

Gangbangers to college students



Reader



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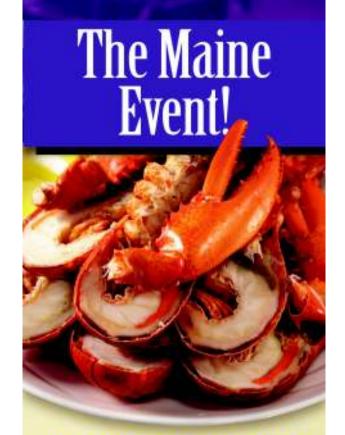
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GENERAL INFORMATION 619-235-3000 The following is the opinion of the author and is not intended to give legal advice to any specific person. The reader is advised to seek legal counsel if prosecuted for DUI. This information is of a general nature, intended for readers age 21 or older not under prior court order to do otherwise, and is based on California law.

Let's start with some basics. Driving while under the influence of alcohol or any other drug is antisocial behavior. The horror caused by the death or maining of a loved one by a "drunk driver" is unthinkable. The pain caused by such an incident scars forever not only the victims but the drinking driver, who is usually a decent, lawabiding citizen. No sane person would want such a thing to happen, not even one time.

However, what if elected officials use this terrible blight on society as an excuse to whip the general public into a frenzy and to capitalize on the human misery flowing from this camage, only for the purpose of getting votes in the next election? And what if other effective remedies to the Driving Under the Influence problem are ignored deliberately? Finally, what if the liquor and restaurant industries pay big bucks into the political coffers of these same elected officials or chapters of MADD to lobby against legislation directed at the liquor and restaurant industries' contribution to the problem?

"Control" is the key word. You will not wipe out DUI any more than you will wipe out any other disease. But a healthy body is a body in "control." and the same applies to a healthy society. Let's look at some facts. There is little doubt the 0.08 percent blood alcohol law is window dressing and avoids the real issues. The fact is 0.08 percent is so low a blood alcohol level that local police officers have told me they cannot possibly tell the difference between 0.07 percent and 0.08 percent based on objective symptoms during the roadside sobriety test. Consequently, if you admit to having had a drink or if the officer smells alcohol on your breath, you are going downtown for further tests, no matter how you do on the field sobriety test or roadside breath test. The foremost authority in the world on DUI, A. W. Jones from Sweden, refers to them as "monkey tests" and of no value in DUI

So, why do these embarrassing roadside tests at all? Don't do them is my answer; don't ever take the so-called field sobriety test. First of all, it is not a sobriety test. It is a coordination test, and many people who clearly are not under the influence of alcohol simply are not coordinated. That's a fact. If they want to use a coordination test to measure sobriety, they should require you to take a similar test once each year to provide a baseline from which to measure your performance at roadside.

Secondly, the tests are subjective and the officer can conclude you failed even if you are the most coordinated person in the world. He later will tell the jury at trial that you did poorly to prove he was right in arresting you and bringing you downtown for further testing. Once downtown, your blood alcohol level may have increased and may, in fact, be 0.16 percent (over double the legal limit) or higher at that later point in time. Depending upon

when you had your last food and drink of alcohol, however, you easily could have been 0.04 percent, 0.06 percent, or 0.07 percent blood alcohol level at the time you were driving. The only blood alcohol level that is relevant or important under the code is the blood alcohol level at the time of driving. The fact you are determined to be 0.08 percent or more at a later point in time does not automatically make you guilty of breaking the law, under CVC Section 23152B.

Furthermore, any conclusion to be drawn from a blood alcohol level assumes the machine is measuring accurately, which often times is not the case. In order to challenge the blood alcohol level, it becomes necessary to retain a competent attorney to point this out to the jury and to show the arresting officer is not an objective, detached third-party witness. He wants to see a conviction to vindicate his decision to arrest. Obviously, the officer will exaggerate and distort in order to prove his point. and he is able to do so because very few of the field sobriety tests truly are objective. Which raises another question: Instead of ordering the accused to recite the alphabet while the officer writes into the police record the alleged results, why not allow the accused to actually write the alphabet out in his own hand? This would be direct evidence of the accused's ability to demonstrate his dexterity and hand coordination directly to the jury. Taxpayers have purchased expensive video and audio taping equipment for our law enforcement agencies. but those agencies rarely use the equipment in driving under the influence cases, thereby denying the jury firsthand evidence of the accused's actual state of sobriety. Instead, the officer simply testifies before the jury about how badly the accused did on one test. He actually is telling the jury, "Trust me. I have no motive to lie. If I say he did badly, that should be enough for you." When I asked a local television moderator to question the police about what happened to those 16 expensive video cameras donated to the San Diego Police Department by Aetna Insurance and which the local newspapers touted as the "doom of drunk drivers," the local police person said, "They are all broke." Right! And I just saw Elvis last

The fact is the officer does have a motive to lie, and, sadly, stretching the truth to gain a conviction seems to be the rule, rather than the exception, A retiring CHP officer interviewed for an investigator position with the firm told me he could add to his annual salary \$50,000 working overtime making court appearances in DUI cases. He lamented that he disliked working nights because it required him to ride with a partner. This veteran CHP officer explained that if he stopped a suspected DUI and formed the opinion following the field sobriety test that the driver was not DUI, very often his patrol partner, eager for overtime, would say, "If you don't take him downtown I will " Doesn't a \$50,000 increase in one's annual salary provide a motive to lie about performance on the field sobriety test? Police officers and overzealous young prosecutors often are heard around the courthouse rationalizing less-than-candid police officer testimony in marginal cases saying, "If they were not drinking and driving, they wouldn't be in trouble in the first place." That may be MADD's law, but it is not the law in any state of this United States. A public policy saying "the end justifies the means" didn't work for the communists and it won't work in a free society.

For these reasons, if you are stopped, do not take these trick roadside sobriety tests, and if you are a juror, demand to see the written alphabet, video/audio tape recordings, or other firsthand evidence of impairment. It is very easy to provide. The law is a search for the truth and should not be a witch hunt guided by hysteria, half-truths, and self-serving statements of the arresting officer.

Recently, a San Diego police officer told me as part of his training he was required to attend a school on the breath machine. He was amazed when a fellow officer was administered known amounts of alcohol in an effort to demonstrate the workings of the alcohol breath-testing machine. What amazed him was he saw the officer consume seven gin and tonics, yet the breath results registered only 0.04 percent, well below the legal limit. I saw the same thing occur in alcohol studies I attended in forensic laboratories in Los Angeles, and it illustrates my point. If the officer weighed 200 pounds and each drink he consumed was one ounce, the resulting blood alcohol level should be 0.13 percent. So, either the machine was testing improperly or the officer was tested right after drinking and before the alcohol fully was absorbed into his blood stream. That is exactly what happens to the citizen who is stopped just as he is leaving a bar. He is 0.04 percent or 0.05 percent and "OK" to drive at that point in time, but 30 minutes to two hours later, as the alcohol becomes absorbed into his blood stream, he increases his blood alcohol level to 0.12 percent or 0.14 percent. over the legal limit. Incredible, but true, Because of this physiological phenomenon we see people convicted of driving under the influence even though they are not guilty of violating the 0.08 percent law "per se." Thousands upon thousands of people every day plead quilty based on a chemical test result over 0.08, never knowing they actually are innocent.

The statistics from the National Traffic Safety Council state that 80 percent of the DUI-related fatalities are caused by 10 percent of the DUI drivers. We in the trade call them the "Gamma Alcoholics." These are sick people who repeatedly go through the court's revolving door, each time coming out a little more stripped of their social status, and each time coming out a little more dangerous to the rest of us. That is because no one in the present system of justice has addressed adequately the causes for this continual abuse of alcohol. Elected officials insist on making public policy decisions that look good to the voters but are not good for society. Instead of providing state resources for "Social Model Alcohol Behabilitation Houses" which have as much as an 82 percent non-recidivist rate and cause alcohol abusers to stop drinking for life, they'd rather lock them up in jails where they get no help for their drinking problem.

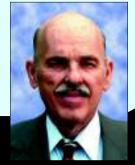
The biggest injustice, however, is the cruel, callous

disregard our lawmakers show for the rights of the thousands of 0.05 percent and 0.06 percent drivers who are arrested for DUI and eventually blow over 0.08 percent 30 minutes to two hours after they were driving. These people are in truth, and in fact, innocent of Driving Under the Influence, but because of a misdirected emphasis by the government, these hapless individuals must hire an attorney competent in this area of the law and science. and pay for the services of a medical doctor or toxicologist if they hope to have any chance of avoiding huge fines, jail time and a very serious criminal record. And remember, these are ordinary citizens just like you and me who go to work every day, play by the rules, yet still find themselves charged with a serious crime (not just a traffic infraction) and are treated by the courts just as if they committed a robbery or carjacking. And what's worse, it's on their record for the rest of their lives, not just the 7-10 years the DA or other attorneys tell them.

When you see the great number of new liquor licenses being issued to small gas station convenience stores who easily can sell beer and wine to young drivers; when you see the bright lights advertising liquor and encouraging people to drink because alcohol sales make up 80 percent of the net profit for the restaurant business and provide a huge tax base for our state; when you also consider only two beers can equal a 0.08 percent blood alcohol level in a small person, you must ask yourself whose pockets are being lined to keep the law enforcement and legislative emphasis on the citizen who has just consumed a couple of "after-dinner" drinks and is snagged by a cop "who just happened to be cruising by" and noticed the license plate light was not properly illuminating the license plate as the driver was pulling out of a restaurant's parking lot to go home. To make matters worse, the United States Supreme Court in 1996 held that an attorney cannot challenge the subjective motive of an officer for making a traffic stop in open court. This means that if a police officer wants to pull you over only because he saw you exit a bar and figures you've been drinking, he can use the fact that your license plate is not properly illuminated as a basis to stop you and smell your breath to see if you exhibit the odor of alcohol. Under this Supreme Court decision his real motive in stopping you cannot be challenged. This decision encourages perjury (a felony) and is a national disgrace. Every right-thinking American should hang his head in shame over Whren v. United States. (Continued on www.MrDUI.com.)

Learn what the government doesn't want you to know. For example, did you know that if you have only 2 drinks and someone crashes into you, you are claimed to have caused the accident, and your own mother or brother gets one scratch or a seat belt rash, and they do not complain to anyone, you most likely will be arrested for felony DUI, pay \$25,000 bail and potentially face 1 year and 8 months in state prison on a first offense.

Plus, good luck on getting a job. I couldn't print this if it were not true.



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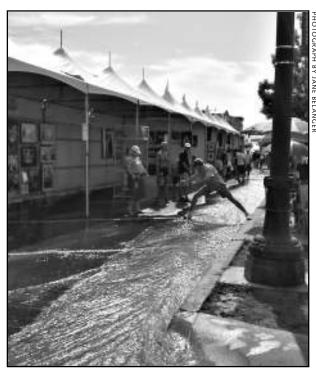
Football Yes, Libraries No

By Don Bauder

he pride and presence of a professional football team is far more important than 30 libraries." Intelligent people

laughed when former profootball-team owner Art Modell made the comment. Now San Diego, painfully broke, is the butt of the joke. It is discussing closing libraries while its establishment lobbies for subsidies for a team owned by a billionaire who is in much better financial shape than the City. The suging the City's rotting underbelly.

"We want to settle for being the Acapulco of the north," says Norma Damashek, copresident of the League of Women Voters. "We have great tourist facilities, great convention facilities and gambling, but does anybody look at what happens to the streets



Broken water main on Date Street during ArtWalk, April 2008

gestions keep coming: to play the games on a jerry-built concrete deck above the Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal (mercifully voted down) or on land elsewhere in the city (as proposed in a *Union-Tribume* op-ed piece). The mayor and most of the city council have refused to recognize fiscal reality and continue to focus on the glitz while ignor-

Matt Potter *is on vacation.*

and libraries? The people in our gated communities are doing fine, but does anybody care about the rest of the city? Our deficit grows year after year, lowering our standard of living. We talk about letting a foundation run Balboa Park. Could it be we will say we have to sell this land? We propose that libraries be shut down. Some builder may be able to acquire land on which a library stands and build on ..."

Damashek adds, "The

mayor is in over his head. We have no newspaper or television station crying, 'Whoa! What is happening to our city?' People in government are floundering. What they do know they don't want to tell us. We are in a state of denial."

San Diego is building a downtown bridge partly to accommodate the fewer and fewer people going to the ballpark. Tourism revenues are plunging, particularly as business travel plummets, but there is talk of still another convention-center expansion, along with a new civic center.

"We have incredibly misplaced civic priorities," says Steve Erie, professor of political science at the University of California, San Diego. "This partly reflects our deep-seated insecurity. We need the Chargers as a marker. We spend millions for a ballpark but not one red cent for fire protection. We think we will be a second-class city without a pro football team but don't spend a plugged nickel on basic public services and amenities."

"Transit is suffering from recent cutbacks," points out Jim Mills, former president pro tem of the California State Senate. He has begged politicians around the county for more money, "but the pols are elected with developers' money, and they do what the developers tell them to do."

"The council has been focusing on a year-to-year approach," says Scott Barnett, president of TaxpayersAdvocate.org. "They need a longrange plan. The pension- and structural-deficit problems have been building for a dozen years. But the council has instant gratification needs." He doubts that Mayor Jerry Sanders will have much support for the plan to have bureaucracies compete with the private sector for projects. Without massive headchopping, municipal unions aren't likely to take voluntary pay cuts. The most recent convention-center expansion may pay for itself with transient

occupancy tax receipts, but the new expansion plans will be dead on arrival with today's costs of construction and bonding.

"Given all the problems on every level — federal, state, cuts — cutbacks in perpetuity." After Proposition 13 passed in 1978, San Diego erred by not enacting higher utility and hotel taxes and higher franchise fees. The utility tax "is a huge revenue source in

The situation is far worse now than it was then, "and it is going to get worse and worse and worse." So it's more important than ever: "Stop the incremental torture. Try to spend the time putting together a



Architect's rendering of Harbor Drive pedestrian bridge

local — I am not optimistic," says Barnett. "When Pat Shea first brought up the B-word [bankruptcy — in the 2005 mayoral election], I didn't think it was bad enough to go in that direction. I thought we could restructure our way out of it. But given the federal, state, and local recessions, it may be the only option."

"Shea and Aguirre were prescient in pressing the case for bankruptcy," says Erie. "All other towns in America are facing these kinds of pressures, but we face them more so. This is a town in deep denial, facing death not by a thousand cuts but a million other California cities," and so is the hotel tax, which is often steeper than San Diego's. But former mayor Susan Golding instructed her city manager "to never put the word 'utility' in front of the word 'tax,' " says Erie. He believes that the pension scandals would never have arisen had the City put a sound tax structure into place following Proposition 13.

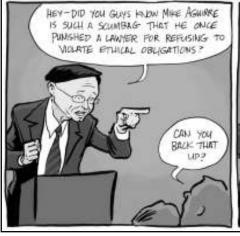
Councilmember Donna Frye ran in the 2005 mayoral election against Shea and several other candidates. "I jokingly referred to 'bankruptcy light'—reorganization without bankruptcy," she recalls. solution." However, the mayor's office doesn't cooperate. "We are given the information so late, and then we don't even know if it is accurate. We work hard to get the pension folks [officials from San Diego City Employees' Retirement System] to show up at a meeting,

continued on page 8

Read Don Bauder's Scam Diego blog every day! Go to SDReader.com and click on "Blogs" at top of page.

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Neal Obermeyer





The Guacamole Crisis

By Alastair Bland

hroughout last winter and spring, one could put one's ear to the wind almost anywhere in North County and hear the buzz

of chainsaws as avocado farmers cut down their trees.

While this tropical fruit has beaten the odds in Southern California's desert climate for decades, the local avocado industry has taken a turn for



Oliver Wanger, who ordered reduced pumping from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to protect the threatened delta smelt. Judge Wanger's action has in turn sparked a drastic, last-resort tactic of grove management called "stumping." To ensure the survival of at least some of their trees, farmers began sawing down as much as 40 percent of their acreage after stripping the trees of fruit early in the year.

Stumping does not kill an avocado tree but merely leaves a dormant relic three to five feet tall. Lacking fruit, flowers, or foliage, such trees immediately cease guzzling water, allowing surrounding trees



 $Stumping\ from\ past\ years$

the worse. Orchards heavily damaged by drought, frost, and fire produced a 2008 crop just 57 percent of average, and the 2009 harvest is not expected to be much better, say industry eyeballers. The most recent hit taken by the county's 23,000 acres of avocado farms was a 30 percent cutback on water allocation in January at the direction of U.S. District Judge

full access to the available supply. According to Guy Witney, director of industry affairs with the California Avocado Commission in Irvine, stumped trees will spring back to life and begin producing fruit again in two or three

"This is just a means of temporarily halting their use of resources," said Witney.



Avocado and citrus groves on Fairfield Farms, in the Pauma Valley

"The hope is to keep cutting them back until the water issue resolves."

But no one knows when that might happen. The current state of affairs began on the tail end of the drought that lasted from the late 1980s to the early 1990s, when Southern Californian farmers made a deal with the Metropolitan Water District, or Met, which receives water imports from the Colorado River and the Sacramento Delta before selling it to local users. Called the Interim Agricultural Water Program, the contract allowed farmers to sign an agreement that reduced their water rates by \$137 per acre-foot beginning in 1994, with the understanding that in the case of a water shortage their supply would be the first to get cut. In that year, wholesale water rates ran approximately \$385 per acre-foot, and approximately 3000 local farmers signed the contract. Among avocado growers, who require three to four acre-feet of water per acre per year, the deal was a good one — until late 2007, that is, when Met gave notice of the impending water cuts. Avocado harvest in California runs nearly all year, peaking in July; however, this year many farmers picked the last of their ripe fruits early in the year, then revved up their

chainsaws.

But to the dismay of many growers, even their remaining trees are struggling.

"For growers in districts relying entirely on MWD supplies and required to take the full 30 percent cutbacks, this was drastic action, which will have dire results on the industry for some years ahead," said Witney, who added that the expected low yields for 2009 combined with bills to pay will make for a "double whammy for the farmers."

Noel Stehly, who operates the family ranch in Valley Center with his brothers, stumped 40 acres of their avocado trees, which cover 800 acres in total. They might have cut five times as many trees, but Stehly sees stumping as a

"The guys who stumped a third of their trees are fooling themselves to think that we'll solve the water issue within three years, when their trees come back into production and they need that water again," Stehly said. "Even if we get a peripheral canal from the delta, it'll be ten years before we get it flowing."

Bill and Carol Steed of Fairfield Farms, northeast of

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

Valley Center in the Pauma Valley, were already deep into the financial commitment of boosting their farm acreage and had just planted 25 acres of blueberries when the January water cuts hit. Thus, their situation has been compounded, leaving the Steeds with only one-quarter of the water they now need for their berries, citrus, and avocados.

And the water could be reduced further. Eric Larson,

executive director of the San Diego County Farm Bureau, expects mandatory cuts of 10 percent or more by mid-2009. The interim water program's fine print stipulates that residential users alone will bear this second round of cutbacks up to the level of 15 percent, at which point farmers who signed the agreement will absorb the next round, taking a cutback to 40 percent of

continued on page 8



Football libraries

continued from page 6

and then when they come, they don't answer questions."

Both Damashek and Mills point out that officials are always looking forward to their next job. That's especially true of consultants. Damashek notes that Stanley Keller, who makes \$700 an hour monitoring the City's compliance with federal securities law, "doesn't deal with reality. He says the City has done a good job [complying

with Securities and Exchange Commission dictates]. Nobody wants to break the bad news to our city. People on the outside are always looking for their next opportunity, their next job, their next consulting work; they are not going to say anything to upset the powers in this city."

CITY LIGHTS

"This all relates to term limits," says Mills. Councilmembers used to be concerned about the long-term good of the City. "Now they are concerned about making the people happy who might hire them after they are no

longer on the council." He cites former councilmember Barbara Warden, who went to work with the Downtown San Diego Partnership, an advocate for downtown development, and former councilmember and assemblymember Juan Vargas, who served four years as chairman of the assembly's Insurance Committee and went on to be a vice president of the California branch of Safeco, a Seattle-based insurance

Yet San Diegans think everything is fine. Asks

Damashek, "What is wrong with our city?" Then she gives an answer: "We need a cold shower." ■

Guacamole crisis

continued from page 7

their preshortage water flow. However, Larson says that until January 15 farmers will have the option to renege on their water-contract terms, thereby incurring full water rates but in turn receiving access to all the water they need. Farmers who back out

of their contracts will be subject to the same water-rationing cutbacks as residential users. Many local farmers are taking this route, says Larson.

Larson believes solutions are at hand, however.

"I'd like to see greater urban use of reclaimed sewage water, which would leave more water from the Sacramento and the Colorado for farmers."

Others have discussed moving San Diego's reclaimed water directly to the farmland, but no one yet has volunteered to build the piping system capable of pumping water 40 miles uphill from coastal urban zones to the orchards. The other problem inherent in using reclaimed water is its high salinity and chloride levels, for avocado fruit yield is known to suffer when the trees are doused with briny water.

In late 2006, researchers with the UC Davis Extension were making progress in identifying salt-tolerant strains of avocado rootstock. The extension's primary farm advisor, Dr. Gary Bender, had begun to zero in on a prom-

continued on page 10















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Guacamole crisis

ising Israeli rootstock when the severe frost of January 2007 killed his young grove and cut short the investigation.

But replacing rootstock across thousands of acres of avocado trees might not be economically feasible anyway, said Gary Arant, general manager of the Valley Center Municipal Water District.

"When you've got 100 trees to an acre, you're not going to pull out each one and replant it and wait for it to come into production again. The economics of avocado growing just won't allow that."

Bender points out that many farmers are already replacing aged or root-rotted trees anyway, and he is making arrangements for another test run in which he plans to water a South African salttolerant rootstock in a grove near Fallbrook. If the experiment shows high yields under salty irrigation, the future of the region's avocado groves could brighten dramatically.

After all, the delta water shortage is not going to end anytime soon, says Arant. "The situation with the delta smelt is not going to be rectified until they separate the pumping facilities from the fish, whether the drought ends or not."

The best-case scenario, Arant believes, will be if the state builds the long-discussed peripheral canal, which could be completed, at the earliest, 10 or 12 years down the road. As for the thousands of acres of stumped trees, they may need to come out.

"There is no economic sense in keeping your trees stumped for ten years or more," said Arant. "Farmers don't water trees just to keep them alive. They water them to get fruit. They're businessmen."

Though the local subsurface supply of groundwater is notoriously salty, the Stehlys have tapped into it and simultaneously invested in several nanofiltration pumps, devices that desalinate water at 300 gallons or more per minute and could keep their 1200 certified organic acres of avocados, berries, and citrus vibrant even in the driest of times. Jerome Stehly, however, says the investment has cost "too much," and as for the river water from Northern California, Stehly sees it as a hoarded resource.

"It's ridiculous," he says. "They have extra water, and we can't get it. If they were truly concerned about the environment, they would think about the impacts of importing all our food from South America."

United States avocado consumption has increased nationwide at 15 to 20 percent per year this century, and consumption totaled one billion pounds in 2007. This year, Americans will consume still more of the fruit, and projected figures of 1.5 and 2 billion pounds per year are already in sight. In 1997, NAFTA opened the United States market to Mexican avocados, and today much of the national supply is imported, with California fruit constituting on average only 300 to 400 million pounds per year, though 2006 produced a record crop of nearly 601 million pounds. Chilean fruit also feeds the domestic demand, and Peru may gain access to our market in 2010. The Avocado Commission's Witney believes that the 12-month ready supply now provided with the help of producers in the tropics and the Southern Hemisphere may invigorate the domestic avocado market perhaps even benefit local

farmers.

"We used to have to fight for shelf space each season. Now it's available all year."

Yet, California's avocado acreage has declined from 65,000 acres in late 2006 to 58,000 today. Some farmers have abandoned or sold their orchards, Witney notes. The Steeds may stump even more of their trees to get by, and growers like Jerome Stehly don't plan to put more in the ground unless the water shortage is alleviated.

"We're going to wait and see," he says.

Some farmers are switching crops, as fruits like grapes and blackberries require just one-fourth the water needed by avocados, but many of the county's orchards grow on land too steep and rugged to be cost-efficiently replanted, says Stehly.

"There's no replacement crop for them," he says. "What you're going to see are a lot of brown hills."■



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Listen To Louie's

Re Louie's Suds n' Sun ("Use Me, Then Lose Me," "City Lights," December 18). I hope the Reader keeps covering this story. I graduated from SDSU in 2006 and will always fondly remember Louie's. It was a place to meet with friends, classmates, and even professors, on occasion. Convenient, safe, and well-managed, Louie's was a great place to go hang out after classes. I know SDSU is trying to remake its image, but

there's something to be said for tradition. I do hope that Aztec Shops gives a fair evaluation to any proposal Mr. Holton should hand in when the bidding process opens.

> Chris Vercammen Berkeley

Nothing Kicked Back

I found your article interesting ("I Get a Kickback Out of You," "City Lights," December 18), but I do feel that, as a concierge myself, the kickbacks are not quite

what you have made them out to be.

I have worked for a Del Mar hotel for one and a half years now, and I can tell you firsthand that my hours are not those that most people would enjoy keeping, and tips are minimal. My salary is a mere \$10 per hour. We work very hard for our money.

What I have experienced with restaurants has never been cash for referring guests. These restaurants will host a tasting for us so that we can experience the foods ourselves prior to referring a guest. Many res-

taurants will then offer discount coupons that we can pass along to the guests, as well as our knowledge of the food and service at that point.

There are no kickbacks whatsoever with the exception of a tasting that is much appreciated and a newly gained relationship between concierge and restaurant. Why wouldn't a concierge then send business to that restaurant? I personally feel this is a very acceptable practice and fail to see that there is anything wrong with it.

I have never been offered money in exchange for sending guests to restaurants. I appreciate the article you have written but truly have not experienced concierges that are accepting money or restaurants that are offering it. I certainly would hate to see this article give concierges a bad name. We work hard to give it a good name and reputation.

Name Withheld via email

Much Kicked Back

I'm referring to the story of the concierge kickbacks ("I Get a Kickback Out of You,"

continued on page 51





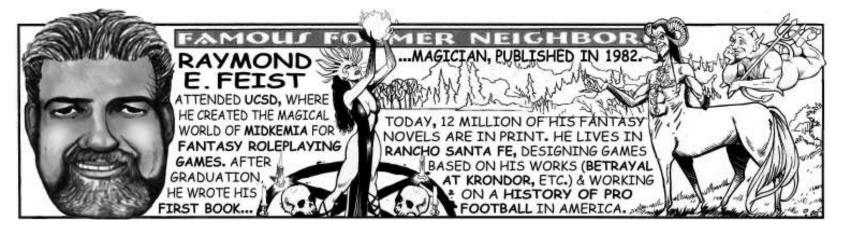




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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP BY MATTHEW ALICE

Dear Matt:

Why does my fish blow bubbles? Sometimes it will just be hanging out and all of a sudden it will cut loose with a bubble from its mouth. How does air get in there, and why would it do that? This isn't the biggest question in the world, but it sure would help my brain if you could solve the mystery.

— Anonymous, San Diego

Reminds me of the week the elves hacked up fur balls. Grandma was in a tizzy, what with all the cleanup. Nobody could figure out what the deal was. We never know what the heck they'll come up with, so we half suspected this was some sort of Christmas joke they'd cooked up. But, no. Turns out Ma Alice had run into a great deal on a big pile of angora scarves that she figured would make great stocking stuffers. But when she wound up the elves in their coldweather clothes and kicked them outside for a little exercise, they

would inhale enough angora to pretty much knock them out. Once

we gave the scarves to the dog

to play with, the problem was solved, well, once the dog stopped hacking up angora.

So let me haul out the Matthew Alice Xtremely Good Crystal Ball and take a look into the home of Anonymous. What do we see? Hmmm... Okay, Anon, we're betting you have one of those popular, fancy blue fish that people somehow think can live nicely in a shot glass or a pickle jar but die pretty soon after they're brought home. Right? A betta. They blow bubbles occasionally. So do gouramis, another popular family pet. Both are actually capable of breathing air in addition to absorbing it through their gills the way all the rest of the unimaginative fish do. They have a labyrinth organ that handles air "inhaled" in a gulp from the top of the fishbowl. When they've got more than enough in their little bodies, they'll burp up a bubble to get rid of the excess.

These and other so-called labyrinth fish (the males) use their bubble-blowing talent to make egg nests for the female. Nesting bubbles are coated in mucus before they're burped to the surface and stick together to form a nifty nursery where the eggs are laid.

But wait. There's more. Many other fish are capable of spitting out air. It's part of their buoyancy routine. If a fish didn't have a swim bladder, when you dropped it into the tank it would sink to the bottom, of course. So the swim bladder retains enough air to keep the fish

balanced in the water. Fish that have swim bladders connected to their guts can whip out a bubble if they're feeling a little too lightheaded. So that's the deal with bubble-blowing fish, and your brain should be feeling terrific now.

Hey, Matthew:

The other morning while tending to my herd, my top Guernsey looked down at me and said, "In 'Old McDonald,' does or did E-I-E-I-O mean something?"

I said, "I dunno." She said, "I think it's just a nonsensical unalliterated collection of orthography used simply as musical meter." I said, "Huh?" She said, "Ask Matt." A smart-aleck steak dinner may be riding on vour answer.

- Cletus, the Urban Farmer, San Diego

Heighdy, Cletus. Pull uppa crate an' set yerse'f down. I think we kin give ya sumpin' to chaw on. Don' know fer sher, a'course, since Ol' McDonald wuz a pop'lar song long afore it was writ down. We kin look back'ards thru paper stuff, but not singin' stuff, so sorry. Anyways, there's a opry song from England from the early 1700s that has some of the same stuff as "Ol' McDonald" an' mebbe is the first version. Lotsa different versions around, all with the "moo-moo," "quack-quack," etc., stuff into the late 1800s, but not the E-I-E-I-O stuff. Fer some reason, "Ol' McDonald" hit the charts in the U.S. after 1900. A bust-out winner with folk singers and like that. At the time, one pop'lar version went, "Ol' McDonald had a farm down in O-hi-o. And on that farm he had a cow, down in O-hi-o." So mebbe some singer who figgered the farmer really lived in Nebraska or Indiana changed the "O-hi-o" to "E-I-E-I-O." Easy to do. Not much of a leap. Do ya buy that? Then I guess ya also buy the steaks. Righty?

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Got a question you need answered? Send an email to heymatt@cts.com or fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186.

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T. G. I. F.

BY JOHN BRIZZOLARA

The week before Christmas we would embark on a train adventure...to... Chicago.

Christmas is getting harder to dodge as a topic, and I may have outwritten that one. I think I have columns running right past that date. Either way, allow me to indulge in a favorite Christmas memory involving my brother Paul, who died in 2003.

