTISTS Horton Plaza 14 AMC La jolla 12 I-5 at Nobel 858/558-2AMC

W. of I-15 on Mira Mesa Blvd. 800-FANDANGO #160 AMC Mission Valley 20

EDWARDS CINEMAS MIRA MESA STADIUM 18 W. of I-15 on

★ ULTRASTAR POWAY 10 Poway Road at

REGAL CINEMAS

OCEANSIDE CINEMA 16 AMC PALM PROMENADE 24 805 & Palm Ave. 858/558-2AMC

REGAL CINEMAS PARKWAY PLAZA 18 Parkway Plaza Mall 800-FANDANGO #131

East H Street & Tierra Del Rey 800-FANDANGO #126 800-FANDANGO #126 EDWARDS CINEMAS RANCHO SAN DIEGO STADIUM CINEMA 15 Hwy. 94 At Campo 800-FANDANGO #132

REGAL CINEMAS Rancho del Rey 16

EDWARDS CINEMAS San Marcos Stadium 18 1180 W. San Marcos Blvd. 800-FANDANGO #161 SANTEE DRIVE-IN hts Grossmot Shopping Center 1-8 Exit Mission Center Road 619/465-7100 #069 858/558-2AMC Sorry, No Passes Accepted For This Engagement. For Additional Information, Call Theaters Or Check Directories. 10990 Woodside, Santee 619/448-7447

SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN 2170 Coronado Avenue 619/423-2727 PACIFIC THEATRES TOWN SQUARE STADIUM 14 Clairemont Dr. at Clairmont Mesa Blvd 858/274-1234 #064 KRIKORIAN'S VISTA VILLAGE METROPLEX 12 25 Main St. 760/945-7469

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN: CHULA VISTA 10: CIN-ERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSS-MONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MIS-SION VALLEY 20: OCEANSIDE 16: PALM PROME-NADE 24: PARKWAY PLAZA 18: POWAY 10: RAN-CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/15)

The Queen — A spot of simulated Royalswatching, ably guided by the seasoned Stephen Frears: a satisfying, if unsurprising and unrevealing and unimaginative re-enactment of what must have gone on behind closed doors in the week after the death of Princess Di, in specific the diplomatic efforts of the newly elected Tony Blair to compel the Royal Family ("a bunch of freeloading, emotionally retarded nutters, in the view of Mrs. Blair) to behave like human beings: "Will somebody please save these people from themselves?" Helen Mirren and Michael Sheen embody Her Majesty and the Prime Minister to two T's. In support of them, James Cromwell at least looks the part of Philip, but plays only one note, and Alex Jennings is a bit short in the snout (in complete contrast to Cromwell) but is otherwise credibly dyspeptic as Charles. The plentiful humor, out of deference to history and living persons, is very mild. 2006.

★★ (FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS;

Running with Scissors - Splashy feature debut for the man behind the cabletelevision series Nip/Tuck, writer-director Ryan Murphy, a hey-look-at-me cannonball, adapted from the "memoir" of Augusten Burroughs. Set in the Seventies, it spans his prepubescence ("I guess it doesn't matter where I begin," the narrator comments in voice-over, "because nobody's go ing to believe me anyway") into his gloomily gay adolescence. In specific, the breakup of his nuclear family — an alcoholic academic father and a psychobabbling self-deluding poet manqué mother ("Augusten, your mother was meant to be a very



famous woman") - and his subsequent placement in the foster care of the mother's crackpot analyst, whose first arrival on the scene parodies the arrival of Max von Sydow in *The Exorcist*. (True to the period, for sure.) The boy's second home is no stabler, a pink-painted monstrosity that accommodates a haggard hausfrau who never misses a day of Dark Shadows and snacks on dog kibble; two nubile daughters, one coquettishly virginal and one candidly tarty; a cat named Freud; a perennial Christmas tree in the parlor; a never-diminishing pile of dishes in the kitchen; the doctor's private sanctuary known self-explanatorily as his "masturbatorium"; and a trail of neurotic

clients prominently including a brooding predatory homosexual. The basic assum tion, trendy and trite as can be, is that the more eccentric, the more lunatic the vision of family life, the more truthful and insight ful, the more relevant and revealing, it must be. (And never mind how tortuous the route to a punch line: the sole purpose of the dragged-out practical joke of a cat-meat stew is to enable the humorless homosexual to huff off with an "I don't eat pussy!") Annette Bening, whose presence tends to point up the kinship with American Beauty, puts on quite a show as the biological mother, running the gamut from the irrepressibly tempestuous ("Get the rage on the page,

women," she rails at her fledgling poets' circle) to the chemically tranquillized, with nary a misstep along the way. This is a portrait which, floridness notwithstanding, remains recognizably and humorously human. In most of the rest, the floridness overgrows and obscures. Joseph Cross, Brian Cox, Jill Clayburgh, Gwyneth Paltrow, Evan Rachel Wood, Joseph Fiennes, Alec Baldwin. 2006.

★ (GASLAMP 15)

Shut Up and Sing — Backstage musical documentary, recounting in vivifying detail the vaguely familiar story of how the three Dixie Chicks, "the best-selling female group in history," fresh from their rendition of the National Anthem at the 2003 Super Bowl, and right at the kickoff of their Lipton Teasponsored "Top of the World" tour, fell precipitously out of favor with their core country-western audience. How --- to get down to a detail or two - the lead singer Natalie Maines, at the dawn of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, shot off her mouth among friends, as it were, the enthusiastic throng at Shepherds Bush in London, to wit, "We're ashamed that the President of the United States is from Texas" (as if Texans have little else to be ashamed of), and how the unscripted remark resulted in a nationwide ban from the C&W airwayes, a strain on relations with Lipton, an open feud with the flag-waving country singer Toby Keith ("We'll put a boot in your ass,/ It's the American way"), and a death threat at a concert in - where else? - Dallas. The group's initial impulse in response to the backlash had been to backpedal: to damagecontrol, to appease, to apologize, to explain away ("It was a joke made to get cheers and applause"). But the country at the time was in an unforgiving mood: no takesy-backsy. Positions became entrenched; heels got dug in. This, we can recognize, is how wars be gin. It is not a simple story, straightforwardly inspirational. It is a complex one, about, among other things, the difficulty of courage (especially when big money is at stake) and the possible attainment of it along a path of regret, hurt, anger, bitterness, resignation, and finally the absence of any other choice. Tortuously inspirational. Documentarist Barbara Kopple, who shares the directing credit with Cecilia Peck, relates the story, as she did in her exemplary Harlan County, U.S.A. and American Dream, without the common crutches of voice-over narration (clips from newscasts and chat shows unobtrusively serve the

purpose) and talking-head interviews (clips from chat shows, once again, excepted), simply by being on the spot during strategy sessions and in the recording studio, hanging around the living quarters, following life as it unfolded. The drama, in the result, seems to move ahead on its own steam, to evolve organically. Of course, in the grand scheme, the career arc of the Dixie Chicks — whose music in the film is abundant though not dominant - may seem quite a small thing. Yet as a symptomatic thing - a test case of the depth or shallowness of Americans' belief in freedom of expression — it is quite a big thing after all. You needn't be a fan of their music to lament the coerced politicization of it.

★★★★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE, THROUGH 12/14)

Stranger Than Fiction — The first filmed screenplay of Zach Helm crowds in on the domain of Charlie Kaufman: a Pirandellian brainteaser about a robotic IRS auditor (Will Ferrell, constrained by catatonia) who discovers he is a character in the work-in-progress of a blocked novelist (Emma Thompson) and is slated to die at the end of it. (A new approach, there, to the standard time-travel and second-sight conundrum: can the foreordained be averted through foreknowledge?) He discovers all this when he, and he alone, starts to hear the voice of the omniscient narrator don't ask how or why - accurately describing his life as he lives it, "but with a better vocabulary," and he then seeks help not from a therapist but from a literary theorist (Dustin Hoffman). The pedantry tends to get in the way of laughs, and the twisted logic sometimes trips up the plot developments (what does the author think she's narrating when her hero is dashing to a phone to dial her own number?), and the voice-over prose samples do not remotely live up to the writer's reputation. Nevertheless, the improbable romance between the inflexible tax man and a civilly disobedient, tropically tattooed baker, currently under IRS scrutiny, is oddly touching, thanks in large part to the touchingly odd line readings of Maggie Gyllenhaal, who can work wonders with an echoic little query like, "You don't like cookies?" And immediately after that, her sensuous recital of the goodies in her early culinary repertoire hovers breathlessly between sheer poetry and utter pornography: "Lemon chiffon cake with zesty peach icing," etc., etc. Directed by Marc Forster. 2006.

★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MIS-SION VALLEY 20)

Unaccompanied Minors — Holiday comedy, set in Chicago's snowed-in airport, with Dyllan Christopher, Tyler James Williams, and Gina Mantegna, directed by Paul Feig.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN: CHULA VISTA 10: CIN-ERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VAL-LEY 20: OCEANSIDE 16: PALM PROMENADE 24: PARKWAY PLAZA 18: PLAZA CAMINO REAL: POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA

Volver — Almodóvar adds to his familiar sour comedy and mock melodrama the new element of an apparent apparition, a mundane ghost, a flatulent phantom, blended in with the familiar elements in uncertain tone. He shows nary a trace of the erstwhile "bad boy," nothing now but a good, good boy, devoted to mothers in particular, reverential of females in general, the Spanish George Cukor. (The cadaver in the freezer, male, is but a further sign of his respect and his awe.) The result can be recommended to the well-trained legions who are willing to meet this filmmaker seven-eighths of the way. Even the foot-draggers must concede that it's deftly staged and well acted, and that Penélope Cruz, beyond acting well, shines like a star. Or more descriptively, a heavenly body. Carmen Maura, Lola Dueñas, Yohana Cobo, Blanca Portillo

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

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SEMANA



Declaran la guerra

El Senado ratificó la semana pasada al procurador general Eduardo Medina Mora, quien deberá combatir los cárteles de la droga que han provocado una ola de violencia en varias zonas del país y a los que comparó con la "Cosa Nostra" italiana por su forma de operar.

"Hoy todos los indicadores señalan que la sociedad se siente insegura y demanda eficacia", señaló.

Los grupos del narcotráfico, en su afán por intentar controlar espacios dejados tras la captura de algunos de sus líderes y hacerse de nuevas rutas, se enfrascaron en una batalla interna que ha dejado miles de ejecutados, algunos de ellos mediante decapitaciones, principalmente en localidades de seis de los 32 estados del país.

Los informes indican que en los últimos seis años se han registrado más de 8 mil muertes relacionadas con el crimen organizado. En los últimos días se realizó un gran operativo militar en Michoacán con la presencia de 5 mil efec-



Se hace inmortal

En un partido emocionante y en donde demostró su gran calidad como futbolista, LaDainian Tomlinson rompió la marca de más anotaciones en una misma temporada.

El récord lo poseía Shaun Alexander, que impuso la temporada pasada y que era de 28 touchdowns.

Tomlinson anotó tres veces el domingo en la victoria de su equipo, los Chargers de San Diego, sobre los Broncos de Denver 48-20

Con el público pidiendo por

Tomlinson, el corredor estelar de los Chargers tomó el balón de la mano del quarterback Philip Rivers y anotó en una carrera de seis yardas cuando quedaban 3:57 minutos por jugarse para empatar la marca.

Después de un balón suelto de Denver, Tomlinson logró la número 29 en una carrera de siete yardas apenas 47 segundos después.

Los compañeros de Tomlinson lo cargaron a la banda mientras él sostenía el balón en alto con una mano.

especial



Sólida fe

Desde el pasado fin de semana la comunidad católica mexicana festejó a la Virgen de Guadalupe en las parroquias de San Diego.

Los feligreses de las iglesias católicas de la región acudieron a diferentes iglesias para expresar su fervor a la santa patrona de México cuyo santoral fue el martes 12 de diciembre.

"Nuestros padres nos inculcaron fervor a la virgen para agradecerle los favores que nos concede", dijo Nayelli Mendoza, del comité de eventos de la

parroquia en Pala.

Fieles se vistieron con la imagen de la virgen, otros presentaron a sus hijos, vestidos de indios, o a niñas con huipiles, huaraches y trenzas llevando flores a su altar, junto con los mariachis y música tradicional. "La celebración de la virgen de Guadalupe es una fiesta que por siglos México ha hecho ya una tradición, porque esta festividad los mexicanos la llevan en el corazón", mencionó Enrique Méndez, de la Diócesis de San Diego.

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Fiesta mexicana

Hay fiesta en México. Pues el equipo con más tradición futbolera, las Chivas de Guadalajara, con una gran remontada en el segundo tiempo, venció el domingo 2-1 al Toluca para proclamarse campeón del Torneo Apertura y acumular 11 títulos en sus vitrinas. Goles de Francisco Rodríguez y Adolfo Bautista, a los 51 y 69 minutos, respectivamente, le dieron la vuelta al marcador de un partido que Toluca arrancó ganando a los 18 minutos mediante el tanto del argentino Bruno Marioni en su estadio Nemesio Diez.

Ambos haban igualado 1-1 en el choque de vuelta en Guadalajara por lo que la serie quedó con un 3-2 global a favor de las Chivas. En el año que celebran su

centenario, las Chivas, el club más popular del país, ganó su primer título desde 1997, cuando obtuvo el torneo de Verano.

"Es un año que nunca voy a olvidar. La gente tenía tiempo esperando este campeonato", declaró Omar Bravo, delantero del Guadalaiara.

Ahora, Chivas tiene un título más que el América, su eterno rival con el cual se mantenía empatado en la estadística, y tres arriba de Cruz Azul y Toluca.

"Venimos a plantear un partido inteligente. Mi padre que está en el cielo me ayudó a coronarme", dijo Oswaldo Sánchez, portero de las Chivas, cuyo progenitor falleció poco antes de la Copa Mundial en Alemania.

internacional



Fallece dictador Pondrán cámaras

El general Augusto Pinochet, quien gobernó Chile con mano de hierro tras asumir el poder en un sangriento golpe de estado, murió el domingo lo que pone fin a una década de esfuerzos para llevarlo a juicio por violaciones de derechos humanos.

Ante una ola de protestas y celebraciones por la muerte de uno de los que ha sido considerado como uno de los dictadores más crueles en Chile. las opiniones se dividían.

Pinochet, quien a sus 91 años se recuperaba de un infarto al miocardio que sufrió el 3 de diciembre, instauró una dictadura de 16 años y medio caracterizada por una implacable persecución de quienes consideraba sus enemigos marxistas, pero nunca reconoció los abusos ni pidió perdón.

Su dictadura sentó las bases para la economía más estable en América del Sur, pero su represión a la disidencia convirtió a su nombre en sinónimo de "terrorismo de Estado".

Miles de personas, en su mayora mujeres, llorando y con retratos de Pinochet en sus manos, se congregaron frente al hospital a los pocos minutos de conocerse el deceso.

Casi simultáneamente miles

de detractores del ex gobernante celebraban la noticia en la Plaza Italia, un céntrico parque de Santiago donde habitualmente se celebran los triunfos deportivos chilenos. Mientras unos rezaban el rosario en las afueras del hospital en un improvisado altar, otros destapaban botellas de champaña en la

Plaza Italia.

national city



América Barceló

Una nueva modalidad de lucha contra el crimen de la prostitución se empezará a librar en National City al anunciar la instalación de cámaras de vigilancia en las calles para identificar a personas que compran los 'servicios' y actividades de prostitución.

Debido al incremento de de esta actividad en National City residentes y comerciantes han comenzado a invadir con quejas a las autoridades para que se haga algo por resolver ese problema.

Recientemente el Departamento de Policía comenzó a realizar redadas para arrestar prostitutas, además anunció la próxima

instalación de cámaras de vigilancia en las calles para identificar a personas relacionadas con actividades de prostitución.

"Hemos estado trabajando para combatir este problema desde hace tiempo, ahora dimos el primer paso que fue enfocarnos en las muieres que se prostituyen, pero este plan consta de varias etapas y nuestro próximo blanco son personas que adquieren estos servicios; haremos redadas para atraparlos", explicó Manuel Rodríguez. El viernes 1 de diciembre agentes de la Policía de National City realizaron un fuerte operativo contra prostitución logrando arrestar a once mujeres que ejercen prostitución en esa entidad.

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Drive, Vista CA 92083. Detention/Courts: \$37,901-\$58,675 annual salary, plus benefits. Must be 18 years old. Deputy Sheriff: \$47,338-\$67,714 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID, #2 pencil and \$3 parking at Southwestern. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www. joinsdsheriff.net. 838-974-2000.

Johnsonerin.net. 588-974-2000. **DISPATCHERS.** California Highway Patrol is now hiring Public Safety Dispatchers II. Applications must be postmarked by March 8, 2007. For additional information and application, check www.chp.ca.gov or stop by your local CHP office. CHP is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Call 858-637-3863.

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GENERAL: NORTHWEST EXTERIORS, 'Leaders in Home Improvement,' hiring: Customer Service, Administration, Sales, Installers (windows, siding, etc.). Call 886-366-4200 9am-3:30pm, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday only for inter-

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GROCERY. Maintenance and Customer Service Team Members. Whole Foods Market, La Jolla is now hiring. All shifts. Medical, dental, vision, 401(k). Apply online: www.wholefoods.com or at 8825 Villa La Jolla Drive, La Jolla 92037. 858-642-6700.

RROCERY/NATURAL FOODS. New 4S Ranch Store opening soon! Hirnig for all positions in Produce, Grocery, Vitamins (Specialists), Bakery, Kitchen, Deli Counter (Clerks) and Front End (Cashier Supervisors). Also hiring for Del Mar and Carlsbad stores. \$9-\$16 per hour. Great environment, competitive pay, bonus and benefits! Jimbo's Naturally! 1285 El Camino Real, Del Mar. Fax: 858-793-7732. hr@jimbos.com. www.jimbos.com.

GROCERY: Butcher/Meat Clerk. Full and part time, experience required for Poway area. Call: 858-513-0509: Apply: Bisher Meats of Poway, 14051 Midland Road, Poway, CA 92064.

Poway, CA 92064. **GUARDS/SECURITY.** Join the #1 Security Team, where people make the difference. Call Securitas, the largest, most respected security company in the world! Countywide positions available. Free Guard Card training. Medical/dental/vision and 401(k), excellent working environment, free uniforms. San Diego: 619-641-0049: San Marcos (North County): 760-591-3733; Temecula: 951-676-3954. EOE/drug free.



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HAIRSTYLIST, MANICURIST and Estheti-

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HAIRSTYLIST. Booth available for rent for Stylist with clientele. Busy Rancho Bernardo shopping center. Some walkins and parking available. Leave a mes-

HAIRSTYLIST. Booth available in upscale, educational based salon in North Park. Team oriented environment. Call Cristina at 619-543-0022, Salon Cabana, 2200 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego,

HAIRSTYLIST. Gloss a new salon in the HAIRSTYLIST. Gloss, a new salon in the 4S Ranch area is looking for energetic, in-ovative stylists committed to artistic ex-cellence and continued growth through education. Gloss Salon is located in the soon to be open 4s town centre. This Up-scale, high traffic location provides an opportunity for development of a quality clientele. If you would like to join our team, send your resume to: glosssalon@yahoo.com or call 760-736-8550.

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760-489-1010.

HEALTH CARE: Attentive Home Care has immediate assignments for Live-in Caregivers, CNAs, HHAs and hourly Caregivers, CNAs, HHAs and hourly Caregivers-part time or full time. 3 years experience and CA ID or driver's license, Social Security card required. Fingerprint and TB test a plus. Flexible schedules. Overtime for holidays. Health insurance and employer-matched 401(k) benefits available. Call for an interview in North County or San Diego. 760-434-4393 or 619-231-0151. Or apply in person 10am-3pm, Tuesday-Thursday: 2333 1st Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92101. *Please bring valid fingerprint card, TB test, Social Security card and California ID.

HEALTHCARE. Vista Community Clinic a private, nonprofit outpatient commu a private, nonprofit outpatient community clinic serving North San Diego County for over 30 years, has immediate full/part time openings. Bilingual. Medical Records, Medical Receptionist, Registered Dental Assistant, Dental Receptionist, Prenatal Health Aide, Health Educator/HIV. EOE/F/M/D/V. Resume: injunce@wistecommunityclinic. n Educator/miv. LOCA, 1885.: iginvoc@vistacommunityclinic. Fax: 760-414-3702. www.communityclinic.org.

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Nurses HomeCare, 858-454-9339.

HEALTHCARE: ManorCare Health Services is hiring Food Service Director (graduate of approved training program for dietary managers preferred), RN* and Director of Staffing Development* (certificate preferred), Food Service Worker/Dishwasher (no experience necessary). *Significant sign-on bonus for full-time RNs and Director of Staffing. HCR Manor Care, Attn: Human Resources, 944 Regal Road, Encinitas CA 92024. 760-944-0331. Fax 760-933-1674. Apply online at www.hcr-manorcare.com. EEO/Drug-free employer.

HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING Techs or Plumber's with or without experience leaded immediately! Work for a national eader in the service industry, ARS (Amer-can Residential Services of California, Ican Hesidential Services of California, Inc.). We offer technician training programs, great benefits. Must have clean DMV and valid California driver's license. ARS is a drug-free work environment. CSL#791820. To apply online: www. jobswithars.com; or call toll free: 866-852-

HOTEL POSITIONS. The Handlery Hotel and Resort is hiring for service oriented positions. We have competitive pay and excellent benefits. Please apply to: 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA, 92108 or fax resume to: 619-298-3948.

HOTEL. Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa, a 4-Diamond Hotel, recently named one of the "Hottest new Hotels in the World" seeks: Assistant Controller, National seeks: Assistant Controller, National Sales Manager, Cooks, Banquet House-persons, Stewards, Housekeepers. Ap-ply: 9700 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla 92037; call: 858-964-6644; fax: 858-964-6634. EOE/AA.

964-6634. EOE/AA.

HOTEL. Hyatt Regency La Jolla now hiring: Cafe Japengo Cook I and Cook III,
Concierge, Convention Services Floor
Lead, Convention Services Floor House
person, Culinary Cooks III, Food & Beverage Servi-Bar Attendant, Housekeeping
Room Attendants, Housekeeping House
person, Catering Administrative Assistant, Laundry Attendant, Laundry Washer,
Phone/Computer Technician-entry level,
Receiving Clerk, Front Desk Agents, Bell
Attendant, Engineering General Maintenance, Stewards, Food and Beverage Assistant Manager, Purchasing Director,
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cellent benefits. AA/EOE. M/F/D/V. Please apply online: www.lajolla.hyatt.c

RANCHO VALENCIA. ng Room Food Runner (full-Kitchen/Dining Room Foo time, PM, must be able to h food plates in fast-paced environment). Cafeteria/Prep Cook (full-time, AM, hote Cateteria/Prep Cook (Iuli-Iirine, AM, noor "garde mange" experience required). Rotisseur (PM shift). Dishwasher (PM shift). Email resume as attachment: hr@ranchovalencia.com; or fax: 858-756-0165. Apply in person: 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe 92067.

HOUSECLEANER for adult couple. Poway area. \$8 per hour. 6-8 hours every other Tuesday. Speak English. References needed. Have reliable car. 858-312-1541.

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Please apply at: 950 Hotel Circle North San Diego, CA 92108 or fax résumé to: 619-298-3948



Food Service Director

Graduate of approved training program for dietary managers preferred.

RNs*

Director of Staffing Development*

Certificate preferred.
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Food Service Worker/Dishwasher

No experience necessary.

Interested candidates please apply at:

HCR ManorCare, Attn: Human Resources 944 Regal Road, Encinitas, CA 92024 760-944-0331 • Fax: 760-633-1674

Apply online at: www.hcr-manorcare.com EOE M/F/D/V • Drug-free employer



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Available to work Monday-Friday

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Able to meet driver in delivery area • At least 18 years old Available to work during the day Monday-Friday (on-call basis) Available to work from October 1-December 31, 2006

Varies with delivery area Pay Rate: \$8.50/hr.

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JOB COACH/COMMUNITY Training Specialist. \$9/hour to start. Assist develop-mentally disabled adults in the community, 32.5 hours/week. Benefits. EOE. Apply Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, 6145 Decema Drive, San Diego 92120. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax: 619-281-0453 www.vistahill.org. Fax: 619-281vistahill.org.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT. Deputy Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Detentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Hiring for two types of positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam dates: Thursday, December 14, 2006, 12:30pm arrival (you must register by email to take this exam: Recruit@sdsherift. org): Sheriff's Administration Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123 or Saturday, December 16, 2006, 7am arrival: Rancho Buena Vista High School, 1601 Longhorn Drive, Vista CA 92083. Detention/Courts: \$37,901-\$58,675 anual salary, plus benefits. Must be 18 years old. Deputy Sheriff: \$47,338-67,714 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D required. Bring valid photo ID, #2 penoil and \$3 parking at Southwestern Communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www.joinsdsheriff.net. 588-974-2000.

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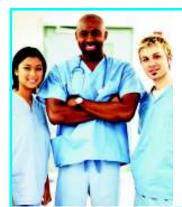
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LOAN OFFICERS, PROCESSORS. Foundation Capital Group is seeking strong candidates with the desire to work in an exciting and rewarding environment and achieve their goals. Base salary, monthly commission, paid training, car bonuses, full benefits, 401(k). E-mail resume to . ∟-mail resume to ne.com or fax 858employment@fcgonline.com or 630-3682. www.FCGonline.com.

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Call for an interview in North County or San Diego: 760-434-4393 or 619-231-0151

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NURSING. LVN. PM shift, full time. AM shift, part time. Apply at: 553 "F" Street, Chula Vista, 91910. 619-426-8611.

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PACKAGE HANDLERS. UPS is hiring for permanent, part-time positions in Chula Vista, San Diego and San Marcos. Must be 17-1/2 years old, able to lift up to 70 lbs., and be available to work Monday-Friday. Shifts: 3am-9am and 5pm-10pm. \$8.50-\$9.50/hour. Appl. parlies of the way periods core.

PAINTER/SCENIC ARTIST, Busy scene shop seeks experienced Scenic Artists and Set Carpenters. Call: 858-450-7757.

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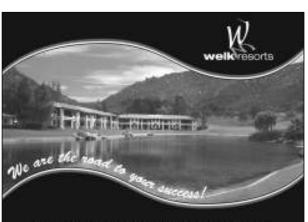
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Would you enjoy working with like-minded people? We are looking for people like ourselves, People who like to have FUN while making lots of money!

In November, 21 Sales Agents made over \$10,000 9 made over \$15,000 • 3 made over \$20,000 and 1 made over \$25,000!

These people did NO prospecting, NO advertising, NO traveling, NO customer service, NO billing. The clients came to the resort; and the agents had 4+ weeks of vacation.

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584-1775. USWA. Ref#5830.

PREGNANT? Available to take part in a paid clinical study? PrecisionMed is seeking healthy volunteers, between the ages of 20 and 45, who are at least 7 weeks pregnant, and who would like to participate in a research study. Participation in this genetic study involves no medication or treatment and requires between 1 and 3 short office visits to our offices. As compensation for participating, volunteers will receive \$100 for each office visit. For further information and to check if you quality, please call 800-519-8810 or you can email at carolemarks@precisionmed.com

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PRODUCTION WORKERS. 8-and 12-hour shifts. Carlsbad/Oceanside areas. Also hiring Electromechanical Assemblers, Calibration Technicians, Precision Assemblers and Electronic Technicians, www.jobs.volt.com. EOE. Volt Services Group, 1850 Marron Road, Suite 114, Carlsbad 92008. Fax: 760-720-7341. 760-729-8916.

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Dec. 16, 2006, 7 am Arrival

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Dec. 21, 2006, 12:30 pm Arrival

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2/93. **RESTAURANT.** New 4 S Ranch Store opening soon! Bakers, Cooks, Dishwashers, Deli Counter Supervisors and Deli Clerks needed. See ad under 'Grocery/ Natural Foods." Jimbo's Naturally!

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RESTAURANT: CHILI'S Grill & Bar, Encinitas, hiring Servers and Host(esses). Apply in person any day between 2-4pm: Chili's, 1004 North El Camino Real,

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619-405-4992. **RETAIL SALES.** Looking for fun, enthusiastic and outgoing individuals with retail experience for part-time retail sales position. Excellent compensation, employee discount and growth potential in a fun, prigue apparel and off store in Old unique apparel and gift store in Old Town. Weekends required. Call 619-299-

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234-2583 or 858-454-7987.

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Kathleen: 619-429-1253; 888-429-1253.

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Christine Callaway

Secretary North Park

World peace...and a Pontiac Solstice! No, seriously, probably just upgrade our VW van to four-wheel drive. I thought maybe a dog ranch but figured it's better to search out the people who alleviate human and animal suffering — and endow them. It would be arrogant to think we could do that better than anyone else. Then we'd get several more dogs, cats, etc., and stay home with them, writing movies, designing costumes, and throwing fab parties for our friends. I'd buy independence. But we already have that, to some extent. Life is pretty damn good.



Amy Ranbarger

Sales operations analyst

Pacific Beach

nitially, today, I'd buy a bunch of champagne. Tomorrow, a bunch of liposuction. And then the next day, I'd go for real estate investment.



Jason Craig

Medicare

Carmel Valley

would take a good vacation. I'd probably go around the world. I wouldn't quit my job, though. I'd continue working, but I wouldn't work hard. I'd probably buy a new house, a new car, and give money to charity. The fight against AIDS and the National Kidney Foundation would get some money.



Iose Meza

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With that kind of money, I'm going to buy a house, expensive cars, and I'm going to have hot, naked women over at my house as often as I can and whenever I can. I'll get some Jet Skis, vachts, Some of the cars will be Bentleys, Lamborghinis, Murciélagos, convertibles, and I'll also get some

motorcycles. Oh, and the women

will all be platinum blondes.



Tracie Yudichak

Student

Ocean Beach

The first thing I would do is have a party for my friends. I'd spend about \$50,000 on that. I'd set myself up, whether that's with stocks or whatever, so I wouldn't have to work I'd buy a house. I'd pay off my sister's house and all my family members' homes. I would set up scholarships for students that don't have other scholarship offers. Maybe students from single-parent households or that don't get the best grades but they try real hard. I'd become a philanthropist.



Jeff Bradley

Postal worker

Mira Mesa

Well, the first thing is to take care of my family, my brothers, sisters, and in-laws. I'd buy a house and definitely give some money to church. I'm not too picky, so I don't need a lot. I might rent out a club so my son could have a sweet 16th birthday party. I'd hire some famous rapper to perform at it.