In the late 1950s and early '60s our largish family of ten lived in River Forest, Illinois, at the time the fifth wealthiest suburb of Chicago. My father was doing

well in the advertising business, which explained a large Catholic Italian family living among so many "Lace Curtain Irish" as they called themselves. Around the age of eight or nine, Paul, being three years younger, we would collect one of our Uncle George's many Seagram's Crown Royal bags made of purple velvet with gold script lettering and tied at the neck with gold-colored twine. Paul and I figured this was a suitable container for our savings account that we converted

to silver doubloons. The doubloons were silver dollars from the bank, and we once collected as many as 24 of them, remnants of a year's allowance not spent on toy flintlock pistols, paperback books, and

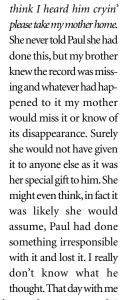
The week before Christmas we would embark on a train adventure from River Forest to the Loop in Chicago. Before that first stop in Chicago, we would get off at an elevated platform in Oak Park. I cannot recall our particular fascination with that suburb (surely I was too young to associate Ernest Hemingway with the place), but I suspect it was because we knew of a certain discount jewelry house along a main drag, probably Lake Street, where we could buy, cheaply, many of the baubles and gewgaws we were convinced women loved. Earrings, rings, necklaces with (impossibly) the giant fruit (pearls!) of Jules Verne's monstrous sea clams, brooches and pendants bearing pictures of an obscure Regency aristocrat, current popes, Eleanor Roosevelt, I remember

these. My mother loved Eleanor Roosevelt, and if she kept them she would have amassed at least a dozen of that first lady's visage stamped onto tissue-like tin and surrounded with rhinestones.

The next stop was Marshall Field's at some Loop disembarkation point — I've forgotten which. Marshall's was on Lake Street, I believe, possibly State. I remember going up several levels to the book department and ogling the displays of titles, some of which certainly would be mine someday. Adjacent were the best sellers, "Throne of Saturn, by Alan Drury; or Silent Spring, by Rachel Carson; On the Beach, Nevil Shute; Seven Days in May, by Knebel, I believe, and Bailey. Possibly The Man in the High Castle by Philip K. Dick. One day I knew I would be among

Adjacent were the LP and 45 rpm records. Paul's favorite was by Harry Belafonte, which included on the album the song "Please Take My Mother Home." It was about the Crucifixion, narrated in Belafonte's powerful voice as both bystander and Jesus. It had been a gift to him from my mother the previous Christmas.

Earlier that year, around Easter, my mother had given the record away because of Paul's tearful reaction to the song: I think I heard him cryin' as they were nailin' in the nails. I





at Marshal Field's, Paul bought a replacement record. I told him nothing about her giving the album away for his sake. His concern was that she would surely miss it no matter what had happened to it. My guess is he was worried that she had been blaming him for months in silent passive aggression; it would not have been unlike her.

Later that week, it was wonderful, awkward, and tearful that the Belafonte appeared beneath the tree with the Marshall Field's wrap and tag. "To Mom, from Paul." Nothing was said about its weird provenance.

Twenty-plus years later it was an unexpected ecstasy that I can hardly describe when I saw my first published novel in a stack of a dozen, sitting just where, I believe, Allen Drury's Advise and Consent had sat, cresting the mountain of novels at that altar of successful stories

I remember little else about that Christmas of Belafonte and junk jewelry except that I seemed to have the flu, and a thoughtful parent, in spite of the other's objections, had supplied me with a dozen Classic Comics Illustrated, including Bring 'em Back Alive by Frank Buck; The Count of Monte Cristo and The Prisoner of Zenda as well. There was also a complete set of Civil War soldiers, and I had the Union defeat the Confederacy in every unlikely way.

For more stories by this author, go to sdreader.com.

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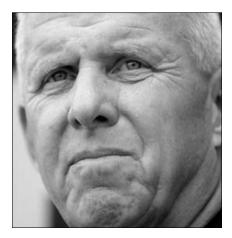
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BY PATRICK DAUGHERTY

Playoff Scenarios Bought and Sold



Bill Parcells

t's still a Norv Turner team, make no mistake, but in spite of that, the AFC West championship now lies in San Diego's hands. Or Denver's, depending on your point of view. If the Chargers best Denver on Sunday, then a record of 8-8 is good enough for home-field advantage in the first round of playoffs. A San Diego win means you could say the Chargers had a good year, and that means somewhere in this great land Marty Schottenheimer is kicking his dog.

Eli Manning had a good 2008. He was transformed from kid brother and secondtier quarterback to Super Bowl Big Guy. He led the Giants to the 2007 playoffs as a wild card, then won three games in a row (on the road), then beat the heretofore undefeated New England Patriots in Super Bowl 42. This made a great many people — good people, productive people, sports-minded people — very happy.

And he might do it again. Sunday's 34-28 win over Carolina gives the Giants a first-round bye and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

While we're here, we might as well look around.

Tennessee (13-2) has won the AFC South and a first-round bye. The Titans earned home-field advantage throughout the playoffs after a 31-14 thumping of Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh (11-4) took the beating, liked it, and won the AFC North plus a first-round bye.

Indianapolis (11-4) has a wild-card ticket and a number-five seed. Nothing new there.

The AFC East goes down to the last week. The Jets blew a big one when they lost to Seattle on Sunday. Puts them at 9-6. New England and Miami are 10-5. The Jets can still win their division if they prevail over Miami on Sunday and Buffalo stops New England. This happens and Bret Favre is beloved geezer. More likely, it doesn't happen and Favre is just another guy who stayed too long at the feeding trough.

New England wins the AFC East if they beat Buffalo and Miami loses. Not great odds, but better than the Jets. If Miami beats the Jets, it's an away game for them, then they win the division and reaffirm life's cardinal rule: arrogant bastards finish first.

Who else could I be talking about but Bill Parcells? He retired from football for the third time in January 2007. Was back in the saddle by December. Parcells makes Favre look like a virgin bride. After toying with Atlanta owner Arthur Blank, publicly humiliating the former Handy Dan Hardware regional manager, Parcells accepted the I'mthe-Big-Dog job in Miami and proceeded to turn that team — a team that won *one* game in 2007 — into the AFC East leader going into the last week of play. Bill Parcells is nothing if not a disloyal employee, but the man knows how to rehab a football team.

If Baltimore (10-5) beats Jacksonville, the club is in the postseason as a wild card. No one west of Maryland cares.

Arizona (8-7) is champion of the NFC West and has a shot at going into the playoffs with an 8-8 record if they can pull off a defeat against Seattle. Here's hoping.

The Carolina Panthers (11-4) are in the postseason, would enter as NFC South victor holding a first-round bye if they win at New Orleans or Atlanta beats St. Louis, which is probable. Atlanta will be playing for real; they'll get a first-round bye if they beat the Rams. As it stands now, the Falcons (10-5) have a wild-card ticket.

The NFC North is complicated by the fact that Green Bay plays Chicago on Monday night and I am writing this at 4:00 a.m. Monday morning and you will read this by teatime on Thursday. If Chicago loses the Monday-night game, Minnesota wins the NFC North. Or, if Minnesota beats the Giants next Sunday, they'll win the division.

But, Chicago still has a shot, thanks to the improbable Week 16 trifecta. To wit: Atlanta, San Diego, and Washington won. The Bears need to beat Green Bay and Houston, and there's no reason why they shouldn't. If Minnesota loses to the Giants on Sunday, Chicago will be NFC North division champs.

Now, then, you can forget pretty much everything I've written...in fact, forget everything the sportswriting industry has spit out since Sunday. The last weekend of the NFL season is a nightmare for bettors. Those teams that have clinched their postseason slots will be pulling their starters by the end of the first quarter. Games will be played by backups, making it impossible to set a decent line or predict who will win what. Buyer beware.

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By Anthony Gentile



Cathedral Catholic players celebrate their 37-34 state bowl game win



Cathedral Catholic fans bring some signage to the Home Depot Center

Cathedral Catholic vs. St. Mary's St. Mary's recovered.

Posted December 21, 2008, 1:49 a.m. For the second straight season, a San Diego school is bringing home a Division II state football title, Cathedral Catholic beat St. Mary's of Stockton 37-34 in a thriller Saturday at the Home Depot Center.

"It means everything. Every good team goes to CIF — it takes a real team to win state," said Cathedral Catholic running back Tyler Gaffney.

With 5:54 left against St. Mary's, the Dons found themselves in uncharted territory — trailing late. The Rams looked like they had just delivered the knockout blow in the form of a Chad West 96-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

But four plays later, Gaffney struck back with a 51-yard touchdown run to give Cathedral Catholic a 37-34 lead. And with St. Mary's at the Dons' 34-vard line on the next possession, Rams quarterback Cody Vaz threw an incomplete pass on fourth down that would give the ball, and the victory, to the Dons.

"It was close the whole time, back and forth for the whole game," said Cathedral Catholic linebacker Ryan Downing.

Cathedral Catholic got on the board less than two minutes in, when Gaffney scored on a 36yard touchdown run on the Dons' opening possession. St. Mary's wasted no time pulling even, marching 78 yards in 3:25 capped by a Cody Vaz 28-yard touchdown pass to Alex Michaels.

Before the first quarter ended, both teams would find the end zone again. Gaffney scored on a one-yard run and Vaz found Louie Leichich for a five-yard score.

In the third quarter, the Dons went ahead by nine on a Roman Ferreira 27-yard field goal. But St. Mary's took the ensuing drive for a score — a Vaz eight-yard pass to Leichich — to make it a three-point game.

Ahead only 23-20 early in the fourth, Cathedral Catholic's offense still looked like it would not be stopped. But near the end of a long run by Gaffney, the Dons' senior back was stripped and

"I broke a tackle and I went to speed up and my arms came out further than they usually do," Gaffney said. "He just wrapped around and hit it."

Before West's kickoff return, Gaffney scored from one yard out to put Cathedral Catholic ahead by three. A halfback pass from Gaffney to Hipp on fourth and ten a few plays earlier set up the score.

"We've been working on that all year," Gaffney said. "I'm, like, 'hey we got that play,' we used it, and luckily it worked."

The win brings the Division II state title back to San Diego for the second year in a row. Last year, Oceanside beat Novato 28-14 in the Division II bowl game.

San Diego football the winner

Posted December 18, 2008, 11:47 p.m. Although 89 schools play 11-man football in the San Diego Section, from almost the beginning of the season it has been about only two teams -Cathedral Catholic and Oceanside.

Both teams have Division I talent Oceanside's Utah-bound quarterback Jordan Wynn and Cathedral Catholic running back Tyler Gaffney, who has a short list of USC and Stanford. The comparisons between these two teams could go on — they are the two best teams in the section. That much is not up for debate.

Comments

Both teams are talented beyond their individual stars (Wynn and Gaffney). With the exception of one blemish on Oceanside's side of the ledger, both handled all of their opponents as expected....

It appears the CIF is determined to add another layer of "playoffs" to the state championship bowl picture in about two to three years. That would allow two teams to compete against each other from the south and the north for the right to play in the champi-

By sdsportsfan 3:55 a.m., Dec 19, 2008

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3rd place: "To Tell You Something Beautiful Like Asphalt" Author: Joshua Rhome Neighborhood: El Cajon Age: 30 Occupation: Student

Winners from October 2008

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If space allows, we will publish entries in the printed version of the *Reader*.

Photos and YouTube links to videos are welcome but not necessary to win.

Go to <u>SDReader.com/neighborhoods</u>, find your neighborhood or campus, and follow the instructions to create a blog. **Deadline for this month is midnight, December 31.**

BestBuys

-EVE KELLY

"The trees all go to the greenery, where they are ground up and turned into mulch."

O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree! Thy leaves are so unchanging... Not only green when summer's here, But also when 'tis cold and drear...

Hubby Patrick heckled me with his singing because our Christmas tree's leaves were anything but unchanging. I purchased the tree in that first surge of Christmas spirit I get every year before Thanksgiving weekend is out. Had Patrick been

with me when I bought it, he would have picked out one with a thicker trunk. "Holds more water," he'd have explained, "stays green longer."

But Patrick wasn't there, and I picked a pretty, perfectly shaped noble fir, which had a thin trunk and showed signs of drying out within a week. So I had to endure Patrick's sarcastic caroling as I swept up a pile of amber needles from beneath the tree and hoped the guests due to arrive would only notice the glow of the lights, not the droopy branches of the tree.

That poor tree sat behind the greenery bin for another two months before I finally cut it up and threw it away.

That was last year. This year,

the Kelly family is trying to be

more organized. We bought a healthier tree, and we will dispose of it properly. Vance Sharp, project manager for I Love a Clean San Diego, filled me in on this year's tree-disposal options. "In general, the rules are pretty much the same for each of the three major waste-haulers — Waste Management, EDCO, and Allied Waste — no matter what city you are in. As far as tree drop-off locations, the time and the dates are a little bit different from city to city. For all three waste-haulers, if you are a resident and you have a recycling bin, there will be curbside pickup for the two weeks following Christmas. If the tree

Those who don't have a bin "should bring their Christmas tree to one of the drop-off locations in the city. There will be 16 drop-off locations all over the city, open from December 26 to January 23," continued Sharp. "It is just for residents, and they can drop

is taller than six feet, you need to cut the

tree up into four-foot sections and put it in

the green waste bin, and the waste-hauler

will pick it up."

off their trees anytime during daylight hours. [Go to *sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recy-cling/christmas.shtml* for locations.] The basic rules for drop-off: no ornaments, no tinsel, no nails, no tree stands; it has to be the bare

tree. And they will take natural as well as flocked trees."

After pickup, the trees are deposited at the Miramar Landfill. "The trees all go to the greenery, where they are ground up and turned into mulch. The tree needs to be ground up and heated so all the pathogens — any bacteria or damage-causing insects — die. And they just grind it up into mulch

at the greenery, and you can go and pick it up. You can pick up to two cubic yards of compost free for city residents. If you want to buy it already packaged, there is some charge for that. It is a good system because it is very high quality mulch. The tree is getting recycled, and it is not going into the landfill where it breaks down. It creates methane if the tree just sits there."

For disposing of Christmas-tree lights, "LED lights and lights that use flu-

> have to be taken to a household hazardous waste facility because it is considered electronic waste. Incandescent light strings

> > can be thrown away."

orescent bulbs of any kind are

Something to watch for next Christmas season: free

LED light exchanges. Sharp says in early December of this year there were a few events around the city for people to exchange their old incandescent strands. "SDG&E offered a free LED light exchange this year. You could exchange your old incandescent strands for LED lighting, which is much more energy efficient and costs a lot less money to use, so you save on their energy bill."

For more recycling information, check out I Love a Clean San Diego's website *waste-freesd.org* or call 858-694-7000 if you are a city of San Diego resident, 877-713-2784 or 877-R-1-Earth if you are in an unincorporated community.

For more stories by this author, go to sdreader.com.





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East Village Tavern and Bowl: Happy hour drink prices all night • Free bowling (does not include shoes) • Midnight draft beer toast (Dundee Honey Brown Lager) • No cover!

Hive Sushi Lounge: Open bar includes hot sake and house beer, miso soup, edamame, shrimp shumai, surf & turf roll (lobster roll topped with Kobe beef), big eye tuna, green tea ice cream • \$55 presale; \$65 night of • Regular menu available on request

House of Blues: Club Massive presented by Victory Nightlife

Moonstone Lounge @ Hard Rock Hotel: Black & White Masquerade Ball • Music by DJ Loczi • Complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres 9 to 10 pm • General admission tickets \$100 • VIP table reservations available • New Year's Eve room packages from \$495

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Red Circle Café: Two countdowns: DJ Nicky Z (midnight) and DJ Junior (9pm). All-you-can-drink bar and gourmet tapas from 6 to 9 pm. \$40 per person gets you in all night. VIP packages available from \$1000–\$2000. Dine 7 to 10 pm. Dance 10 pm to 2 am.

Rock Bottom Brewery, Gaslamp: Black & White Masquerade 2008 • Three venues of entertainment: Main Stage — Sandbox • Downtown Lounge — Club Crush/15 West and Dennis Blaze • Starlight Loft — Acid Jazz Lounge

Sevilla: Tapas Bar: 2 seatings: 6:30 pm & 8:30 pm • Main Dining Room Dinner Shows: 3 seatings: 4:30 pm, 7 pm & 9:30 pm • Club Sevilla Dinner Show: 6:30 pm show & dance party

Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina: Big Night San Diego: California's Largest New Year's Gala! • Endless, full, open bars • 16 themed party areas • 6 dance floors • The Discopimps, Metro, Miss Lisa, Mike Czech, Pashaiko, Happee, Vince Delano, Ivan Guerro, Mike G (Retro) • First-class cuisine • Huge midnight celebration • Party favors 9 pm to 2 am

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EL CAJON

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LA JOLLA

Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines: Over 30 live/DJ performances • \$40 general admission ticket includes after hours till 4 am • New Year's Day pool party • \$199 hotel rooms available now.

Jose's Courtroom: Drink specials • Dancing • Champagne toast • Late-night food • Videos mixed by Marc Thrasher • Countdown • Good times • No cover charge before 11 pm

LINDA VISTA

Tio Leo's Lounge: Karaoke New Year's Eve Party

LITTLE ITALY

Anthology: New Year's Motown Eve featuring the Motown Review. Dancing and live broadcast from New York. First eating 6 to 9 pm (\$90); second seating 9:30 to 1 am (\$145). Champagne toast included for both.

Casbah: 20-Year Anniversary Kickoff! With the Rugburns and Steve Poltz.

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MIRA MESA

Filling Station: New Year's Eve Blast!

MISSION BEACH

Canes: B-Side Players, DJs Karlos & D \$30/each (presale), \$40/each (day of) • Dinner packages & VIP seating available • Champagne toast @ midnight • Plenty of FREE parking • Doors at 9 pm • 21+ w/ID

Saska's: Dinner Packages: Neptune's Platter (2 dinners for \$85) or Steak & Seafood Combo (2 dinners for \$75). Includes choice of appetizer, choice of wine or champagne, and garlic cheese toast, soup or salad, and your choice of sides.

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SAN MARCOS

Jumping Turtle: CCMA Music School presents live music TBA. Champagne toast at midnight! Party favors!

VALLEY CENTER

Harrah's Rincón: \$69.99 whole lobster dinner at Fortunes • \$48 surf & turf special at San Luis Rey Cafe • 8 pm disco party with the Superfreaks in the Oasis Lounge • Federal Funk grooves at the Promotions Center • Diva Soul celebrates with Top 40 hits at Cabana Cove • Midnight countdown, confetti cannons, and 3,500 balloons!

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Information subject to change.

by Barbarella

"Someone smells a little too human at Trader Joe's."

— Shindotv on Twitter

bowed forward 90 degrees and slowly lifted my right leg into the air behind me, like a ballerina only not as graceful. I maintained a shaky balance on my left leg for as long as I could before my right leg came down to prevent me from eating it on the cold concrete. Bored with my onewoman balancing act, I skipped down the cement path toward David, who was fiddling with his camera on a tripod. "How long is this exposure?"

"Twelve minutes," he said. "Why, you have somewhere to be?"

"Nope, just curious." I straightened my back and drew air in through my nostrils, trying to capture the sweet-tea scent of each and every one of the countless blooming roses that surrounded us. I let out my breath and then inhaled again, convinced the bluish white light of the full

"You know, NPR is on here," I might say, as David respects all things NPR. moon, so low in the sky, was somehow enhancing the flowers' natural perfume. The clouds were moving fast, and a colossal cluster soon cloaked the milky orb. "That's probably not good for the long exposure," I said. David nodded in agreement and sighed at the uncooperative sky.

Virtual Water Cooler

Usually, David would freak if I created any visual disturbance within the camera's periphery, but seeing as the photo was most likely a goner anyway, I went ahead and turned on my iPhone. Because my eyes had adjusted to the moonlight, the unnatural brightness was at first difficult to behold. I tapped the screen, waited for a page to load, and began typing away. "What are you doing?" David asked.

"Twittering," I said. David caught himself mid eye-roll, slapped a more amenable expression on his face, and said, "What are you writing?"

"Just how beautiful the rose garden in Balboa Park is after dark on a December evening," I said. "It's so pretty out here, I wanted to capture the moment, let people know it's a cool place to visit at night." I put my phone back in my purse and gave him my full attention while we waited for his camera to finish its time-lapse shot.

David doesn't Twitter. Nor does he Facebook. He's never been on MySpace, Tribe, or Friendster because, as he says, he doesn't feel compelled to broadcast his life. In person, David mostly keeps to himself, only offering up information when it is asked of him. Likewise, his Internet presence is limited to one professional site where gallerists and collectors of his photography can view his latest images, prices, and listings for upcoming shows. Operating as a sort of complementary alter ego for my husband, I am an attention whore; in person, I babble to anyone within earshot who hasn't yet told me to shut up. Online, I am a promiscuous spider-woman, with rooms set up all over the Web.

I've kept a blog since 2000. Prior to meeting me in the flesh, it was my blog that gave the man I would marry his first glimpse of my life. David had read hundreds of entries (about my stupid coworkers, my political viewpoints, and my drama with friends and family) in one marathon sitting. He gleaned from my words what I considered to be an unsettlingly accurate depiction of me. All that time, I'd been operating under the assumption that I'd been picking and choosing among my thoughts and actions to depict the person I wanted people to think I was, not the person I actually was. I learned, however, that blogs can be as transparent as body language, as David had me pegged before we ordered our second drink at Nunu's.

Save for the occasional comment, most blog readers remain silent voyeurs. The blogger shares her opinions with everyone and yet no one. Blogging was great for me when I was in an office. In an office, you can't select which people you run into in the hallways. After bitching online about someone I found repugnant, I found it easier to force a smile when I would inevitably encounter that person at the water cooler.

Despite the unwelcome interactions, I began to miss the whole "water cooler" experience when I transitioned to working from home. After a few months of luxuriating in the uninterrupted tranquility of my home office, I began to crave more human interaction during the day than my blog could offer. Email didn't arrive frequently enough, and instant messaging was too intrusive and time-consuming. I wanted a happy medium, a ready group of people with whom to interact, but only in those moments I felt like interacting — a virtual water cooler at which someone interesting was always guaranteed to be standing.

When my friend Jessica asked me what "Twitter" was, I was at a loss for words. What was it? Not just a website, but more like virtual urbanity, a busy street corner at which you can overhear everyone's thoughts. An Internet Times Square, with billboards, links, people from all walks of life; news and entertainment on one side, voyeurism, exhibitionism, and banality on the other. Some refer to it as "micro-blogging" because each update can be no longer than 140 characters, a few sentences. But unlike my blog, a website on which only I post, Twitter is a place where anyone and everyone publishes their notions; I can choose to "follow" whom I want - meaning, when I go to my homepage, I see all the micro-blog updates from





only those people to whom I have chosen to "listen."

Local and national foodies, clubbers, writers, local news stations, and fetish-mongers are among the 155 people I follow and who follow me. At any given time, whether I'm sitting at my desk or standing

LRIS KREETENA

under a full moon among hundreds of roses, I can jump into an endless conversation by commenting on a post or by adding my

When I pick up my phone to tap out a message to my fellow tweeters, David likes to joke, "Be sure

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to tell them when you go pee." It's his way of emphasizing how pointless he finds the habit of reporting on the banal minutiae of one's every thought and action. "You know, NPR is on here," I might say, as David respects all things NPR. "It was because of

Twitter that I had up-tothe-minute information on where the fires were spreading last year. Don't knock

To which David will more than likely lean over my shoulder, point to a random post he sees on the screen, and say something

such as, "And why do you need to know that 'Randomguru' is not happy with his juicer because it's a 'cheap one and takes a long time to clean'?"

"I don't," I'll say. Then, arranging my face into a mask of sarcastic supplication, I'll add, "But aside

from food and sleep, beh beh, no one really needs anything." ■

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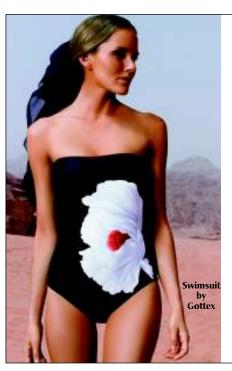




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Gangbangers to



college students

derblock building that squats on the corner of 28th and B Street in Golden Hill looks more like an urban fort than a church. Steel bars cover its windows, hardened locks secure the wide front doors. Inside, Yanov and the tutors worked with students on their homework at folding tables, the quiet in the room punctuated by occasional murmured consultations.

Reality Changers, Yanov's eighth-month-old program to help local youth stay out of gangs and aim for college, had an official census of 12. Attendance was normally spotty. Tonight he had 6. He didn't know whether it was going to fly.

"You do drugs?"

"No."

"You drink?"

"No."

"You had sex?"

"Yeah."



A rock clattered against the bars and rattled the window glass. Heads snapped up from books. Another rock crashed hard on the bars; if it had hit the pane directly, it would have shattered it. Salvo after salvo of pebbles clanged against steel and glass.

"How come we're out here and not in there?"

"Hey, Chris! You forgotten your friends?"

A face pushed between the bars and pressed against the glass. "Chris! You only talking to the smart kids now?"

The tutors looked at Yanov, eyes wide. They

hadn't bargained for this. The kids shot sidelong looks at each other and tried to look cool.

Yanov walked outside and greeted the guys, eighth and ninth graders from the neighborhood. He taught these kids at Kroc Middle School and played basketball with them at the park on weekends. Edgar and Luis were there, and the others were guys from their crew. They wore baggy pants and oversize black jackets, and their heads were shaved. Last spring, when he'd started Reality Changers, he'd invited most of them, Edgar and Luis especially,

to join. They'd all turned him down.

"Hey, Chris, no fair, you didn't let us in!"

"You guys know you're invited," he said. "You just got to get your grades up."

"Aww, man."

night as a loss.

Yanov couldn't stop grinning.

Those guys wanted in. He knew he had something.

At 23, two years out of UCSD, with no connections, no background in

the difference Yanov made for both of them.

In the fall of 2000, Yanov prison. All before 21. started work as a substi-Yanov knew Edgar and Jorge from other classes. Smart guys, both of them. He'd talked with each enough to know they wanted something better. All they had was their desire. Desire is potent fuel, but fuel alone isn't enough. Kids need a launch platform, a flight plan, and a lot of support crew. Without these, their fuel goes flat. Or it explodes.

tory: tags, petty theft, gang

fights, drugs. Quit school

at 15 or 16. Father a child.

Get arrested and sent to

Middle-class kids are surrounded by support crew, a phalanx of parents, teachers, guidance counselors, tutors, test coaches, and college advisors who assume that they're headed for college and whose job it is to help the kids get there. This crew helps them step up to the demands of high school, stay with it when expectations ratchet up, and imagine what they can do with their lives. Middleclass kids live in a culture of peers who are doing the same and of parents and other adults who see college as a given. Surrounded by these assumptions, they are carried upward on a powerful escalator.

The way up looks different if your undocumented mother works cleaning houses and your stepfather cooks at a Mexican restaurant, and nobody around you has ever gone to college, and you've never even stepped onto a campus. You don't have pictures in your head of the world you want to reach, no talismans to guide you toward that hazy ideal called college. Your parents struggled to get to the U.S., maybe came without papers, because it was so important to get here, because

For the first time in Jorge's life, he had a room of his own.

"Kids inside did."
"You're our man. You should just let us in."

"When you get your 3.0, we'll be glad to have you. See you around." Yanov waved goodbye and walked back into the church.

The rest of the session, the guys outside threw rocks and pushed their faces against the windows. The kids inside couldn't concentrate, and the tutors were rattled. No more work got done that night. The kids left, and the tutors chalked up the

education, and no funding, Christopher Yanov started a program for kids who had no hope of college to prepare them to go. Seven years later, 55 Reality Changers graduates now attend college, every one of them the first in their families to do so. Another 100 high school students are currently part of the program. This is the story of Yanov's lurching startup, and of Jorge Narvaez, who was in the room at the Iglesia that night, and of Edgar Castillo, who was throwing rocks, and

tute teacher at Ray A. Kroc Middle School in Clairemont Mesa, where the student body spoke 12 languages and gangs were a constant presence in the courtyard. The week he was assigned to cover math classes, he watched the kids file into the lowceilinged classroom and settle into their desks. First, the good girls who sat down and opened their binders, sure to have their homework done. Then, shuffling into the room just ahead of the bell, laughing, cursing, thumping each other on the arm, the gangbangers, the tough kids with shaved heads who hung out at the coral tree in the courtyard. They stuck their feet out in the aisle, folded their arms, and narrowed their eyes to slits. Jorge slouched in his seat and stared past Yanov. Edgar drew in his notebook.

Edgar hung out at the coral tree now. He'd shaved his head, and every day he looked more like the hard guys. Jorge went his own way. He got in fights, and he ditched school to spend days with his girlfriend. Both looked ripe to join a gang and start the familiar trajec-

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See the questions on page 134

First five people who respond correctly will win \$25 or a Reader T-shirt – winner's choice!



here their kids had a shot at a decent education, and they knew education was the key to making a better life. They want it for you, talk to you about it all the time, but making it hap-

Edgar had never seen a sub like Chris Yanov before. Tough-looking dude, wide shoulders, dark hair buzz-cut, a thin line of beard tracing his

He'd walk out of his AP class and catch up with his friends walking out of ESL classes.

pen, that's up to you. You don't know where to start, and there's no one around who can tell you what you need to do. You might not even know that you'd be allowed to go to college.

square jaw. Wore a suit and tie every day. Yanov spoke Spanish like a native; it sounded weird, Mexican slang coming out of his gringo mouth. At lunch he didn't hide out in the teachers' lounge. He'd scarf down his food, then go to the in-school detention room and talk with kids there about making something of themselves.

Yanov lived in Golden Hill, across the street from Edgar, and he played basketball with him and his friends in Golden Hill Park. Edgar had watched Yanov talking to the older guys about staying out of gangs. Sometimes at Kroc, Yanov would walk over to the coral tree and say hello to Edgar, ask him how he was doing. It felt good that Yanov talked to him, but when he came over to the tree, Edgar squirmed. He was trying to fit in with these guys, and the gringo



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seeking him out didn't help.

Jorge had met Yanov the year before. "This annoying white guy came up to me and said he'd heard that I was going to meet another guy off campus to fight. He asked me to promise I wouldn't do it. That was hard."

Yanov's instructions from the math teacher that week were to show the film Stand and Deliver. All week, Yanov and his classes watched Jaime Escalante set the bar high, challenge his students.

That week Chris Yanov's vision began, the vision that collided with Jorge Narvaez's desperation and Edgar Castillo's indifference and changed all their

Edgar knew how things worked at Kroc. "If you were a guy, you had two choices: you were hard, or you were a nerd." Edgar was a nerd, a soft-looking boy with a round face and shy smile and lush, dark hair that fell over his forehead. His notebooks overflowed with drawings of cars and characters from video games and kids' names in bulging, kinetic

Las Lomas, the gang in Golden Hill, was making it harder for Edgar to stay a nerd. They left the grade school kids alone, but in middle school, guys Edgar had known since First Communion were leaning hard on him to join. If you didn't belong, you could get beat up just walking to the taco shop. Last summer, he'd watched a bunch of Las

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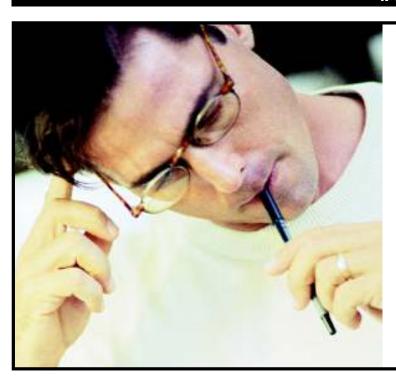
Lomas guys bust a kid's head with baseball bats, the blood pouring out. He didn't want any part of that. He hung out with the hard guys and started dressing like them; he hoped that would be enough. He got his crew cut buzzed down to an eighth-inch of black bristle, wore plaids and baggy denims, the hems scuffing the sidewalk. He ditched the backpack his mother had bought him and carried only a binder. Backpacks were for nerds and white boys.