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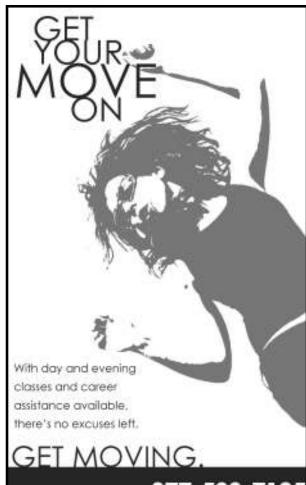




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Across

- 1. Kibbles 'n' Bits competitor
- 5. Comparatively corpulent
- 10. Evening, in ads
- 14. Pinball infraction
- 15. 1988 Oscar winner Davis
- 16. 2000 Macy Gray "iTune
- 17. Henry Gray's subj.
- 18. Space shuttle gasket
- 19. Approach
- 20. Mention again
- 22. 1973 Jim Croce "iTune"
- 24. 1972 Helen Reddy "iTune"
- 26. Inventor Whitney
- 27. Snake sacred to Isis
- 28. Coeur d'____, Idaho
- 31. 1965 Four Tops "iTune"
- 38. It's found in a pound
- 39. Art movement prefix
- 40. "Norma
- 41. 1996 R. Kelly "iTune"
- 48. 2003 Oscar winner Adrien
- 49. Yokohama yes
- 50. Eustacia of "The Return of the
- 51. 1976 Marvin Gaye "iTune" 56. 1964 Beatles "iTune"
- 60. Slip cover?
- 61. Sitarist Shankar
- 62. Voided
- 64. "Hawaii Five-O" locale
- 65. 2003 Nas "iTune"
- 66. French wine valley
- -friendly
- 68. Schumer and Specter, e.g.:
- 69. Garbo, for one
- 70. "Don't go!"

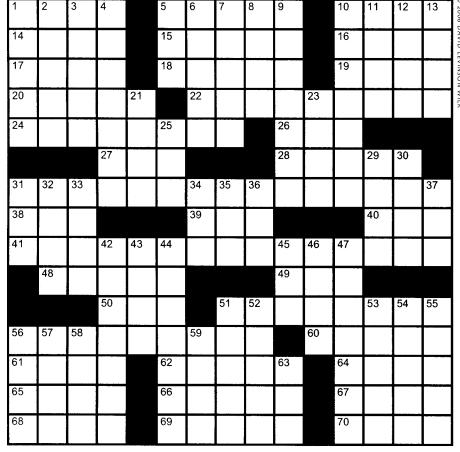
Down

- 1. Maker of Asteroids
- 2. Top part of a form, usually
- 3. Tissue: Suffix
- 4. Resident of Canada's national capital
- 5. In the past
- 6. Opera_ 7. Fake
- 8. Monumental year?
- 9. Wrestling pair
- 10. Chuckleheads
- 11. Virginia willow
- 12. Vehicle on rails
- 13. Fictional Jane
- 21. 1952 baseball All-Star Eddie
- 23. TV's McBeal
- 25. Dashboard inits.
- 29. Toy ball brand

- 30. Israeli airline
- 31. Dictator Amin
- 32. Ty with 12 batting titles
- 33. New-
- 34. Prop for the Acad. Awards
- 35. Author Harper
- 36. Luau chow
- 37. Tina of "30 Rock"
- 42. Hippie happenings
- 43. Tennyson work
- 44. Stunning sights 45. 2005 Pussycat Dolls hit "Don't
- 46. Texas M
- __oxide (laughing gas)
- 51. Film festival film, often
- 52. Kooky
- 53. Matzo lacks it
- 54. "The Verdict" actor, 1982 55. Shylock's business
- 56. Pupil's locale
- 57. Stand up to
- 58. Novelist Hunter
- _ pronounce you ..."
- 63. "Do the Right Thing" actress Rubv

RULES OF THE GAME

- 1. The prize for solving the Reader Puzzle will be a Reader T-shirt.
- 2. All entries in the Reader Puzzle contest must be received by the Reader by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date (Fax to 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803).
- 3. All entries must be accompanied by your name and address.
- 4. Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.
- 5. In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and arbitrary. We've only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are more than five winners, we'll have a lottery.
- 6. All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to our office.
- 7. One entry per person.



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Solution to and winners of the Reader Puzzle for 12/7/06.

There were 96 entrants The winners are:

- 1. Anna Carone, San Diego
- 2. Larry Gundersen, Carlsbad
- 3. Iggle Guerrero, San Diego 4. Rob Picciolo, San Diego
- 5. Pauline Dwyer, San Diego

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The cost is \$1.99 per minute. You must be at least 18 years old to call. Call and enter the number at the end of an ad to hear the advertiser's introduction and leave a message. The date in the ad is the last day to reply. The charge will appear on your phone bill as "Dating." Questions? 619-235-

FIND THE ULTIMATE Relationship, Are

you tired of going from relationship to re-lationship and not finding happiness? Free consultations, individual coaching

and seminars. www.sheilahenry.cor Sheila Henry, MFT-8408. 858-450-1965.

GAY/BISEXUAL MEN. Supportive indi vidual therapy. Depression, anxiety, con-fusion, addictions, spiritual/religious issues. Married, closeted welcome. Dis-cretion, confidentiality assured. Mel Kar-men, PhD, MFC-12709. 619-296-9442.

HEALTHY ADULTS learning to heal child-

HEALTHY ADULTS learning to heal child-hood traumas. Emotional recovery from wounds of dysfunctional family. Includes Thought Field Therapy for eliminating anxieties and traumas. Counseling for in-dividuals, couples enrichment and family bonding sessions. Sharon Goodlove, TFI Diagnostician, and Glenn Goodlove, LCSW-1450. Goodlove Counseling Cen-ter, 858-569-8975, www.goodlove-online. com.

HOLIDAY BLUES? Depression, gay and

lesbian issues, child and adolescent ther apy are my specialties. Individuals, couples, families. Sliding fee. MFC-43174 Phaedra Scoortis, MFT. Call 619-972

MALE GROUP MEMBER NEEDED to

mixed process/support group. Relation-ship difficulties, intimacy, self-esteem, childhood issues. Tuesday evenings, UTC area, fee. Susan Jorgensen, MFT-22281, 858-622-0632.

MARRIAGE/FAMILY THERAPIST. Seek-

ing individuals, adolescents, couples, families ready to make changes. Let me help you help yourself. Sliding fee. Li-cense #MFC43461. Lilach Harris, 619-

241-6006.

PROFESSIONAL SPIRITUAL Counselor
PTSD. abuse, co-de

Emotional issues, PTSD, abuse, co-de pendence, relationships, birth trauma M.A., Human Behavior. 4 decades expe

rience. Teaching Credential #020171282. www.idaretoheal.com, 619-701-4621.

TIME FOR CHANGE? Affordable, effective

solution-focused counseling services. Marriage, transitions, grief/loss, addic-

tions, anger, confidence, stress, fear, spirituality, health, wellness. Brian Oltman, Psychotherapist, Lic-#41932. 619-804-2914, www.NDcounseling.net.

Notices

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calling 619-235-8200. **POST FREE ONLINE ADS** with photos at Chicage Reader.com. See thousands of

A PROSPERITY MINDSET can be yours Discover and apply spiritual principles that activate prosperity and success in your life. Call Michael or Michael. 858-627-9509.

ADDICTION PROBLEMS? Women for So-

briety is a non-12 step self-help program meeting Monday, Wednesday, Saturday www.womenforsobriety.org or 858-549-

ALLWRITE is a nonfiction writing group for people who have a writing project they want to start, or one that's underway. It may be a single essay, a memoir, a book, a book proposal, or something else. Your project and your writing expertise are less important than your commitment to your work. We meet twice monthly in Normal Heights to read and critique our work in a supportive environment. Our aim is to

supportive environment. Our aim is to help each other stay with their work by of-

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No 900# access? Call anytime day or night to purchase a block of calling time and charge it to your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express... for as little as \$1.25 per

Call 1-800-360-9496 24 hours No refunds. You may also purchase time at our office with cash or check only.

fering a committed peer group. We're looking to add a few new members. About the leader: I've published a nonfiction book and I've written for Stanford's alumni magazine, the Christian Science Monitor, and the Del Mar Times. If you'd like to learn more, email me bbdavenport@cox.net about your writing experience and current project

ALMOST HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS, an

inspiring story in barbershop harmony. Saturday, 12/16, 3pm and 7pm, The Neu-rosciences Institute, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive. 760-723-2294.

RODRINS DIVIE. 760-723-2294.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL works for human rights. Meetings: 7pm, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. First Unitarian Church, 4190 Front (opposite UCSD Medical Center). Information, 858-576-3811.

ANXIOUS, depressed? Recovery Inc. has been holding self-help mental health meetings since 1937. Many suffer from nervous symptoms and fears. Voluntary

offering, www.recovery-inc.org or 619-275-0364.

CANNABIS CONSCIOUSNESS Collective constitues Consciousness Collective. Forming for Proposition 215 patients, caregivers. To create a shared growing space. Organic gardening classes (chemi-kills kill). Earthworm power, compost revolution. 619-291-0983.

DIVORCECARE meets Sundays at 9am

weekly. A special free seminar and support group for those broken hearted in or out divorce or live in relationship. 4926 La Cuenta, Tierrasanta, Suite 203. Bruce, Bruce@coastline-realestate.com or 619-461.4490.

DIVORCED AND PROBLEMS with child

visitation, support payments, non-custo-dial rights, lawyers, and family law court? Change the system, join Coalition of Par-ent Support. Call 619-465-2677.

DIVORCING/SEPARATING? Get guid ance/support during your emotional ad-justment. Group meets Friday, 6:30-8pm, in Allied Gardens off Waring Road. Di-vorce Anonymous, 619-442-1550.

DONATE that automobile, boat, RV, etc. to Ronald McDonald House Charities-San Diego, receive tax deduction and possibly a partial cash payment! Call toll-free, 866-244-8464.

are moving soon. Call us to schedule a home interview and environmental sampling. For just 2 hours you will earn \$100. SDSU Healthy Homes Study, 619-594-0501

FREE BIBLE STUDY course by mail. Non-

denominational. Increase your knowledge of God's word. Palomar Church of Christ, Minister Bill Sisco, Postage paid. PO Box 1473R, San Marcos 92078. 760-436-3730. San Diego. 619-299-6812.

FREE MEDITATION CLASSES. Visit web

site www.dharmacenter.com or call 858-616-6308. 5059 Newport Avenue, Suite

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING. Lecture Clinic

Free readings for new visitors. Mondays, 7:30pm, 1/1/07, 2/5/07, by Vessa's Clairvoyant Program students. 4455 Morena Boulevard, Suite #108. 858-509-7582.

FREE! Better Breather's Support Group for COPD/emphysema meeting on Mon-day, 12/18/06. For more information, call

the American Lung Association office at

GRANDMA NEEDS HELP. Want to help and be of service to someone who is in

and be of service to someone who is in dire straits? Go to web address: breastcancerangel.com. God bless you.

Send an e-mail

Matches ads are now on the Web. You may search them by specifying criteria such as age, ethnicity and nonsmoking. Respond to most ads by sending an anonymous e-mail for a nominal charge. You may also listen to intros online.

SanDiegoReader.com

From this page, click on "Matches."

GRANDPA NEEDS HELP. Please donate

HERRON, TUNDRA ROTUNDIS abur dance. May all you own, nbe all you spend. This shall cure your afflictions. Please! Don't follow me around town,

HERPES/HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS. (HSV/HPV) Support group. Accurate medical information and support. Recorded message. 619-491-1194. www. SanDiegoCityHELP.org.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, stop crime and violence. Be a role model. Be a guardian angel! Free martial arts training, ftwx619@ yahoo.com, www.guardianangels.org.

MOVIE BUFFS, Interested in watching movies then discussing it afterwards, like a book club? Ages 25 to mature wel-come. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS WOMEN'S Support group, meeting every third Wednes-day of the month, 6-7:30pm, beginning December 20. Cardiff by the Sea library. 2081 Newcastle Avenue, Cardiff. Contact MS society at 760-448-8400.

NATIVE COUNCIL PROGRESS. Incorpo rated, non-profit, supports the repatriation of Mexican Indian immigrants. 4000+ dead. Derechas para los migrantes sin papeles! Amnesty, yes! Wall? No! sancho69ya@yahoo.com.

Sancho69ya@yamou.co....

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE Anonymous

Comparing for people with OCD 12 step meeting for people with OCD. Mondays, 6-7pm, Department of Health Services Complex, Mission Room, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego. Free. 858-757-6603.

OPEN MIC NIGHT. Every Sunday, 9pm 12am. Tom Giblin's Irish Pub, 640-A Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-7234. **OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS.** Over-

weight? Anorexic? Bulimic? Can't stop eating? There is a 12-step solution. Meet-ings daily. No dues or fees. www. oasandiego.org or 619-521-2538.

oasandiego.org or 619-521-2538.

PREGNANT? Available to take part in a paid clinical study? PrecisionMed is seeking healthy volunteers, between the ages of 20 and 45, who are at least 7 weeks pregnant, and who would like to participate in a research study. Participation in this genetic study involves no medication or treatment and requires between 1 and 3 short office visits to our offices. As compensation for participating, volunteers will receive \$100 for each office visit. For further information and to check if you quality, please call 800-519-8810 or you can email at carolemarks@precisionmed.com.

PRIVATE COUNSELING. Your journey can be clearer, more peaceful; relation-ship issues, body image, self-esteem anger. I can help. Work toward accep-tance of yourself. Fee. 619-838-6817.

RAGGLE 7 AGGLE'S Holiday Concert, at Hans and Sandy's World Famous Coffee Cart "Kaffeens," 12/16/06, 4pm-6pm. Coronado Ferry Landing (at the foot of ferry pier). www.raggletaggle.com.

SURVIVORS OF INCEST Anonymous Free 12-step support groups for men and women molested as children. Call Tim, 619-282-4798; www.siawso.org.

TWELVE STEPS NOT working for you? Try a self-empowering, skill-building approach with S.M.A.R.T. Recovery, free support groups, 958-546-1100 support groups. 858-546-1100.

Program needs women to help mothers during labor. Big commitment, lots of gratification! 619-543-6269.

gratification! 619-543-6269.

VOLUNTEERS. Stop the crisis in child abuse. San Diego's abandoned/neglected children desperately need you. Become a child advocate. Information sessions: Wednesday, 12/13, 1/3, 1/24 (North County), 2/7. Voices for Children, 858-569-2019 or visit www.speakupnow.org.

WRITERS WORKSHOP, free. Every Monday 10am-1pm. Joyce Beers community center. Hillcrest. Vermont Street near University Avenue. 858-457-8477.

YOU'RE WELCOME HERE! Join in for the Christmas season at Spring Valley Com-munity Church. Sunday Worship: 9:30am-English, 11:30am-Spanish. AWANA for kids, Wednesdays! 730 Concepcion. www.svchurch.org.

Travel & **G** ETAWAYS

POST FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. See thousands of

DISCOVER COSTA RICA Paradise! 40 lovely hotel/apartments. Great area to explore Costa Rica! From \$175 weekly, \$295 monthly. www.hotels.co.cr/ \$295 monthly. www.hotels.co.cr/ scotland.html. Call 310-425-7333, 760-

the Village. 2 bedroom, 2 bath with ocean view. Fully furnished, Koa floors, limestone counters. Steps from La Jolla's finest shopping, restaurants, beach. 858-

nas availablity, deluxe resort time share, 12/19-12/26. 4-person occupancy. Reduced to \$250/day or weekly rate, \$1600! Fully equipped. Resort amenities. 858-453-0010. SAN FRANCISCO-DOWNTOWN, Christ-

PLACE PRINTED ADS in the Reader by

LUXURIOUS VACATION CONDO. Heart of

PRETTY MUSIC TEACHER. 5'2". 115lbs. Enjoys hiking, bicycling, working out, meditation, yoga, and the arts. Seeking gentleman 5'10"+, 50-65, for friendship and/or possible relationship. (12/20)

HAPPY, PHYSICALLY and socially ac reprive, tall, slim, blonde, attractive, positive attilitude, financially and emotionally secure, 40s. Looking for someone to share positive experiences. Coastal area. (12/27) \$\oldsymbol{\text{T07004}}\$

YOU WHO FEEL the need to offer your psycho-babble take on love, thanks, but I

don't need any help understanding a truth that lives inside. M.Y.O.B. "g".

MATCHES

SHARED

INTERESTS

WALKS, TALKS, daytime outings? Single

woman 55. Seeks platonic male friend-ship 48-60 in North County. Nonsmokers

SEEKING GOING-OUT Friends. Must be

female 35 to 50, interested in singles activities for meeting men. Return all responses. I am 43, female. (12/27)

MATCHES

Women

SEEKING MEN

PRETTY, CURVACEOUS LADY, 68,

Inloving, caring, Christian, San Óiegc outh Bay. In search of Christian gentle-ian who is lighthearted, enjoys life, 70+ 10". (12/20) **5**70121

ASIAN AMERICAN FEMALE, 54, youth-

ful, attractive, educated, spiritual not religious, metaphysical, health-con-scious. Seeks male 48-60 for friend-ship, quality conversations, shared activities, fun, and growth. (12/20)

llege educated please. My interests ence, nature, metaphysics. (12/20)

I AM THE ONE FOR YOU, You are the one for me. Give me a call and we shall see. (12/20) \$\alpha\$70119

BEEN A GOOD BOY THIS Year? Unencumbered, humorous, man of substance? Are you worthy of a black goddess? Caramel complexion, beautiful smile, tall, childless. 28-50. (12/20) \$\oldsymbol{\alpha}\$70114

GREAT LOOKS, EUROPEAN, Classy lady. honest, passionate, romantic, feisty, fun, successful, homeowner. Loves life, arts,

MEXICAN WOMAN. I'm 37, 5'5", 108lbs, brown hair/eyes, single, no children, never married, like outdoors, good woman/heart, romantic, nice. Looking for woman/heart, romantic, nice. white man. (12/27) \$\infty\$70143

Personals

PLACE PRINTED ADS in the Reader by

Calling 6 19-235-8200.

POST FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here!

DAVIEBABE'S in Boston. You were won-derful about Hanukkah and my holidays. You and the kids gave me the best, hap-piest 5 years of my life!

I MISS YOU, Please get in touch. J.

SPECIALNESS, you only need to know this: I still believe in you. I wish you were here so I could throw a major "oso" hug on you, and your beautiful brown-eyed self. Only then would my smile be free to spread across my face. I love you sugar, "-"."

SWEETHEART. When somebody tells you 2 hearts are better than 1, you can say, I know, I know. Heartlessly yours, Michale

THE ALMIGHTY IS ALL, Of all, and he has given unto each of you a spark of himself, just as he has given unto all of us a frag-



SPEED DATING

Wednesday, January 10 Ages 28-38, 37-49 & 48-62 **Thursday, January 25** Ages 24-34, 33-45 & 45-57 both at **30-Two** (inside Rama, Downtown)
Check-in 7 pm, event 7:30 pm
Advance registration required

UPCOMING EVENTSSingles & Sushi, Rock 'n' Bowl,

Wine Tasting/Blending, Fondue Party & more!

See website for details. www.lucky7match.com (619) 890-7117

Hottest Singles in San Diego

Party for people over 30

Tuesday

94th Aero Squadron 8855 Balboa Avenue Dance 7-11 pm \$11 Admission

Hosted by Darlena Del Mar Hotline: 858-259-6166 www.singlesinsandiego.com

Saturday

Skies Lounge Four Points Sheraton Dance Party 8 pm-1 am \$11 Admission \$3 off before 9 pm

Bring in the New Year with us! Plans and party info to come.



the **most beautiful single** women on the west coast With over a decade of experience, Model Quality Introductions is the most effective agency in the nation for commitment minded men seeking beautiful women. If we meet, you will want to join, we guarantee it!

"If you are ready to settle down with an 8, 9 or 10, we need to to talk."

The set ladies refer their most attractive girlfriends to us to ensure an ever-expanding database to choose from.

Visit our web site to preview a vast array of member photos. Let's meet and build a blueprint of your perfect partner.

MODEL QUALITY INTRODUCTIONS, INC. 1-866-MODELS4

BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE MAY JOIN OUR REGISTRY FOR FREE. www.modelqualityintroductions.com

AFFECTIONATE FUN-LOVING, Classy, coastal senior. Enjoys art, backgammon, blues, cooking, dancing, theater and travel. (12/20) 770101

HISPANIC MAN WANTED, By white female 40s, we are warm, happy, nice, responsible, patient, kind, love to laugh and ready for a better life. (12/20) \$\infty\$70117

ATTRACTIVE, BROWN-EYED Mexican, long hair, nice legs, easygoing. Wants to meet very attractive guy 42-55, healthy, generous, financially secure, nonsmoker, for friendship possible relationship. (12/20) \$\overline{\text{T}}

SEXY, WARM PERSONALITY. Trustworthy, I like movies, eating out; fun to be with. If you like smiles, answer this ad. (12/27) \$\tilde{\alpha}\$70137

ATTRACTIVE REAL ESTATE AGENT, 60 slim, fun, enjoys life outdoors, the arts, good food. Seeks reasonably fit companion for conversation and a glass of wine. (12/20) \$\textit{\alpha}\$70115

ASIAN BEAUTY, Educated, wealthy, 42, 5'3', 110lbs, no children. Enjoy nature, nusic, athletic. Seeking professional, educated gentleman, no children, to share quality time. Nonsmoker. (12/27) \$\tilde{27}\$1.00 \$

Male Wanted. 46-56, fit, educated, no drugs. Me, attractive Mexican lady, Christian, noral values, likes travel, dining, art, work-out, conversation, long term relationship. (12/20) ☎70123

38-YEAR-OLD QUALITY LADY, 5'4', slender, brunette/blue eyes, attractive. Seeks physically fit gentleman 36-48 for relationship. Must be established and presentable. (12/20) \$\oldsymbol{\Pi}70133\$

setiaure. (12/20) ☎/0133
NEW YEAR, NEW FRIEND, How good
can it be? Caucasian woman, mature,
kind, caring, loving. To meet tall Caucasian, active, 70s or 80s nonsmoker
man. (12/20) ☎/70122

(3) Ways to Respond to READER MATCHES ADS!

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The cost is \$1.99 per minute. You must be at least 18 years old to call. Call and enter the number at the end of an ad to hear the advertiser's introduction and leave a message. The date in the ad is the last day to reply. The charge will appear on your phone bill as "Dating." Questions? 619-235-8200.

Use your credit card

No 900# access? Call anytime day or night to purchase a block of calling time and charge it to your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express... for as little as \$1.25 per minute.

Call 1-800-360-9496 24 hours No refunds. You may also purchase time at our office with cash or check only.

Send an e-mail

Matches ads are now on the Web. You may search them by specifying criteria such as age, ethnicity and nonsmoking. Respond to most ads by sending an anonymous e-mail for a nominal charge. You may also listen to intros online.

 ${\bf San Diego Reader.com}$

From this page, click on "Matches."

SWEET, HUMOROUS, Lively Japanese. Seeks to meet a stable man with more than average quality. (12/27) \$\oldsymbol{\alpha}\$70140

HOT, HELPLESS, 38, Aquarian female, red hair. Seeks tall gentleman, 38-48, good-looking, stable, confident. For walks, talks, movies, dinner. Permanent relationship possible. (12/27) ☎ 70141

ASIAN, EXOTIC, SEXY, Nice legs/smile, curvaceous figure, 5'3', 115lbs, professional, childless, homeowner. Desires fun, fit, nonsmoker, upscale, compatible, generous, 36+ Asian/Caucasian stable gentleman. (12/27) \$\infty\$70148

DOWN TO EARTH, Asian, attractive, 60, widowed, intelligent, young, energetic, secure, healthy, sensuous, happy. Seeking nonsmoker, Christian gentleman to share life with. No games, please. (12/27)

ACTIVE, CARING, Attractive single mom, 49, enjoy movies, music, the beach, long walks, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking optimistic, carring, active, gentleman. (12/27) ☎70149

DOCTOR, BEAUTIFUL, affectionate.

for successful, passionate, intelligent, spontaneous, caring, loving, sincere man, 40s, for long-term relationship. (12/27) \$\oldsymbol{\alpha}\$70146

FRENCH, SEXY, ATTRACTIVE, 41, 5'6', 125ibs, blond/folue, romantic, tunny, affectionate, sports, dancing, outdoors, beach, travel. Gentleman 41-55, handsome, athletic, fit, trustworthy, secure, sociable. (12/20) \$\tilde{\tau}\$70120

DEAR SANTA, Please help me find a friend, companion, lover 55-65, likes walking, good conversation, music, dancing, romantic, affectionate. (12/27)

ATTRACTIVE LATINA. Seeking good Latino/White honest man that knows how to treat a woman. No games/drugs, I'm honest, love to laugh, enjoys life. (12/27)

BLACK EDUCATED FEMALE, 63 years young. Seeking fun, exciting gentleman of any race for long term relationship. Let's enjoy San Diego's culture together. (12/20) \$\overline{\text{T}} 70127\$

CLASSY, ATTRACTIVE BLOND, Blue eyes, slender figure. Seeking quality non-

smoker gentleman, financially secure, who likes the finer things in life and having fun (between 65-75). (12/20) \$\frac{12}{20}\$

POLISH-LITHUANIAN Girl next door, 50s. I like twelve-step drug, alcohol programs. People call me well-organized, cooperative, a good listener. Disabilities are okay. (12/27) ☎70138

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, Affectionate, energetic, 50s, green-blonde, homeowner, nonsmoker, Caucasian, no games just fun, travel. Seeks Caucasian male, sweet, kind homeowner, secure. Merry Xmas. (12/27) 70147

SEEKING FUN-LOVING GUY Who would like to meet fun, exciting gal, North County, 46, 162lbs, brown hair, blue eyes. Enjoys art, Starbucks. Call. (12/27) 770134

PRINCESS AT HEART, 33, outgoing, loving, down to earth and loyal. Seeks white male 24-46, serious minded, play no games, wants serious relationship a must. (12/27) ☎70135

LATIN, FUN, FIT, Professional, 50s, petite cute, loving, caring. Love the outdoors

music, dancing. Seeking fun, honest, educated guy for lasting relationship. (12/20) \$\oldsymbol{\alpha}\$70113

BRILLIANT APHRODITE-LIKE woman, desires vibrant man of kind heart and generous soul, to travel worlds together, laugh frequently, touch life, and love well. (12/27) ☎70144

well. (12/27) "G" / 0144 **LAUGH AND LOVE**, 2007 will be great! 62

years young, adventurous, warm, outgoing, photography lover. Seeks romance and companionship. Outdoors, indoors, friends, family, pets, travel. (12/27) 770705

MAKE ME LAUGH, Show me the city. 49, white, single female, 5'10", with a good soul, compassion, empathy, is seeking 45-55 with similar qualities. (12/20) \$\frac{1}{27}\$0131.

SINCERE, ADVENTURESOME, Loving lady, 5'6", trim, no dependents, enjoys outdoors. Seeks tall, white, healthy, 57-69, to blend our many nice qualities for lasting relationship. (858). (12/20) \$\overline{\text{Total}} 270124

FULL-FIGURED LADY of color, passionate, exotic, full of life. Need white male,

Men Seeking Women

who needs love, passion; age 50-69, financially secure a must. Call me. (12/27)

BLACK FEMALE, 27, looking for male 27-40, someone nice and serious, about friendly dating. Hoping to talk to you soon. (12/20) \$\tilde{\tilde{2}}\$ 70130

MAKE THIS HOLIDAY BETTER. 52, 5'4"

ture, yellow roses, motorcycles. Seeking

secure, honest, funny, foot massager. No games, just sincere. (12/20) \$\infty\$70128

MATCHES

POSITIVE MAN, Attractive, slim, 5'11", blue eyes, young 55. Into metaphysics, spirituality, personal growth, healing. Seeks slim, positive energy woman for fun activities, sharing, caring. (12/20) ☎70667

60S TYPE GUY, Single white male. Looking for a girlfriend who's white, attractive, no drugs, smoking or games, honest, sincere, loyal. North County preferred. (12/20) ☎70665

CHRISTIAN, 47, WIDOWER. Considerate, compassionate, sensitive, kind, likes meaningful conversation, communication, healthy living with purpose, staying in shape, hiking, reading. God first, marriage-minded. (12/20) \$\tilde{\tilde{G}}\$70660

ASIAN LADY PREFERRED by white professional, 33-46, soft. I am 47, 6', medium build, brown hair, funny, sweet. Give you wonderful back rubs. (12/20) \$\tilde{\pi}\$76673

YOUNG 70s, CAUCASIAN male. Looking for that special woman. Be caring, sensitive, optimistic, have a sense of humor, and seek the same. (12/27) ☎70703

WHITE MALE, 60s, to meet lady who likes gardening, dogs, a glass of wine. Honey, I'm home type. Casual dress is perfect. Race open. (12/27) ☎70686

HANDSOME, 6'2" TALL, Blue eyes, 200lbs, loving, passionate, open-minded, ex-Air Force pilot. Seeking wacky, slim,

Try online placement for your Reader Matches Ad!

Meet Your Match. Get a free ad in the *Reader* and on the Web at SanDiegoReader.com, and a free voice mailbox for recording and receiving messages. Questions? Call 619-235-8200, 8:30-5:00, Mon.-Fri.

Free Online Placement: Ads submitted online receive e-mail responses and voicemail responses. Tell more about yourself and upload a photo, too! These features are free. Online placement deadline: 7 am, Saturday.

More Free Placement Options: Can't get online? Fill the form below and mail or fax it to us. If faxing, please photocopy first. Fax/mail deadline: 7 am, Saturday.

-%

25/FREE

r 14, 2

Meet your match! Use the form below to place your free, 2-week Reader Matches Ad and get your free Voice Mailbox.

OPTIONAL HEADLINE: 20 characters per line including spaces; the first initial of each word is capitalized; abbreviations and unusual punctuation will not be accepted; the cost of each line is \$12. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

PRINT CLEARLY: First 25 wor	rds are FREE. \$1.20/additiona	l word. Do not abbreviate word	ds. Continue on a separate shee	et if necessary.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

28

FREE AD DEADLINE: 7 am Saturday

Mail: Reader Matches, P.O. Box 85803,
San Diego, CA 92186 Fax: (619) 233-7907

Online: SanDiegoReader.com

LATE AD DEADLINE: 5 pm Tuesday

Fax: (619) 233-7907 Phone: (619) 235-8200 Walk-in: 1703 India St. (at Date St.) downtown

Matches ads are available for any 18+ single person who is seeking a sincere relationship with a member of the opposite sex. Ads containing explicit or implicit sexual/anatomical language will not be accepted. Ads in the "Shared Interests" category must list the primary interest as the first words; these ads will be sorted alphabetically. Either gender may be sought in "Shared Interests" ads; however, physical descriptions are not allowed. No last names, addresses or personal phone numbers will be permitted. No dating services, singles clubs or commercial businesses may advertise in this section. The San Diego Reader does not assume any liability for the content or reply to any Reader Matches advertisement. Advertiser assumes complete liability for content of, and all replies to, any advertisement or recorded message and for any claims made against the San Diego Reader as a result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold the San Diego Reader and its employees harmless from all costs, expenses (including all attorney fees), liabilities and damages resulting from or caused by the publication or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. By using Reader Matches, the advertises agrees not to leave his/her telephone number, last name or address in his/her voice greeting message.