Jorge is short and wiry, with a slender face, close-cropped wavy hair and eloquent hands. Even sitting, he bristles with energy. In the small apartment on Tenth Street near Fairmont, where he lived with his mother and brother and stepfather, the TV was always on, people were always shouting, and no one had any space of their own. For a couple of months, they didn't even have their own place and moved from one relative's apartment to another. sleeping on couches. His

mother and his stepfather fought a lot, and Jorge fought with his younger brother. His mother wanted him to do well in school, but she couldn't read English and couldn't help him.

Jorge remembered his father, a handsome man with a sweet smile who played the guitar and sang to him. His father also drank a lot and smoked crack, and Jorge remembered the awful times when his father was high and he beat Jorge's mother with his fists. When Jorge

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was seven, his mom packed three plaid plastic satchels after his father left for work, and she and Eric and Jorge rode the bus to Guadalajara. They lived there until Jorge was ten. Then his mother met Gustavo, and they came back to the States. Gustavo had a green card, and Jorge's brother Eric was born in the U.S., but his mother had no papers, and neither did Jorge.

Back in the U.S., everything was larger, the streets were wider and clean, the buildings higher. Jorge felt he had more room to breathe, and at first, he had hope for himself. Here, he wouldn't have to work landscaping or in fast food; he could go to school and find a good job. School would help him, he knew, but he didn't quite see how. He watched his mother come home so tired she couldn't move off the couch. She and Gustavo worked hard, and still there was never enough money, and always they fought. By eighth grade, Jorge felt his hopes curdling, the life he wanted receding out of his reach.

When he was in high school in Oxnard, Chris Yanov had had Mexican friends, kids as smart as he was, as capable of going to college. He watched their ambitions wither because doing well wasn't cool with their crew; their hopes derail because their parents couldn't write the check for the collegeapplication fee. At UCSD he studied political science and looked for a way to help kids like the guys from high school. Golden Hill, 12 miles and a world away from the leafy campus, was where he found it.

From the east side of downtown, Golden Hill

climbs 200 feet to a mesa with a view from the harbor to Mexico. In 1880, wealthy San Diegans built homes there for the harbor view and the breezes. When Yanov arrived in 1996, Golden Hill was

divided. West of 25th Street, those old Victorian mansions and Craftsman bungalows, now meticulously restored, with wellkept yards, had become a neighborhood of prosperous singles and young families and retired couples. East of 25th, houses from the same era, their porches sagging and their paint blistered and peeling, were divided into single rooms, rented to crackheads and laborers and the occasional artist. Apartment buildings sheltered families lately arrived from Mexico, two or three households together, sometimes more than 20 people crowded into a cousin's or an

uncle's place.

West of 25th, immaculate BMWs and Mercedes parked on the broad avenues. To the east, aging Toyotas with oxidized finishes shared the streets with plumbers' vans and

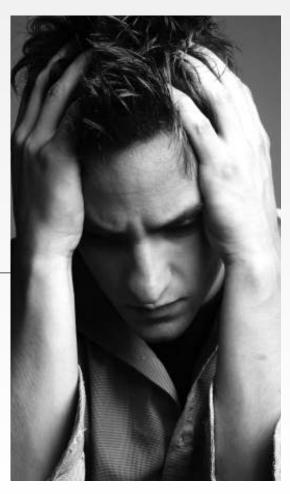
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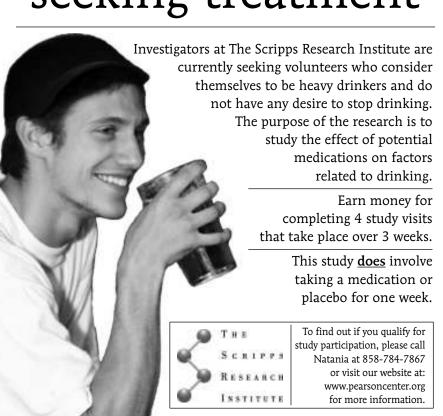




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pickups with crumpled fenders and plates from Baja and Mahopacán. On the side streets east of 25th, a taco shop, a nail salon, a by-the-slice pizzeria, two small groceries, a fruit stand, a liquor store, a 99-cent store, a barber shop, and a video store served the neighborhood's most immediate needs. A union hall, a nursing

home, and a heating and air-conditioning business have been there for decades. The Las Lomas gang controlled the streets.

The Sunday Yanov walked into the bare sanctuary at Iglesia Presbiteriana he found his place. The church was new, maybe 30 families, lots with teenagers, and a

struggling youth group. Pastor Tom Simpson was glad for his new parishioner who wanted to work with the kids. Yanov moved into an apartment at 29th and A Street and started a one-man mano a mano antigang effort. He hung around the taco shop and played pickup basketball at the courts in the park. He got to know the guys with shaved heads, and he invited them to the church youth group. They came and behaved a little better than they did on the street. But they kept on fighting and using. They still quit school. They got arrested. Some fled to Mexico. Too many of them ended up in prison. Yanov's church work wasn't getting anywhere.

He charged through UCSD, graduated in two and a half years, with a plan to go to law school. So many of the guys he

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worked with got chewed up in the courts and the prisons; with a law degree he could make a difference. He started law school at Cal Western.

Yanov hadn't reckoned on the avalanche of reading and writing that buries first-year law students. Four hundred pages some weeks. He kept losing ground. At the end of the first semester, he'd failed one course, and his average was 68. The dean of students told him he'd need to bring it to 74 by



the end of the year. Spring semester he nearly lived in the library; between February and May he bought only one tank of gas. At the end of the term, the dean called him in for a chat. He hadn't made a 74. He'd need to find something else to do with his life.

Time out.

Yanov had never failed at anything. He needed to figure out Plan B. He signed up with San Diego Unified as a substitute teacher, and when he told the kids he played basketball with in Golden Hill that he'd be subbing, they said, "Come sub at our school." They went to Kroc.

At Kroc, Yanov wore a suit and tie every day; the kids needed to see he took his work seriously. He talked to kids about staying clean of drugs and going to college, but nothing he said changed the realities of their lives. On the HBO series *The Wire*, Duquan, a young black man isolated in his neighborhood, asked, "How do we get from here to the

rest of the world?" That fit the kids Yanov worked with. They knew there was a rest of the world but had no idea how to get there. An eighth-grade girl he'd talked to about college asked, "Am I allowed to go?"

The week he subbed for math, he sat after school in the quiet teachers' lounge. He thought about Jorge and Edgar and all the other kids he taught. They didn't need more talk. They needed a bridge to the rest of the world and a shot at

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changing the realities of their lives. He smoothed a napkin from some teacher's takeout and wrote "Reality Changers." He liked the sound of it. "Agentes de Cambio." Even better in Spanish. He folded the napkin and tucked it into his wallet.

He laid out his plan to Pastor Simpson. It was simple, and wildly ambitious. Start with eighth graders. They couldn't just walk in to Reality Changers; he'd invite the ones he wanted. The kids he wanted weren't necessarily the smartest ones. He wanted the strong personalities, the ones with staying power.

They'd need it. They'd have to keep a 3.0 average to stay in. Commit to no drugs and no sex. Drug testing, unannounced. Do volunteer work. Come every week to the program meeting. Work on English vocabulary and writing, have dinner together, maybe speakers. He'd have one-on-one tutors, college students, close enough in age that kids could see themselves and their futures in their tutors.

He needed a serious carrot. Like Academic Connections, UCSD's three-week summer program for high school students. Get these kids onto campus. Live in the dorms, take a college course — taste college. The biggest carrot: Keep a 3.0 all through high school, and they could get into college. Get in, and he'd guarantee them scholarships. He didn't know how, but he had four years to figure that

All he had was the space at the church.

In the next months, he talked to Edgar and Jorge and about ten other guys. Jorge remembers Yanov's invitation, delivered to him after school: "You do drugs?"

"No."

"You drink?"

"No."

"You had sex?"
"Yeah."

"I'm starting a program for guys who want

to go to college. You interested?"

Yanov started Reality Changers with Jorge and three others. Edgar had said he'd think about it. Yanov never heard back from him. Jorge couldn't wait to get to the Reality Changers meetings. "It was survival, that simple."

A 3.0 felt like a staggering goal when he started; by the end of

ninth grade at James Madison, he'd kept the 3.0, joined the biology club, run track, and had a girlfriend.

The next summer he went to Academic Connections. He walked into

his dorm room at UCSD and looked around. Bed. Desk. Chair. Shelves. Closet. Window. All his. Nobody else in the room. First time in his life he'd had a room of his own. He shut the door and sat on

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the bed and looked around at everything. All

He studied marine ecosystems. For three weeks, he spent his days on the beach with the professor, gathering invertebrates and learning how to classify them. "You're not gonna let this go," he told himself.

Yanov was the father he hadn't had, Yanov's belief in him the strong scaffolding on which he could build his dreams. We are sitting at the breakfast table in Jorge's apartment. His hands are on the tabletop as he talks, fingers close together, then spread a bit, then a bit more. "After I started Reality Changers there was a little, and a little more, and then an explosion." His hands open wide and hold the air.

Edgar remembers the night he and his friend Luis decided to start their crew. The Las Lomas guys never stopped leaning on him, at the bus stop, at school, at the barber shop. He and Luis knew they'd have to do something. They talked on the phone that night, Edgar in the small bedroom he shared with his brothers, Luis at his apartment a block

away. Instead of joining, they'd start their own crew. Just guys they knew, like familia, who'd have each others' backs. They knew the three other guys they'd start with. They'd do strictly tagging, no fights. Edgar felt great. They weren't little kids anymore, and with the crew they could take care of themselves.

They boosted cans of

spray paint from the 99cent store, and in the alley next to Luis's apartment they'd drink a little beer and plan their tags. They were becoming somebody.

A year later, the crew had grown to 20 guys, with tags from El Cajon to Chula Vista. They'd done some sides of buildings down on Euclid Avenue. People knew who they were.

Edgar knew guys in Reality Changers. He heard about their meetings, about the tutors and the way people treated each other with respect. He thought about Reality Changers every time his mother cried about his coming in late, which was pretty often now. She'd sit on the couch, crying, and tell him how worried she was for his future. His father yelled, and sometimes he'd get so mad he'd

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He'd also started to worry about his future. At crew meetings, guys drank a lot of beer now, and sometimes tequila. Nothing else at meetings, but Edgar knew who was smoking weed, who was doing coke and crystal. Some guys wanted to do more than tagging. Edgar couldn't risk getting arrested. He'd been born in Tijuana while his parents saved money to pay the *coyote* to take them across. His father had become a permanent resident, but Edgar and his mother were still undocumented, always at risk for deportation.

His freshman year, while he and Luis were building the crew, Edgar also started working harder at school, even going to an after-school tutoring program. He brought his GPA up to 3.0. Just in case.

The next summer, his friend Julio said he was thinking about joining Reality Changers. Edgar and Julio lived on the same block, and if they both joined they could walk over to the Iglesia together. That was important, because when the crew heard they'd joined, they'd face some serious hassle.

On a Tuesday night in September, they walked to the Iglesia. Yanov met them at the door and shook their hands. Fifteen guys were sitting around the table. Every one of them stood up and shook their hands. Edgar wasn't used to that kind of welcome.

The next summer, he went to Academic Connections and studied robotics. Those three weeks at UCSD sealed the

deal. If this was what college was like, he was going. In the next three years, Edgar never missed a Reality Changers meeting. At Madison he signed up for AP classes.

He stayed in the crew, and he staved friends with the guys. He needed them, couldn't imagine his life without them. He still dressed in hoodies and baggy jeans, still came to meetings. He helped design the tags and worked on all of the big ones, sometimes all night. Since he'd joined Reality Changers, he didn't use any drugs. Guys would offer him stuff, and he'd just say no, thanks. Everyone acted cool, but he could feel the space opening up between them, especially between him and Luis. They didn't have much to say anymore. He felt it at school, when he'd walk out of his AP class and catch up with his friends walking out of ESL classes.

Jorge's family moved to Clairemont. The apartment was larger and cleaner, and in a garage behind the apartment he made a place that was his. He moved an old table and a lamp to the garage so he could study. Then he moved his mattress out there. When he and his girlfriend Nancy needed a place, he brought her

In the spring of their junior year, Nancy told him she was pregnant.

"I'd continued the chain," he said. His grandfather had fathered his first child very young, and Jorge was born when his parents were in their teens. He'd always figured he'd be the man to break the chain, do his life differently. Now this.

It got worse. Yanov said he'd violated his Real-

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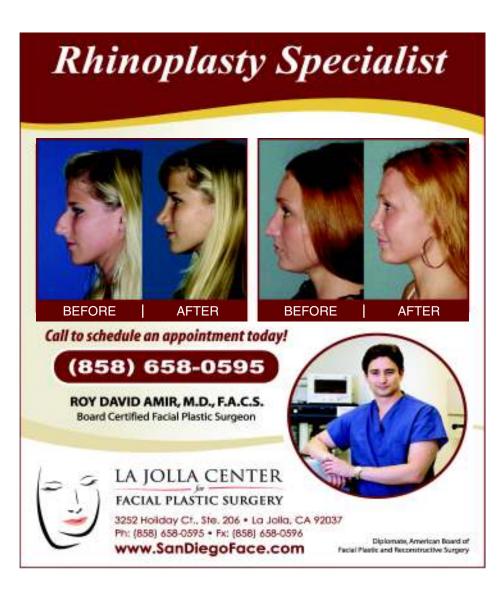
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ity Changers pledge. He'd have to resign.

At the next meeting, Jorge stood up and faced the *U* of sagging couches where the rest of the kids sat. He needed to tell them something. Tears stung his cheeks. It was several minutes before he could speak.

Yanov stood a few feet away, fists shoved into his pockets. Jorge had to do this himself.

He was resigning, Jorge told them. He'd gotten his girlfriend pregnant.

The room went quiet. Yanov really meant it about the rules.

Jorge was terrified. Without Reality Changers, he'd be lost, his plans derailed. Still, Yanov had said that he would spend three hours a week with him. Jorge would hold on to that connection. He'd

keep his grades up. Maybe he could still go to college.

Nancy was the youngest of seven girls. All those sisters bore down on Jorge. Forget college, they told him. He was going to be a father. He needed to get a job. Jorge went to Academic Connections, and for the rest of the summer he shoved wheelbarrows full of cinder blocks on a construction

Yanov hated sending Jorge away. He'd had to make the point with the rest of the kids. Jorge had come so far; Yanov couldn't let him founder. Most weeks he stuck to his pledge and spent the time with Jorge.

Jorge's essay for his UC application was due November 30, and by the week of Thanksgiving, he still hadn't written it. Yanov drove to Oxnard on

Thanksgiving to be with his family. On Friday, he drove back to San Diego, stopped at Jorge's place, and picked him up. Yanov and Jorge spent the next day and a half at Yanov's apartment. Yanov coached, and Jorge ground out his essay. Yanov edited, Jorge revised, over and over. Both remember the ordeal: 3 hours out for sleeping, 30 hours banging on the essay.

UC applications cost \$50 per school, and he applied to six. Yanov told him not to worry about the fees.

State universities don't give financial aid to undocumented students. Jorge would have to get a green card. His father had registered him in 1987, when he was less than a year old, in the amnesty for undocumented immi-

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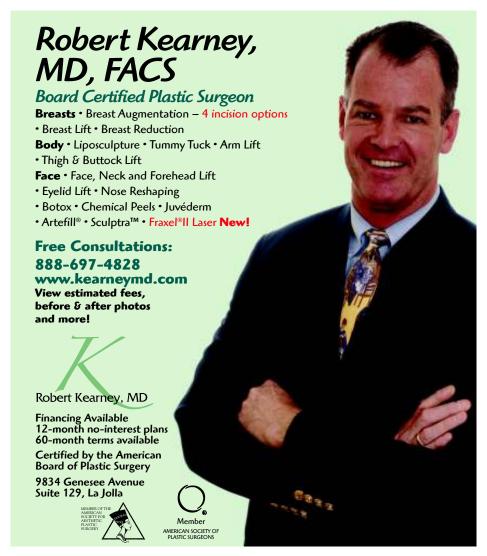
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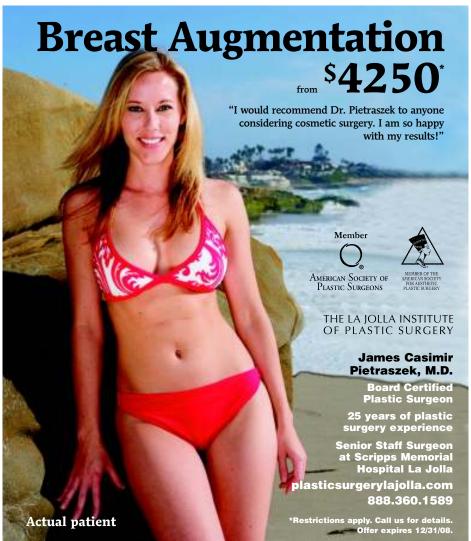
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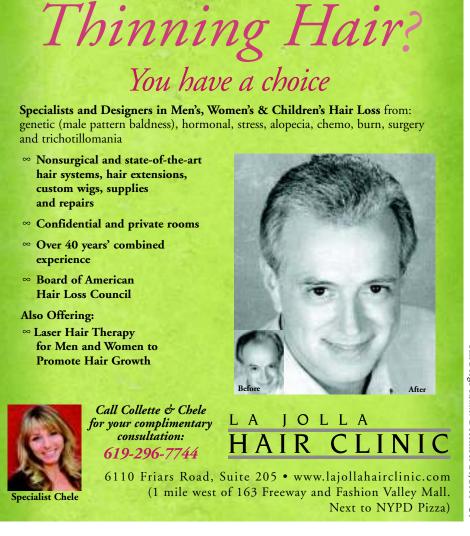
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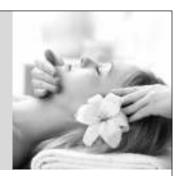
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grants. That gave him a social security number and a leg up on his application for permanent-resident status. The I.C.E. assessed an additional penalty of \$1000 because he'd been here illegally. Yanov wrote a check for the penalty.

Alexa Narvaez was born in December of Jorge's senior year, beautiful and healthy. Nancy's sisters ratcheted up the pressure. Jorge had a child now. He should marry Nancy, quit high school, and go to work full time. He said no. Monday through Friday, he and Nancy got up at 4:00 a.m. and made 30 tortas to sell at school. By second period, they'd have \$60, enough for diapers and ingredients for the next day's batch.

Berkeley, UCLA, and UCSD offered Jorge

admission. In May, his permanent-resident status came through. That September, Jorge and Nancy and Alexis moved into an apartment in UCSD's married students' housing.

Edgar wanted to go to Point Loma Nazarene University. He liked the school's rolling lawns and ocean view and its strong Christian culture. The school admitted him, no questions asked about his status. They offered him some scholarship money, but it wasn't enough. He'd figured he'd go to SDSU and live at home. Two weeks before he was to start, an anonymous donor approached Yanov with an offer to cover Edgar's tuition and room and board. The same week that Jorge moved his

family into UCSD housing, Edgar drove across town and settled into his dorm room at Point Loma Nazarene.

Jorge and Edgar will be college seniors this fall. They're living out their dreams. It's been harder than they ever imagined.

Edgar was shocked at how poorly prepared he was for college coursework, the amount of reading, and how much he was expected to write. His AP courses at Madison had given him no real sense of what he'd need to do. Every time he started a new semester, he questioned whether he belonged in college. His mother is proud; his father's not sure it's worth it. He'd rather see his son with a full-time job.

Edgar is majoring in psychology, and he wants to be a high school guid-

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ance counselor, to help kids like himself. His longtime girlfriend is a citizen, and they talk about marrying so that he can be legal. He's not ready to marry, but he'll have to get legal to work.

His freshman year, Jorge remembers, "I didn't know how to manage my time or emotionally control myself; I was talking to everybody." He found the Cross Cultural Center, and there weren't enough hours in the day for all the projects he wanted to be part of, all the demonstrations he wanted to attend, the conversations he wanted to have. His classwork suffered. For his first two years, every quarter he ended up on academic probation.

By the end of his junior year, the strain was telling. His first two years, Jorge had cluster migraines, fierce, pounding headaches caused by stress. He always had too many projects going. He'd always worked part time, Nancy worked full time, and still they were chronically short on money. Their apartment was bare, their furniture worn. Their car was old and falling apart, and their credit-card debt kept piling up. They'd learned that Nancy was pregnant again, due in October.

"Thin ice," Jorge said last spring. "I feel like I'm on thin ice all the time."

This past summer he worked two jobs, restaurant work and catering, sometimes 80 hours a week, so that Nancy could stay home with Alexia and take it easier in her last trimester. He paid down the biggest bills and bought a plasma TV. He's calmer this fall, more focused on his classes. surer in his commitment to Nancy and his daughters. He feels so much older than his peers.

Nancy's sisters have changed their mind about Jorge. They see how hard he works and how involved he's been in caring for Alexia. They've come to respect his commitment to his education.

Jorge and Nancy have never married, and now with the two girls, Nancy feels more strongly than ever that Jorge should marry her. Jorge loves her and Alexa and the new baby Elania, and he wants them to be a family and to support them all. He just doesn't want to get married.

Getting married feels like closing off his dreams: he still wants to write songs and play his music. Maybe go back to study marine ecosystems. Get into politics. He doesn't know that he'll do these things. But having possibilities is so new to him he can't bear to close anything off.

Yanov built Reality Changers on his own time, while he worked as a substitute teacher. In 2004, he told the San Diego Presbytery, which had supported the program,

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that he needed to be a fulltime director. Now he draws a salary and oversees two sites that serve 100 students from Oceanside to Tijuana. Fifty-five graduates of Reality Changers attend college. They go to UCLA and Berkeley and UCSD, to UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, and UC Riverside. One is at Harvard, one graduated this year from Dartmouth. Others go to Duke, SDSU, Cal State Long Beach, San Marcos,

Fullerton, and Northridge. A few have started at Mesa and City College with plans to transfer.

Yanov has built a solid corps of college-student tutors and a group of adult volunteers who tutor, give a ride, or write a check. He's attracted over \$1 million in scholarship donations and more in in-kind service. Reality Changers has outgrown the meeting space at the Iglesia Presbiteriana and has moved to the

Workforce Partnership's building in City Heights. Two full-time employees started this year, both former tutors. One oversees programming. The other is developing "Reality Changers in a Box," a startup guide for the churches, foundations, and cities who've approached Yanov and want to start their own Reality Changers. Oceanside would like to start a program. Austin and Phoenix have programs in the planning stages.

Yanov is proud of what he's built, and a little restless. Golden Hill's gentrification is nearly complete. The lowriders and their bumping music that would wake him at 3:00 a.m. are now gone. Only three Reality Changers kids live in Golden Hill this year; the cheap apartments where Mexican families used to live are converting to upscale

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condos.

He's no longer carrying Reality Changers on his back. He's hired two former tutors, Grace Chaidez as program manager and Jennifer Schaller as program designer. They've picked up substantial pieces of the day-to-day work and made their own connections with the students.

Both Jorge and Edgar know they still need Yanov. He has been father, big brother, and counselor, both men say, the person who sustains them as their own adult selves grow. Though they've told him often how much he matters, Jorge and Edgar both think that Yanov doesn't fully get it, how essential he's been to their making it.

It's Tuesday night at the Iglesia Presbiteriana, and Yanov's offering the dream to this year's kids. They slump on the couches facing him. Most have been up since before 6:00 this morning, at school and sports practice and work; they'll be here until 9:00 tonight. The fatigue shows in their faces. Behind him a banner with block letters spells out **REALITY** CHANGERS. Waist-high shelves hold 46 fat binders, each with a student's name on the back. Confident teenagers smile out from group photos, and framed news stories and photos of Reality Changers graduates, listing their colleges, assure the students in the room that they can do it too

Michael, a handsome boy in an oversize sweatshirt with cutoff sleeves, plaid shorts, and a flatbilled baseball cap, slouches, whispering while Yanov talks. He's an eighth grader, new to the program. Yanov asks him to quiet down and pay attention. He assigns a short writing exercise, a paragraph using this week's vocabulary words. Finish it, and they can go in to dinner. They rummage for pens and open their notebooks. No one protests; they know the drill. The room quiets. Michael thrusts his hands in his pockets and stares at the ceiling. Yanov looks at him inquiringly.

"I don't have a pen."
Yanov walks over and

hands him one.

Fifteen minutes later, everyone else has turned in his paragraphs and headed for the dining room. Michael says he's not finished.

He hasn't started.

Yanov settles his solid frame onto the couch beside Michael, folds his arms, and says, "I'll wait."

Michael exhales deeply and starts to write. ■

— Barbara Davenport

Author's note: All the stories are true. A few names have been changed because of the characters' circumstances or immigration status.

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My Life Aquatic

Okay, here's the deal: I don't really have a neighborhood. A description of my general place of residence would look something like this: Pacific Ocean, San Diego, CA. Yes, really. I would tell you the exact part of the bay — and which one — I live in, if it weren't for the fact that residing in a boat (renting it like an apartment) is now illegal in San Diego.



Author: Jason Gentile
Neighborhood: San Diego
Age: 28
Occupation:
Musician/Graphic Designer

Editor's note: This is the winner of November's \$100 third-place prize for our monthly neighborhood-essay contest.

Deadline for the next contest is December 31, midnight.

To post your entry, go to SDReader.com/neighborhoods, find your neighborhood or campus, and follow the instructions to create a blog. Six months ago, when I found myself hard up for cash and losing a financially crucial (yet annoyingly snobbish) roommate in North Park, I asked some friends to ask some friends about a cheap and decent place to live in this gilded town. Turned out that a friend of a friend of a cousin had a brother-in-law that had a boat docked here in SD and was thinking about renting options. I threw in my hat, and here I am, bobbing in the bay.

My sea legs have become semi-permanent, yet the 150 dollars a month it costs me is quite worth the adjustment. I make sure my presence is low-key around the docks, so as to prevent any boat owners from being tempted to alert the authorities. I also have to keep the favor of local security personnel. Typically a six-pack or a bottle of tequila does the trick.



View of downtown skyline from bay

The biggest downfall is the showering and bathroom situation: public. It may be a bit disgusting at times — and it is — but I've got my system down now.

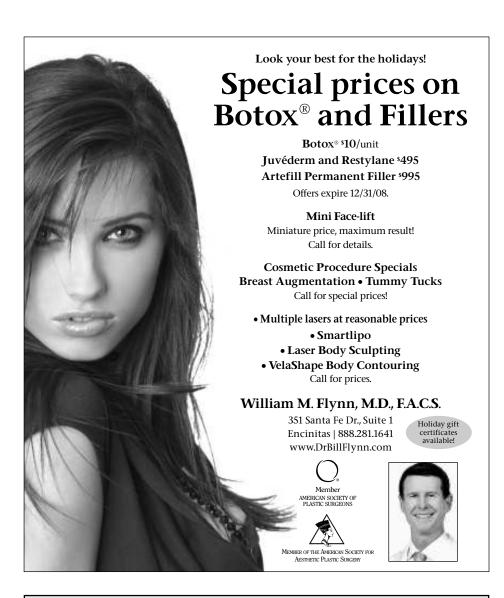
You see, this is no yacht I'm renting. It's a 20-foot sailboat. Aside from a minuscule monthly payment, my responsibility is to keep it clean. That's it. My dining room is Robertos (or any prefix "-ertos") taco shop. My living room is the nearest coffee shop — where my bathroom usually is, too. At times I feel half-civilized, half-pirate, and half-secret agent, which I guess makes me one and a half persons? That's kinda how I feel, even as I write this. One foot in the modern So-Cal world, and one in an aquatic, semi-homeless "other."

This space can be both freeing and

imprisoning at times. It can be downright alienating and lonely some days. Yet with a good book and a trooper of a girlfriend, this place is paradise — minus the exorbitant San Diego price tag. Each day I step off land and look back at the lights. Here's the simple truth I see from my saltwater shelter: In this world — in this town — it seems to be the prices that are far more entrapping than a small boat could ever be. So my little slice of freedom has been to choose to live on a little boat. And although I am certainly not innocent in the biblical sense, I am no criminal either. Even though I am apparently breaking a law by sleeping here, my only crime is that I'm one step from homelessness and two from complete conformity...I think. ■

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Diego *Reader* December 24, 200

4

Tinsel on a palm tree

Christmas is on my mind. As a season in San Diego it is to me as cruel as April was to the poet T.S. Eliot. New Year's, I maintain, does not matter so much. My complaints about Yuletide San Diego are not unique (they hardly ever are, I'm told by some relatives, except possibly in the complaints' sheer volume and number) and center around a single fact: my son, my only child, is fully grown. I am certain it goes this way for

It struck me as a uniquely

San Diego type of holiday

remembrance..."WELCOME

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most parents enamored of the sentiment and glitz surrounding the Christian, religious holiday. I hardly think it is the same for the Jewish, who never bought into either this particular faith-based premise or the subsequent nonsense in the first place, as well as, say, the Islamic, for nearly identical reasons. Include yourself, if you like, or any of a hundred other cultures, religions, or belief systems. Ironically, if you

will, I would venture to say that those who celebrate Christmas most enthusiastically in this country, and in San Diego, have no real belief systems at all, much less one involving a divine birth over 2000 years ago that might actually dictate behavior. Belief systems: by which I mean beyond the laws of economics, and maybe one or two superstitious leanings regarding the

stock market or sports wagers.

I am writing this on a blistering Sunday in November. The heart of the Sudan might be more climactically conducive to the mood. Bethlehem can't be too much farther north latitude-wise, though I will check that (lest that unavoidable character, usually, for some reason, in El Cajon, corrects me). The point is in trying to strike that ironic note in the disparity of climates: the ones we associate with, for its obviousness, a white Christmas. It has

been observed numerous times, and often to great comic effect, that California and Christmas are oil-and-water—like. Movies are best at this, but Christopher Isherwood, Joan Didion, Nathanael West, Paul Theroux—Lordy!—even O. Henry have all made much of this no-small-thing. The stock icon here being tinsel on a palm tree. What I may be getting at is that "The Christmas Spirit," however you define it, can strike anywhere.

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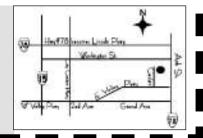
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am not here to tell you it does not, so please set the ropes down and let that blinking cursor on your email window do a few reps before engaging your outrage.

Here are two true things, both of which happened recently in the Ralphs grocery store in Hillcrest.

I was with a friend, more or less my age, and helping him shop for things like bananas and Ensure (breakfast of old guys). Dick suffers from something that sounds like nonspecific peripheral neuropathy.... That's not it, but it sounds close. It bends him over like a spoon in Uri Geller's souvenir drawer. The produce department is adjacent to the pharmacy, and somewhere between the bananas and the antacids, Dick had a stroke. Not at first all that dramatic, he simply went

suddenly and almost completely blind. He told me this as he clutched the shopping-cart rail with whitening knuckles. His gaze was off somewhere slightly above and past the canned meats and into infinity. I told him to hang on, grateful that several medical professionals were only a bin of avocados away.

Dick remained calm but had gone pale and his eyes

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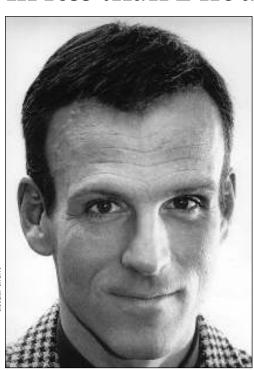
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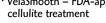
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were tearing. "I'm blind, man. Can' t see a freaking thing. My heart's racing."

I turned toward the pharmacy and raised my voice just a little — really. "My friend's having, I think, a cardiac event of some sort. Says he can't see and could you...maybe a glass of water?"

The three or four staff members behind the pharmacy counter turned slowly, gracefully, as if in a rehearsed ballet move. They turned their backs to us. While Dick had been stricken blind, so had Providence chosen this moment to silence an entire squad of pharmacists their hearing. I repeated my request for water and asked if they might call someone. Dick clutched my wrist and said, "No, no. Don't make a deal out of this."

I did not want to say

"stroke," being as superstitious as anyone. Instead, I repeated (because I had heard the phrase in regard to me some years ago, just before the pacemaker), "A cardiac event of some kind." A full minute or longer passed before a gentleman handed me a dusty, silted prescription bottle full of lukewarm water. He said nothing. I thanked him. Dick begged for another (sorry, man, but

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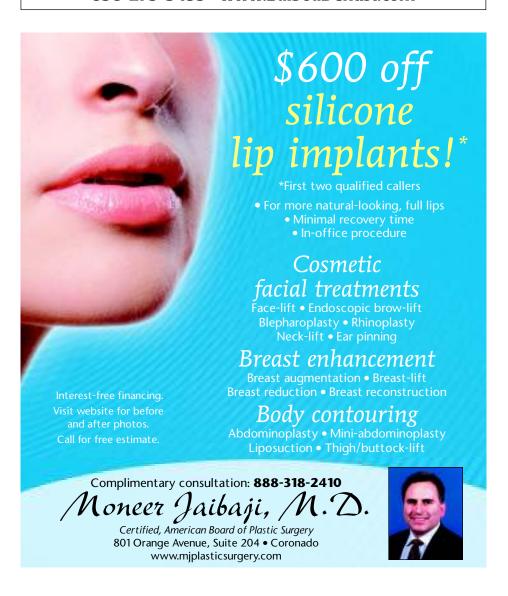
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you did), and slowly another amber vial of murky water appeared. During this entire scene, no eye contact was established between the staff and either me or Dick. I told him to hang on to the cart rail, and I guided him out, stopping to pay for the few items we had collected. I drove him to my place (sans driver's license), and he spent the night on my bed. I slept on the floor. It was marginally an improvement on the mattress. The next morning, I took him, still sightless and speaking with an odd syntax, as if English were not his first language, to Mercy's emergency room. He spent five days there, until his lack of insurance dictated his recovery.

He is in another hospital now, his bill financed by a friend with superior means.

During that time, I thought of an act of kindness involving another of Ralphs' pharmacists, one who was not present during the above, corporately negligible crisis. She had extended to me this kindness twice and not long ago. It was simple enough, but on an order of decency above and beyond. She was and is an attractive and diminutive Asian woman, who understood I could not afford the medication I needed at Ralphs' prices and so called Costco to see what they charged. She gave me that same price. She even called me a good customer to someone over at Costco. I don't know her name, but I thank her profusely.

Days later, I asked a clerk at the checkout stand what had happened that day at the pharmacy with Dick. She suggested that someone might have been afraid of a lawsuit. I agreed with her that someone was certainly afraid of something.

The other day, I was interviewed by an undergrad journalism student from UCSD. Lorie Grant asked about the money one might expect entering the field of print journalism, and I responded as accurately as

I could. Within days, hoping to be helpful to me, she had emailed some Help Wanted pages off the Net. One looked fairly promising — a dataentry position — and though I have yet to examine the offer more closely, this email

struck me very much like a cyber Christmas card. She was not trying to be humorous; it was in the Christmas spirit of being charitable — although it could have been a Labor Day card. Thank you, Lorie. I am in no way

making fun of you. In fact, I intend to follow up on that ad, I do have idiosyncratic typing skills, and as for what this might have to do with the holidays (Christmas, in particular), I can only say that it struck me as a uniquely

San Diego type of holiday remembrance—you know, almost like a bumper sticker: "WELCOME TO SAN DIEGO. GOT A JOB?"

It was around Thanksgiv-

ing that I received this letter from a reader. It read, in part: "Thank you so much for writing me back." His first letter was in response to a piece of mine, a collaboration with another writer called "The Heroin Chronicles," and his

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assumption had been that I was a lifelong junkie, as described by my collaborator. My response was to correct this outrage. (The very idea!) He went on: "That's all I really wanted anyhow."

I had responded to him briefly and confessed to years of struggle with alcohol, but not, in the end, saying all that much about it, because like Melville's "Bartleby the Scrivener," "I prefer not to." Instead, I had included a quote from Shakespeare's Othello: "O God, that men should put an enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains! That we should, with joy, pleasure, revel and applause, transform ourselves into

beasts."

But the correspondent was more interested in comparing notes on mutual, past stomping grounds in Manhattan's West Side in the 1970s. He described his father's body being found on the steps of 310 W. 70th St. and his habit, as a young man, of drinking at a bar called McGlade's, just a block from where I tended bar at that same time. He spelled it Dazzle's when it was, in fact, spelled Dazzels, due to the German owner' s unfamiliarity with English, or possibly just his inherent and gay whimsy. He (the letter writer) thanked me, in the spirit of the season, for bringing back dubious memories. He did not say dubious. The man, whom I do not wish to make fun of here, lives in the beach

areas of San Diego and included a Thanksgiving commemorative stamp on the envelope. He wished me "Happy Thanksgiving" just above his closing quote from Kurt Vonnegut Jr. and The Sirens of Titan, quite as if it explained everything one cared to name in terms of fate, the old cookie crumbling: "I was a victim of a series of accidents, as are we all." Followed by his possibly appropriate, inscrutable signature.

The Vonnegut quote struck me as an underlying attitude among those of us who have made our way, or found ourselves, here in San Diego. A shrugging off of personal accountability, if not outright responsibility, karma, intent, failure, or success, and the quote did seem, in context, to be a

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benediction suitable for Thanksgiving. The primary thanks the letter-writer was offering me was for responding at all to his loneliness, isolation, disenfranchisement, and alienation. This sense was overwhelming when I read the newspaper clippings he had included, which were unrelated to anything I had written that might have moved him. They did mention his name, spelled correctly, several times. I was thoughtless when discarding them. But this seemed to be the greater point: his postscript was to "Toss the articles, they're old hat."

Oh. I was right about our latitudes, San Diego's, and that of Bethlehem's, by the way. Close, anyway. Close enough for me. ■

— John Brizzolara

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LETTERS

"City Lights," December 18). It's not just happening with restaurants. I work in a spa, and it's rampant. A guy came in — he wasn't a concierge, he represented concierges or something. He was very shady. And he spoke to us all as a group and told us how much it was for each service — \$5 for this or \$10 for that. It wasn't a percentage, it was a flat rate, like this much for a massage and that much for a facial. And at the front desk of the spa, there is a record book that records each and every service that was referred by a concierge, who it was and how much they're going to be paid. It's really rampant in more than one industry downtown.

Name Withheld

Bard In The Summer

The article in the "Blurt" section entitled "What I Did Last Summer" (December 18) was about me! I'm Gordo! Now, I did the article with Ken Leighton and previewed it before he submitted it to run! What I want to know is, who put the caption "Johnny Cash doesn't inspire Gordo" under the photo? I stated, "While I was in jail, I looked to certain people for inspiration, other musicians who went through a similar experience like I was going through, people like Merle Haggard and Tupac Shakur." They did lengthy jail time sentences. Not comparing myself to them at all musically, but from a "behind the bard locked in a jail cell" perspective!

Now, Ken asked me, "What about Johnny Cash?" I replied, "No disrespect to Johnny — I love his music — but he was in jail for, like, 2 to 7 days. That don't count. You have to do at least 30 days to really feel those walls close in on you!" Now, the article itself is correct, but how the hell did the person that put the caption up come up

with "Johnny Cash doesn't inspire me"? Because Johnny Cash does inspire

I feel as if that was a trashy low blow, something the National Enquirer would write and not the Reader! With all due respect, I feel that was b******! And I'm really pissed off about it! I just got out of jail! Hello! I shared my story with you, the Reader, and this is how you slander and misquote me! My fans were very perplexed and some upset, even. I would never pick a fight with God or Johnny Cash. Why the hell would you folks do that to me? I feel the press has an obligation to tell the truth and accurately report the story! There were a million other captions this person could have used, like "What I did last summer" or "Embalmers front man serves 180 days in county jail!" etc., etc., etc., but to put me on blast like that! To drop me off on Front Street! That's so amateur and weak! I expect an apology!!!!!!! I know no one is perfect and these things happen. The right thing to do is get at me with an apology and learn from this, like a real journalist, reporter, editor, as a magazine as a whole. Get the

It might be a joke to some or they might be trying to outdo themselves with a supercreative or controversial quote, but in this case I feel the person went way out of their way to get it completely wrong!!!! I realize the article online is different, but the point of the matter is, captions are like headlines! They're everything! That's what gets people's attention! He or she should be more wary about what they run! Especially when it's not the truth and when the caption is very misleading, like in this case.

story right.

Get at me!!!! I demand an apology and expect to speak to the person ASAP.

I just got out of jail and don't appreciate this at all!

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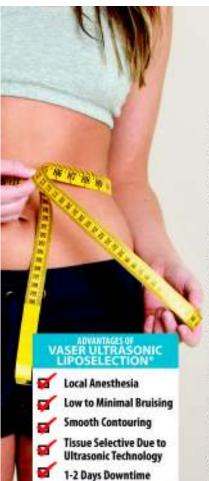
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P.S. You ever been to jail? Its f***** nuts!!!!!

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The Reader apologizes to Gordo and wishes him a Merry Christmas. — Editor

Charges Should Be Brought

Thank you for publishing the story of Francisco Castaneda and his harrowing treatment at the hands of the Department of Homeland Security's ICE division ("Go Directly to Jail...and Die," Cover Story, December 11). By all written accounts, Mr. Castaneda was a quiet, polite individual who was subjected to unbelievably inhumane, insensitive, and criminal neglect by officials in charge of his detention. All those who sought to deny him adequate health care, and those who deliberately delayed and prevented that care, should be charged with second-degree murder — depraved indifference to human life.

> Warren Cooper via email

Writing In Circles

I have to comment on Frank's letter from last week (December 11). I had just assumed this section was for politics or corrections in stories.

For a person (male especially) to say he looks forward to Barb's column and claiming to read it twice is bizarre. To say she doesn't brag or is condescending also strikes me as odd, since I feel she does both.

I enjoy the "Crasher" column most, but I would never get excited by a Reader's early arrival. In fact, I've been on vacations, missed a few weeks of "Crasher," and it was all good. Not sure what the letter writer means about Board's "limits" or "bad grammar." I don't see bad grammar in the column. If I did, I would assume that's an editor's fault besides. I also don't see "Crasher" ever listed

in "Typo Patrol." I would say that Barbarella can write circles around Mr. Board. But ya know what? Her column is boring, and it's always about the same thing (her sisters, her dad, David, crying for no reason). I'm not sure why anyone would be interested in the same thing all the time. Unless it's her shrink.

John Brizzolara can write circles around both of them. He just never talks about what to do on Friday, and it can be dull. His column is often just him meandering around his apartment or lamenting the latest with his son. Not interested.

Give me Duncan hating everything and Board not "boring" me. I'd much rather have the black dot and black guy at a party he played basketball with.

J. Ferry Mira Mesa

Refreshingly ScaryIn this article the author

keeps using the term "vacancy rate" for one project ("It's Getting Ugly Downtown," Cover Story, December 4). Actually, the correct terms for condos are "presales" or "unsold units." The interesting part of the article was the possibly knowledgeable buyer, second-year law student Jordon Harlan. While his candor was refreshing, his analysis was scary. Attributing the entirety of his payments for the next 36 months to the required price increase to justify staying in the unit completely ignores the rental value. Is he going to live in his car in the USD parking lot after foreclosure? Then he goes on to whine about his huge investment. He has none; he borrowed more than the unit cost, using the extra to paint, buy furniture, and a little buffer. Other than his reputation, seems like a negative investment to me. Was the bank stupid for making such a loan? You bet. Harlan, I own my house free and clear, so who do I go to to recover my lost value? So, Harlan, man up, move your free furniture to your rental, and suffer the foreclosure.

John Gonnerman via email

AND WELCOME TO

Thursday | 25

CHRISTMAS MORNING HIKE

Give yourself the gift of health! Take a three-hour guided hike through Daley Ranch in Escondido before digging into your holiday sweets.

See OUTDOORS, page 56.

LAMB'S FESTIVAL OF **CHRISTMAS**

Inhabitants of mysterious old hotel, "The Angel's Arms," inspire blocked novelist Jeffrey Scott with Christmas

spirit. See **THEATER**, page 113.

Friday | 26

CHINESE NEW YEAR SPECTACULAR

The Divine Performing Arts uses colorful costumes, authentic instruments, and 3000-year-old dance moves to portray China's ancient heritage.

See IN PERSON, page 56.

HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS

Just because you've opened all your presents doesn't mean it has to be over. Continue to relish the sparkle of the season at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. See **SPECIAL**, page 57.

GREASE IS THE WORD

Sing along with the Pink Ladies and the T-Birds with fellow Grease buffs at the Birch North Park Theatre. Jackets not included. See FILM, page 55.

Saturday | 27

KWANZAA CELEBRATION

Learn about the seven principles Kwanzaa, view a premier screening of The Black Candle after hearing filmmaker M.K. Asante Jr. speak, witness WorldBeat Africanstyle drummers and dancers, and eat vegetarian Kemetic (ancient Egyptian) food.

HATE WASTING WATER?

See **SPECIAL**, page 57.

Gather water-conservation tips and learn which lowwater-use plants thrive in San Diego weather as you tour the Quail Botanical Gardens. See SPECIAL, page 57.

Sunday | 28

ELFIN FOREST BICYCLE RIDE

Requiring even more endurance than it takes to fight traffic in an urban commute, this journey across North County covers 70 miles of wilderness and suburbia.

See SPORTS, page 59.

HORTON TECHNIQUE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Workshop at the Dance Place San Diego in NTC Promenade on Lester Horton's "anatomically corrective" techniques (oft used by Horton's protégé, Alvin Ailey) meant to "fortify, stretch, and strengthen" the body. See **DANCE**, page 54.

Monday | 29

BUMBLE BEE FOODS HOLIDAY BOWL 5K RUN

Banish the holiday bloat with a long run on flat waterfront ground downtown. The run is part of the Big Bay Balloon parade. See **SPORTS**, page 59.

Tuesday | 30

PROTECT YOUR ACL!

Stay in the game! Decrease chances of an ACL (a ligament in the knee) injury during this clinic for athletes 14 to 18 years old. ProActive physical therapist John Jaro will be on hand to answer questions.

See **FOR KIDS**, page 55.

Wednesday | 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH LADY DOTTIE & THE **DIAMONDS**

San Diego is the perfect place for winter beach events. Join the crew at the Catamaran and party like it's 2009 with sassy Lady

Dottie. See LIVE MUSIC, page 72.

(LITERALLY) RING IN 2009!

Restitution, not resolution — Buddhist bell-ringing ritual on Shelter Island purges 108 frailties and passions experienced during the year, granting a fresh start for January. See **SPECIAL**, page 57.



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Holiday Special \$99 In-room Jacuzzis Sunday-Thursday \$99

Includes breakfast. Friday/Saturday: 2-night package. Full restaurant breakfast for 2 people, \$258. Fine dining & cocktails. Lodge. Hookah bar, billiards, Internet. Golden Acorn Casino! 2-story, A-frame cabins, air, HBO, microwave, refrigerator. Live Oak Springs Resort: 37820 Old Highway 80 (60 minutes east of downtown San Diego, 2 miles south of I-8). Massage package available. Certain restrictions apply. www.LiveOakSprings.com. Call 619-766-4288.



New Year's At The Legend For \$199

1 night & 2 tickets to New Year's Ball. Includes party favors, deluxe New Year's buffet, dance show, live music for dancing, and mariachi. Buffet dinner only \$49/person. Rates + tax. Restrictions apply. Reservations: 1-866-Rosarito. www.rosaritobeachhotel.com.

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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

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

DANCE

Belly-Dance Show Belly dancers Sabrina Fox and Lucia perform to live music by Middle-Earth Ensemble. Open dancing. 858-488-4200. Sunday, December 28, 8 p.m.; \$10. Ages 21 and up. The Turquoise, Café-Bar Europa, 873 Turquoise Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Contradance The Usual Suspects make music, JoAnn Koppany calls for dance hosted by San Diego Folk Heritage at 8 p.m. Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. Bring food/beverages to share during (optional) potluck supper, 6:30 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-

OUT & ABOUT

CHINESE NEW YEAR SPECTACULAR

San Diego Civic Theatre, Friday–Sunday, December 26–28.

(SEE IN PERSON)



283-8550. Saturday, December 27, 6:30 p.m.; \$7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

English Country Dancing Judee Pronovost calls for English country dancing. Beginners' instruction at 6 p.m. 858-676-9731. Sunday, December 28, 6 p.m.; \$6. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Holiday Black and White Ball

Wear black and white casual dress or "dress to impress" for USA Dance Ballroom Party promising wide variety of music, including ballroom, Latin, swing, salsa. Waltz lessons at 7 p.m., dancing from 8-11 p.m. All ages, ability levels, singles, couples. 760-525-5124. Saturday, December 27, 7 p.m.; \$7. Synergy Dance Zone, 7480 Miramar Road. (MIRA MESA)

Holiday Whirl Malashock Dance, Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater, and San Diego Ballet — the three resident dance companies at Dance Place San Diego — host "Day of Dance." Learn what each company offers throughout year. Classes for all levels include stretch, ballet, "Afribellydance," yoga, modern. 619-260-1622. Friday, December 26, 9 a.m.; free. Ages 12 and up. Dance Place San Diego in NTC Promenade, 2650 Truxtun Road, Suite 108. (POINT LOMA)

Horton Technique for the Holidays Daniel Marshall leads workshop in Horton technique, used to train Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater dancers. Marshall is director of LaDiego Dance Theatre. Pay \$20 per single class or \$75 for entire workshop. 619-225-1803. Saturday, December 27, 10 a.m.;

Sunday, December 28, 10 a.m.; Monday, December 29, 10 a.m.; Tuesday, December 30, 10 a.m.; Wednesday, December 31, 10 a.m.; \$20-\$75. Dance Place San Diego in NTC Promenade, 2650 Truxtun Road, Suite 108. (POINT LOMA)

Jitterbug and Swing Dance Party Deejay plays swing, jitterbug, and requests for singles and couples of all ages. Open dancing 7-9:30 p.m.; dance lesson: 7:30 p.m. First time free. 619-275-3533. Sunday, December 28, 7 p.m.; free. Pattie Wells' Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (BAY PARK)

More Swingin' in the New Year Dress in vintage (if possible), enjoy dancing to Jonathan Stout Orchestra, meal catered by California Cuisine. Performances by various groups, dance contests. Pay



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OUT & ABOUT

KWANZAA CELEBRATION WorldBeat Cultural Center, Saturday, December 27.

(SEE SPECIAL)



THE BLACK CANDLE DIRECTOR M.K. ASANTE JR.

tional \$35-\$45 for dinner. 619-255-1319. Wednesday, December 31, 8 p.m.; \$50. Cypress Ballroom, 3665 Park Boulevard. (HILLCREST)

New Year's Eve Dance Party Cabrillos and Balboa Park folk dancers host party. Entry is \$5 with a plate of finger food to share, \$10 without food to share, 619-422-1584. Wednesday, December 31, 8 p.m.; \$5-\$10. Folk Dance Center, 4569 30th Street (NORTH PARK)

Swingin' the New Year Hal Smith, Sonny Leland, and the Rhythmakers make the music. Enjoy dancing, deejay music, dance classes "Lindy by the Bay," more. 619-347-9366. Tuesday, December 30, 9 p.m.; \$30, Claire de Lune, 2906 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

FILM

Grease Is the Word Audience participation is encouraged during screening of this "classic familyfriendly musical" from 1978 starring John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John, and Stockard Channing. 619-239-8836. Friday, December 26, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, December 28, 2:30 p.m.; \$7-\$9. Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

FOR KIDS

Jack and the Beanstalk Will Jack escape the giant or become a Jack-burger? Big Joe Productions entertain. Curtain rises at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday-Friday; 11 a.m., 1, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 619-544-9203. Wednesday, December 31: \$3-\$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West, (BALBOA PARK)

The Merry Christmas Show Puppet Express plans variety show of skits and songs including a snowman, gingerbread house, frisky mice, and of course, Santa. Curtain rises at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday-Friday and at 11 a.m., 1, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 619-544-9203, Friday, December 26; Saturday, December 27, 11 a.m.; Sunday, December 28; free. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West.

Holiday Storytelling Children of all ages hear stories about the many different holidays celebrated at this time of year. Included in regular admission. 619-238-7559. Saturday, December 27, 1 p.m.; free. Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Vertical Clinic Focus on increasing your "vertical" and learn to jump higher if you're an athlete 14-18 years old and play volleyball, basketball, or football, during this clinic. "Program is designed to increase power output and explosiveness." Registration: 858-592-7766. Monday, December 29, 9:30 a.m.; \$20. Ages 14 and up. Velocity Sports Performance, 10806 Willow Court. (RANCHO BERNARDO)



National Geographic Geotourism Map Guide of Tecate

Come and visit the sites selected by National Geographic for the Geotourism MapGuide of Baja California. We invite you to enjoy Tecate and discover its Treasures.

Tecate, the best located tourist Rancho La Puerta destination on the peninsula, is known as the heart of Baja California. Because of its strategic location in the center of the northern part of the state, it is the perfect point of departure to major cities and points of interest in the region. Tecate is a small city where you can breathe tranquility, where people are friendly and hospitable. Unlike most small towns that have little to offer, it presents an impressive array of options, including natural landscapes where you can perform all kinds of ecotourism activities, as well as first-level facilities to enjoy the comfort and convenience in the most peaceful atmosphere.

Nourish body, mind, and spirit on a week's stay at this upscale fitness resort and spa. Dine in the organic garden. Take a daily fitness, meditation, dance, or language class. Hike the mountains or meadows and relieve your sore muscles with a massage.

Rancho Los Chabacanos

Wash your cares away "Temazcal", a steam bath used by ancients for healing and purification. Hike the nature trail. Savor gourmet Mexican food at this hacienda lodge.

Tecate Bakery

from the bakery "El Mejor Pan de

Tecate", where the savvy and hungry line up daily to wait for fresh-baked

Rancho Ojai R.V. Park

Family-friendly working ranch with camping cabins, and many recreational

Tecate Brewery

Take the tour of the Cuanhtemoc Moctezuma Brewery and sample a free beer in the beer garden.

La Rumorosa

Keep one eye on the steep, winding highway and another on the impressive Start your day with a donut or pastry mountain scenery as you descend 4,000 exhilarating feet





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ROAM- -- RAMA | A Guide to Unexpected San Diego and Beyond | by Jerry Schad

The rambling Puente Hills, overlooking the San Gabriel Valley to the north and Orange County to the south, interrupt what would otherwise be a continuous spread of flat, nondescript suburbs. Rising no higher than 1500 feet in elevation, they host a collection of hill-side homes; the sprawling, mostly undeveloped Rose Hills Memorial Park; the huge Puente Hills Landfill; and several large open-space areas for habitat preservation and public recreation. Whenever the L.A. Basin is swept clear of smog and moisture by offshore winds (common this time of year), the higher elevations of the Puente Hills offer



Puente Hills on a foggy morning

truly mind-blowing views of almost everything from the mountains to the sea.

Hellman Wilderness Park, perched on a south slope of the Puente Hills overlooking the city of Whittier, offers a quick passage via steep trail to some of the more airy vantage points. To get to Hellman Park's trailhead, exit Interstate 605 at Beverly Boulevard in Whittier. Drive east on Beverly for two miles and turn left (north) on Greenleaf Avenue. Go 0.2 mile north to the trailhead parking lot on the right.

You begin with the fire road going straight up the ridge to the east — a route dubbed "cardiac hill" by the locals who are into cardiovascular exercise. Ignore lesser paths that diverge right. After 0.4 mile the trail

dips slightly and you are faced with two alternatives: a more gradual ascent on a curvy trail to the left or a continuing steep climb along the spine of the ridge. Pick the left fork (you will return on the steep path to the right) and thread alongside slopes overlooking a yawning chasm to the north.

At 1.0 mile, you reach

a wide fire road. To the left (north) is the ridge-running Tank Fire Road and plenty of other possible routes to hike all over the Puente Hills if you have the time and inclination. Our briefer, looping route, though, goes sharply right. After a short stint on the wide fire road, veer right and go uphill briefly on the path that follows the spine of the ridge and passes over a high point. That's

where you'll get the most panoramic views. Whenever crystal-clear skies prevail, a vast sweep of L.A Basin landscape stretching from skyscrapers of downtown L.A. to Palos Verdes is in vivid view, along with nearly all of Orange County. At times a distinct Pacific Ocean horizon can be seen, interrupted by the rambling profile of Santa Catalina Island.

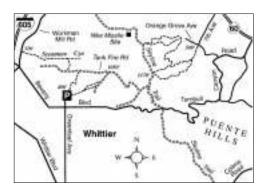
From the high point on the spine of the ridge, continue in the same direction (southwest), and make your way steeply and almost straight down to the trailhead.

This article contains information about a publicly owned recreation or wilderness area. Trails and pathways are not necessarily marked. Conditions can change rapidly. Hikers should

HELLMAN WILDERNESS PARK

Get a mind-blowing view of the Southland from L.A.'s centrally located Puente Hills.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 115 miles **Hiking length:** 2 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate



be properly equipped and have safety and navigational skills. The *Reader* and Jerry Schad assume no responsibility for any adverse experience.

Saturday Celebrations Enjoy music and dance parties during "Holiday Happenings." Afternoons feature dancers, musical groups, "other unique performers." Create ornaments in holiday-themed design studio. 619-233-8792. Saturday, December 27, 10 a.m.; free. The New Children's Museum, 200 West Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Protect Your ACL! Stay in the game! Decrease chances of an ACL injury during "ACL Injury Prevention Clinic" for athletes 14-18 years old. ProActive physical therapist John Jaro will be on hand to answer questions. Registration: 8592-7766. Tuesday, December 30, 9:30 a.m.; \$30. Ages 14 and up. Velocity Sports Performance, 10806 Willow Court. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

Winter Family Fun Enjoy a day of nautical family fun including creation of "colorful door hangers" to take home, and short cruises on San Diego Bay aboard historic *Pilot*. Adults pay regular admission; children (under 13) must be accompanied by adult to enter free. 619-234-9153. Monday, December 29, 9 a.m.; free. San Diego Maritime Museum, 1306 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

Holiday crafts

Special Children's Activities - Dec. 11, 15 & 17

IN PERSON

Chinese New Year Spectacular

Divine Performing Arts presents "a living window into China's glorious past," with history-based and ethnic dances, Chinese vocal and instrumental performances. 888-973-7469. Friday, December 26, 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 27, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, December 28, 1 p.m.; \$30-\$200. Ages 5 and up. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

"How Steven Kendrick Stole Christmas" Steven Kendrick headlines Ocean Beach Comedy show, with Austin comedian Trey Galyon featured, as well as "several funny guys from the L.A. area." Open-mike comedy show (6-7 p.m.) precedes show. 619-222-6822. Friday, December 26, 6 p.m.; \$5. Winstons, 1921 Bacon Street. (OCEAN BEACH)

Conscious Comedy Explosion Conscious Comedy Explosion celebrates third anniversary with performance by comedian, actor, writer Speedy, hosted by Curtis V. Array of opening acts ranges from

"neo-soul, spoken word, jazz," DJ

Brotha Barry. 619-819-7838. Friday, December 26, 7 p.m.; \$7-\$12. Ages 18 and up. Golden Nights Hall, 7520 El Caion Boulevard. (LA MESA)

See the Human Jukebox! Technomania Circus presents "a variety of eclectic musicians, strange black-light acts of an unusual nature, circus acts, puppet show, DJ Darth Vader," art creation zone. Warm clothing recommended. 619-231-1950. Wednesday, December 31, 6 p.m.; \$20. Ages 21 and up. The Center for Amusing Arts, 2438 Commercial Street. (LOGAN HEIGHTS)

Squeaky-Clean Comedy! Family-friendly shows for all ages. 858-433-1457. Saturdays, 7 p.m.; \$5. Naveed's Comedy Club at Bella Roma Pizza and Restaurant, 6830 La Jolla Boulevard #103. (LA JOLLA)

OUTDOORS

Liquidambar Trees, or sweet gums, the colorfully deciduous trees gracing front yards, parks, and campuses throughout the San Diego area, have been putting on a good show for the past month. The maplelike leaves of most varieties

have turned from green to purple to red; the leaves of other varieties have faded to a golden yellow. Other varieties may hold on to their leaves until January. Most liquidambars will regain their foliage by late February.

The Fabled "Green Flash" at sunset or sunrise can sometimes be seen on crystal-clear days in December and January. At the instant the sun's upper rim is last visible at sunset, and also at the instant when it is first seen at sunrise, a flash of emerald-green color may be observed, especially on a flat horizon. Physicists explain this peculiar phenomenon as due to color-dispersion (as in a prism) and scattering of sunlight through the earth's atmosphere. Binoculars (or a small telescope) are helpful in spotting it. For greenflash hunting at sunset, any site with a view of the ocean horizon suffices. For the sunrise green flash, any spot overlooking the low desert (Sunrise Highway in the Laguna Mountains, for example) is good.

The Planet Venus is this season's holiday star. In this, the last week of the calendar year, Venus blazes like crazy in the southwestern sky after

dusk, and doesn't set until three hours after the sun does. Venus's tenure as a so-called "evening star" will not last. By next summer, Venus will have "switched sides" relative to the sun, and will appear in the eastern sky at dawn.

The Year Closes with a picturesque arrangement of the moon and three planets in the southwestern sky at dusk. Jupiter (bright) and Mercury (much dimmer) lie within about two degrees of each other low in the sky, while Venus appears much higher and to the left of the Jupiter/Mercury pair. The crescent moon drifts from the vicinity of Jupiter and Mercury on Sunday, December 28 to near Venus on Tuesday, December 30.