Address	
City	Zip
Phone (day) ()	
Phone (evening) ()
Signature	
	uses, simply provide your address your e-mail address will not be
E-mail:	
Choose One:	☐ Woman seeking a man
☐ Shared interests	☐ Man seeking a woman

Reader Matches Voice Mailbox	\$ <u>FREE</u>
Headlinesx \$12 each line	\$
First 25 words of printed ad	\$ <u>FREE</u>
Additional wordsx \$1.20 each	\$
Late fee/walk-in fee: \$20	\$
TOTAL	\$_
No cancellations. No refunds. Make order payable to San Diego <i>Reader</i> . To MasterCard or Discover, please fill out t	order using Visa
Card number	
Expiration date	

HISPANIC BUSINESS MAN, 52, fit. Enjoys barbecuing, hiking, thrills, yoga, travel, theater, concerts, movies, most sports. Clean, neat, homeowner, a gentleman, lives alone with doggie. (12/20)

CLASSY, HANDSOME, BLUE/EYES. Looks 30s/40s, fit, white, rich, college, affectionate, loves women 20s/70s, race/size open; for loving, fun, relationship, mutual happiness. (12/27)

LATINA WOMAN WANTED, Latino male 5'8", outgoing, college-educated cowner. Seeks Latina woman, 20-2/20) \$\frac{1}{2}\$70663

RETIRED MECHANIC, 71, tall, slim, excel lent health. Seeks lady for travel, USA Baja, I pay 90%, please call. You won't be sorry! (12/27) \$\frac{1}{2}\$70698

FOX WITH TRUCK, Need trim-tuned, toned, low miles, circa 47-57. Beach, bikes, horses, home. True blue, blond, 6'2', 190/lbs, smooth, sweet, solid. John 3:3. (12/20) \$\oldsymbol{\alpha} 70676

LOOKING FOR YOUR LOVE. 50s, white, honest, retired, financially secure, sense of humor, nonsmoker. Seeking someone who wants to enjoy life and God's special creations. (12/20) \$\oldsymbol{\alpha}\$70679

TALL, ATTRACTIVE, Loving, caring, sincere, honest, white male, 55, easygoing, secure, warm, sensitive, intelligent, financially secure. Seeks female for love, romance, intimacy, sharing life together. (12/27) \$\overline{\text{T}} 70687\$

ALL GOOD MEN AREN'T TAKEN, 50 handsome black male. Seeks romantic affectionate female who enjoys life, laughter, sports, dancing, outdoors/indoors (beach, walks), 35-50, morals. (12/27) \$\tilde{\tau}\$70685

WANTED, LOOKING, SEARCHING For a happy, optimistic, fun-loving gal to experience life with. I'm open-mined, but no abnormal stuff. Free to do anything any-(12/20) \$\overline{\chi}\$70666

WHITE MALE, 50s, divorced, romantic man. Likes cuddling, walks on beach, spontaneous, easygoing, honest, dining out, movies, very nice, affectionate, laughter, sense of humor. (12/27) \$\tilde{\tau}70694\$

AMERICAN MAN, Want to marry. Nice man, very rich. Live down on the beach, like La Jolla, other places, like Palm Springs, Corona. Do Beverly Hills, Hollywood '50s. Talk to Andy. (12/27)

Single, Handsome, White Dad

Of 2, 56, blond-blue, 5'10', 170lbs, healthy, low 40s. Seeks slim lady, 25-40, kids OK, fun, electric, romance possible, no drugs. (12/27) \$\infty\$70699

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you. (12/27) \$\tilde{\pi}\$70684 **BOYISH GOOD LOOKS**, 6'2", eyes blue, slim, athletic, college-educated, professional. Enjoys surfing, salling, travel, conversation, family, friends, music, kids. Seeking slim, 35+, friends first. (12/20) \$\tilde{\pi}\$70674

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best friends always. (12/20) 10 10062

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CLAIREMONT, Near Mesa College. No smoking. Male only. \$475 including utilities and cable TV, 619-623-8612, and 858-571-0383.

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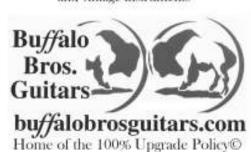
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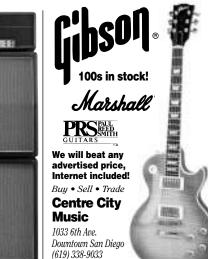
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LA MESA. Historical house with views room in 3 bedroom house. Near down town La Mesa. High-speed Internet included. \$475. Call 619-888-0948.

LINDA VISTA. \$480. Three bedroom home, ocean view, central, tropical yard, quiet, new carpet/marble, laundry. \$300/deposit. No smoking/pets. Male preferred. Bill, 858-518-1517.

LINDA VISTA. Nonsmoking female. No pets. Shared bathroom. 4 bedroom, 3 bath. \$500, plus 1/4 or light housekeeping in lieu of rent plus 1/4. 858-382-7600.

LINDA VISTA. Nonsmoking male wanted to share clean, spacious, fully furnished apartment with patio. Free laundry. Convenient to military bases. \$500 plus 1/2. Richard, 858-505-0262.

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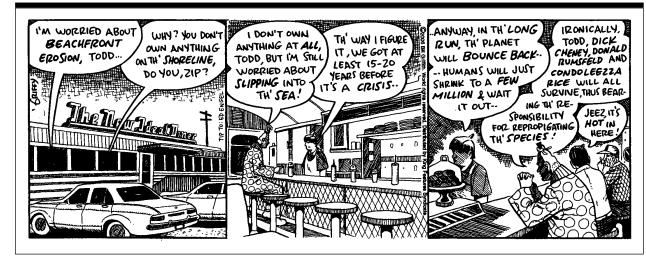
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POINT LOMA/OCEAN BEACH. \$700 luxury furnished room with panoramic ocean view in contemporary home. Microwave/fridge/TV/laundry. 4 blocks to beach. Very private. Available 1/1/07. 619-226-4010.

SAN CARLOS. \$600. Unfurnished bed-room available in 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Near Grossmont College/Center, freeways. Pool, laundry facilities. Share utilities 3 ways. 619-957-9471. POINT LOMA. 3 bedroom 3 bath, fully fur nished condo. Unfurnished room with SAN CARLOS, GROSSMONT. 2 bedroom condo. Nice, large sunny room, mirrored closets. Parking. No smoking/drugs, fe-male only. Quiet. \$600 includes utilities. Has cat. 619-698-7350. own bath, direct balcony access. 2 story vaulted ceilings, fireplace, washer/dryer parking. \$750/month utilities included 619-226-1166.

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Included: Parlda Really, 365-746-860. CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. \$2050, includes water/trash/gardener. Spacious 3 bedroom, 3 bath, all appliances, washer/dryer, fireplace, yard, garage. Available 1/5/07. Preston, 619-742-7776, 760-778-2044

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. Rancho Ponderosa 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1800 square foot, single story home, cul-de-sac, beautiful landscaped. Pet on approval. Recently upgraded. \$2100/month. 760-519-7912.

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www.cal-prop.com.

CHULA VISTA, Duplex 1 bedroom, private yard, patio, near Chula Vista center. Utilities and cable included. \$895. 619-920-5472, 619-425-2787.

CHULA VISTA. Otay Ranch. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhome. Close to parks, new mall. Washer/dryer. 2-car garage. \$1800. Pets OK. Justin, 601-301-5160.

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Available mid-December. 3217 Vancouver. Agent, 619-260-1368.

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San Diego Reader December

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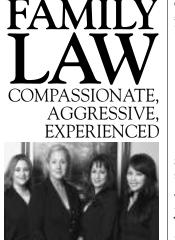
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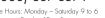
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3801.

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bath. Washer/dryer hookups, lots of light, parking. Available now. \$200 off 1st month on approved credit. 4741 35th Street, #4741. 619-295-1100, www.

cethron.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$875. 2 bedroom, 1
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credit. 4865 34th Street #2. www.cethron.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs with parking. No pets. Close to Adams. Available now. 4575 Idaho Street, #2 and #9. www.cethron. com, 619-295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$795 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. Lower 1 bedroom. Laundry room. Parking spot. No pets. At 4742 East Mountain View Drive #3. Agent, 619-299-

8515.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. 8890. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New: carpet, tile, refrigerator, ceiling fans. Hardwood floors in bedrooms. Small pet considered. 3538 Monroe. 619-286-4926, 619-888-3010. NORMAL HEIGHTS. New 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, first floor, 2 parking, upgraded appliances. Gated community. Casa Bonita, Adams and Ohio. \$1650.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Move-in special! \$695. Upstairs 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Car-peting. Blinds. Laundry. Off-street park-ing for 1 car. No pets. 4377 39th Street. Agent, 619-298-7724. www.SeeTheUnit.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$925. Move-in spe-cial! 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs corner. Storage. Laundry on site. Parking. No pets. 4678 Ohio Street #4. Agent, 619-

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750 rent. \$600 de posit \$1/2 off first month's rent 1 bed-room, 1 bath, upper unit with stove, refrigerator, gated community, on-site laundry. Pets negotiable. 4609 Bancroft #8. 619-379-2896.

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bath. Downstairs. Laundry on site. 2 park-ing. No pets. Available now. 4840 West Mountain View Drive #7. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

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Street #204. 619-843-0796.

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WTC. Beautiful, large upgraded 2 bed-room, 2-1/2 bath. 2-car garage. New ap-pliances. Washer/dryer. Balconies. Patio. Amenities. Cat with \$200 deposit. Non-smoking. \$1800. 619-742-1193.

\$\text{\text{WTC/LA JOLLA.}} 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1800. Pool, Jacuzzi, gym. Near UCSD, facing Hyatt Hotel. No pets. 3550 Lebon Drive #6107. Call for appointment, 858-277-1760.

VISTA. Move-in special: 1/2 off first month! Renovated 2 bedrooms, \$1075. Appliances, air conditioning. Gated, land-caped complex. Laudry, parking, balcony, storage room. 760-672-6405. www. elroyproperties.com.

VISTA. Shadowridge Glen. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath with garage. Big patio, 2nd floor, fireplace, washer/dryer, refrigerator. Close to all. \$1700, \$500 deposit. 619-517-5395.

REAL ESTATE

Houses

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BEAUTIFUL HOUSE, Menifee, \$380,000. Immaculate, modern 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 1867 square-feet, cul-de-sac, large lot. Upgraded kitchen, dual fireplace, air conditioning, plantation shutters. Agent, Kelly, 619-562-6999.

BRAND NEW CUSTOM HOME! 4 bed room, 2.5 bath ranch-style, Ramona. 2508 square-feet, 1-acre lot. 3-car garage, family room, all amenities. \$649,000. Mike Acuna, agent, 619-540-

7098.

CARLSBAD/SAN ELIJO HILLS. \$20,000

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CHULA VISTA. No mortgage for a year. Seller will pay TD Mortgage for 12 months. 4 bedrooms, 3.4 baths, 3000 square feet, \$840,000. Owner, 619-920-3717.

CITY HEIGHTS, Two small houses on one lot! Both 1 bedrooms, have washer/dryer, appliances. New tile in kitchens/bathrooms, yards. More. Trudy, \$379,000/owner, 619-277-0242.

CITY HEIGHTS FIXER. Modern 3 bed-room house. 2-car garage. Great price, way under market value. Attention: first-time buyers! Easy financing available. www.sdhomesjack.com. Agent Jack, 619-962-8963.

CITY HEIGHTS. 16 units. Condo conver sion. 1 and 2 bedroom, starting mid-\$160s. Call Top Notch 619-807-0327.

CLAIREMONT, 5 bedroom, 3 bath, 2000 square feet house. Mother/daughter income. All new, on 10,000 square foot lot. Cul-de-sac, views, by owner. \$589,000. 858-279-4487.

COLLEGE AREA. House with rental in back. Close to SDSU. One bedroom back. Close to SDSU. One bedroom rental, detached garage, large covered patio. Be a homeowner and landlord! \$579,900. 619-393-1909. CORONADO VIEWS ESTATES. Immaci

late 4 bedroom, 3 bath, high on a hill. Up-dated kitchen, baths, family room. \$589,900. 24/7 information, 1-800-659-8759, ext-4103. Agent, 619-701-0927.

DISTRESS SALE. Bank foreclosures. Free list of foreclosure properties. Receive a free computerized printout. Free recorded message. 800-611-4772, ID#1042.

EL CAJON Mobile home, 2004. Need to sell fast. Owner will consider financing. 44'x14' corner lot. \$54,900. 24-hour number, I'll get right back. 619-393-1992.

EL CAJON. Family home, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, plus bonus room. 1767 square feet. Large backyard, covered patio. 2-story. \$489,000. Agent, 619-392-3801.

ESCONDIDO. \$550,000. 3 properties, 2 adorable houses surrounded by Victorians in a quiet street. Easy rentals. Current tenants. No agents/brokers/lenders to solicit. 858-336-2863.

ESCONDIDO. 3,000 square feet. 3 bed-room, 2.5 bath. Hidden Meadows. 1+ acres. 100% of payments towards down. Owner carries mortgage for 3 years. \$600K. 760-294-0032.

ESCONDIDO. Lake Wohlford views are stunning. Country cutie. 1958 1/1mh, solid, very large deck, private covered area. Lake resort family park, pool, restaurant, \$25,700. 619-563-8650.

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619-246-8230.

IMPERIAL BEACH, New Construction: 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2400 square-feet, fireplace, carpet/tile flooring, custom cabinets, granite counters. Ocean views! More information: www.HonestReid.com. \$589,900. Robert, 619-328-0844.

JULIAN. 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Palm Harbor Manufactured Home. Acre. Upgraded appliances, pantry, breakfast nook, Roman tub, 2-storage, 7537 Gunslinger Trail, 92036. \$249K. 858-569-1229.

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MIRA MESA. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse with good size yard. Best buy. Call Top Notch 619-807-0327.

MISSION HILLS, Classic Mission Hills 4 bedroom 2 bath house. Spectacular 180 degree skyline/bay views from almost every room. \$1,350,000/owner. 3909 Henry Street, 619-253-5839.

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possy, UUU. /60-/23-0305.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Big lot. Move-in ready! \$395,000-\$435,000. Open Saturday and Sunday, 1pm-4pm: 3834 Madison Avenue, 92116. Big fenced yard. hdr1@cox.net. 619-281-8869; 619-823-8166.

OCEANSIDE. Home with ocean view. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1472 square feet, very

unique, private location, panoramic ocean view, 1/4-acre lot, \$489,000. Just reduced. 760-967-4015.

OCEANSIDE. Home with panoramic ocean view. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1472 ocean view. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1472 square feet, unique, private location, approximately 1/4 acre, \$489,000. By owner, 760-967-4015.

owner, 760-967-4015.

PARADISE HILLS, \$549,000/owner. 2 story, 6 bedroom, 2 bath, beautiful view. New carpets/tiles. New roof. Fireplace, retaining wall. On Parkbrook. No agents please! 858-272-1594.

POWAY, 2 bedroom 2 bath. Nice home. 13339 Carriage Road. \$399,000/owner. 619-754-3630.

POWAY. 14044 Via Lisa. 4 bedroom, 2 full bath, 1644 square feet, immaculate condition, new carpet, paint, light fixtures, remodeled kitchen, \$530,000. Andy, 619-

RAMONA, Exquisite custom built 4 bed-room, 2.5 bath, family room, 2377 square feet. Beautiful views. New carpet, quiet street. Master suite/french doors. \$529,500/owner, 619-818-9583.

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SAN DIEGO 3 bedroom, 2 bath HUD home, \$122,500! Must sell fast! For listings and info: 1-800-690-3990 x1172.