Audubon Society Bird Walk Bring binoculars and drinking water to explore Tecolote Canyon. 858-581-9944. Saturday, December 27, 9 a.m.; free. Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT)

Basic Birding Tom Troy leads basic birding program with emphasis on identifying birds by sight and sound and using binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides. Directions: 760-967-6915. Saturday. De-

cember 27, 8:30 a.m.; free. Buena Vista Audubon Society Nature Center, 2202 South Coast Highway. (CARLSBAD)

Christmas Morning Hike Naturalist Carol Stanford leads her third annual Christmas morning hike over Creek Crossing trail to East Ridge, Coyote Run, Diamondback, and Sage trails. Hike will last about three hours. 760-839-4680. Thursday, December 25, 8:30 a.m.; free. Daley Ranch, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

Explore Silverwood Sanctuary Audubon Society offers guided walks offered Sundays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. 619-682-7200. Sundays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; free. Silverwood Sanctuary, 13003 Wildcat Canyon Road. (LAKESIDE)

Got Mistletoe? Learn how and why mistletoe gets into sycamore trees during guided nature walk. 619-668-3281. Saturday, December 27, 8:30 a.m.; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground entry station, Two Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Make Birding Memories Join Palomar Audubon Society birders for outing. Directions: 760-746-8315. Saturday, December 27, 8:30



Quail Botanical Gardens 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024 (760) 436-3036 ext 206 www.qbgardens.org



a.m.; free. Oak Hill Memorial Park, 2640 Glen Ridge Road. (ESCONDIDO)

New Year's Nature Walks Resolve to learn more about local flora and fauna during guided nature walks, 619-668-3281, Saturday, December 27, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, December 28, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, December 31, 9:30 a.m.; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Rediscover Old Escondido East Walking tour led by Escondido History Center, starting at southeast corner of Grand and Broadway. 760-743-8207. Saturday, December 27, 11 a.m.; free. Draper's and Damon's, 101 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Seashore Minus Tourists! Join Walkabout perambulators for mostly flat, moderately paced walk with relaxing sounds of surf. 619-231-7463. Friday, December 26, 10 a.m.; free. Crystal Pier, Garnet Avenue at Ocean Boulevard. (PACIFIC BEACH)

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OUT & ABOUT

ULTIMATE RIDEZ EXPO

at San Diego International Auto Show, Wednesday-Sunday, December 31-January 4, San Diego Convention Center

(SEE SPECIAL)



SPECIAL

"One World 2009" New Year's Eve gala promises Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean performances, dance and live music by the

benefit the Safe School rebuilding project for Sichuan schools. Reservations: 858-268-0888, Wednesday, December 31, 7 p.m.; \$85-\$100. Jasmine Restaurant, 4609-A Convoy Street. (LINDA VISTA)

(Literally) Ring in 2009! Yearend bell-ringing 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. Dress warmly. 619-239-0896. Wednesday, December 31, 11:30 p.m.; free. Shelter Island Friendship Bell, 1402 Shelter Island Drive. (POINT LOMA)

Drum Out the Old and Drum in the New Melinda Rodriguez and her band of Drummers and Didgeridoo lead "journey to bless and release 2008 and then embrace 2009 and the good fortune it holds $\,$ for us" hosted by LifeWorks Spiritual Center, 760-815-9462, Sunday, December 28, 10 a.m.; Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Avenue. (CARLSBAD)

Feeling Bubbly? Wine and Champagne tasting, open house, promising libations and French Gourmet fare, RSVP: 858-488-1725 x300. Sunday, December 28, 4 p.m.; \$40. Ages 21 and up. The French Gourmet, 960 Turquoise Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

First Night Escondido New Year's Eve celebration with live music by many different groups, dancing, activities for kids, Chinese

dragon parade (9 p.m.), fireworks (9 p.m. and midnight), more. Alcohol- and drug-free party takes place at California Center for the Arts, Grape Day Park, and Escondido City Hall. 760-715-4448. Wednesday, December 31, 6 p.m.; \$20. California Center for the Arts. Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

Garden of Lights Gardens decorated with 90,000-plus sparkling lights on plants and trees through December 30. Horse-drawn wagon rides, holiday crafts, live entertainment, marshmallow roasting, children's activities, food (for sale). Additional fees for some activities. 760-436-3036. Friday, December 26, 5 p.m.; Saturday, December 27, 5 p.m.; Sunday, December 28, 5 p.m.; Monday, December 29, 5 p.m.; Tuesday, December 30, 5 p.m.; \$3-\$10. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Hate Wasting Water? Water conservation tips offered by ex-

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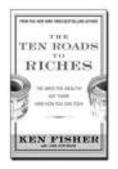


SANDIEGO SAN

San Diego Reader December 24, 2008

What's That You're Reading?

NAME: STEPHEN BERG | AGE: 37 | OCCUPATION: CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED NEIGHBORHOOD: UTC | WHERE INTERVIEWED: HAZARD CENTER BARNES & NOBLE



What are you reading?

"The Ten Roads to Riches, by Ken Fisher. Also, 50 Prosperity Classics, by Tom Butler-Bowdon. And Seinology, by Tim Delaney."

Tell me about them.

"Ken Fisher is one of Forbes' 400 richest guys in the country. He runs an investment firm up in Silicon Valley. The book is just basically telling about how people get money to invest in the first place — it's based on his clients over the past...I don't know, 30 or 40 years. One

way is to inherit, another is to marry into it. Or you can start a company or become a CEO. I've always thought of starting a company; I just need to figure out what to do — how to do it. I've got to find some little niche — maybe inventing something, having someone else sell it. He writes that it's better to compose songs than to sing them — the composer makes more money and doesn't wear himself out touring and performing. But the way to make the most money is to start and build a successful company. "50 Prosperity Classics is basically a collection of book reviews,

giving a taste of the best inspirational books on business and success. One of them is Conrad Hilton's Be My Guest it's an old one, my father had a copy in his den. It's the rags-to-riches story of the man who built the Hilton Hotel empire, starting out with one old hotel during the Great Depression. Seinology is by a sociology professor. It just talks about a lot of sociological concepts as they are demonstrated by the show Seinfeld. There's a chapter on group dynamics — if you have a group of two and a third person comes along, it changes the dynamic, that sort of thing. I found it long on recounting episodes and short on teaching sociology."

Compare them to other books you've read.

"There really isn't anything."
What book has been most lifechanging for you?

"I'm still looking for that book. I'm having a hell of a time figuring out where I fit in this world and how I'm going to make a good living. A lot of these kinds of books just give me hope, and that's all I'm looking for right now. Just something to get me through the day. I want to be wealthy because you never know what's going to happen to you. You could be hit by a bus and crippled — I don't have health insurance right now. I have nothing. These books reinforce that it is possible — other people have done it. Just don't give up — think positive. People do it in many different wavs."

Who are your favorite authors?

"I would maybe say Ken Fisher. This is the second book of his that I'm reading right now. He's giving me hope." What magazines or newspapers do you read? "The Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, Forbes, The Economist." How many articles do you read to the end?

"Maybe a third or a fourth. I get through the table of contents, see what's of interest to me."

Do you talk to your friends about what you read?

"Sometimes, yeah. Mainly we talk about economics and the economy. I've got a friend; he and his wife are trying to start a software company. But it's a bad time to try to enter the market right now, and a lot of this has to do with timing. We're in a bear market now, and I think we're looking at another three to five years before things in improve. It'll get worse before it gets better."

For more stories by this author, go to sdreader.com.

perts during tours slated for last Saturday each month. Participants learn of international plants that are easy to grow, from areas such as the Mediterranean basin, Cape South Africa, Australia, Chile, and California natives. Learn to plant, grow, cultivate with "easy how-to" guidelines and instruction. Included in regular admission. 760-436-3036 x206. Saturday, December 27, 10 a.m.; \$10. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Holiday of Lights More than 350 lighted, holiday-themed displays for viewing from visitors' cars. Admission: \$14 per vehicle (up to five

people), \$19 per vehicle with six or more people, \$49 per bus. 858-793-5555. Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.; Fridays, 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 5:30 p.m.; Sundays, 5:30 p.m.; Mondays, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.; through Sunday, January 4, \$14.

Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Kwanzaa Celebration This year's festivities include screening of *The Black Candle* by filmmaker M.K. Asante Jr., who will be on hand to make presentation prior to film. Also planned: WorldBeat African drummers and dancers,

African vegetarian Kemetic food, speakers on principles of Kwanzaa, lighting of candles. "All families and races are invited." 619-230-1190. Saturday, December 27, 6:30 p.m.; free. WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

Out With the Old, in With the New! Enjoy "interfaith New Year's Eve 'burning bowl' ceremony to release the old and welcome in the new." All are invited. Donations welcome. 760-944-9226. Wednesday, December 31, 7 p.m.; free. Ages 14 and up. Seaside Center for Spiritual Living, 1613 Lake Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Poinsettia Bloom Balboa Park's Botanical Building boasts festive holiday scene with over 500 poinsettia plants displaying their blooms during 22nd annual display. 619-231-9193. Fridays, 10 a.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.; Mondays, 10 a.m.; Tuesdays, 10 a.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m.; through Wednesday, January 7, free. Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

Rev It Up and Go! San Diego International Auto Show highlights over 400 new-model vehicles, concept cars, alternative-fuel vehicles, specialty cars, trucks, vans. 619-525-5000. Wednesday,



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SD Convention Center, 11am-6pm. More than 350 exhibitors with everything for your wedding. Info, coupons, www.bridalbazaar.com.

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December 31, 10 a.m.; free. San Diego Convention Center, 111 West Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

Thar She Blows! H&M Landing offers daily three-hour excursions to view the annual migration of California gray whales, with "interpretive narration by trained and knowledgeable staff." Also available: five-hour cruises depart daily at 10 a.m., voyage to Coronado Islands. Reservations: 619-222-1144. Thursdays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Fridays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mondays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; through Friday, March 20, \$17-\$25. H&M Landing, 2803 Emerson Street. (POINT LOMA)

Ultimate Ridez Expo Expect "tricked-out and exotic vehicles," deejays, live performances by local artists, B-boy and hip-hop dance competitions, fashion show, swimsuit competition in this portion of San Diego International Auto Show. 619-407-4180. Wednesday, December 31, 10 a.m.; free, San Diego Convention Center, 111 West Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

SPORTS

"A Festivus for the Restivus"

Enjoy empty roads during 25-mile Knickerbikers bicycle ride. Bring money in case an open restaurant can be found for stop. 619-787-7427. Thursday, December 25, 10 a.m.; free. Mission Bay Visitors' Center, East Mission Bay Drive and Clairemont Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Borrego Springs Century Enjoy desert bike riding hosted by R&B Bicycle Club. Riders have choice of paved road rides in 34-, 60-, and

100-mile routes. Registration opens at 7 a.m.; starts from 8-9 a.m. Julian pie at finish. 760-765-2200. Saturday, December 27, 8 a.m.; \$59. Palm Canyon Resort, 221 Palm Canvon Drive. (BORREGO SPRINGS)

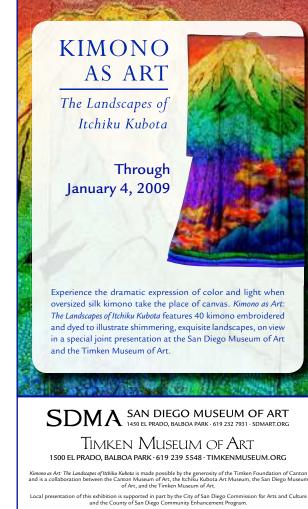
Bumble Bee Foods Holiday Bowl 5K Run Enjoy flat, fast, scenic course along waterfront, starting on Harbor Drive (at Ash Street) and finishing on G Street, just as the first Big Bay Balloon Parade entries go by. Race-day registration: 7:30 a.m. 858-268-1250. Monday, December 29, 8:45 a.m.; \$30. Embarcadero, Harbor Drive.

Chargers Football San Diego Chargers host Denver Broncos during final regular game of the

season. Broadcast on CBS. Tickets available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). Sunday, December 28, 1:15 p.m.; \$54-\$98. Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

Cowboys versus Ducks! 2008 Pacific Life Holiday Bowl promises football between University of Oregon Ducks and Oklahoma State University Cowboys. Broadcast on ESPN. Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). Tuesday, December 30, 5 p.m.; \$70-\$85. Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Road, (MISSION VALLEY)

Elfin Forest Bicycle Ride San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders head out for 70-mile ride "all over North County." 858-277-7499. Sunday, December 28, 8:45



hiku Kubota, *Ohn/Fuji and Burning Clouds* (detail), tie-dyeing and ink painting on silk crepe with gol 1991. Courtesy of the Itchiku Kubota Art Museum.

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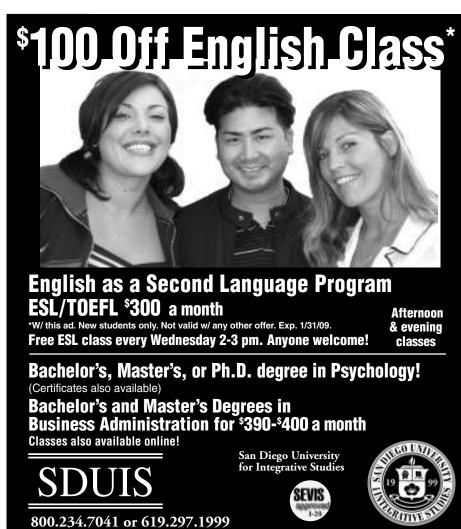
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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

a.m.; free. Doyle Park, 8175 Regents Road. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

Pedal to Cities of the East Join San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders for 40-mile ride. 619-647-3212. Tuesday, December 30, 9:15 a.m.; free. Pepper Park, Bay Marina Drive at Tidelands Avenue. (NA-TIONAL CITY)

MUSEUMS

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

Campo Railroad Museum Campo Railroad Museum, showcasing more than 130 years of American railroad history and technology through static and operating exhibits, the museum includes cabooses, steam and diesel locomotives, track motorcars, 1880s "Jim Crow" segregated passenger cars. 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. 31123-1/2 Highway 94, 619-465-7776. (INLAND BORDER TOWNS)

Chinese Historical Society and Museum "Quanzhou: The Beginning of the Silk Road of the Sea," a photography exhibition by Chen Shizhe continues through January. Shizhe's photographs capture diverse local flavor of Quanzhou, an ancient port city in Fuiian Province.

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. 404 Third Avenue, 619-338-9888.

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. 360 Third Avenue, 619-427-8092. (CHULA VISTA)

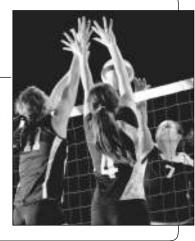
Creation Museum A museum contrasting the evolution and cre-

OUT & ABOUT

PROTECT YOUR ACL!

Injury prevention clinic, Velocity Sports Performance, Tuesday, December 30.

(SEE FOR KIDS)



ation worldviews. 10946 Woodside Avenue North, 619-448-0900.

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

Heritage Walk Museum The museum includes the restored Victorian house, the city's original Santa Fe Train Depot, a railroad car with model train, working blacksmith shop, and a barn. Find

Heritage Walk in Grape Day Park. 321 North Broadway, 760-743-8207. (ESCONDIDO)

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

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

car." 4233 Park Boulevard, 619-296-3112. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

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

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

Marston House Museum 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. 3525 Seventh Avenue, 619-298-3142. (HILLCREST)

Museum of San Diego History

"Dressing a City: Selected Styles from Marston's Department Store, 1878-1961" offers selection of pieces from San Diego Historical Society's costume and textile collection, with clothing and replica costumes. Through December.

"100 Years of Art," continuing through March, showcases a century of artwork by San Diego artists. "Place of Promise: Stories of San Diego" lets visitors "literally walk on San Diego"; a map of county extends from wall to wall across the floor. Also featured in ongoing exhibit are two large 1930s murals by artist Charles Reiffel and a 1910 San Diego streetcar. Stories of San Diego are interpreted through images, artifacts, oral histories from society's collection. The museum is located in the Casa de Balboa building. 1649 El Prado, 619-232-6203. (BALBOA PARK)

New Americans Museum in NTC Promenade "From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America" — continuing through February — is an exhibit created by the American Jewish Historical Society, chronicling "the American Jewish experience in this country." Trace the American Jewish journey "from persecution to participation," from the original 23 refugees who landed in 1654 to today's diverse Jewish community.

Chicago photographer Gina Grillo captures family experiences as immigrants arrive in Chicago and chronicles their integration into urban life in "Between Cultures: Children of Immigrants in America." Grillo began by shooting photographs outside lines of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), and later, citizenship swearing-in ceremonies, immigrant neighborhoods, immigrant families arriving at O'Hare Airport. Closes Sunday, February 15. 2825 Dewey Road, Suite 102, 619-255-8908. (POINT LOMA)

Parsonage Museum of Lemon Grove "Messages from the World:





SKI & SNOWBOARD IN ENCINITAS

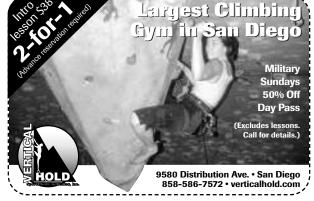
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3750 John J. Montgomery Drive, Suite D, San Diego, CA 92123 800-759-5667 • www.barnstorming.com The Story of the Lemon Grove Post Office" follows evolution of local post office from horse and buggy days through modern times. Also on view: "The Children's Room," "The Parents' Room," "The Sewing Room," offering installations evoking life in the parsonage from 1900-1940. 3185 Olive Street, 619-460-4353. (LEMON GROVE)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

Oozing with disgusting science and hands-on learning games, "Animal Grossology" takes a scientific look at "some of the slimiest, stinkiest, and downright yuckiest creatures on Earth," adapted from author and science teacher Sylvia Branzei's *Grossology* children's book series. Visitors gain perspective on animal kingdom, with 16 exhibits bringing to life gritty and gross facts about some of "nature's most disgusting critters." Continues through Sunday, January 4.

"Tinkering" features more than 20 hands-on exhibits bringing out "your inner inventor" with pulleys, computer circuits, turntables, wind tunnels, more. In the "Tinkering Studio," kids transform household items into catapults, robots, spectroscopes, more. Closes June 7.

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

San Diego Air and Space Museum "Star Trek: The Exhibition" is said to contain "the world's most comprehensive collection of authentic *Star Trek* ships, re-cre-

OUT & ABOUT

GOT MISTLETOE?

Mission Trails Regional Park hike, Saturday, December

(SEE OUTDOORS)



ations, sets, costumes, and props" from five television series and ten films created for more than 40 years. Sit on a re-creation of the original USS *Enterprise* bridge, enjoy a motion simulator.

"Gangsters, Glamour, and Glory: Forging America's Future" features historical items from all over U.S. highlighting the 1930s. Exhibit includes "the Bonnie and Clyde Ford, the ac-

tual car they drove into the ambush and to their death in the early '30s." Also on view: the newly constructed airplane, the Gee Bee R-1 Super Sportster; additional Bonnie and Clyde artifacts, sports memorabilia, radio broadcasts, clips from Hollywood films. Through January.

Concurrently, see "The History of Commercial Aviation in America." A section of exhibit celebrates 40-year history of PSA, with original graphics, a re-creation of the airline's first ticket booth at Lindbergh Field, uniforms and memorabilia donated by former employees. Ongoing.

The museum offers exhibits of over 65 aircraft, including an RQ-1K Predator UAV (unmanned aer-

ial vehicle) on indefinite loan from the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which "saw action over the Balkans in the late 1990s"; a replica of Spirit of St. Louis, a Fokker Scourge (or Fokker Eindecker E-III), a World War I Spad VII, flight deck of the USS Yorktown, and a Lockheed Blackbird spy plane; 1400 scale models, 10,000 aviation-related items, and memorabilia from Montgolfier hot-air-balloon era to Space Age, along with an International Aerospace Hall of Fame. 2001 Pan American Plaza, 619-234-8291.

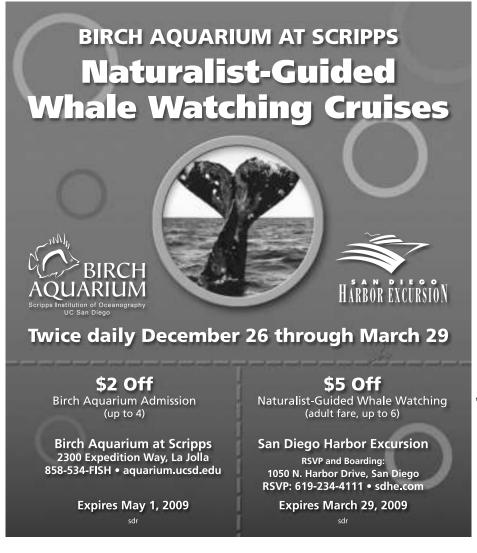
San Diego Archaeological Center "What Is Archaeology?" exhibit provides basics of archaeol-











Calendar

ogy in San Diego region from 9000 years ago to present day. Artifacts from center's collections provide look at past for young and old alike. Treasure hunt activity "archaeology quest" for kids, artifact matching game, hands-on crafts and research station. Closes Tuesday, July 21, 2009.

Center hosts monthly archaeological-themed lectures, workshops, and family events on second Saturday of each month. Museum is dedicated to curating and sharing archaeological collections with public for educational, scientific, cultural use. 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, 760-291-0370. (ESCONDIDO)

San Diego Automotive Museum

"Ferrari: Cavallino Rampante — Italy's Prancing Horse" - continuing through Sunday, January 4 - showcases history and culture of Italy, with emphasis on Italian art, food, wine. Among vehicles on display: a 1952 212 Europa, 1955 250 Boano Prototipo, 1957 250 Testarossa, 1959 410 Super America, and 1965 275 GTB/Competizione, and other examples of the marque.

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. 2080 Pan American Plaza, 619-231-2886. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Hall of Champions

Ongoing exhibits include "Bird Watching - Tony Hawk in Flight," "Surfing in San Diego," exhibits of baseball card art, fencing, local rugby history. The museum is dedicated to promoting, recognizing, and preserving athletic achievement, 2131 Pan American Plaza, 619-234-2544. (BALBOA PARK

San Diego Maritime Museum

"The Art of the Boat — Photos from the Rosenfeld Collection," continuing through July 2009, is collection of over 40 black-andwhite photographs celebrating marriage of great yachts and sea through lenses of father-and-son team Morris and Stanley Rosenfeld. Duo is renowned for photographs of yachts, tall ships, and speedboats and photography of every America's Cup race from 1885-1992.

The photography exhibition "Portrait of Tall Ships" features more than 30 photographs by Thad Koza and Michael Berman. Exhibit includes chronicles of sailing adventures of the museum's ships. Through February.

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

The museum features permanent exhibits documenting the history of San Diego's waterfront and the building of the West Coast by sea, the old San Diego-Coronado ferryboats, the tuna-fishing industry, and the military. The museum fleet consists of the 1863 bark Star of India, the 1898 San Francisco ferryboat Berkeley, and the 1904 Scottish steam yacht Medea. The HMS Surprise, used in film Master and Commander, is permanently on exhibit; see artifacts, costumes, props used in making of the flick.

Also open for touring: a B-39 Soviet attack submarine, among the largest conventionally powered submarines ever built. This Project 641/Foxtrot class diesel-electric submarine was designed to track U.S. and NATO warships through-

OUT & ABOUT

COWBOYS VERSUS DUCKS! Pacific Life Holiday Bowl, Qualcomm Stadium, Tuesday, December 30.

(SEE SPORTS)



out the earth's oceans. There are also nautical exhibits, ship carpenters, model building, ships in bottles, woodcarvers, complete research library. 1306 North Harbor Drive, 619-234-9153. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego Museum of Man "Beyond Reasonable Drought" ex-

amines "ways in which culture and climate are intimately connected today as they always have been.' Exhibition examines how water resources have affected populations, cultures.

"Skull Stories: The Art of Ancient Surgery" marks "the first time the museum will use an entire collection of its own artifacts for an exhibit display." Trephining, or removing a piece of bone from the skull, is oldest surgical procedure known from antiquity; skulls exhibiting different degrees of healing after trephination will be displayed, as well as skulls that have been trephined using different techniques. Trephination tools, instruments such as obsidian blades. tumis, chisels also displayed.

"Gods and Gold: Ancient Treasures from Mexico to Peru" showcases museum's collections of Mexican, Central American, and South American archaeological objects. Rare gold and jewelry, exotic figurines, intricate stonework, and pottery from the ancient world are on display, as well as a crystal skull, on loan from a private collector.

"Art and Expression: The Legacy of Our Collections" highlights 17 key collections, relates stories of the collectors, how collections came to museum, their significance in preserving history of past generations. Objects include pottery, baskets, beadwork,

iewelry, woodcarving, folk art, katsinas, bone and ivory implements, shields, textiles.

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

Permanent anthropology exhibit "Footsteps Through Time: Four Million Years of Human Evolution" features "more than a hundred touchable replicas of early humans, primates, and futuristic cyborgs (part human, part machine)." 1350 El Prado, 619-239-2001. (BALBOA PARK)

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

San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park Commemorates the clash (on December 6, 1846) during the Mexican War between the U.S. Dragoons, bolstered by sailors and volunteers from San Diego, and California militia. Narrated slide-show screens throughout the day, telling the story of the war in Mexico and California, Selfguided 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. 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, 760-737-2201. (ESCONDIDO)

Valley Center History Museum Movie star, "world-class bodybuilder," and longtime Valley Center rancher Steve Reeves is remembered in an exhibit continuing through Tuesday, December 30. He appeared in 18 movies and is best known as star of Hercules. Exhibit includes photos, movie memorabilia, personal mementos.

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

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

Women's History Museum 2323 Broadway, Suite 107, 619-233-7963, (GOLDEN HILL)















Calendar

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 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by click-

CLASSICAL

ing on the events section.

A Guest Will Perform! Guest organist Jackson Borges performs. 619-702-8138. Free. Spreckels Organ Pavilion (2211 Pan American Road), 2 p.m., Sunday, December 28. (BALBOA PARK)

ART LISTINGS

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 SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

ART MUSEUMS

California Center for the Arts Escondido Museum 340 North Escondido Boulevard, 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

Mingei International Museum

"India Adorned" features selections from museum's Stephen Huyler Collection. Exhibit "reveals the colorful diversity of Indian creative expression, presenting an evocative collection of works that are used in the daily routine of a typical Indian family - objects of worship, personal and domestic adornment, utility, and recreation. Closes Sunday, April 19.

"Forms in Wood and Fiber: Southern California New Work" features work of six distinguished San Diego wood artists and many California Fibers members. "Both fresh perspectives on traditional forms and cutting-edge contemporary expressions will be included in works of superior design and craftsmanship." Participating artists include Wendy Maruyama, Russ Filbeck, Patrick Edwards, Del Cover, Brett Hesser, and Gene Blickenstaff. Closes Sunday, January 4. 1439 El Prado, 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

Mingei International Museum - North County "Nomadic Legacy - Tent and Textiles of Central Asia and Iran" presents aspects of rich artistic heritage of nomadic culture, traditions with origins in antiquity. Highlights include recent gifts to museum such as a Kyrgyz yurt, Persian bag faces, Central Asian hats. The Kyrgyz yurt - a round, domed, trellis-tent dwelling, 22 feet in diameter — won first prize in a national contest celebrating 1000th anniversary of Kyrgyzstan's existence. Also on view: rare Kyrgyz reed screens; Turkoman, Uzbek, and Kazakh costumes and textiles. Exhibit continues through

Sunday, March 22. 155 West Grand

Avenue, 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla "Weighing and Wanting: Selections from the Collection" marks Hugh M. Davies's 25th anniversary as museum's David C. Copley Director. Exhibit offers "a personal, idiosyncratic selection of approximately 130 works acquired between 1983 and the present," including works by John Baldessari, John Currin, Robert Irwin, William Kentridge, Nathan Mabry, Yoshitomo Nara, Martin Puryear, Lorna Simpson, Bill Viola, and Lisa Yuskavage. View this "cross-section of paintings, prints, drawings, video, installation art, and photography" through Sunday, January 4. 700 Prospect Street, 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

Museum of Photographic Arts "Picturing the Process: Landscape

through Time and Space" - continuing through Sunday, February 1 - includes selections from MoPA's permanent collection, exploring ideas and issues related to landscape.

"Writing with Light" is said to illustrate "the connections between photography and literacy using the photographic arts as inspiration." MoPA's annual vouth exhibition offers opportunity to recognize talented students throughout San Diego, linking the medium of photography with writing. Through January.

"Nancy Newhall: A Literacy of Images" continues through Sunday, January 25. Best known for writing text to accompany photographs by Ansel Adams and Edward Weston, Nancy Newhall was also a widely published writer on photography, conservation, American culture. 1649 El Prado, 619-238-7559. (BALBOA PARK)

Oceanside Museum of Art

"Quilt Visions 2008: Contemporary Expressions" - continuing through Sunday, March 1 — boasts 41 quilts selected from 586 entries. Jurors were Judith Content, Mary Anne Jordan, and Don Bacigalupi.

"DAMNGORGEOUS: Millard Sheets and His Southern California Legacy" offers "a comprehensive look at his impressive career from the 1920s to the '80s." Over 40 works of art, including watercolors, oils, etchings, lithographs, and drawings, provide viewers with introduction to Sheets's legacy. In the early 1930s, Sheets helped define a movement known as Southern California Regionalism, depicting rural scenes near his home in Claremont, California. Through Sunday, January 4.

"Revealing the Divine: Selected Works by Levi J. Casias" offers exhibition in which the Oceanside artist investigates "the concept of mysticism in a religious manner." Casias believes mysticism cannot be rationalized by the intellect but can only be understood by personal experience, bridging a link between art and spirituality. He uses industrial materials, methods to create contemporary artwork. Through December, 704 Pier View Way, 760-435-3720. (OCEANSIDE)

San Diego Museum of Art "Kimono as Art: The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota," closing on Sunday, January 4, features work of Japanese textile artist and kimono designer Itchiku Kubota (1917-2003). Kubota used a variety of traditional techniques, unique personal innovations to create abstract landscapes through complex layering of dyes and inks on monumentally scaled kimono. Exhibition includes Kubota's dramatic series "Symphony of Light," presenting a sweeping landscape across 30 kimonos placed side by side, as well as a selection of Kubota's individual works.

"Emerging Elites: Indo-Muslim Cultures in Transition" examines artistic transitions that took place in Indo-Muslim cultural cen-

ters in the 18th and 19th Centuries. Exhibition treats these paintings as creative, ongoing cultural transformations. Closes Sunday, March 15.

"Visible Places: Works on Paper by Women," continuing through Sunday, March 22, is comprised of "Spatial Gestures" and "Manners of Sight," All of the included works are from museum's permanent collection, many of them presented for first time. 1450 El Prado, 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

Timken Museum of Art "Kimono as Art: The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota," closing on Sunday, January 4, features work of Japanese textile artist and kimono designer Itchiku Kubota (1917-2003). Kubota used a variety of traditional techniques, unique personal innovations to create abstract landscapes through complex layering of dyes and inks on monumentally scaled kimono. Exhibition includes a selection of kimono from Kubota's "Mt. Fuji" series, presented as three views of Japan's most famous mountain at different times of day, as well as a selection of Kubota's individual works.

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

SINGLES





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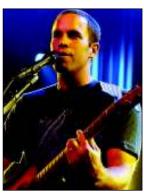


Happy Anniversary?

Lou's Records, about to enter its 30th year of business, is in "serious financial trouble," according to a store employee. The source and others say that the Leucadia record store is experiencing at least temporary difficulty in providing Rogowski acknowledges that market forces have made it difficult for a brick-and-mortar music outlet such as Lou's — with 20 full- and part-time employees — to survive.

"When gas went crazy — over \$4 a gallon [last sum-

the inside track



WILL JACK JOHNSON GO AWAY BEFORE LOU'S?

some product because distributors have restricted delivery due to credit and/or financial reasons.

A different Lou's employee, Chris Rogowski, went on the record to say that this is not Lou's Records' "heyday." He says, "Everyone knows the music industry is going through some rough times." mer] — people started staying home more. It was easier to shop [for music] online and get it shipped to your house. We don't get a lot of foot traffic here."

In the past, Lou's popularity has drawn performers such as Jack Johnson,
Flogging Molly, Interpol, and
Rocket From the Crypt for free outdoor concerts adjacent to the store.

Making business more difficult, says Rogowski, is the fact that many record distributors have either gone out of business or, due to the shrinking economy, switched their terms on buy-backs, which means a store such as Lou's is stuck with merchandise it previously could return for credit to buy new product.

Tony Davis, who worked for Lou's for 21 years, now



NO ONE TO FEAR (HOWARD AND ROTH)

works at CIMS (Coalition of Independent Music Stores), which, once it is launched in a few months, will help Lou's and other stores get income from downloaded tracks.

"It used to be [that] a big blockbuster would sell seven million copies," says Davis, noting that people are "straight up stealing" music online. "Now the biggest sellers only sell one million. And video games are winning the attention of youth. And you can't steal video games."

But, Davis says indie stores are getting into the sale of collectible pop-culture toys. And Rogowski says the sale of vinyl records has increased strongly this year.

"Kids have discovered

that records have a different sound and feel," says Rogowski. "Plus, records have their own artwork. Kids are finding that the record-buying experience can be a social event."

Former Licorice Pizza employee Lou Russell opened his store in 1980 at a Cardiff strip mall. He was not available for comment.

— Ken Leighton

Know Your Enemy

Accused of attacking several local goths, James Eric Benham was sentenced in late November for two felony counts and two misdemeanor counts of assault. Victim James Howard of the Gothic Volunteer Alliance says the

Navy enlistee called him a "gothic faggot" before attacking him, Rock 105.3 deejay Robin Roth, and Mark and Lora Williams.

Though Benham received 365 days in county jail, only 37 days will be served behind bars. According to Howard, "The remaining time, he is going to be on work furlough, where, by day, he will continue to work in the U.S. Navy as some sort of...clerk. He will not be permitted the use of a firearm or be placed back into the core combat unit [or] squad. At night, he will return to sleep in jail. He will have no weekends or day passes."

The reason behind 37 days of hard time is that Benham only has that much administrative leave from the Navy.

ue to undergo psychiatric treatment and evaluation from two doctors. He is required to attend cultural sensitivity classes exploring relations to interracial exposure, intercultural exposure, and intersexual orientation exposure."

Howard says his injuries resulted in over \$25,000 in medical bills. Benham returns to court for restitution proceedings on January 14.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Timberlake: Very

Impressive Heavy Glow recently recorded an EP at Velvet Revolver's L.A. studio with guitarist/producer Stevie

"Slash's guitar was there," says front man Jared, "and I played it while we recorded. I met [GNR/VR drummer]



"WE STOLE" (HEAVY GLOW)

"How a convicted twocount felon can [remain in the Navy], I am unsure of," says Howard. "As further condition of the sentencing and rehabilitation, he will contin-

Matt Sorum. Big dude. The kind of guy that would definitely kick your ass. Nice, though, and very funny. Definitely a rock star...

(continued on page 66)





COWBOY MIKE • DADON • KURCH • CHASE COSTELLO • SCOTT ROBERTS • BRETT NIEMAN TTY A • DROCK • DJ SIXX • KINGSLEY • DJ SKINNIE • DJ SEM • DON SANTINO • MYRON • LANDO FRANKIE • SCHOENY • WB AKA MC WORDBOND • DJ ROOSTER • LUNATIK • DJ AL SQUARED • MATTY MAC

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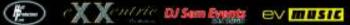
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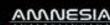




















While we were there, we stole our fair share of Velvet Revolver guitar picks and Duff's bass picks as souvenirs."

During the recording, Salas invited Jared to a Record Plant session for T.L's new album, with Justin Timberlake producing.

"Before I went into the studio," says Jared, "I honestly didn't know who T.I. was. All I remember is that he was wearing purple.... Timberlake and T.I. were both pretty chill. I didn't talk to them too much, because I didn't want to be that guy.... Justin had some great melodic ideas for the songs...very intuitive and very impressive knowledge of appropriate chord changes and melodies. He came off as the kind of person who wants to push the boundaries.... I remember him saying, 'Once in a while, you get to be the lucky son of a bitch that gets to take chances,' or something to that effect."

— Jay Allen Sanford

Strange Stage Moments Randy

Seol/Strawberry Alarm Clock: "We got to play the big music festival, Cal Jam II [in 1978], on a side stage. It was a big production, with modern dancers and backing singers.

For some reason, we had our keyboard player playing from a hot-air balloon tethered to the stage. A woman ran out of the audience and started tugging at the rope and just about tipped the gondola over while our keyboard player screamed for someone to stop her."

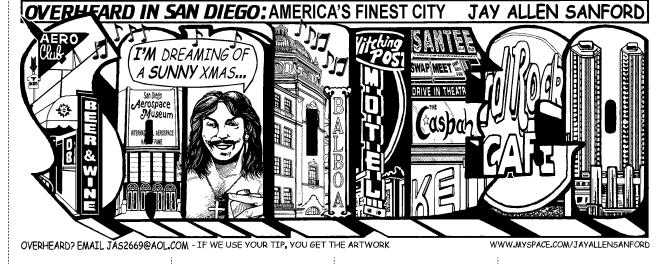
Scott Anderson/This Holiday Life: "At one show, when it was time to hit the stage, we couldn't find our drummer, Mark [Nagel]. After freakin' out, we had to



WILL PLAY FOR FLOWERS (REIMER)

take the stage without him. We started into one of our most rockinest songs without drums. Meanwhile, Mark, sitting on the toilet, heard our song and thought, Weird, why are they playing our CD right before we go on?"

Anna Troy: "I played an outdoor gallery opening in North County on a makeshift



stage. The gig itself was nothing unusual except that I was told to keep an eye out for poisonous spiders because the stage had been built in an area that was known to have them. I had a hard time concentrating on the music while looking around for spiders, especially since I noticed the soundman occasionally making squishing motions with his foot."

Jordan Reimer: "When I was on tour in San Francisco in '06, I was playing at a near-empty coffeehouse/ laundromat called the BrainWash Cafe when a homeless man came in with a tree branch that had a large, white, blooming flower on it. He walked up to the stage and set it on top of my amp for me. For a while I thought it was really creepy, but after a while I realized the true meaning of it: he gave me all he could, and that is a very

touching action."

Dave Humphries: "In England, we were playing in a workingmen's club halfway through a number and noticed we no longer had bass. We looked around and saw our bass player with the neck of his guitar at somebody's throat up against a wall. Some guy had been messing with his girlfriend, and he wasn't very happy about it."

— Bart Mendoza

Give the Kid a Job! Last

Saturday, the San Diego African American Musician Heritage Foundation inducted local jazzman Jesse Davis into its hall of fame. Davis shares this distinction with local luminaries such as Fro Brigham, Hollis Gentry III, Carl Evans Jr., and Charles McPherson.

Asked to share a where-itall-began moment, Davis

SINATRA BACKED DAVIS

says, "Vegas, baby. My first audition at the Sands [in the '60s]. Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin were in the room, the big Copa Room where Sinatra performed. And there wasn't a microphone for me. The stagehands forgot to set 'em up. But I had to perform, and I sang a couple numbers with the combo there, and Sinatra says to the manager, 'What are you trying to do,

burn the kid's voice out? Give him a job!"

Singing still, Davis has entertained ex-presidents in Palm Springs and recorded for Walt Disney Pictures.

"But I got to tell you, one of my career highlights was this past year at Anthology, where I performed a career retrospective that my wife Diane produced. It was completely sold out."

Davis performs "mostly corporate events these days, big-band stuff where you can put on the whole show, like in Vegas and Palm Springs, where I still enjoy gigging."

Davis has a monthly slot at Humphrey's Backstage and a weekly Saturday webcast, 8 a.m.-noon, on groovinu.com.

— Barnaby Monk

CONTRIBUTORS

William Crain, Dave Good, Larry Har-mon, Ken Leighton, Bart Mendoza, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone



Thursday, January 15 LEX SKOLNICK TRIO

E.X.P.

(Jimi Hendrix tribute) **MARK HUETTMAN**

<u> Etix</u>



Friday, January 16 nade Birthday Bash

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Saturday, December 27 **DGAF** C-CLAN • CARBITE featuring **LADY KILLAS RHYMESTONE**

> Wednesday, January 7 **HANK OF THE DESTRUCTION MOOSE**

Friday, December 26

Lloyd Hemmings's B-Day Bash

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Thursday, January 8 **OPUS DAI**

Saturday, January 10

FOUR KINGS SPERO LUMINA MONTE BATTALION

Thursday, January 22 <u> Etix</u> **SNOT • MOWER**

ELECTRIC DYNAMITE MY ELYSIAN

Ctix Saturday, January 24

T.S.O.L. **BLACK PRESIDENT SHOT OUT HOODS**

1/30 Sweet Tooth • Ryan Bingham • 2/11 Zac Brown Band (Tix from postponed 12/11 date will be honored.)
2/14 "Hell on Heels" Burlesque Revue • 3/12 The Start • The Action Design • 3/19 Y&T

Saturday, January 17

THE **DWARVES**

THE UPRISING **CRITICAL ME** ART/OFFICIAL **THE AGGRONAUTS**



Sunday, January 18

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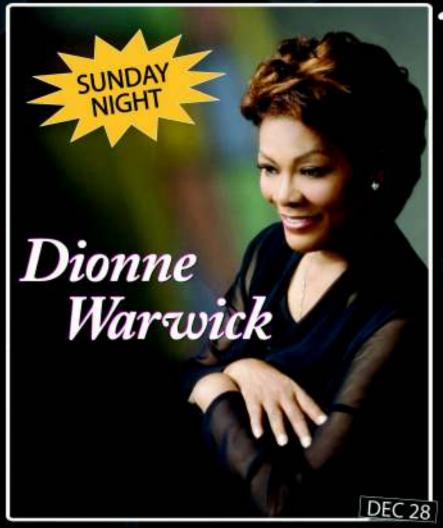
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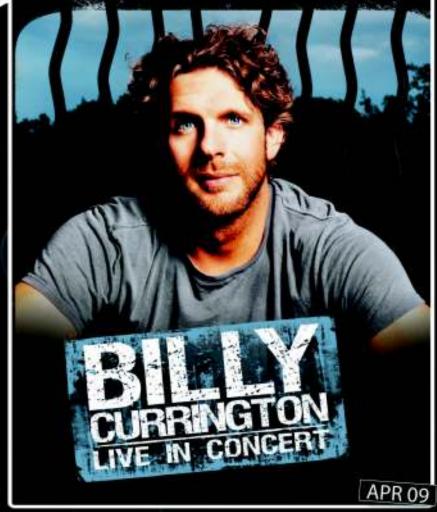
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This Week In Music

Wednesday

Old schoolers, DJ Heather Hardcore hosts a Christmas Eve git together at Radio Room, whose Space page bills it as an "'80s new-wave dance party." Spin me right 'round, baby.... Old, old schoolers, like it read last week, tonight's the annual Exile on Kettner sets at Casbah, with all your fave local players rolling bones and dishing up

Thursday

Happy Christmas. Got you a best-of list cuz music's the only scientifically proven gift to keep on giving, and the following cheap baker's dozen are the best of ought-eight, I don't care what anybody else tells you. So, without further ado-doo, the "Twelve Discs of Christmas," or, How to Spend Them Holiday Gift Cards: On the 12th day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, the new one from AC/DC, Black Ice. Best cock-rock band evah. #11, Okkervil River's Stage

Names outtakes, The Stand Ins, put most bands' proper releases to shame. #10, No Age's Nouns exposed these L.A. weirdo rippers for what they really are superawesome weirdo rippers #9. Radiohead's In Rainbows

was blaggerty blaggerty blaggerty. Makes you sick, doesn't it? #8, Fucked Up's The Chemistry of Common Life seeds a genre — artcore. You gotta try on some melodic punk sung by a 300-pound bald man called Pink Eyes. #7, Blitzen Trapper's Furr proves that folk-rock can be fun, Meg Griffin smokes pot, and hummus is peeeeople, iiit's peeeople!! #6, The New Year, The New Year This sublime self-titled third from Matt and Bubba Kadane props the Austinites as one of the smartest indie-pop bands in the land. #5, **Deerhunter** got less about Bradford Cox's artfagginess (that a word?) and more about banding for the cause, man, the indie-rock cause! Microcastle is some deft shit, daft punk. #4, **She and Him** put the shine on some standard fare and turned out a gem of a pop record, Volume One. That, and Zooey Deschanel's my girlfriend. Stop looking at her!

#3. King Kahn and the Shrines' Supreme Genius of... These garage-rock psych-outs are not for the faint of heart or weak-kneed indie geek. Genius is heavy, man. #2, Fleet Foxes' SubPop debut wowed 'em in [vour hometown here]. Few debuts come so assured, so universal. In FF's case, the hype was right. But at #1, Coldplay's Viva la Vida... I'm totally kidding. Had you, though, didn't I? Naw, Alopecia by Why? is the disc that'll dominate your drive time and outlast all the others for its sheer entertainment value. Yoni Wolf's trip-hop poetry and sparkling beats make for some pretty heady pop music. Rack it in your carousel.

Friday

Local up-and-comin' pop-rock quintet **Dynamite** Walls will headline Casbah Friday to pro



Crash Encore and Stripes and Lines fiddle first.... Minty Fresh minimalist **Drew Andrews** makes a Whistle Stop stop.... Local alt-rockers Fuzz Huzzi. Bombav Status, and Denv the Silents hit the beach at Canes

Saturday

The Mexican Moz, Jose Maldonado, brings his Sweet and Tender Hooligans to Casbah. **DeVoid** sets the stage. Thought DeVoid was gonna be a Devo trib act but they turned out to be a Chili Peppers knockoff from El Segundo.... Belly Up books Karl Denson and his Tiny Universe 'longside Robert Walter and his 20th Congress, Fuuunk me.... That ol' Rugburner

Steve Poltz is sure to pack 'em in at 4th&B downtown. ¿Si or no?... Uptown you got party bands Buddy Akai, the Yelling, Lualta, and them Hell on Heels burlesque girls kicking at Beauty Bar...while the Postals deliver at the Ken.

Stephen Pearcy and his trademark of '80s metal name Ratt scurry through House of Blues. The current crew is on an "Invasion of Your Holidays" HoB spree around the Southwest Bummer is every other date gets the **Donnas** in the opening slot. The **Antidivision**'ll set the stage here in SD.... **Particle** and **Mike Kang** of String Cheese fame lay granola jams on Belly Up.... 94/9 hosts a Staring at the Sun Volume 6 thing at Casbah, featuring circaNow, Lualta. Anna Troy, and Wendy Bailey on the main stage, while out in the Atari it'll be Brooklyn, Soundescape, and Dave Humphries. Gonna be free eats from Lucha Libre and a live radio broadcast. Yell stuff. Doors at 7p.... O'Connells fills an alt-rock bill with Someday Assassin, Firethorn, the Inevitable Mr. Chris, and Day of Anomie

Monday

Take the skinheads bowling, take them bowling...or, better yet, take 'em to the Cracker/Camper Van joint at Belly Up Monday night. Always a rock-roll party when Lowery and his skrunky Camper Van Beethoven roll with his radio-ready Cracker. Just saw all these cats at the Pioneertown Camper Van campout, and they're all fresh as daisies. One hella

Monday-nighter up in Solana Beach, music fan.... But downtown, Casbah's Anti-Monday team tags Austin's awesome she punk, thrash-funky Finally Punk. Check their Space takes and live looks. These girls get it! The **Crocodiles**, **Doctor** Bird, and Blessure Grave on the

'Nother girl after my own heart, Ladv Dottie, will hotdamn your post-holiday blues

CRACKER/CAMPER VAN AT BELLY UP

Tuesday

The Wailers will perform Bob Marley's magnum opus, Exodus ("Jammin'," "One Love"), in its entirety at House of Blues.

Didn't know this but apparently Marley was recouping from an assassination attempt through most of the recording... Round town: Microphone Mike. Illuminauts,

and Burn 1 light up a Beauty Bar art show...Bumbklaat and Salted City (OR) dial in the heavy at Radio Room...and Soda Bar (old Chasers) serves up **Vaginals**. the **Lickets** (SF) — I should, but I won't...too easy. — Bitter Sober, and Rio en Medio (NYC).

Wednesday

Gigs to get to New Year's Eve'd be the Swami's showcase at Belly Up, featuring **Night Marchers**, the **Soft Pack** (ex-Muslims — the pop-rock band, not the denomination), and Cheap Leis...B-Side

laying out the Latin dance iams at Canes...Steve **Poltz** and Rugburns strolling lane for the diehards at Casbah...and electro-punk duo MSTRKRFT spinning at Spin Cheap seats? Fing and Scarlet Symphony play Beauty

NIGHT MARCHERS AT BELLY UP

Bar...Creepy Creeps, Northern Town, and

Batar-Zan are at the Ken...Re-mones (Ramones thing) and the Milli Vanillis (Screeching Weasel thing) flip tribs at Radio Room...and Black Box bands rock the Soda Bar.... Need a midnight kiss. try this: "Take out your false teeth, mama, I wanna SUCK on your GUMS" — Peter Wolf, 1972. Like a charm, dude.

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Nuke the Atoll

Best gig? "Guerilla show on top of a parking structure at UC Irvine."

hristmas Island was formed in August 2007. "Lucy [Wehrly] and I had already been dating awhile when we decided to play music together and record some songs," says Brian Island. Brian's on guitar; Lucy's on drums.

Brian says, "We played our first show as a two-piece in April '08. In June, we tapped our good

friend Craig [Oliver] to play guitar and keyboards to help fill in our live sound."

"Our first show out of town, someone broke into our truck," says Lucy. "Nothing major was stolen, but we didn't have a driver's-side window the rest of the tour."

As for the band's name, "I stumbled across it somewhere," says Brian, "and I liked it because it sounded like a magical place...there's actually two Christmas Islands. There's the one off the coast of Australia, and there's one in the Pacific Ocean that also goes by the name Kiritimati and is the world's largest atoll. The British tested nukes there in the '50s and '60s. That pretty much clinched the band name for me. I liked how a place so innocent sounding could have a darker side. I relate that to our music in some ways."

That's the extent of the Christmas connection. "We do not play holiday music," says Brian.

Christmas Island's full-length CD, Blackout Summer, is set for release in 2009 from In the Red Records. They perform January 1 at Bar Pink in North Park.

WHAT'S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

Brian: "Grauzone, Die Sunrise Tapes. Really great Swiss post-punk from the early '80s."

Lucy: "The Wipers, Is This Real? I can't stop listening to it."

Craig: "Department of Eagles, In Ear Park. I'm a sucker for the Grizzly Bear baroque-pop thing, and this offshoot band is great. And Satori by Flower Travellin' Band — great Japanese '60s psych."

WHAT SONG HAS BEEN STUCK IN YOUR HEAD?

Brian: "The Ramones, 'Howling at

the Moon (Sha-la-la).' It makes me want to dance

Lucy: "The Anasazis, 'UFOs.' It's really cute and catchy."

Craig: "Gun Outfit, 'Dim Light.' I've been going back to the demos on their website quite a bit

BEST GIG?

MICHAEL HEMMINGSON

Brian: "Budget Rock. It's this festival in Oakland. We played with rad bands, got paid well, and drank lots of free beer."

Lucy: "Last summer, a guerilla show on top of a parking structure at UC Irvine. The sun was setting while we played."

Craig: "The last couple we played at the Soda Bar and the Whistle Stop were a lot of fun — playing with friends' bands, feeling comfortable on stage."

WORST GIG?

Craig: "The Pharaoh's Den, this art space in Riverside. It was a dead Monday, and by the time we played nobody was left. We were drunk from the weird sports bar downstairs, though, so we just sort of goofed off with the other bands."

DIFFICULTIES IN DATING A BANDMATE?

Brian: "Lucy and I are practically married. It wasn't really that weird starting a band together because we already hung out with each other all the time. Basically, it's just something else we do together. Every now and then we'll have an argument at practice but nothing serious that would jeopardize our relationship or our band. Our relationship comes first, and we'd stop doing the band if it ever put too much strain on that."

MEMORABLE THINGS DONE WHEN DRUNK?

Lucy: "I got a 'Beavis and Butthead' tattoo." Craig: "Eating or ingesting things I shouldn't have and having the nerve to say 'hi' to certain pretty girls."

Brian: "I supervised a tree-cutting crew in Julian. The pay was great, but the hours were long, and I had nightmares of trees falling on me. I quit after a week."

Lucy: "The only job I really hated was being a sign spinner when I was 15. I did it for two weeks and never got paid."

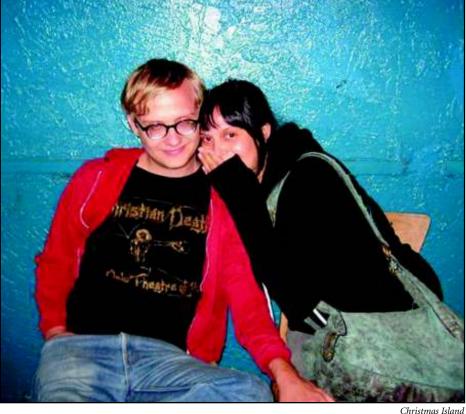
Craig: "When I was 18 I once went to Labor Ready, which I came to learn meant you were treated like shit on the job because everyone thought you were an ex-con. I spent most of the day turning cement and water with a shovel in a wheelbarrow."

FAVORITE QUOTE?

Brian: "'L'enfer, c'est les autres' — Jean-Paul Sartre. 'Hell is other people.'

Craig: "'Smooth move, shitbrick.'" — Lucy Wehrly

Lucy: "Yeah, what I said." ■



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Music & Event Calendar of December

Wednesday, 24th: Joe Wood Thursday, 25th: Closed Friday, 26th: Special Guest Saturday, 27th: Special Guest Sunday, 28th: Football *Monday, 29th:* The Blokes

Tuesday, 30th: Peter Hall CD Release Party

Wednesday, 31st: New Year's Eve

* Dates are subject to change * Check henslevspub.com for details

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night or day by 5 pm Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA, 92186. You may also submit information online at 5DReader.com by clicking on the music section.

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300. Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Martinis & Sinatra. Big band/jazz standards. \$18.

Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Robert Vincelli & His Band. Salsa. \$12. Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. — David Maldonado. CD-release show. Flamenco/acoustic. \$12. Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. — The Anthology House Band. Jazz/R&B/soul. \$90-\$145.

Barona Valley Ranch Resort & Casino: 1932 Wildcat Canyon Road, Lakeside, 619-443-2300. Sunday — The Arrowhead Band. Covers/standards/rock.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — Karl Denson's Tiny Universe. With Robert Walter's 20th Congress.

Jazz/funk/jam band. \$20-\$22.

Sunday, 9 p.m. — Particle.

Electronic/funk. \$16-\$18.

Monday, 8 p.m. — Cracker and Camper Van Beethoven.

Alternative/rock. \$20-\$22.

Tuesday, 9 p.m. — Kush & Bloodfiyah Angels. Reggae/dub. \$8

Wednesday, 9 p.m. — The Night Marchers and the Muslims. With the Cheap Leis.

Alternative/pop/punk. \$25.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-5483. Friday, 8:30 p.m. — Lloyd Hemmings. With TRC Sound and Selector Ref. Reggae. \$10. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — DGAF and C-Clan. With Carbite, Ladykillas, and Rhymestone. Hip-hop/rap. \$15.

Café La Maze: 1441 Highland Avenue, National City, 619-474-3222.

Fridays and Saturdays, 7 p.m. —
The Sandy Chappel Quartet. With
Burnett Anderson, Robert
Sebastian, and Hank Young.
Standards/jazz/blues.
Sundays, 7:30 p.m. — Burnett's
Bliss. With Robert Sebastian and
Scott Wallingford.
Jazz/standards/blues.

Calvin's Sports Bar and Restaurant: 28841 Old Highway 80, Alpine, 619-473-1266. Wednesday, 8 p.m. — The Highway 80 Band. Rock/country. **Canes:** 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780. *Friday*, 9 p.m. — Bombay Status and Deny the Silents. With Fuzz-Huzzi. Alternative/pop/punk. \$8. *Saturday*, 8 p.m. — Chasing Claymores. With Four Kings and Uncle Junkie.

Alternative/rock/funk. \$10-\$12. Sunday, 8 p.m. — JayWat and ThumTac. With Deploi, Vash-tha-Stampede, Vision, and Prelim. Hiphop/rap. \$5. Wednesday, 9 p.m. — The B-Side

Wednesday, 9 p.m. — The B-Side Players. Latin/reggae/soul.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-

Friday, 8:30 p.m. — Dynamite Walls and Crash Encore. With Stripes & Lines. Indie/rock. \$8. Saturday, 8:30 p.m. - Sweet & Tender Hooligans. A tribute to the Smiths. With Devoid. \$20. Sunday, 7 p.m. — Staring at the Sun Vol. 6. CD-release show with CircaNow, Lualta, Anna Troy, Wendy Bailey, and more. Live radio broadcast by local 94.9 FM. Free. Monday, 8:30 p.m. — Finally Punk and Crocodiles. With Doctor Bird and Blessure Graves Punk/rock/indie. \$8. Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. Rugburns and Steve Poltz. Indie/folk rock/pop. \$20-\$25.

Catamaran Resort: 3999 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach. Wednesday, 9 p.m. — New Year's Eve Beach Party. Music, food, beverages, and a bayfront view of the fireworks. With Lady Dottie & the Diamonds and Steel the Band. Blues/soul/rock. \$139-\$174.

Ché Café: 9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD, 858-534-2311



Lloyd Hemmings, December 26, Brick by Brick.

Sunday, 7 p.m. — Total Fury and Broken Needle. With Punch and Cheap Art. Punk/hardcore.

Coyote Bar and Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-729-4695. *Friday*, 6 p.m. — Backwater Blues Band. Blues/funk/jazz.
Saturday, 2:30 p.m. — The
Freemonts. Blues/soul.
6 p.m. — Scott Carter & New
Breed. Reggae/funk/rock.
Sunday, 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. —
Billy Watson. Blues/soul/jazz.

Wednesday, 5 p.m. — Restless Natives. Rock/blues/reggae.

Dream Street Live: 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-8131.

Billy Watson. Blues/soul/jazz. Wednesday — Dannicus Live. Celtic rock/acoustic.











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Fannie's Nightclub: 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley, 619-698-2204.

Thursdays - Fuzz-Huzzi. Alternative/pop/punk.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583. Friday, 7 p.m. — The Cured. A tribute to the Cure. \$10. Sunday, 7 p.m. - Ratt. Metal. \$25-\$45

Tuesday, 7 p.m. — The Wailers. Perform songs from the album Exodus, \$25-\$40.

Humphrey's Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577. Thursday, 10 a.m. — Aubrey Fay. Smooth-jazz. \$12. Friday, 9:30 p.m. — Javier Batis & Jose Serrano. Latin rock. \$12. Saturday, 9:30 p.m. — Viva Santana. A tribute to Carlos Santana, \$12. Sunday, 8 p.m. — Patrick Yandall.

Smooth-jazz guitarist. \$12. Monday, 7 p.m. — Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak. Blues/funk/rock. Free. Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Private Domain. Rock/alternative/reggae. \$5. Wednesday, 9:30 p.m. — Detroit Underground. Covers Motown and dance hits, \$49.

Jimmy Love's: 672 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-595-0123. Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. — The Soul Revue. Jazz, dance, and top 40.

The Jumping Turtle: 1660 Capalina Road, San Marcos, 760-741-7778.

Friday — The Dinner Party. With Slumberland Sequence, the Side Project, and Shrewd Lucy. Acoustic/folk/pop.

Mondays — Reggae Infusion Irie Time. Various reggae bands per-

The Kensington Club: 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-284-2848. Saturday — The Postals. Punk/rock. Wednesday — The Creepy Creeps. Garage/surf.

The Kraken: 2531 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-

Thursday — Frankie Dee & the Funk Natra Band. Blues/standards/funk. Friday — Blue Heat. Saturday — Ghost Riders and Funky Pox, Covers funk, R&B, and soul. Sundays, 4 p.m. — The Blues

Brokers. Blues/soul/rock. Mondays, Tuesdays - Doug Allen. Front man of the Mar Dels. Wednesday — The Flat Out Liars. Covers classic to modern-rock hits.

Lestat's Coffee House: 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-0437. Friday - Silverleaf. Indie/folk/rock. Saturday — Josh Damigo. Acoustic/pop/rock. Sunday — Nate Donnis and the Wrong Trousers. Acoustic/folk/rock.

Main Stage Bar at Valley View Casino: 16300 Nyemii Pass Road, Valley Center, 866-843-9946. Thursday, 7 p.m. — Hot Rod Lincoln. Acoustic/roots/rockabilly.

Friday, 9 p.m. — Innovation. Covers/standards. Free. Friday, 4 p.m. — Federal Funk. Soul/funk/jazz. Free.

> Dinner Packages Available Call for info & tix.

Saturday, 4 p.m. — Innovation. Covers/standards, Free. Saturday, 9 p.m. — Old School. Covers/standards/rock. Free. Sunday, 1 p.m. — The Fabulous Pelicans. Covers/standards. Free. Sunday, 6 p.m. — Lady Dottie & the Diamonds. Blues/soul/rock.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill: 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-5280.

Friday, 9 p.m. — 2 Guys Will Move Saturday, 9 p.m. — Gonzology.

Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Jim Moore. Wednesday, 9 p.m. — The Elevators.

Molly Malone's: 1270 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-9050. Friday, 9 p.m. — Outta Line. Rock.

Mulvaney's Wagon Wheel: 8861 Magnolia Avenue, Santee, 619-448-8550.

Saturday, 8 p.m. — Joev & the Sting Rays. Covers rock and country hits. \$5.

Nancy's Pub: 4246 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-280-

Sundays, 5:30 p.m. — The Steemin Heep Blues Band. A blend of traditional blues, swing, and rock. Free. Ages 21 and up.

O'Connells Pub and Nightclub: 1130 Morena Boulevard, Linda Vista, 619-276-5637 Friday, 9 p.m. — Kenta Havashi.

Funk/blues/rock. Saturday, 9 p.m. — The High Rolling Loners and River City. Country/rock.

Sunday, 9 p.m. — Someday Assassin and the Inevitable Mr. Chris, Firethorn and Day of Anomie, Alternative/rock. Monday, 8 p.m. — Mystery Train. Pro-invitational blues jam.

Osetra Watergrill: 904 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-1800. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. — Los Reyes del Ritmo. Flamenco and Latin music in the E5 Lounge. Free. Thursdays, 8 p.m. — Live Jazz. In the E5 Lounge. Free.

Pasquale on Prospect: 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-456-

Sundays, 6 p.m. — Stage 4. Jazz/rhythm and blues.

Patrick's II: 428 F Street, Downtown, 619-233-3077. Thursday — Delta Heat. Blues/swing/R&B. Friday - The Nik Simon Band Funk/blues.

Saturday — Taryn Donath & Mo-Jo Rising. Blues/soul. Sunday, Monday - Ronnie Lane & the Twisters. Blues/rock.

Tuesday — Bill Magee Blues Band. Blues/soul/rock.

Wednesday - Soul Diego. Covers Motown, soul, and blues.

Radio Room: 3519 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park, 619-284-3323

Friday - The Secret Fun Club. With Corridor. Experimental/noise/rock. Saturday — The Lyon Crowns and the Napoleon Complex. With Beta Lion and Derry the Monkfish.