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SANTEE, Smokin' Deal: 2 bedroom, 1 bath, remodeled kitchen/bath. Oak cabinetry and granite counters. Recently painted. Ceiling fans throughout. Huge lot! Reduced \$377,800. Robert/Agent: 619-328-0844.

619-328-0844.

SANTEE. 4 bedroom. Family room. Updated kitchen, new stove, dishwasher, microwave. Central air/heat, covered patic, 2-car garage, \$529.000. RE/MAX, Bill Howland, 619-980-2455.

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eled, new kitchen, new roof, new hard-wood floors, new lights and paint, just gorgoues, huge back yard, 3 bedrooms, \$475,000. 619-249-7846.

SOMETHING SPECIAL! Mint 3 bedroom. 2 bath Santee house. California Room in-ground spa, fountain, gorgeous pool, large lot. Granite counters, fireplace. \$465,000. No agents. Agent, Kelly, 619-562-6999.

SOUTH BAY, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1,284 living area, 10,498 lot size, pool, 2 car detached garage, and fenced yard. \$500,000/owner. Bertha 619-292-2093.

SOUTH SAN DIEGO. Manufactured home for sale. \$80K. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1344 square feet. New paint/carpet. Updated kitchen/bath. Call Agent, 619-459-8678.

TIJUANA-4 ON 1! 4 houses plus 1 hacienda. Hilltop location. Mexico/San Diego views. Client moving to El Paso. \$275. Need to sell now! Agent, 619-459-8678.

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LEAD STORY

- In November, a judge upheld a rule passed by a condominium association in Golden, Colo., prohibiting owners from smoking inside their own units (neighbors had been complaining for five years that a couple's cigarette smoke had been seeping into their town houses). A few days earlier, Belmont, Calif., became the first American city to ban smoking everywhere in the city limits, including condominiums and cars (but not detached, single-family homes). A day before that, however, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to instruct the police to treat marijuana smoking as the city's lowest law-enforcement priority.

Government in Action!

 Bright Ideas: The city council of Greenleaf, Idaho, passed an ordinance in November to require nearly all residents to keep a gun at home in case the town becomes overrun by people relocating after Gulf Coast storms. Also in November, a report from the Missouri House's Special Committee on Immigration Reform blamed much of their state's acquiescence to illegal immigration on the fact that since Roe v. Wade in 1973, 80,000 potential Missourians have been aborted, thus helping to create job vacancies for aliens.

Super-protective: The Powys County Council in Wales warned the maker of Welsh Dragon sausages in November that it must label its product better, such as by marking it "pork sausages" (so as not to mislead about the type of meat it contained). ... In October, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sought to extend its abstinence education program (which currently gives grants to states for programs for teenagers), to start reaching unmarried people up to age 29.

- A New York City housing program begun in the 1970s to encourage new construction has enabled huge reductions in property taxes on certain buildings in Manhattan, and those savings continue to this day (and at least through next year and maybe beyond). Among the beneficiaries: Yankee shortstop Derek Jeter, who saves \$130,000 a year on his \$4 million Trump World Tower apart-

ment; designer Calvin Klein (\$134,000 savings on his penthouse); and actress Natalie Portman (saving \$26,300 a year on her \$5.8 million condo) (according to an October New York Post report).

Great Art!

"I've always had the desire to play [the cello] naked," said Ms. Jesse Hale, a music major at Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, Tenn.) and member of the CJ Boyd Sexxxtet of nude cellists who play their experimental, chant-like songs in concert around the country. Hale, who says she's been playing naked since sixth grade, explained to Austin Peay's newspaper in September that cellists "make full body contact with [their] instrument," and their legs even "wrap" around it so that "it just feels natural."

Social Messaging: (1) The magazine Time Out New York reported in September on the "artistic palettes" of the Sprinkle Brigade of artists who dress up dog droppings on New York City streets with glittering candy bits and colorful toothpicks, for "urban beautification," (2) British performance artist Ian Thorley, working on grants from several local councils, did a week's stint on an Ashington street in October, stepping onto and off of a doormat while wearing a badge identifying him as a government doormat tester.

Police Squad

- At the county jail in Dubuque, Iowa, in November, Michael Kelley Jr., 29, accused of attempted murder, was swapping stories with inmate Jamie Brimeyer, 34, when he asked about Brimeyer's facial scar. As Brimeyer described being stabbed in the cheek by an unknown assailant in 2005, Kelley realized that he was the one who had stabbed him and recalled the incident so well that he corrected some of Brimeyer's recollections. Brimever later reported Kelley, who is now also charged with assault with a dangerous weapon.

Police Blotter: (1) (from the Morning Sentinel, Waterville, Maine, Nov. 10) "6 p.m., a woman said she suspected someone had sabotaged her washing machine. A police investigation concluded that an imbalanced laundry load had caused the shaking." (2) (from The Star Press, Muncie, Ind., Nov. 4) "[A man] reported the burglary around 10 p.m. Thursday after he returned from the hospital and found his 36inch Samsung TV missing. It [had been] replaced with an RCA TV that was missing a power cord. ... Decorative items were placed around the new TV, apparently in an attempt to fool [him]."

Election Roundup (continued)

- Libertarian Steve Osborn finished second in the U.S. Senate race in Indiana to incumbent Richard Lugar, more than 1 million votes behind, but two weeks later asked for a recount in ten precincts. ... Utah officials are investigating results in Daggett County, where 947 people were registered to vote on Nov. 7 (compared to the county's entire 2005 census population of 943).... In tiny Waldenburg, Ark., the mayor and his challenger tied at 18 votes each, with the only other candidate, Randy Wooten, receiving zero. Wooten said this outcome was impossible because he had voted for himself. ... In Lysowice, Poland (with November voting, also), an elections official became so distraught at irregularities at her polling station that she grabbed a box of ballots and locked herself in a restroom until police convinced her to come out.

Least Competent Criminals

- Amateurs: A teenager, 17, was booked into a juvenile detention center in Lynnwood, Wash., in October after he got his arm stuck in the dog door of a house he was allegedly attempting to burglarize. (Experienced burglars avoid houses with dog doors because that usually means that a dog is present.) ... In Sheboygan, Wis., in November, police arrested Leah Jerolimek, 21, and charged her with trying to pass a counterfeit \$20 bill at a gas station; the bill, made with a computer and printer, was blank on the back.

Fetishes on Parade

· (1) England's Liverpool Magistrates Court granted police a temporary "sexual offenses

prevention order" in October against Akinwale Arobieke, 45, who had been jailed for pestering people with requests to feel their muscles. Arobieke is prohibited from touching, feeling, and measuring muscles, and from asking people to do squat exercises. (2) In October, airline baggage courier Rodney Petersen, 30, pleaded guilty in Melbourne, Australia, to stealing hairs (head and pubic) from clothing or hairbrushes in women's luggage. At his home, police found 80 plastic bags containing hairs, labeled with each owner's name.

Update

"News of the Weird" first noted Professor Jukka Ammondt of the University of Jyvaskyla in Finland in 1995, and apparently his twin passions (Elvis Presley and Latin) have grown stronger since then. He performs Elvis's songs in the "dead" language that's far from dead in Finland — a country that features a regular radio newscast entirely in Latin (drawing about 75,000 listeners), according to an October BBC dispatch from Helsinki. Among the Ammondt-Presley standards: "It's Now or Never" ("Nunc hic aut numquam") and "Love Me Tender" ("Tenere me, suaviter").

Death by Snake

(1) A 48-year-old woman died from a timber rattlesnake bite during services at the East London Holiness Church in London, Ky., in November. The church features a monthly snake-handling service, during which people can prove they are true believers by not getting bitten. (2) In Shamokin, Pa., in October, Terry Jackson, 36, distraught for an undisclosed reason, kept police at bay in a suicidal standoff in which she wielded five poisonous snakes (from an aquarium in her home). They bit her hand and face numerous times, leaving her bloody, until police subdued her with a Taser gun. She was hospitalized in critical condition but survived and will face charges for threatening police.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

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CHULA VISTA. 2 bedroom townhome plus ofice, 2-1/2 baths, garage plus space. Immaculate, spacious, views, hardwood floors, all appliances. \$399K-\$409K. Zero down! Information: 888-255-4454 x313.

CORONADO. \$619,900/best. Beautiful spacious. 2 bedroom, 1 bath (spa tub) unper-level. Small complex. New kitchen upper-level. Small complex. New kitchen, appliances, washer/dryer. Off-street, 2car parking. Storage. HOA \$80. Pets okay. Owner, 619-628-1810.

DEL MAR. Lovely, sunny 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with pool and Jacuzzi. Monthly interest \$1695. \$15,000 down. APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 619-286-5813.

IMPERIAL BEACH, 2 bedroom, 2 bath IMPERIAL BEACH. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, large. Moments walk to the ocean, pier, shops, restaurants. Classic beach living. Serious seller. \$429,000. 619-405-3356 or 619-423-6001.

LA JOLLA, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, see-forever view, all new kitchen/bath, both with marble floors. Regular sale or sale with

leaseback, \$360,000/owner, 858-824-0486.

LA JOLLA. Sunny, lovely 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with pool and Jacuzzi. Monthly interest \$1695. \$15,000 down. APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 619-286-5813.

LA MESA'S LOWEST PRICE! 1 bedroom condo. Top corner unit. New carpet, paint and appliances. Seller will consider all offers. Recently reduced. \$159,000. Agent, 619,977-4777

LITTLE ITALY. Views of the city from this 11th floor corner unit with floor-to-ceiling windows, granite and stainless

\$389,000-\$415,000. Ascent, Cheryl, 858-

MIRA MESA. Near Sorrento Valley. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, 1200+ square feet. Upstairs loft, hardwood floors. Patio. Pool, jacuzzi. Quiet complex. \$379,000. Rosa, 619-254-1768.

MISSION HILLS. Highly desirable Alicante, 10th-floor, south-facing unit. 1

bedroom, 1 bath with stunning patio views! Many upgrades throughout. \$399,000-\$425,000. 475 Redwood Street #1004. Ascent, Cheryl, 858-229-2843.

MISSION VALLEY, for sale by owner Owner financing, no banks needed. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 parking, views San Diego River. \$325,500. www. SanDiego-HomeSellers.com. 619-599-7790.

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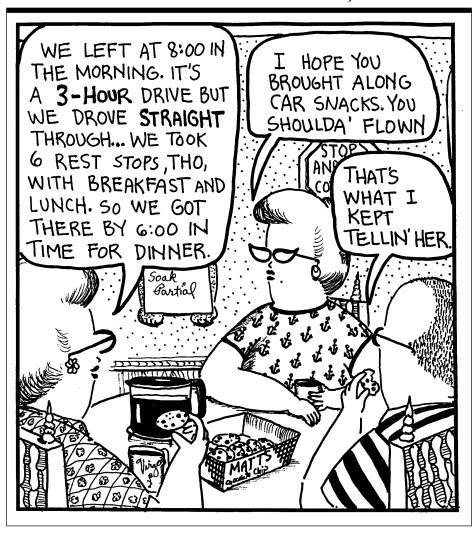
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PACIFIC BEACH. New luxury townhomes, 8 blocks to beach! 2 and 3 bedrooms, gournet kitchens, high ceilings, fireplace, complete electronics/appliance package offered. From \$689K. Open Saturday/Sunday, 1pm-4pm, 1554 Hornblend. Pat, 619-807-5753.

SAN DIEGO, 3 bedroom 2 bath condo. Gated, 2 parking spots, end unit/private backyard. 4429 Tremont Street #3, 92102. New price \$284,000/owner, 619-

S80-5065.

STUDIO CONDO, The Bluffs, 6202 Friars
Road #101. First floor, 432 square feet, view of greenbelt with waterfall, new kitchen cabinets, Pergo flooring, \$165,000. 619-980-6083.

UTC AREA. Sunny, lovely 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with pool and Jacuzzi. Monthly interest \$1695. \$15,000 down. APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 619-286-5813.

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In the Reader

Thirty Years Ago

Since a large proportion of our high school students graduate unable to speak or write correct English and with no effective knowledge of history, it may sound like nit-picking to complain that almost all of these students graduate as musical illiterates.

— "WHY NO ONE DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT MUSIC AROUND HERE," Jonathan Saville, December 23, 1976

Twenty-Five Years Ago

I love parties. I love standing in the kitchen of a friend or stranger and scarfing on the potato chips and being on hand when someone comes back from the store with a sixpack of imported beer. Even more, I love telling people who I am and what I do. Especially when those people possess the hard young bodies one sees so often at informal social events.

> Why, here comes a Hard Young Body now. Hard Young Body: Hi!

Matthew Alice: Hi right back at you.

H.Y.B.: Know what? Somebody in the living room told me that you're really Matthew

-STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP, Matthew Alice,

December 17, 1981

Twenty Years Ago

Last May, when the National Weather Service predicted a tsunami as the result of an earthquake in Alaska, thousands of Californians crowded the beaches in hopes of seeing a tidal

A friend who maintains a second-floor apartment in Pacific Beach described how he stared from his balcony, his mouth agape at the crowd of El Cajonians and Powayites on the beachfront awaiting this one-time-only spectacle

— "FIT TO BE TIDE," Orlando Ramirez, December 18, 1986

Fifteen Years Ago

The widow of an Episcopal bishop who died in the Anza-Borrego Desert last summer is suing the Thomas Bros. Map Company for printing false information in their Street Guide and Directory for San Diego County.

Nola Peek, who was married to noted theologian and author Bishop James Peek, says that her husband expired from dehydration after his 1973 Volkswagen Thing ran out of gas in the middle of the desert. Mrs. Peek, who accompanied her husband, explains that they were trying to find their way back to Interstate 8 but got lost when they couldn't

find Cucamonga Valley Road.

"It's listed right there on map 409 in the Thomas Guide, but it doesn't really exist," said Mrs. Peek.

—SAN DIEGO CONFIDENTIAL: "THOMAS BROS. MAP CO. SUED IN BISHOP'S DEATH," Margot Sheehan, December 19, 1991

Ten Years Ago

About the "hood," or Mafia, connections in downtown bars, retired San Diego policeman Bill Heritage offered, "We knew that this downtown area was loaded with Mafia. I don't know if these sailor boys knew it, but the townspeople knew about it. Mirabile was just part of that whole Damon Runyon crowd down there that you put up with. But they were real interesting people." Mr. Heritage laughed, "There's always been bad guys in the world."

Mr. Owen wasn't as sanguine. "Tony always allowed whores to work out of his places. He ran a bad joint. All of the hoods ran bad joints, not a clean bar."

—"I DO NOT KNOW NOTHING ABOUT MAFIA."

Judith Moore, December 12, 1996

Five Years Ago

So I asked the woman in the ticket booth with

Why No One Don't Know Nothin' About Music Around Here

San Diego Reader, December 23, 1976

the bow tie, black bowler hat, and name tag reading "Mel" if she could explain to me why last night's movie was good.

"I liked it. I thought it was delightful! I love the way Goddard plays with sound in his films. He had a minute of silence in the movie and I thought that was very clever."

"Nothing happened," I said. "Three people sitting at a table over drinks, no action, no dialogue, no sound."

"He sort of pokes fun at the genres of film within his films," Mel tells me.

—T.G.I.F.: "ALL ART ASPIRES TOWARD THE CONDITION OF MUZAK," John Brizzolara, December 13, 2001

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com

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14, Reader December San Diego <u>8</u>



GEKKOLICK

Egypt

INTO THE RED SEA

I'm hard pressed to remember a day when I have thrown up my breakfast and lunch yet remained happy. The Red Sea is salty. I should know; I swallowed four or five pints of it. Every belly full of brine caused me to issue forth the remnants of another meal, which attracted, in particular, the little blue fishes, which are, I presume, fond of Cocoa Pops and cheese sarnies.