Rosie O'Grady's: 3402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-284-7666

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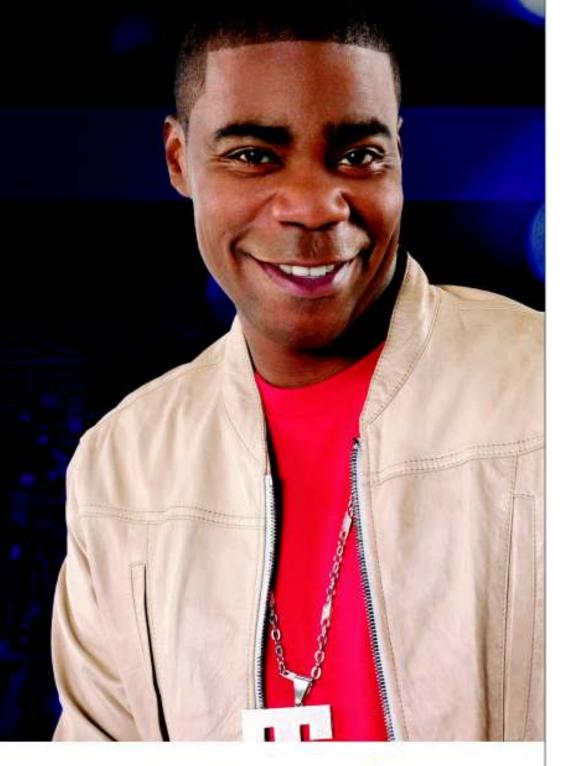
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Sevilla: 555 Fourth Avenue. Downtown, 619-233-5979. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. — New Year's Eve Dinner Show. With live music.

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-7662.

Saturday, 7 p.m. - New Age Heroes and the Durée. With Rapparees, Muff, Without Warning, and guests. Pop/punk/rock. \$8.

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Sundays, 6 p.m. — Original Music Modern Jazz Series. Every Sunday. with Doug Walker, Tim Nunnink, Nick Tocco, and Nathan Hubbard.

The Temecula Stampede:

28721 Old Town Front Street, Temecula, 951-695-1761. Wednesday, 6 p.m. — The Answer. Classic rock. \$30-\$50.

Tio Leo's Lounge: 5302 Napa Street, Linda Vista, 619-542-1462. Friday — Joey Harris & the Mentals. Rock/country/blues.

Vieias Casino DreamCatcher Show Room: 5000 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400.

Sunday, 8 p.m. — Dionne Warwick. R&B/soul/pop. \$55-\$65.

Zuri Banquet Hall: 2200 University Avenue, North Park, 619-299-5400.

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, 7 p.m. - Winter WonderRock, With various local rock bands. \$8-\$10.

UPCOMING SHOWS

4th&B: 345 B Street, Downtown, 619-231-4343.

January 17 — Barrington Levy. January 23 — Sharon Jones.

AcousticMusicSanDiego: 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal

Heights, 619-303-8176.

January 9 — Al Kooper.

January 10 — Trace Bundy. January 13 — Elliott Murphy.

January 15 — The John Jorgenson Quintet.

Ianuary 16 — Fred Eaglesmith.

January 17 — Peter Rowan. January 24 — Loudon Wainwright

February 7 — Hot Club of Cowtown.

February 21 — Geoff Muldaur.

February 27 — Lucky Kaplansky. March 6 — Stephen Bennett. March 26 — Chad & Jeremy. April 3 — Hawaiian Slack-Key

Masters. April 5 — Muriel Anderson.

April 11 — Rory Block.

April 24 — David Wilcox. Anthology: 1337 India Street,

Little Italy, 619-595-0300. January 2 — Pocket. January 2 — Gene Perry's Noche de Rumba Salsa Jazz Orchestra.



BY DAVE GOOD

At the age of 14, Anna Troy and her 13-yearold sister Lindsey performed as a duo called the Troys. They cut a demo and landed a major recording contract with Elektra. "The Troys were going to be, like, the next pop stars," Anna says. A music video was made. Singles from the forthcoming record were released. And then, nothing. For whatever reason, the Trovs were shelved. When it was all said and done, how did she feel? "Elektra was a great opportunity, but it was a struggle. I wanted to be independent and have control of my art. Ten guys in their 60s in suits telling you what to do? When that was over, it was a humongous relief."

With the Troys on hiatus, Anna set out

blues singer. "People actually said that the reason I got signed was because I was cute. The blues was my way of saying I wanted to be respected." She began to collaborate with area blues notables like Nathan James. The experience exorcised any remnants of adolescence from her voice and added smoke and texture. When I tell her that I wrote her off back then as having dead-ended her career with an irrelevant genre, she replies, "Every great rock band that ever existed, they all played blues." Nearly a decade after the Elektra boon-

reinventing herself — as a

doggle, Anna Troy is back to making great pop music, this time with a mentor named Greg Douglass. Late of the Steve Miller Band, the elder guitarist has brought a welcome '80s rock feel to the mix, and the new band is a secure nest for Troy's flourishing vocal gifts. The response? For the



most part, positive, "Everyone has a different opinion," she says. "But I don't really want to be pigeonholed into a blues category. I'd rather break out of that and head in new directions."

ANNA TROY: The Casbah, Sunday, December 28, 7 p.m. 619-232-4355. No cover.

January 3 — Janiva Magness.

January 3 — Charmaine Clamor. January 6 — The Anthology House Band.

January 7 — Buster Williams, Patrice Rushen, Lenny White. January 9, January 9 - Poncho

Sanchez. January 11 — Jesus Diaz. January 14 — Chuchito Valdes. January 16, January 17 — Stanley

January 18 — Robben Ford. January 20 — The Anthology House Band.

Caldwell

January 21 — The Eve Selis Band.

January 22 - Kaki King. January 23 — Richie Havens.

January 24 — Fountains of Wayne.

January 24 — The Clumsy Lovers.

Ianuary 25 — Griffin House.

January 27 — Bill Charlap, Ravi

Coltrane, Peter Bernstein.

January 28 — Sacha Boutros. January 29 — Rebecca Jade. January 30, January 31 — Bobby

858-454-5872.

Balboa Theatre: 868 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-570-1100. March 15 — The Irish Rovers.

Athenaeum Music and Arts

Library: 1008 Wall Street, La Jolla,

January 12 — Ron Morebello.

Trio and the Amina Figarova

February 23 — Jaeryoung Lee.

January 17 — Marilyn Crispell.

January 29 — Hoenig Pilc Project.

February 12 — The Michael Wolff

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-

481-8140 January 2 — Pato Banton and

Mystic Roots.

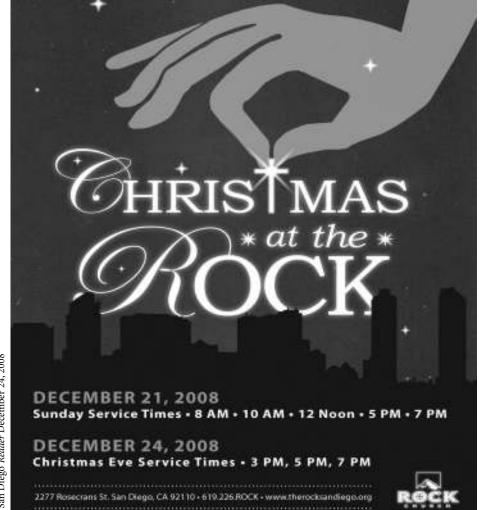
January 3 — Pepper.

January 4 — Orquesta Primo. January 7 — The Michael Tiernan

January 8 - Rob Carona and Alex Woodard.

January 9 — Elijah Emanuel & the

Revelations January 10 - Dead Man's Party.







 1 Valid 12/14/08–1/10/09 only on in-store items with sale prices indicated on yellow tag. Selection varies by store. Excludes Fender* and Squier.* Online offer may vary. 37382 © 2008 Best Buy



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January 11 — David Lindley. January 14 — Marc Broussard. January 15 — The Knitters and th

January 15 — The Knitters and the Farmers.

January 16 — Marcia Ball. January 17 — 40 Oz. to Freedom. January 18 — Jangada.

January 19 — The Walkmen and Beach House.

January 21 — The North Mississippi Allstars.

January 22, January 23, January 24
— Ozomatli.

January 28 — Led Kaapana & Mike Kaawa.

January 29 — West Indian Girl. January 30 — The Cured.

January 30 — The Cured.

January 31 — James Morrison.

The Factor of Deat

February 3 — The Eagles of Death Metal.
February 4 — DeVotchKa.

February 7 — '80s Fever. February 9 — Tim Reynolds &

TR3.
February 12 — The Animal Liberation Orchestra.

February 13 — Common Sense.

February 15 — Susan Tedeschi. February 16 — Donavon

February 18 — Joshua Radin. February 19 — Donavon

Frankenreiter.
February 20 — Super Diamond.

February 21 — Cash'd Out. February 22 — Orquesta Primo. March 6 — Delta Spirit.

March 21 — Stepping Feet.

Birch North Park Theatre:

2891 University Avenue, North Park, 619-239-8836. January 16 — George Winston. February 28 — The Lalo Schifrin Trio

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-5483. January 7 — Hank of the Destruction Moose.

January 10 — Spero Lumina and Monte Battalion.

January 15 — Alex Skolnick.

January 16 — Lil' Flip. January 17 — The Dwarves.

January 18 — Authority Zero.

January 22 — Snot and Mower. January 24 — TSOL and Black President.

January 30 — SweetTooth and Ryan Bingham.

February 7 — Unset and Authentic Sellout.

February 11 — The Zac Brown Band.

March 8 — Acoustic Alliance.
March 12 — the START.

March 12 — the START. March 19 — Yesterday & Today.

Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780. *January 2* — Agua Dulce and Psydecar.

January 3 — Sashamon. January 9 — Lights.

January 10 — Fishbone.

January 14 — After the Crash and the Silent Treatment.

January 17 — Necro.



BY WILLIAM CRAIN

There's a funk band playing just about every night in some packed club somewhere, and the best or most famous funk bands tour all the time. But funk bands typically don't sell a lot of records, and they don't get a lot of press. I've always thought that was because funk is essentially critic-proof. The only barometer that really matters to a funk band is whether the audience dances.

Well, that's one way of looking at it, anyway. To a guy like **Karl Denson**, the dancing part is obviously important, but there are other things going on as well. Denson first gathered a following almost 20 years ago as a horn player in Lenny Kravitz's band. In the early '90s,

Denson struck out on his own as a jazz player and then founded San Diego's Greyboy Allstars, one of the leading lights of what was then called the acid-jazz scene. Denson started a new band, Tiny Universe, in 1997, and quickly began stealing the show at jamband festivals.

Onstage with Tiny Universe, Denson often doesn't stray too far from the James Brown and George Clinton templates, but his records are a different story. Denson usually records with a different

lineup than the one he tours with, and each of his releases explores a different kind of collaboration. Sometimes he works in an organic, jazz-oriented vein (he records for the historic jazz label Blue Note), sometimes he goes for a more electronic sound, and sometimes he works with a turntablist or includes other hip-hop elements.



Sometimes the records have vocals and sometimes they don't. Funk is the language Denson speaks, but he has lots of things to say

KARL DENSON'S TINY UNIVERSE: Belly Up, Saturday, December 27, 9 p.m. 858-481-8140. \$20.

January 22 — Kemistry and Monday's Alibi.

January 23 — Cash'd Out. January 24 — Tainted Love. January 31 — (hed) p.e.

Carlsbad Village Theatre: 2808 State Street, Carlsbad, 760-

434-5944. January 18 — Danny Paisley & the Southern Grass.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-4355. *January 2* — The Nashville

Ramblers and Plastic Nancy.

January 3 — The Slackers and the Impalers.

January 4 — Mike Watt + the

Secondmen.

January 5 — The Long & Short of

January 6 — Earthless and Hostile Comb-Over.

January 7 — Bob Log III. January 8, January 9 — Lucy's Fur

January 9 — DJs Tom and Iago. January 10 — The Dragons and





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"Annie"

January 9-11

John Legend January 16

Jeff Dunham January 16

WEC Cage FightingJanuary 25

"High School Musical Ice Tour"

January 28-Feb. 1

Robin Williams February 12

Styx

"Grease"
March 3-8

Holiday Bowl

Oregon vs. Oklahoma St., December 30



Mötley Crüe

Slipknot March 8

"Rent" March 10-15

"Thomas & Friends" March 20, 21, 22

> Joe Bonamassa March 20

"Rain: The Beatles Experience" April 21-26

Chargers vs. Broncos
December 28

Harlem Globetrotters

February 13 & 15

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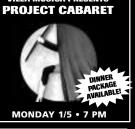


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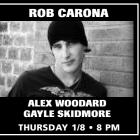
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Ledward Ka'apana and Mike Ka'awa

1/29 West Indian Girl

1/30 The Cured

1/31 James Morrison

2/4 Devotchka

2/5 Todd Snider, Solo Acoustic

'80s Fever - Hyper Crush

2/9 Tim Reynolds

2/12 ALO

2/13 Common Sense

2/15 Susan Tedeschi

2/16 & 2/19 Donavon Frankenreiter w/Gary Jules

2/18 Joshua Radin

2/20 Super Diamond

2/21 Cash'd Out

2/22 Salsa Sunday

3/6 Delta Spirit

3/12 Solana Beach Baseball Bash feat. Atomic Groove

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4/4 John Brown's Body

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February 4 — Fucked Up and Mika

February 5 — The Bird & the Bee

February 6 — Greg Laswell and

February 9 — Freeks, Sassy, Pant

February 11 — The Appleseed Cast.

Miko.

and Obi Best.

Jessica Hoop.

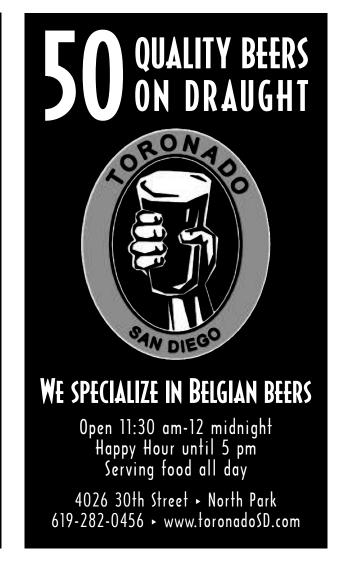
March 15 — Asobi Seksu April 16 — The Black Lips. Cox Arena: 550 Campanile Drive, College Area, 619-594-6947. February 2 — Mötley Crüe. March 8 - Slipknot. March 15 — Los Temerarios. Coyote Bar and Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-729-4695. January 1 — The King Fish Turner Band. January 2 — Sons of Bordertown. January 3 — Eight Twenty Band. January 4 — Reggie Smith & Pressed for Time. January 7 — Northstar. January 8 — Billy Watson. Ianuary 9 — Smokestaxx. January 10 - Scott Carter & New Breed. January 11 — Billy Watson. Dirk's Niteclub: 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344. January 23 — Loadstone. January 24 — One & Done. January 30, January 31 - The Electric Earth Band. Dizzy's: 200 Harbor Drive,

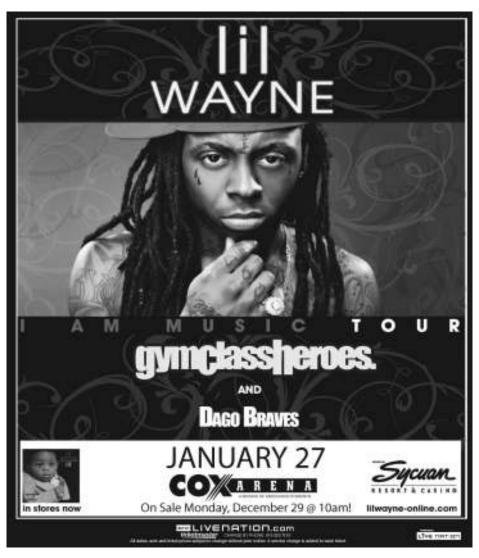
Downtown, 858-270-7467.

January 4 — The Outlaw

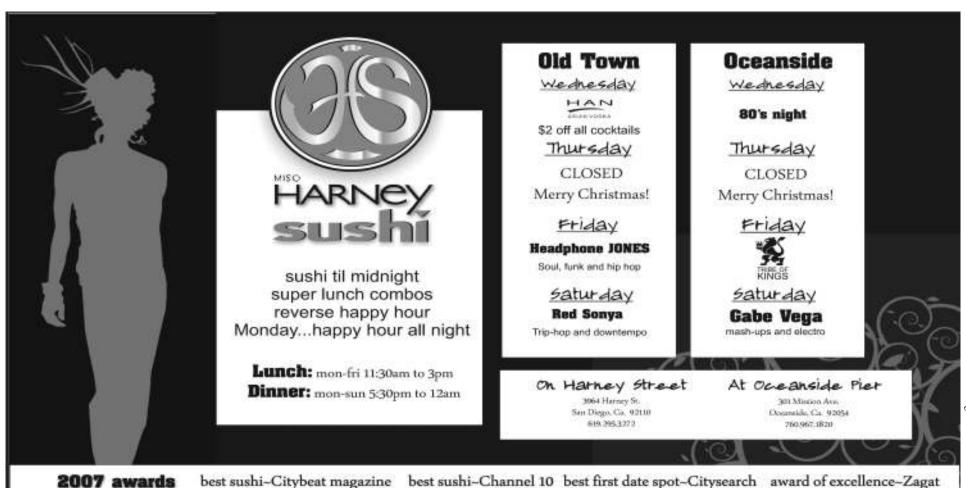












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FRI., JAN. 16

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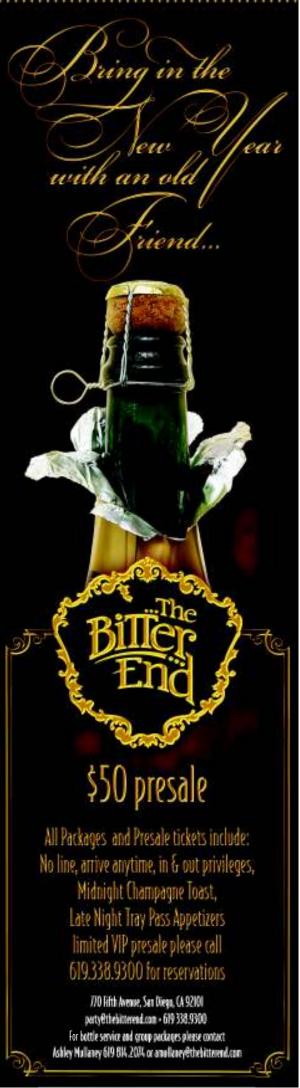
January 29 — Goodnight Caulfield and Sleep for Sleepers. House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583. January 1 — Reel Big Fish. January 2 — Pepper.
January 3 — The Radiators. January 4 — B.B. King. January 5 — The Meteors. January 6 — George Clinton & the P-Funk All Stars. January 9 — Led Zepagain. January 10 — Bonfire. January 15 — Boyz II Men. January 17 — Rebelution. January 18 - Eric Johnson January 21 — Edwin McCain. January 24 — Femi Kuti & the Positive Force. January 25 — Ramón Ayala. January 26 — Molotov. January 27 — Tyrone Wells. January 29 — Brian Wilson. January 30 — O.A.R. January 31 — Richard Cheese & Lounge Against the Machine. February 2 — Meshuggah. February 3, February 4 — NOFX. February 5 — Katy Perry. February 7 — Badfish. February 8 — Ska Is Dead IV. February 11 — The Airborne Toxic February 11 — Elefante February 14 — Styx.



February 18 — Taste of Chaos. February 20 — The Gin Blossoms

February 21 — Reverend Horton

and Tonic.



Heat and Manic Hispanic. February 27 — Big Head Todd & the Monsters. March 1 — Zappa Plays Zappa. March 5 — The Pretenders. March 6 — Jimmy Eat World. March 8 — G. Love & Special March 9 - Adele.

March 14 — Cute Is What We Aim

March 17 — Escape the Fate. March 20 — OK Go. March 22 — The Adicts and the Dickies.

March 27 — Brett Dennen April 10 — Don Felder. June 12 — Billy Ray Cyrus.

Humphrey's Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577. January 17 — Zac Harmon.

Le Drug Store: 4th Street and Revolution, Baja. January 7 — Carnifex.

The Loft: 9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD

February 11 — Donavon Frankenreiter.

Lyceum Theatre: 79 Horton Plaza, Downtown, 619-858-0322. January 19 — Martin Luther King Ir. Community Choir. February 2 — Ian Tordella.

Main Stage Bar at Valley View Casino: 16300 Nyemii Pass Road, Valley Center, 866-843-9946. Ianuary 1 - Metro. January 2 — Firefly and the

January 3 - Hot Rod Lincoln and Innovation.

January 8 — The Heroes. January 9 - Metro and

Innovation.

January 10 - Lady Dottie & the Diamonds.

January 10 — The Jones Revival. January 15 — The Heroes.

January 16 — The Fabulous Pelicans.

January 16 - Lady Dottie & the Diamonds.

January 17 — Federal Funk and Innovation.

January 18 — Aunt Kizzy's Boyz. January 22 - Firefly.

January 23 — Hot Rod Lincoln and the Shockwaves.

Ianuary 24 — Aunt Kizzy's Boyz and Old School.

January 29 — The Fabulous Pelicans.

Ianuary 30 — The Jones Revival and the Heroes.

January 31 — Firefly. January 31 - Lady Dottie & the Diamonds.

The Metaphor Café: 258 East 2nd Avenue, Escondido, 760-747-1882.

January 9 — The Lost Angel Crew.

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla: 700 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-

February 19 — Carolina Chocolate Drops.

Open Air Theatre: 5500 Campanile Drive, SDSU, 619-594-6947

April 29 — Celtic Woman.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Road, Pala, 877-946-7252.

March 6 — The Pretenders.

Patrick's II: 428 F Street. Downtown, 619-233-3077. January 1 — The Bayou Brothers.

January 2 — Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak.

January 3 — 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band.

January 4 — Len Rainey & the Midnight Players.

January 5 — A Fifth of Blues. January 6 — Missy Andersen.

January 7 — Shelle Blue. January 8 — Blue Four. January 9 — Bill Magee Blues

Band. Ianuary 10 - Alan Iglesias &

Crossfire. January 11 — The Road Dogs.

January 12 — The Blues Invaders. January 13 — Chet Cannon & the

January 14 — Blue Largo.

January 15 — 3rd Degree Blues. January 16 — Johnny "V" Vernazza.

January 17 — Len Rainey & the Midnight Players.

January 18, January 19 — Ronnie Lane & the Twisters.

January 20 — Blue Four.

January 21 - Bill Magee Blues

January 22 — A Fifth of Blues. January 23 — The Buick Wilson Band.

January 24 — Missy Andersen.

January 25 — Shelle Blue. January 26 — 145th Street Deluxe

Blues Band.

January 27 — Blue Largo. January 28 — Bill Magee Blues Band.

January 29 — The Burnsville Band. January 30 — Aunt Kizzy'z Boyz. January 31 — Family Style.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts: 15498 Espola Road, Poway, 858-748-0505. January 10 — David Hidalgo & Louie Perez.

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to the Legends.

7662. January 2 — Tragedy & Triumph

and Hello Marquee. January 3 — Goodnight Caulfield.

January 9 - Northwall and the Hoedown.

January 10 — The Alert Signal and Heads Down for Takeoff.

January 16 — The 25th Hour and the Dajjal Persona.

January 17 — 3 Inches of Blood and Toxic Holocaust.

January 23 — Get Back Loretta and Peachcake.

January 25 - After the Burial and Veil of Mava.

February 6 — Blessed by a Broken Heart.

February 15 — Andrew Bird. February 19 — Millionaires.

April 24 — The Devil Wears Prada. **Spreckels Theatre: 121**

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March 20 — Joe Bonamassa.

Vieias Casino DreamCatcher Show Room: 5000 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400. April 9 — Billy Currington.



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ING: Call 619-235-3000 x405 night or day by 5 pm Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA, 92186. You may also submit information online, get directions, maps, event alerts, RSS feeds. club coupons, and more at SanDiegoReader.com.

Air Conditioned Lounge:

Fridays: DJ Junior. Disco, funk, and '80s music. Saturdays: Juicy. With Mike Czech and DJ SG. Sundays: Guest DJ Night. Guest DJs to be announced. Mondays: Rock N Bowl. With guest DJ. Tuesdays, 11:30 p.m.: Big Sonic Chill. Sponsored by San Diego's Local 94.9. Wednesdays: Rotating Crew. Spin house, electro, and hip-hop. 4673 30th Street, Normal Heights. 619-501-9831.

Bacchus House: Saturday, 9 p.m.: Club '80s. With DJs Bryan Pollard, Sickboy, Stem, and more. \$3-\$5. 3054 University Avenue, North Park. 619-299-2032.

Bar Dynamite: Thursdays, 9 p.m.: DJs SG, Dubz, Teknikscian. Hip-hop, old skool, and mashups. \$5. *Wednesdays*, 9 p.m.: Deep House Nite. DJs Duane, Lil Ryan, and Johnny D spin house music. 1808 West Washington Street, Mission Hills. 619-295-8743.

Bar Pink: Mondays, 9:30 p.m.: Grown Folk Music. Features the Husky Boy All Stars DJ Buddha and Duse. Hip-hop/soul. Free. 3829 30th Street, North Park, 619-564-7194.

Beauty Bar: *Tuesdays*, 9 p.m.: Trans Am Tuesdays. New wave '80s dance party with DJ Heather Hardcore. Free. 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge

Belly Up Tavern: Friday, 9 p.m.: Bassnectar and Beats Antique. With

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OSAL8. Electro/experimental/dub. \$17-\$19, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Bourbon Street: Wednesday, 9 p.m.: Flashback. New wave, industrial, and alternative hits with DJs Brian Pollard, Stem, and Severin, \$3.

Brick by Brick: Friday, 8:30 p.m.: DJs Mr. Marcil and Peter Sweetness. 1130 Buenos Avenue, Linda Vista.

Camel's Breath Inn: Fridays, Saturdays: Live DJ. Ages 21 and up. 1033 Friars Road, Mission Valley.

Candelas: Thursdays: DJ ALA. Deep soulful house music. 416 Third Avenue, Downtown. 619-702-4455.





College Rocks Bar & Grill: Wednesday, 9 p.m.: New Year's Eve 2009. With two guest deejays. Ages 18 and up. Fridays, 9 p.m., Saturdays, 9 p.m.: Guest DJs. Spin Top 40, '80s techno, and rock. Ages 18 and up. 6195 University Avenue, Suite A, College Area. 619-544-

The Casbah: Monday, 8:30 p.m.:

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Catamaran Resort: Wednesday,

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Pacific Beach.

Covote Bar and Grill:

Thursdays, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Earl Henry. Fridays, 10:30 p.m., Saturdays, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Steve Hasty. 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-729-4695.

Deco's Restaurant & Nightclub: Thursdays: Krush. Hosted by Chase Costello, Steve Kamp, Jack Kennedy, and more. Hip-hop/mashups/party rock. Ages 18 and up. 731 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-696-3326.

The Filling Station: Fridays, 9 p.m., *Saturdays*, 9 p.m.: DJ Dance Party. 9522 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa. 858-578-0757.

Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines: Wednesday: New Year's Eve

Extravaganza. With ATB, Cowboy Mike, Dadon, and more. Electro/club/trance. \$40. 10950 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla. 858-559-1500

House of Blues: Wednesday, 8 p.m.: NYE 2009. \$20. Saturday, 9 p.m.: Club Lucky. \$9. 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Humphrey's Backstage

Music Club: Thursday, 10 a.m.: DJ John Phillips. Dance/jazz. 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma. 619-224-3577.

Inferno Young Adult

Nightclub: Wednesday, 9 p.m.: New Year's Eve 2009. With guest deejays. Ages 16 and up. Fridays and Saturdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Kool T. Spins Top 40, techno, and '80s. \$10. Ages 16 and up. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-1271.

Jack's La Jolla - Ocean Room: Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 p.m.: Wall Street Bar. DJs and dancing, 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-8111.

McDini's: Fridays, 7 p.m.: Classic Soul & R&B Review. Top 40, hiphop, dance, and more with DJ

Dizzy D. Saturdays, 8 p.m.: DJ Damon. Spins rock and R&B. 105 East 8th Street, National City. 619-474-6772.

Miami Grille: Friday, 8 p.m.: DJ Da Wizard. Mixes salsa, merengue, cumbias, and more. Free, 4545 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla. 858-552-0668

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: Saturdays, 9 p.m.: What's Good. DJs Enigma and Cisco. Hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40. Free. 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-

Onyx/Thin: Wednesday, 8 p.m.: DJs Rags and JCEE. New Year's Eve party with Jose Amezcua, Flo and special guests. Hip-hop/house. 852 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-235-ONYX

Radio Room: Friday: DJ Morgan, 3519 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-284-3323.

Rilev's: Thursdays: '80s Night. Fridays: Hip-Hop Night. Mondays: College Night. With guest deejay. 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-255-8635.

Sevilla: Fridays, 9:30 p.m.: Blazin' Fridays. Hip-hop and reggaeton with Blazin 98.9. 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-233-5979.

Spin Nightclub: Wednesday: Mstrkrft, Electro/dance, 2028





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as i hear it

SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Artist: Zank

Song: "Sorry" (from the CD Without a Bridge) Heard By: Abe Sanchez, Rosarito. Mexico



It's not bad. It's something I'd definitely listen to on the radio, but I don't know if I'd go out and buy it. It's alternative rock, and the lyrics are kind of country — the guy's

voice, too. I can't think of any bands offhand that it sounds like. Mostly it sounded like a breakup song, but the guy's looking for permission to leave, which is kind of strange. It's kind of passive-aggressive. There would be a market for that type of music — it sounds like a lot of people would listen to it. The ideal activity for that song would be packing up to move out of an apartment when you're dumping a chick.

Artist: Jack Tempchin

Song: "Waiting" (from the CD Songs) Heard By: Ariel Ollman,

Normal Heights



I thought it was cool. It was a driving rock song. It's something I'd listen to on a road trip. for sure. Driving down a road and contemplating life. It reminded me of

Tom Petty or old Guns N' Roses. It's all about waiting, which is something very familiar to me. It had a lot of good metaphors and imagery, like "a car rusting in the sun." It had a good beat. There was some cute little guitar riffs in there. I could see it being played on the radio; it's catchy and easy to understand. It sounds a lot like what they play on classic-rock stations. It belongs on "the Walrus [105.7]."

Artist: Happy Ron

Song: "Pitter Patter" (from the CD

Terribly Happy)

Heard By: Steve Fetherston,

Normal Heights



Might Be Giants, only slightly dumbed down. It was very happy and positive. It's not my particular choice in music, but it's well put together and orchestrated.

It was very They

The recording could have been a little bit better, but when you're working with a budget, that's understandable. The topic was pretty cool. The song was about some chick and how she made him feel and the things he wanted to do because of the way he feels for her. I see them being one of the most famous bands you've never heard of. It would definitely be one of those songs that just pops up on my iPod.

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

Hancock Street, Mission Hills. 619-

Static Lounge: Friday: Club Pop Noir. Every fourth Friday of the month, Maystar's Club Noir featuring DJ Groundfloor and DJ Edgartronic.

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Thrasher. Mixes music videos. Sundays, 9 p.m.: DJ Famous Dave. Mixes music videos. Mondays, 9 p.m.: U-Call-It Mondays. With DJ Marc Thrasher. Tuesdays, 9 p.m., Wednesdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Famous Dave. Mixes music videos. 600 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-236-1616.