The passageway to the reef was perilous — an obstacle course of razor rocks, size 6 crevices for size 7 feet, and sea urchins. As I ventured further out, the waves bitch-slapped my beleaguered thrush/cystitis nethers. At one point, I was knocked off my feet and landed inelegantly on my arse, crushing small crustaceans with Vogon abandon. Though a confident boy and a strong swimmer, Jamie wailed like a puppy in a rock-weighed bag and clung to my unsteady body in a vain attempt to safeguard his own position. We inched forward, the water still too shallow for us to go horizontal. We remained conscious of the coral rapiers beneath us.

Then, whammo! Nothing. The seabed fell away from under us in a sheer drop. The coral reef ended and so did Jamie's last shred of courage. He bolted to the safety of the shallows and clung to us both, shaking and crying with shock.

Although Andrew did persuade him to venture back out, Jamie's confidence never returned, and the wonder of the Red Sea was lost to him. However, on balance, my brave little soldier had fought his fear and won once, and I could not have been prouder of him.

The wonder was not lost to me. I have never witnessed so many fish, such variety, such translucence, the colours and shimmering fluorescence. Above my head, those body-sweeping waves continued to pound the reef, but here I floated, a mottled red turd, clumsy witness to the calm world beneath the water. It took effort not to be dashed back into the reef, and the effort of doing so made my goggles steam. Treading water and dragging the goggles (and hanks of hair) from my head in an effort to clear them, found me floundering and gulping water, and my all-inclusive breakfast was first to feed the fish that swam beneath me.

After a lunch break, I went back in and promptly lost my lunch. But, by God, never was a stomach so honourably emptied.

Getting out was as dangerous as getting in, and I whined like the girly I am, being guided in the safe way by Andrew, the pilot tug, who had braved the path first. He was cut to shreds; I was less so, deep slices through our soft fleshy sticking out bits, which nipped in the drying salty air.

I was exhausted, and I lay on a lounge chair, listening to the seaward cries of my fellow snorkeling compatriots as they slipped, slid, and hacked bloody slices from their body parts.

The three of us beachcombed in the shallows afterward. Not for empty water bottles and used condoms like we do on the banks of the Firth of Forth, but for bustling crabs, ungainly but plentiful starfish, and darting kindergartens of baby fishlets. The water was warm and clearer than my crusting contact lenses.

The track back to the



road was up a flight of interminable steps, in temperatures that could only have been equalled in Hades. The salt we tried to shower off at the beach was creating a million tiny crystals on our body hair, making us sparkle like tarts on a rare afternoon jaunt. My stomach lurched in discomfort, one trial too many. Ahead, the bus waited for us, and we picked up our pace, robbers to a getaway car.

Back at the hotel, Jamie pronounced the day to have been the best ever and ran to the hotel pool without a backward glance. Andrew and I climbed wearily to our room and slept for two dead hours, naked, salty, and knackered on our heavenly, unmoving beds.

They think I sit and work, these smart, beautiful

> people at our hotel. They stare at me writing on my laptop after dinner and then cast a sympathetic glance at Andrew, abandoned husband of the workaholic. They don't realize that I'm writing my photo album, crafting my words into written images. As they whip

out their trillion-megapixel, state-of-the-art Nikon and take snaps of their beauty juxtaposed with that of the millennia-old beauty around them, I scribble. If I work hard and my words are right, they will be as evocative as any snap consigned to their hard drive. We all find a way to express ourselves. This is mine.

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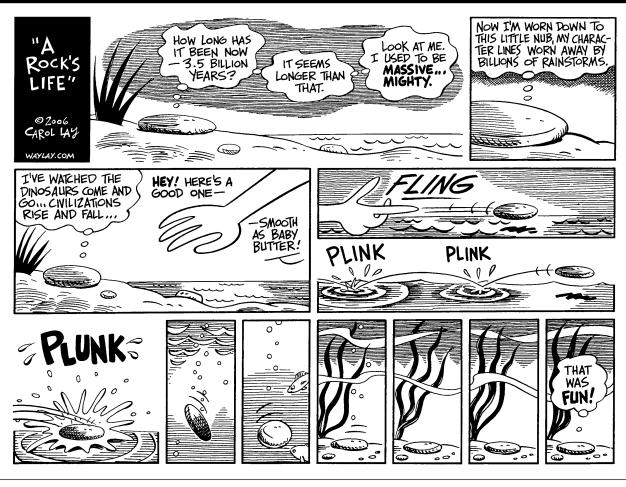
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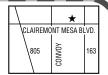
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Okay, people know who Greg Maddux is, so I can't just make stuff up on this one. As you probably are aware by now, the Padres have signed Maddux to a 1-year deal worth \$10 million that includes a player option for 2008, which will be worth \$6-\$10 million depending on his 2007 performance.

With the fat contracts being handed out to mediocre pitchers this winter (Adam Eaton, 3 years, \$24.5 million; Vicente Padilla, 3 years, \$34 million), I shudder to imagine what the likes of Jason Schmidt and Barry Zito will end up landing. In that context, now is a great time to invest short term in someone who can provide immediate help and who won't tie up a lot of resources in the future.

How do you do that? Simple: find an old guy.

Seven starting pitchers age 37 or older filed for free agency this winter. All but two of them (Roger Clemens, 44; David Wells, 43) have signed. Recognizing that Maddux's career took a downward turn in 2003, here is how the five old starting pitchers (not an elegant description, but accurate) have fared since then — see Old Starting Pitchers, 2003–2006 chart.

In terms of performance and money commitment, Glavine probably is the best investment, Hernandez the worst. If I had to rank these signings, I'd do it as fol-



TITLE: Ducksnorts | ADDRESS: http://ducksnorts.com/blog/ AUTHOR: Geoff Young | FROM: Clairemont/Kearny Mesa | BLOGGING SINCE: June 2001 POST DATE: December 6, 2006 | POST TITLE: Maddux Comes to San Diego

lows: 1. Glavine, 2. Maddux, 3. Mussina, 4. Williams, 5. Hernandez.

Mussina is the most difficult to figure — you have to do the con-

Pitcher

Glaving

Orlando

Maddux

Wussina

Woody

Williams

Gree

version rates for Yankees money. His \$23 million probably comes out to around \$13-\$15 million for most other clubs, and that's a pretty good deal. You could make a strong case for putting him ahead of Maddux, and I wouldn't argue the point.

Either way,

Maddux is a solid investment in the current market. He's old, but he's durable, reliable, and reasonably effective — certainly effective enough to be someone's #3 or #4 starter, which is all the Padres are asking. Maddux really takes over the role held by Wells in 2004 and Williams in 2005-2006. He's

pricier than either of those two guys were, but today's market is more insane than the one that existed when Wells and Williams signed.

Old Starting Pitchers, 2003-2006 Dollars ERA+ H/9 8B/9 50/9 HR/9 Age 10.5 200.1 tto 9.32 2.86 4.77 0.84 38/42 12.0 8.75 3.52 8.13 1.17 Hernandez 10.0 214.2 106 9.35 1.45 5.48 1.12 23.0 189 8,96 1,93 1.05 112 7.63

9.30 2.50

Notes: Age is age at end of contract. Dollars is dollars (million) guaranteed throughout duration of contract. IP is average number of linnings pitched during seasons 2003-2006. Stats courtesy of David Pinto's Day by Day Batabase, Baseball-Reference, and ESPN's Free Agent Tracker

> In Maddux, the Padres get a solid innings eater in the back of the rotation without tying up long-term resources. They also get a guy who doesn't cost them any draft picks. The Dodgers, fearful that he might accept, didn't offer Maddux arbitration.

The only potential downside to

this deal is that, at his age, Maddux could fall off the proverbial cliff any moment. But you have to like 19 consecutive seasons of 199+ innings pitched and 100+

ERA+.

An added benefit to having Maddux on the club, as Jake Peavy notes, is that other pitchers on the staff will have the opportunity to "sit on the bench and talk baseball with him." There was some discussion in yesterday's comments about the extent to

which this might be true and, if so, how much value it would provide, but apparently Peavy and Maddux are friends, so at least one pitcher will have a chance to pick the professor's brain. Obviously, you bring a guy in for what he can give you on the field, but something like this seems like a nice little

Another benefit is that, with Todd Walker and the Padres apparently headed to arbitration (and with Walker likely to cost around \$3 million), there should be plenty of room in the budget for a power-hitting left fielder. Off the top of my head, I believe the Pads have spent about half of the \$30 million or so they had available coming into the off-season. That should be enough to land a replacement for Dave Roberts in left — if not in the market as it stands right now, then perhaps closer to spring training or even after the season starts.

(It's important to remember that payroll flexibility benefits a team even after winter has passed. If it turns out that there isn't a good fit for the Padres right now, I expect the doors will remain open to finding a legitimate left

Signing Maddux is a solid short-term move that should help the Padres stay competitive in 2007. It doesn't hurt them long term, in terms of money or draft

I don't believe the Padres are done yet (in addition to finding a left fielder and a platoon partner for Walker at second, there's talk of resigning Wells). The front office still has work to do if they want to bring a third straight division title to San Diego, but adding Maddux to the staff is a nice start.

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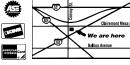
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by Joe Sayers @2006

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gine, \$1000 security system, warranty, \$20,000. 973-876-8327. HONDA SCOOTER, 250 Elite, parts only Crashed, but engine/transmission excel-lent. Wheels/tires instruments, headlight

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BMW 2002, 1971, running strong, great interior, new top end on motor, maintained by local BMW mechanic, will throw in pair Recaro seats, \$2000. 619-

BMW 330CI, 2002. Black, auto, 60,000 miles, M3 wheels. 100,000 mile warranty. 235HP. Everything except navigation. \$21,000. 858-472-0499.

eldirectorJJ@netscape.net.

BUICK LESABRE, 1994. V8, 4 door.
Registration until June 2007. Green exterior/grey interior. Leather seats. AC,

remote keyless entry, much more. \$1500, 858-292-7354

CHEVY CAVALIER, 1997. 2-door coupe. Alpine stereo system. New brakes, belts, hoses. A/C, good tires, manual transmission, black, 181,000 miles. Engine/transmission great. \$1900/best, 619-665-5992.

CHRYSLER CIRRUS LXI, 1999, 18K original miles, power seat, power sun-roof, leather interior, multidisc CD, more extras, clean inside and out, \$6500. 858-486-6579.

DODGE NEON, 2004. Perfect condition. Silver. Paid \$11,500. Willing to take \$10,000. Mira Mesa 858-695-0975.

DODGE, 1980, 1/2 ton, long bed, 318 automatic, \$750. Chevy, 1973, smog and rustfree, GMC 2500 series new motor, 350/400hp, \$3200. Trades? 619-660-8491.

FORD MUSTANG GT. 1998, well main Value musianta (1), 1998, well maintained, clean inside and out, teal/green, V-8, automatic transmission, 130K miles, power everything, rebuilt transmission, \$5000, Home, 760-761-0711; 760-274-5325.

FORD MUSTANG, 2002. 5 speed, manual transmission 73,000 miles, red, runs excellent. Always serviced at dealer, \$7400. 858-205-7558.

\$7400. 885-205-7598.

FORD MUSTANG, 2002. \$9000. Silver. Air conditioner. Excellent condition. Only 1 owner. Power everything. 6-CD. Alarm, iPod-ready. Rear spoiler, 60,000 miles. Habla espanol 858-523-0377.

FORD THUNDERBIRD, 1962, hard top, white with turquoise interior, daily driver, clean interior, body in overall good condition, all-original chrome, good condition, all-original chrome, some rust, \$6000/best. Steve, 760-522-2877. FORD THUNDERBIRD, 1965, body

good shape, inside fair, needs door panel for driver door, \$3900. Tom, 760-730-2277 HONDA CIVIC, DX 1997, red, 5-speed, 117,000 miles, Pioneer CD. Good condition. Great mileage \$3900. 619-271-9540.

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MAZDA MIATA, 1995. Red, alarm, 88,000 miles, 5 speed, \$3500/best,

MERCEDES BENZ, 2001. S500. Silver interial, Silver exterial. Also, extra set of 4, 20" wheels with brand new tires, \$30,000/best. Serious buyer only. 619-

RERCEDES E320, 1999, showroom conditions, low miles, 30 miles/gallon, fully loaded, premium sound, Blue Book value is \$17,200. Asking \$12,990/best. 619-200-2618.

NISSAN MAXIMA. 2001. Automatic. air. loaded with extras, leather, original owner, no accidents, asking \$9975/best. 619-589-9002 or 619-933-

PLYMOUTH ACCLAIM, 1991. 76,000 miles. Automatic, air, 4-door. Clean, nice, beautiful gold, clean neat interior. Garaged, serviced. \$2250. 858-204-

PORSCHE BOXTER, 1999, 75K miles owned for 2-1/2 years, great car in good condition, pastel yellow, must sell soon, new car arriving soon, \$14,500. 619-778-3079.

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Daniel, 858-481-1873.

SAAB, 1990, convertible 900 turbo, 5-speed transmission, white, tan leather interior. New top rear window, tires, shocks, brakes. Mint condition, low mileage. \$3650/best, 760-310-2559.

SCION XB, 2006. Midnight blue, 25,000 miles. 5 door, 84 month/75,000 mile extended warranty. Good stereo/satellite radio option. \$13,900. Moving must sell,

TOYOTA COROLLA S, practically new, just had 20K mile service, no accidents, air conditioning, rear seats fold down,

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Reader December 14, 2006

NIGHT BLANKETS ME AS I PATROL THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF NORTH PARK. No, it isn't "stalking," as the police have alleged. It happens that my ex-girlfriend's house is in a hot spot of criminal activity to which I am often called.

Okay, she wasn't my "girlfriend," according to the letter of the law, but I did tell her I loved her once. We had been out on what I consider dates on at least two occasions. Yes, her "roommate" came along with us on the first date, and she spent the entire evening dancing and making out with her, but they were only roommates. She told me so.

And the second date was a function of work, I admit. Some called it a weekly meeting to discuss hiring policies, but there was lunch. It was brought right into the meeting room, and it was obvious that she and I were together because she gave me her roll and I shared my chicken wings. So what if we were teleconferencing with our offices in Austin? There was still chemistry.

After that date, I sent her the "love e-mail" that defined our relationship from there on out. Of course, she quit the job. Interoffice dating was frowned upon. She wanted to be with me, but her roommate occupied most of her time away from the office, and the rigors of being lead payroll supervisor forced her to keep her distance at work. So she had to quit.

I didn't see her after she quit; she accidentally gave me the wrong phone number when she left the office, but we were still clearly dating. When I followed her home from her favorite dance club and watched as she and her roommate had a lingerie pillow fight, I knew that tension in the household would leave her vulnerable to the criminal element in her neighborhood. I moved to North Park to keep her safe.

She's in there, watching The L Word with her new roommate. I guess her last roommate was too dramatic; they argued a lot. I don't trust her new roommate, though. Her eyes are kind of close together and, as a trained crime fighter, I recognize that as an indicator of antisocial potential

So, I wait. Outside of the court-ordered 50 yards from her front lawn, I wait. Until she and her new roomie don their pajamas and brush their teeth, I wait. In my tablecloth cape and Incredible Hulk Underoos, I keep the neighborhood safe.

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

THE VIEW

Danny DeVito pissed people off by doing an interview half drunk from the night before. I say all interviews with movie stars should be done half drunk. Hand out highballs in the green room. Each variety-show host should know how to make a good 15 or 20 drinks, including a Long Island and a stout martini. For competitive athletes, have beer on tap. Child stars get a sip of champagne. Keep everything even keel and moving along. You know?

HOUSE OF TINY TERRORS

TI C 8:00 P M

Homunculi. Little people. I had them in my apartment when I lived in Clairemont. They're pests; I found them ripping apart my underpants one morning. The thing is, you can't exterminate them. They're people, only they're the size of your palm. And they're mean. If you find 'em, you have to call the Department of Homunculi Services. Don't hurt one of them, whatever you do. Then you've got the Association for the Advancement of Mythical Creatures on your hands, and next thing you know you're standing in a courtroom full of angry unicorns and Santa Claus, in the corner, putting you on his "naughty list." Oh, it's a mess.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

BRAVEHEART

BRAVO 7:00 P.M.

Enraged by the killing of his wife, Scotsman

William Wallace embarked on a drunken, anti-Anglo tirade, claiming that, "Every war in history was started by the English." His horse was impounded, and in a subsequent press conference, Mr. Wallace apologized and admitted he had "a drrrinkin' prrroblem."

SATURDAY. DECEMBER 16

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

NBC 11:30 P.M.

Saturday Night Live should write

a parody of itself. It would go like this. Girl 1: Saturday Night Live is lame now. Girl 2: Yeah, lame. Girl 1: They're repetitive and lame. Girl 2: Yeah, they just repeat the same thing over and over to fill five minutes of sketch time. Girl 1: I know. It's lame now. Girl 2: Yeah, lame. Girl 1: And repetitive. Girl 2: Yeah, lame and repetitive.

GLAMOUR WOMEN OF THE YEAR 2006 NRC 11:00 A.M.

Finally, a program to showcase the accomplishments of women. Now, one of you winners, be a darling and make me a bourbon. If you look cute doing it, I'll give you a good swat on the ass when you get back. Thanks,

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS TNT 4:15 P.M.

The ring is a metaphor for heroin, which was popular in Tolkien's day. Golem is an old junkie, and Sam is Tolkien's boyfriend, trying to break him of his habit. When Frodo has the ring, he doesn't eat, can't sleep, and becomes gaunt. It's left out of the movie, but Gandalf gives Merry the Hobbit one whopper of a cold sore. You know, Gandalf has that cane and a white horse. You can imagine.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

GRANDMA GOT RUN OVER BY A REINDEER TOON 7:00 P.M.

Hold steady, people. It'll all be over in a cou-



The Grinch

ple weeks. Hunker down. Dig in. It's gonna be hairy until New Years Eve, then the plastic schmaltz gets deflated and you can return to the streets without fear. January 1, we step down the Irritating Crap Threat Level from "red and green" to "kind of a turquoise-ish."

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

STARSKY AND HUTCH (2004)

FX 8:00 P.M.

If I ever meet Ben Stiller, I'm going to smack him like he was an eight-year-old in Wal-Mart.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

NBC 10:00 P.M.

Woof. Wednesdays are lean on decent TV programs. What the hell. Shut the damn thing off and prowl around. Suck the vapors of dry booze off a float of ice and look, from eye-toeye, at everyone in the bar. There'll be one. One who's looking, like you. When you spot each other, be bold: count to three and walk over. You might spend next Wednesday night not giving a good goddamn about what's on TV.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (2000) FAMILY 8:00 P.M.

Ah, the yearly viewing of How Ron Howard and Jim Carrey Left My Childhood Butt up in a Ditch and Whimpering. On a quiet night, you can hear the soft whirring of Dr. Suess turning over in his grave. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmaaaaaas...

6-disc CD changer, manual transmission. \$15.000. 858-449-2180.

TOYOTA TERCEL, 1994, 4 speed, 2 door, runs well, needs work, new tires and battery, \$1200. 619-818-0978.

VOLVO S80T PREMIER, 2004. Safety your priority, this is the car for you. Too many features to mention. 13,000 miles. Ash Gold Metallic, \$30,500, 760-505-5278.

VW BUG, 1974 registered January

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interior. Runs great 30+mpg. Asking \$2200/best. 619-920-3362.

VW SQUAREBACK, wagon. 1970. Ex cellent condition. \$1500. 858-576-8247

VW SUPERBEETLE, 1979, convertible

(619) 523-1222 2904 Lytton St. • San Diego Ask for Kevan 32,500 miles on rebuilt motor, new alternator, Jensen MP3 player, American Racing rims, \$4500. 619-445-6319.

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CHEVY ASTRO, 1997, \$7995 or \$2000 cash discount or \$1000 down drives it away. Buy here, pay here. Vin-219154. A Plus Rentals, 760-250-

CHEVY AVEO HATCHBACK, 2005. tomatic transmission, 28-35 miles per gallon. New registration, transferrable warranties, all standard features. Ask-

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CHEVY CARGO VAN 2500, 2003, white chrome wheels, new tires, air conditioning, AM/FM stereo, CD, power windows/locks, 83K miles. Excellent condition. It's a beauty! \$12,000/firm. 619-670-5734.

CHEVY G20 VAN, 1995. 134,000 miles,

CHEVY P30 LUNCH TRUCK, 1986, Business opportunity. Full equipped for oper-ation. Grill, oven, steam table, cold table, refrigerators, fryer, \$28,000/best. Truck and route. 619-322-5421.

and route. 619-322-5421.

CHEVY SILVERADO. 2001. Long-bed.

White. V-6 automatic, 98,000 miles, AC,
lumber rack, runs great, needs body work,
excellent work truck. \$4800, 619-9523437, 858-483-3201, pattyguerreroteg@

Free Classifieds!

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CHEVY TAHOE LT, 2001. LT package, power sunroof, one owner, low mileage, 53,000 miles. LoJack, clean, well maintained, 3rd row seats, excellent tires \$17,000, 619-562-3417.

CHEVY YUKON GMC, 1996. Fully loaded, power all, still has warranty! Auto, A/C, leather, privacy glass, two-tone paint

nd tow package. Registered, 760-214-

DODGE DURANGO, SLT, 2000. Silver with grey leather, 3rd row seating, 75,000 miles. Looks/runs great. Auto everything, Michelin tires, all services done. \$8500/best, 760-672-1245.

Gone: \$8500/9681, 760-672-1245.

FORD EXPEDITION, 1999, well maintained, power everything, keyless entry, 3rd row, tow package, overhead 7" video screen, 9" RCD lift, 35" tires, Borla, \$9999. 858-699-3895.

FORD F-150 SUPERCREW LARIAT,

windows/seats, leather, \$16,900.

FORD F-150 SUPERCREW, 2003, 52K miles, great condition, 2-tone paint, limited slip, trailer tow, sliding window, 17" rims, 6-disc CD, Leer shell, \$15,500/best. 858-578-5199.

FORD RANGER, 2000, 4 cylinder, power steering, stereo, air bags, ABS, regular cab, green, runs great, new tires/shocks, 116K miles, 5 speed, \$3500. 858-254-5002.

FORD, 1997 for sale \$1700, 760-739-

HONDA ODYSSEY VAN, 2000, pride of ownership, loaded with extras, excellent condition, 98K miles, asking \$9950/best. 619-589-9002 or 619-933-

JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE, 2004. Must

JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 2005. Looks new, only 14,800 miles. Sahara tan, loaded, 6-cylinder, air, AM/FM/CD, al-loys, bike rack. Under Blue Book, \$17,950. 619-549-3412.

JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO. 2002, 2-wheel drive, dark blue on black leather, original owner, 6 cylinder, auto matic, air conditioning, loaded, CD, alarm, remote, \$10,995. 760-271-3065. NISSAN PATHFINDER, 1994. Standard transmission, very nice and dependable car, new tires, suspension, brakes, sound system and alarm, runs like new. \$3490/best. 619-200-2618.

hissan XTERRA, 2004, 2-wheel drive, loaded, 6 cylinder, roof rack, running boards, power everything, 24.2K miles, factory warranty, excellent condition, \$14,500/best. 619-723-9797 or 858-659.0150.

loaded, 6 cylinder, roof rack, running boards, automatic, power everything, 24.2K miles, factory warranty, excellent condition, \$14,500/best. 619-723-9797 or 858-663-0150

wood CD/MP3. Computer climate control, tinted windows except front. Keyless entry/car alarm, more. Only 68,612 miles. \$8500/best! Between 11am-9pm, 808-226-8612.

TOYOTA PICKUP, 1993. 4x4, V6, 6 speed, camper, power windows/locks, moonroof, new tires. 142,000 miles, excellent condition. Se habla espanol. 619-528-1026.

619-528-1026.

TOYOTA TACOMA, 1998, 5 speed, air conditioning, regular cab, bed liner, antitheft, custom cover, only 65K miles, excellent, \$5900. 858-581-6223.

color, loaded, pretty fun, air-cooled, 4-speed, a must-have. \$3750/best, 858-444-5194.

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NISSAN XTERRA, 2004, 2-wheel drive,

OLDSMOBILE BRAVADA, 2000. Ken-

TOYOTA 4RUNNER, 1990 4 wheel, V6 auto. Sunroof, looks great. \$2400. Needs head gasket. Trade for pickup. 619-466-2403.

VW VAN WESTIE, 1984 camper, cream

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RV in ideal vacation spot or permanent home in Leucadia. This spacious/luxurious 5th wheel is loaded. \$28,500, 619-787-7389. ALPENLITE M-28, 1994, queen bed, DL 27', superb condition, sleeps 4, 16' slide-out, kitchen table, chairs, new brakes and tires, \$7995/best. 619-672-6211.

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ALFA GOLD GF30RL 246 MODEL, 2000.

CLASSIC AMERICAN CLIPPER RV, 1978 21.5 feet. Many new features: tires, air conditioning. \$5,000. 760-757-6984.

FLEETWOOD FLAIR 25Y, 2000. Chevy 454 Vortec V-8 engine, heat, air conditioning, kitchen, full bed, bathroom, solar panel, satellite dish, DVD/VCR, \$33,000.858-571-1417.

MOTOR HOME, 1986, 24' Cruise Air, sleeps 5, kitchen, bathroom, air conditioning, heating, much more, \$5000. 707-208-0025 or 707-816-7600.

208-0025 or 707-816-7600.

RV, 2003 Starcraft Travelstar, 17', immaculate condition, fully self-contained, 2 queen beds, 1 twin bed, large bathroom with tub/shower, 2-burner gas stove, \$9500. 619-293-3197.

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PARTS

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BMW/MBZ/PORSCHE/AUDI. We sell authentic parts. Visa, MasterCard, Discover. We will beat your best price. Noel Enterprises, 858-538-3347.

RIMS. Polished aluminum for 1998 Ford F-150. Brand new. \$200. Firm! 619-670-

SUZUKI PARTS. Axles from 1991 side kick low range pinion gears, drivelines \$600. Axles from a 86 sidekick \$300, transfer case. Transmission, drivelines \$350. More 801-641-1073.

TOYOTA FORKLIFT, 1999 reconditioned Toyota LPG powered forklift. 189' maximum fork height, 83' mast lowered height, 48' standard backrest, automatic transmission. More \$10,000, 760-745-1426.

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Romantic anguish, in retrospect, is a kind of self-inflicted wound.

<u>By John Brizzolara</u>

The opposite of Friday, I pointed out some columns back, is Monday. Of course I'm talking about the old Friday of the mind and conversely Monday's mental set. This past Monday, the 11th, I turned 56. If there's a birthday you don't want past 50, it's 56. Later, but not later enough, there'll be 60. Fiftysix, though, is undesirable in that you can just barely still say, "I'm in my mid-50s." Technically, yeah, but really you've already arrived somehow in your late 50s in accordance with the Grimmelheim Time Congealment Theory.

Grimmelheim apparently was more than usually bothered by the phenomenon of time condensing/speeding up, ergo, congealing as one ages; and he sought to get at the heart of it in his book (an Oprah Selection) How Matlock Improves in Syndication. He postulated that time is like chicken fat or pudding skin in that, over specific durations as potentially gelatinous substances (like muscle or tapioca) are exposed to cooling air (again, our bodies and brains with progressively failing circulation), the vistas or horizons of our experience, as well as, say, our butts - physical and mental reality - become slightly rubbery, elastic. Alternately constricting, then, to a lesser degree, expanding in a distorted fashion. In some cases, the

substance at hand, whether material or immaterial (flesh, mind, or memory...or split pea soup with ham), will resemble something scummy. This is my layman's interpretation of the GTCT, but it will serve our purpose for the time being.

The good news here comes under the heading of "time flies when you're having fun." It seems that as we get older, even in spite of ourselves, we learn to enjoy our stay here more — or at least learn pretty much what we like and when we're happy. "Old age isn't for sissies," Grimmelheim said, "but we can get away with murder when you think about it." The bad news is that "while the supply of what we don't like seems to increase exponentially, They invariably make us stop doing what we like to do, such as wearing bell-bottoms and eating Quaaludes."

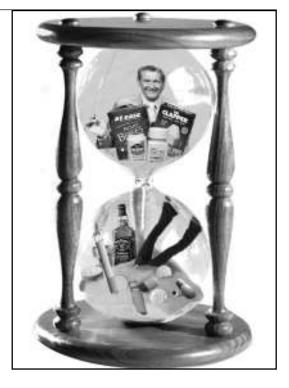
At the bus stop Monday morning, I reflected for a moment that my bus pass is not only a disabled one (allowing me to sit in those seats at the front full of old people, non-survivor types in wheelchairs, and the genetically impure) because of my bad heart, just like Dad's, God rest his soul. I was overcome with a deep depression momentarily until I realized that movies would now be cheaper, though we're still getting screwed on anything with Adam Sandler.

At Burger King, again Monday morning, I was automatically given a cup of coffee for 25 cents, the seniors' rate. The girl behind the counter (and I say girl rather than young woman because she was no older than nine) did not even ask me my age. After mixing Metamucil into the watery, "Hard Working Joe," as BK touts it, I took the stuff into the bathroom and stared at my white sideburns. I read somewhere that adult men usually carry around an image of themselves as ten years younger than their actual age. This is roughly true in my case; it has taken me more than ten years to catch on to the fact that I turned 45 years old. When I did, it wasn't so bad. I've heard it said recently that 40 is the new 30, 50 the new 40, etc. Yeah, well, we have kind of contrived it that way with Madison Avenue's help. But in the end, or rather on closer examination, this is a pure crock. At any rate, here I am, 11 years later, accepting the fact that I have passed the midway point in my 40s, only I'm 56. Say it's the new 46; it's still too late to say I'm 45, even the new 45.

Photographs do not seem subject to the same (sometimes) kind magic. Looking at some recent digital snapshots, I see that discounting the few angles where it is clear I could use a tuck (and can they do anything about that gin

blossom?), the 25year-old lunatic is still in evidence. Still, overall, if I am now the new 46. I'm the new 46-year-old guy who spent years drinking like

The idea of being a senior anything is foreign to me. I always hung around with people roughly ten years older than myself, and today some of my friends are in their 60s, even 70s. From this I've learned that many of life's problems. so urgent at the time, are self-correcting. The correct-tape or white-



out of life is exhaustion. Romantic anguish, in retrospect, is clearly a kind of self-inflicted wound; and success, out of necessity, redefines its own bad self. A successful day for me now involves avoiding any errands to places where I have not long ago checked out the locations of the bathrooms and that Lawrence Welk has yet to move me in any previously unsuspected and hideous way.

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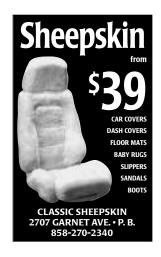
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