Whistle Stop Bar: Sundays: Night of the Cookers. Listen to classics and favorites from personal jazz record collections. Ages 21 and up. Tuesdays, 9 p.m.: Friends Chill.

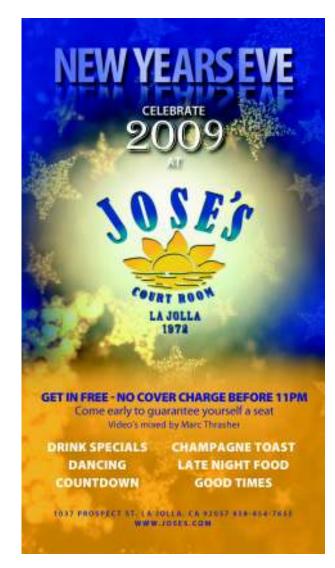
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Nintendo on the big screen. Free. Ages 21 and up. 2236 Fern Street, South Park, 619-284-6784.











Crasher

TINY BUBBLES

by Josh Board

ere was a wedding in Coronado with a reception on Soledad Mountain. A guy named Jeff called to suggest I crash the Hawaiian-themed affair.

I wore a Hawaiian shirt to fit in. The problem was my girlfriend and her friend, who was visiting from out of state, didn't wear Hawaiian

When we walked through the gate leading to the backyard, there weren't many people there. I made the rookie mistake for party crashing — I arrived way too early.

We sat down at a table so as not to attract too much attention.

A few people looked our way. and one couple pointed at us. I was getting nervous and wondered if we'd be thrown out. I went over to the deejay. He was talking to a woman who looked as if she might be his girlfriend. The music he was playing fit the Hawaiian theme, and I asked him about themed parties. He said it was easier selecting the music when there's a theme.

I went to the tiki-style thatch bar, which was set up in the neighbor's backyard. I overheard a couple talking about their several trips to Hawaii. One person said to the couple, "I haven't been in over 25 years." I was leaving for the islands a few weeks later but didn't



Jeff, the brother of the groom, and his girlfriend Valena

feel the need to share the information, especially since the topic of how I knew the bride and groom might come up.

I saw two coolers across from the bar with soda and bottled water. No Hawaiian Punch, though — I was bummed. I hadn't had one in years and because I was hitting a few other parties that night, I didn't really want to drink alcohol. The

movie Cocktail with Tom Cruise. She laughed and mentioned Tom Cruise playing a bald, hairy guy in Tropic Thunder. A woman standing nearby said, "I had to walk out of that movie, it was so bad. And I'm a film lover." I was surprised when she claimed to see every movie that comes out. She said that The Ring and Vacancy are among her favorite movies.

"Do not turn around. You don't know me. I'm here to crash the party, and my cover can't be blown."

bartender, however, convinced me to try one of her mai tais.

I made small talk with the bartender, who told me that she was the bride's sister. She said that bartending helped put her through college. I asked her if she hated the

The woman and guy she was with shared the story of how they got together. He adopted a dog from the animal shelter where she worked, and she ended up hiring him to build an enclosure for her turtles and other animals. He built an

enclosure for over 10,000 butterflies.

When he mentioned something about tortoises, I said, "They don't eat butterflies, do they?" He replied, "No, but they eat everything else in sight."

The bartender was making margaritas and I grabbed one. I told her she was doing such a good job that she should think about returning to bartending. She told me that she takes care of a few disabled people, and we talked a little about that.

I headed back to my girlfriend and her friend with my third drink

They filled me in on some of the looks they were getting from the quests. But, the place was filling up; I figured nobody would question us.

One couple was leaving, saying they had another wedding to get to.

I heard another woman say that she was going to the garage to play a game of pool. I glanced in there and saw a few people hanging out.

I went to get my girlfriend a Coke and met Tim, the neighbor who built the bar. He told me it took him four days. "You can't write about that, though," he said. "The San Diego building department will be here for code violations."

It seemed as if Tim had been drinking some of the bar's inventory, but that made for a fun conversation. He laughed and pointed out various guests and told me stories about them.

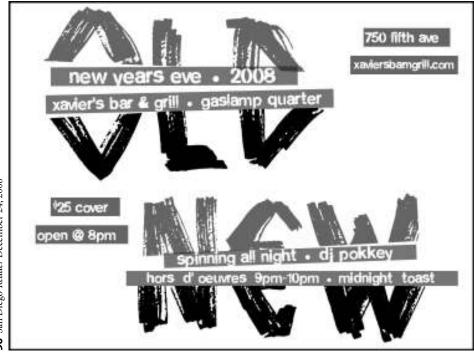
I finally grabbed the soda and headed back to my table, which had a few other couples. One guy was a pastor, and the woman talking with him said, "Is that what you do for work? Is that, like, your main gig?" She then talked about her divorce and how her ex-husband takes their son to his church. She talked about a gav pastor — who didn't like kids — and how important she thought church was. The pastor listened politely, but it looked to me as if he was a bit uncomfortable. At one point, the woman mentioned a Quaker church that her child went to for a school field trip.

I wondered if the pastor tired of people telling him religious stories. He'd probably like to grab someone by the lapels and shout, "Let's talk about the Chargers having such a horrible season! I can talk about other things that happen on Sunday, y'know!"

We went to get food after most of the crowd had gotten their plates.

I noticed that there was a bubble machine that wasn't very effective. It blew a few bubbles every couple of minutes.

I saw a guy and his girlfriend who looked to be in their early 40s and assumed it was Jeff, the guy who tipped me off about this party.





Thursday, December 25 • Merry Christmas! FRANKIE-DEE & THE FUNK-NATRA BAND Friday, December 26 • No Cover BLUE HEAT Saturday, December 27 • No Cover **GHOST RIDERS** (Day) FUNKY POX (Night) Sunday, December 28 • No Cover SERIOUS BLUES JAM anchored by the **BLUES BROKERS** Mondays and Tuesdays **DOUG ALLEN** of the **MAR DELS** Wednesday, December 31 • Happy 2009!

Ring in the New Year with **FLAT OUT LIARS** I walked up behind them and said, "Do not turn around. You don't know me. I'm here to crash the party, and my cover can't be blown." He turned around laughing and shook my hand. He introduced me to his girlfriend Valena. He mentioned something about the reception being the day before the wedding because so many people were going to the Chargers game the next day.

Jeff asked if I'd gotten any food, and I said, "Hey, when you crash parties, grabbing food is your first priority." I then told him that I was going back to my table before my food got cold and that we'd chat later.

There was a hairdresser at our table who asked someone how she knew Bruce. The lady said, "Well, I used to know him back in the '80s

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and ran into him recently, found out he was getting married, and he invited me."

I think I heard them say that Bruce was also a hairdresser. I made a joke to my girlfriend about him possibly being the only male hairdresser who is actually marrying a woman. She nudged me because I talk louder than I should.

I told my girlfriend and

her friend that if any family member asked us how we know Bruce or Leslie, the bride, we should just say that Bruce does our hair.

We finished our food, and if the movie Wedding Crashers taught me anything, it was that wedding receptions are to crash for the free food, booze, and meeting women. I already had two women with me, and the other things were now accomplished.

We told our out-of-town guest that we'd take her to see the cross on Mount Soledad before heading to the next party. The cross was on the next street over, but the gates were locked. Our guest said to me, "Isn't your specialty getting into places you aren't supposed to go into?" ■



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Diego Reader December 2008

DESERT DIAMONDS

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Restaurant Porn, Italian Style

Olivetto is no relation to the fabled Oliveto up north in the Rockridge District of Oakland there's no Paul Bertolli in the kitchen, creating legendary handmade salumi from scratch. But, with that out of the way, I still like our Olivetto very much. It has all the virtues of a "neighborhood Italian joint" — warmth, spirit, informality, prices not too bad — but the food is better than most, and the wine list is downright lovable. It may not be the best Italian food you've ever eaten, except maybe for the gnocchi. And the ravioli di peri. Those two dishes are some serious contenders.

The space has that Italian-neighborhood look, but smartened up, with a bar along one side and a red-brick wall opposite. The owner is Johnny Ivanov, from Croatia, a region with strong culinary ties to nearby Italy. (Its peninsular region of Istria, ceded from Italy to the former Yugoslavia at the end of World War II, was the birthplace of New York's famed Italian chef/cookbook writer Lidia Bastianich. Many other Istrians, despite Slavic surnames, are also of Italian ancestry.) On a Friday, Olivetto was jam-packed with crowds that included several large, Italian-looking families occupying long banks of tables. Happily, Ivanov has installed sound baffling, so even though it's far from quiet, the unbearable, brainmangling "wall of sound" of the early days is no more.

Hmm...when shall I tell you about the delicious waiter? When will the restaurant porn begin? I think I'll tease you a bit first with the appetizers...can't have that "cute meet" without a few establishing shots first.

The chef is Giuseppe D'Mato, from Sicily, a veteran of Busalacchi's. We began with a savory artisan cheese and salumi plate, including fine imported prosciutto, salami, and three distinct, rich Italian cheeses, plus a delicious tomato bruschetta, succulent eggplant caponata, roasted red Bell



DINING

NAOMI WISE

peppers, rather bland marinated artichoke hearts, and a few pucker-mouth green olives. This plate admirably serves the purpose of awakening the appetite.

Melanzane ripieno are baby eggplants stuffed with spinach and ricotta, topped with melted fresh mozzarella and a fresh tomato sauce. This is one of the better versions around town.

gooey and lush, Italian sensuality unbridled.

Truffle Parmesan fries didn't live up to their name. Got truffles? Got Parmesan? How about salt? Big nada here — just underseasoned regular fries. Maybe a line-cook forgot the garnishes in the Friday-night rush. An arugula panzanella salad was also disappointing — nothing much happening except rabbit food and croutons, with no love-match between them. In a great classic panzanella (bread salad), day-old Italian bread drinks up the dressing and makes love to the greenery. Here, the croutons remained hard and

aloof, and the underripe tomato slices were sworn to celibacy.

Now that we're on the subject of the love-life of rabbit food, let's take a break to talk about that waiter. It's a wicked thing to do,

because I know that women usually decide where couples will eat out and may perhaps be ever so slightly influenced by the possibility of encountering so attractive a server. (Of course, he's not the only waiter there — the others looked equally competent, just not as dazzling.) After all, a restaurant is not only a food purveyor; it's also a social space, each one unique in the interactions among

Olivetto Cafe and Wine Bar

★★★½ (Very Good to Excellent)

860 West Washington Street, Mission Hills, 619-220-8222.

HOURS: Open seven days, 11 a.m.-11 p.m., including breakfast Fridays and Saturdays and brunch on Sundays.

PRICES: Dinner appetizers, \$6.50-\$15; Salads, \$7-\$8.50; Pastas, \$14.50-\$20; Entrées, \$17.50-\$25; Desserts, \$7

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Multiregional Italian trattoria cuisine. International wine list with plenty by the glass, plenty of affordable choices, fun to explore.

PICK HITS: Artisan cheese and salumi plate; stuffed eggplant; gnocchi sorrentina; ravioli de pere; pollo fiorentina.

NEED TO KNOW: Informal, neighborly feeling, rather loud but much improved since opening. Six lacto-vegetarian pastas and entrées, two of them vegan. Reservations strongly recommended, especially for weekend dinners.

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.

diners, neighboring tables, staff, etc. And forgive me, I minored in anthropology and maintain an interest in human behaviors and feel it my scientific duty to report on those that I observe at restaurants from time to time. (Just writing "And then I ate..." week after week gets boring.)

Our waiter was what the French might call a beau laid (if they masculinized the feminine descriptive, belle laide, "beautiful-ugly"), with a crenellated, craggy, somewhat pushed-in face like that of the young Jean-Paul Belmondo. He doesn't merely win this year's Oscar for sexiest waiter, but perhaps a Lifetime Achievement



Award for the art of Italian flirtation, embodying his homeland's world-famous charm — the charm that made an average-looking dude named Casanova a legend for his seductiveness. No cold-hearted, female-hating Don Juan, the real Casanova genuinely loved women: "The pleasure I give is four-fifths of my pleasure," he wrote in his memoirs. That's the ticket.

"Oooh, I'm in love," I murmured once he'd moved well away. "You're in lust," said cynical Ben, who seemed touched by a soupçon of lust himself. "No, it's a little more personal than that," I said. At the waiter's return, the dance of mutual flattery truly began, transforming us into Fred and Ginger swirling giddily around the fabulous Deco ballroom of the mind. I suspect it's about some visceral recognition of each other's life-force. Decades younger than I am, he nonetheless made me feel like Anna Magnani, sexy unto death (for you young whippersnappers, she was the Sophia Loren of her day, but earthier). And does the tender pear ravioli taste any sweeter when a beguiling young man lightly strokes your hair and murmurs, "Ahh, so

beautiful, so silky!"? Well—all senses engaged, soaking up pleasures! (The last cute male to play with my hair and coo over it during dinner was Limpio, Samurai Jim's parrot, who has a serious jones for brunettes.) Did he do it for a better tip? Possibly, but perhaps he simply enjoys practicing and perfecting his personal art form. Some of us write or paint, this guy enchants.

Back to the dinner plate. The gnocchi: gnocchi aren't pasta, they're dumplings (in this case, potato dumplings), and they're prone to horrendous ills summarized by the descriptive phrase "cannonballs," but here, they're light as marshmallows, little poufs anchored to earth by fresh-tasting tomato sauce and gooey, sexy, fresh-melted mozzarella. The only other gnocchi this light around town are when Mary Ann Vitale at La Taverna in La Jolla makes them as a special. Bravo!

Then there are those *ravioli* de pere. I loved the dish at Venice a few weeks ago, but this version is even better. Think of beautiful little Della Robbia winged cherubs hovering over your plate. Chopped puréed

pears are tucked into silk-skinned house-made rectangular pasta sheets, and the pockets are swathed in reduced cream and sliced pears and walnuts. Is there a faint waft of cinnamon over all? Whatever. Swoon-time.

If you're looking for a moderately priced dinner, you could really stop here at the pastas, all under \$20, and with so many more to explore than we tried. Our protein-based entrées were pricier, but the two we tasted didn't please as much as the pastas. The better one was pollo fiorentina, a variation of chicken Cordon Bleu, with a thick rectangle of boneless breast rolled around a stuffing of prosciutto, mozzarella, spinach, and mushrooms. It looks like a cube-shaped blimp, the Graf Zeppelin with breading and like early experiments in aviation aims to be lighter than air but doesn't quite succeed. It's a bit of a lead zeppelin, actually, but tastes nice anyway.

Veal scallops with mushrooms have one insuperable problem — that godawful white Provimi veal that tastes like Simulac, from confined, chained-up calves fed on formula. Despite the delicious wild mushroom sauce, with its deep, woodsy flavors, all four of us rejected the meat — this isn't what good yeal tastes like, so the hell with it! Really, it's time for everyone with a palate and a heart to rebel against this cruelty to calves and to eaters. When you taste veal that's fed on its mom's milk and then given a few weeks on grass, the difference is hugely better for both ends of the food chain. (Of course, it's even more expensive than Provimi. In the olden days, when I was young, real milk-fed was all there was, and it cost relatively the same as today's industrial calf. But given a choice of industrial or exorbitant, maybe veal ought to be a luxury meat rather than a staple.)

The wine list is loaded with affordable bottles and fun adventures. If you order by the glass, you'll receive a small, science-lab beaker with a generous pour. What caught my eve for the first course was a Viognier-Chardonnay blend called Arrogant Frog, a French meritage with a screw-cap, indicating it doesn't expect aging. It was bright and lively. I wanted to explore this unknown further, and for the second course chose the same brand's Cabernet-Merlot blend

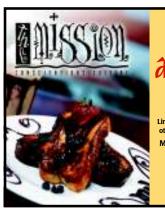
("Ribet Red," it's called). It was okay, but for the same price we could have chosen an Antico Toscano that might have been mellower. For another ten bucks, the obvious choice would be Antinori Toscano, a known and proven quaff.

Dessert choices are tiramisu and cannoli (both made inhouse) and ice creams. The cannoli were better than most local versions: the shells were crisp and fresh, and the thick, gooey ricotta-custard filling was decent (although, ever nostalgic for the Sicilian bakery across the street from where I lived in New York, I felt it could have used some bittersweet chocolate chips, orange rind, and perhaps something to lighten the texture). The tiramisu was coated with too much cocoa powder for my taste but was a light and reasonably good rendition. I wish the kitchen would add a few more interesting, genuinely Italian pastries — something like a torta della nonna, the luscious, nutty "grandma's cake."

Mark and Ben didn't like their coffee. I was fine with my espresso — delivered, as requested, along with the sweets. I do like a waiter who actually pays attention to my requests, and if he flirts too, well, it's *la dolce vita* — set in an Italian restaurant and directed by Federico Fedellini.

God/Goddess/Tao has handed humankind a plateful of woes: disease, poverty, old age, earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, famines, droughts, plus our own monkey-self greed, xenophobia, violence, and the planetary pollution we've created — and above all, the tragic, conscious knowledge that each of us will die. But it also gave us some sweeteners: The pleasures of the senses and of exercising the intellect, the ability to laugh, to love, and to take pleasure in each other's company. Delicious dish? Seductive waiter? Surrender wholly to a moment's joy! As that wise man, Ray Charles, used to sing, "Hey, everybody, let's have some fun!/ You only live but once and when you're dead you're done/ So let the good times roll.../ I don't care if you're young or old/ You oughta get together and let the good times roll!"

"Do you think I can get them to pack our waiter into a doggie bag?" I asked my friends, chuffing like a contented cougar. "He'd be the perfect mint on my pillow."



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Pie A-Peel

"I found 90 percent of Pacific Beach people are from back East."

ED BEDFORD

admit it: I'm moth to the flame. Just ambling down Garnet, around 8:00 at night. Place is buzzing with life. But right across from Longboard's rowdy crowd, I start feeling the

pull of this cavernous, black-painted place, the kind of space you expect bats to come flying out of. They have a bunch of people sitting up at the sidewalk counter here, pouring golden beer from big ol' pitchers and chowing down pizzas. Pizzas look so hot, peeps look so cool.

I give out and head in. It has varnished plank bench tables running down the middle of the dark room like markers on a nighttime runway, black booths lining the walls. On the right side, an aerial photo of PB. On the left, one of Hoboken, New Jersey, across the Hudson from Manhattan. Bruce Springsteen on a *Time* magazine cover ("Rock's New Sensation") hangs next to a police mug shot dated 11/26/1938. Hey, it's Frank Sinatra. Address, "841 Garden Street, Hoboken, NJ, Weight 125 lbs., height 5' 8", age 22, profession, singer." Booked by the Berger County Sheriff's Office for "seduction."

"A girl thought he was going to marry her. Her father got mad," says Eric, when I ask at the counter. Eric's one of three guys in the back kitchen, each molding pizza dough, sprinkling cheese, doinking pepperoni slices around the tops, sliding the pizzas into ovens on wooden paddles they call "peels," hauling others out and rolling cutters through them. I notice they have Pabst Blue Ribbon on tap.

Wow, that beer's been going since 1844 (\$3 pints, \$10 pitchers).

The basic cheese pie costs \$14 for a 16-inch and \$16 for the 20-inch. The Sicilian square pie

costs \$19. Regular cheese slices are \$2.50, Sicilian, \$3. Extra toppings on each slice go for 50 cent

Pizza specials are a bit more. "Angelina's Veggie Pie" (pick any three veggies) or "Bowery Boys" (with wild mushrooms, roasted peppers, onion, sausage, and pep-

peroni) cost \$18.50 for the 16-inch and \$22.50 for the 20-inch. They have pasta too: spaghetti with meatballs is \$8.50. So is baked ziti, a sort of penne pasta. There are specialty subs (\$6.50–\$9.50) and salads starting at \$4.50, up to \$8.50. First salad looks interesting: antipasto with ham, salami, and capicola as its base. Wouldn't mind that. It's \$8.50.

Two of the three pizzas in the display case are thin as a Mac Air laptop. But not the middle pizza. It's inch-thick. It's square.

"Sicilian," says Eric. Like a Chicago deep dish? No, he says. "Secret's in the art of making a rising 'bread.' The crust is lighter but also thicker. Tom the owner learned it all back in Hoboken. It takes us eight hours to make the dough."

So now I've gotta find out. For a starter, I order up a square of the Sicilian pizza. They "peel" — meaning paddle-slide — it into the oven for a couple of minutes to finish it off, fresh and hot. Oh, boy.

I also spot pasta primavera: "homemade

Alfredo sauce with grilled chicken and two veggies. \$8.50." Huh. Spring chicken. I order one.

"Or, you could have it with any other meat," Eric says. "Sausage, meatballs, whatever."

But the menu says chicken, so chicken it is.

Meantime, omygod. That square pizza is a dream. It's thick but in no way doughy. Airy, and best of all, crispy-crusty on the outside. Both sides. Is that pesto on top, under the slabs of pepperoni? The guy also brought me a nicely chilled Parmesan cheese sprinkler and the chili shaker.

I'm at the halfway mark when the server guy arrives with, whoa, this oval plate of golden gloop, topped with basil leaves and bits of mushroom, and chicken struggling to get out from under a viper pit of spaghetti. Plus I get a long, ten-slice hunk of hot Italian bread served on its own plate.

Man, too much. I plow in anyway.

So here's my only complaint: the chicken isn't strong-enough tasting to kick the rest into action. I should taken the sausage. After that mighty tasty Sicilian, this can't compete. Maybe a glass of Cab (\$4) would have kick-started it.

Tom the owner started off in the business at 12, working in one of the very traditional



Hoboken Pizz

pizzerias in Hoboken. But homesick? No way. "Day I opened here, in September 2002," he says, "I found 90 percent of Pacific Beach people are from back East.

He says the time to be here is 1:30 in the morning on Friday or Saturday nights. "That's when the bars close, and everybody takes to the streets, and nobody wants to go home. So we crank up the music — classic rock, Bon Jovi, Tom Petty, Guns N' Roses — and this place is packed. Late night's a blast."

The Place: Hoboken Pizza and Beer Joint, 1459 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-7766 **Type of Food:** Pizza/Italian

Prices: Cheese pizza, \$14 (16-inch), \$16 (20-inch); by the slice, \$2.50; Sicilian square pie, \$19; by the slice, \$3; toppings, 50 cents (per slice); Angelina's Veggie Pie (pick any three veggie toppings), \$18.50 (16-inch), \$22.50 (20-inch); Bowery Boys special (with wild mushrooms, roasted peppers, onion, sausage, and pepperoni), \$18.50 (16-inch), \$22.50 (20-inch); spaghetti with meatballs, \$8.50; baked ziti, \$8.50; antipasto salad, \$8.50; pasta primavera (with grilled chicken, Alfredo sauce), \$8.50

Hours: 4:30 p.m.–11:00 p.m., Monday–Tuesday; till 2:00 a.m. "if busy," Wednesday; till 2:00 a.m. Thursday–Friday; 11:30 a.m.–2:00 a.m., Saturday; 11:30 a.m.–to 11:00 p.m. or 2:00 a.m. ("if busy"), Sunday

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Hedonistic

"Both the wine and the music are about being aware of what's around you."

along Seventh Avenue from the entrance to the Hillcrest Whole Foods. An unusual sight for a winemaker bottle-signing, which made sense, because it was an unusual winemaker —

or pair of winemakers: Eric Glomski and Maynard James Keenan.

"I'll put on my hippie costume now," says Keenan when asked why he decided to leave Los Angeles for Arizona. "I had a bunch of dreams that I was supposed to be

in Arizona. All of which I dismissed because I'm not actually a hippie." It's an easy claim to believe, especially if you've ever spent much time listening to Keenan's musical output as the singer for Tool, a Perfect Circle, or Puscifer.

And yet...he *did* wind up following his dream, after a little guidance from the drummer for Primus, who had spent some time in Jerome, well north of the Phoenix frying pan.

And yet... "The whole reason I ended up moving there [to Jerome]," he explains, "was because I had this idea of building a sustainable building — kind of an artist's space meets farmer's space meets bunker. Kind of a borderline survivalist mentality — getting out of the major

cities, reconnecting with what matters. A space where I could make music, record music, and grow my own food. Because, inevitably, weird stuff happens, and it would be nice to be able to survive it. And if you have a tomato from a gar-

den, versus one you get from a grocery store, there's just no comparison. Touring around the world with the bands, I had the opportunity to see those things firsthand. It gets inside your skin — you want that for yourself. Then, if you

have the ability to help make that happen for other people as well...."

From Keenan's online journal at *Caduceus.org*, the website for his personal wine project: "Now we can begin nurturing a local, community-oriented economy that doesn't rely so heavily on tourism to survive. Farming in general fosters good energy. We become more self-reliant. We build a history with a solid foundation, and therefore, we establish a future...Artisans from every imaginable discipline will be able to find a home here. That's the nature of wine. There is an aura that emanates from a vineyard and a winery. Intoxicating. Both literally and figuratively. Like a higher consciousness. *In vino veritas*."

In conversation, he's more specific: "I think there's a reason why wine figures into so many religions. There's something transcendent about it. It's sort of the way that music is more than the sum of its parts. You have all these elements that make up the terroir that wine can communicate." The comparison to music is no accident; Keenan sees his winemaking venture as an extension of his musical work. If that sounds surprising — if you're tempted to describe Tool's songs as cathartic and wine as hedonistic – then he has this to offer: "I would say that both the wine and the music are about being aware of what's around you. Being sensitive to the way things are and what's going on." Stop, hey, what's that sound/ Everybody look what's going down....

But if there is a tinge of hippie surrounding some of his sentiments, Keenan's Arizona winemaking venture should not therefore be dismissed as a beautiful, crazy dream. From the journal: "I scratched my head for years wondering why no one had attempted to grow grapes in what appeared to be the perfect climate.... Staring across my porch at Mingus Mountain while drinking a glass of Châteauneuf du Pape.... I decided to plant a vineyard." But first, he called in an expert to see exactly why no one had made the attempt at least, not recently. "It was an awkward moment, having the guy from UC Davis come out here. He was doing his best not to laugh in my face. He was happy to cash the check. But after he started looking around he said, 'You paid me to



Keenan and Glomski

come out here, and I could tell you what you want to hear. But, honestly, if the conditions are right, I think it could fly. There are so many variables — extreme temperature variations in the fall, who knows what's really in the soil — so you know, there's no guarantee.' But overall, he was positive enough for me to go ahead."

The Davis man wasn't kidding about the temperature swings — Keenan lost sizeable chunks of vineyard to frost on more than one occasion. "Planting in the valley bottoms wasn't the smartest idea," says Glomski. "The cold air drains down the hillsides, and we get greater fluctuations between daytime and nighttime temperatures. It's a double-edged sword — the fluctuations can be quite positive as far as retaining acidity and creating a wider diversity of flavors, but you do run a greater





Calendar

risk of frost. In some of these valleys, if you're just a measly ten feet above the valley floor, you don't have problems. But we didn't know that when we first planted" — the perils of being a pioneer. "Now, we're creeping up onto the benches between the floor and the uplands." They're also reconsidering what they plant. "Mourvèdre is a later-emerging grape than, say, Syrah. It's also later ripening." The late emergence helps the fruit dodge the spring frosts, "and then if you crop it at a level where it ripens a little bit early," you can dodge the frost again in the fall. (The late-summer monsoons, meanwhile, offer a whole 'nother set of problems but also carry the benefit of extending the growing season.)

Like so many beautiful winemaking dreams, Keenan's has been snagged on a host of prickly realities, many of them far less obviously oenological than questions of which varietal to plant where. Many of his vinevard sites "were chosen because the land has historical irrigation rights and/or historical wells I could draw water from. There are a lot of water wars in Arizona. We're basically ahead of the curve — vines are drought-resistant — but it's going to take a lot of educating to get the Salt River Project to understand." His first label application was rejected because someone thought the Caduceus symbol — Hermes's staff might lead someone to confuse wine (in a bottle, with a cork) with medicine. (Resubmitting did the trick. "It's always a crapshoot," sighs Keenan.) And there's always the fact that you're trying to convince the customer to spend \$20-\$100 on wine from a relatively unproven region like Arizona.

But Keenan and Glomski have faith, and they have drive, and they have resources. (From Keenan's journal: "What rockstar that you know of owns an excavator or a bulldozer?" Let alone a fully functioning winery operation.) And in Keenan's fan base, they have an audience with a reason for taking a risk.

Hence the Whole Foods tour. "It's a different demographic than I'm used to hooking up with for wine," says Glomski, who spent years in the California wine industry before returning to his home turf in Arizona. "We're turning a lot of people on to wine who may not have drunk it previously." Fame may get 'em through the door, but Keenan and Glomski are hoping that Arizona juice is what will get them to stay.

"Wine is really an expression of a place on the planet," says Glomski, who first discovered terroir in a homemade apple wine. "It really reminded me of the place — not just the flavor of the apples, but the soils, the leaves decaying in the fall, the stream flowing by. I was just possessed by it. Our job as winemakers is to artistically interpret a landscape through this liquid. I'd been working as an ecologist for years. This was a chance to become an artist." He hooked up with Keenan after his California sojourn and, before launching his own project, Page Springs Cellars (though he still "functions as a winemaker" for Caduceus). Now,

the two of them had begun a joint project: Arizona Stronghold. "It's an expression of our combined interests, trying to put Arizona on the map nationally, in a value-based sense."

Keenan, meanwhile, is find-

ing that his return to the land is also a return to his roots. From his online journal: "I know very little about Great Grandfather Marzo. I know only that he and his family grew grapes and made wine in Northern Italy...Uncle Herb was quite pleased to hear about my new venture in Arizona.... I told him how I would be doing a new blend in honor of his Grandfather...called Nagual Del Marzo. I explained that I knew next to nothing about him, including his full name. Herb said, 'His name is John Marzo, but his nickname was Spirit'.... I then explained to Herb that 'Nagual Del Marzo' means 'the Spiritual Essence of Marzo.' Eyes filled with tears of joy, the heavens parted, music flooded the room, angels sauntered down, and we all retired to the dessert room for chocolate soufflé and 1822 Madeira." ■

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 almost 900 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a midrange entrée. Inexpensive: below \$10; moderate: \$10 to \$19; expensive: \$20 to \$29; very expensive: more than \$30. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations

BEACHES

Baleen 1404 Vacation Road, Pacific Beach, 858-490-6364. Take a quick trip to chic Miami at the local branch of Florida's famed new resort restaurant. Whimsical tropical decor features a monkey motif (carved in the chandeliers, peeking from the paintings) and mambos play on the speakers. But the unlisted prices for chilled shellfish may make a monkey of you unless you ask before you buy. The menu features high-quality seafood and land creatures in refined renditions including gorgeous lobster bisque, herbed sea bass, and a hunk of free-range veal. Servers are charmers. The wine list is long and rather steep at the bottom end with better values farther up the range. Reservations. — N.W.

The Bar-B-Que House 5025 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-4311. OB's piling in, and for good reason: the chicken and ribs are smoked on an oakwood fire, then charbroiled. Beef, pork, and ham spend eight to ten hours

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in the smoker. Of course, they have pork ribs. A good-value combo is the Southern-Style sandwich — beef, pork, ham, or chicken with coleslaw inside, along with a sauce that's just right: sweet, tangy, spicy. Most original idea? A BBQ burrito with meat, baked beans, coleslaw, and sauce wrapped in a flour tortilla. Expanded menu includes gyros. Open seven days, breakfast through dinner; till 10 p.m. weeknights; 11 p.m. Fridays. Internetical R.P.

Brazil by the Bay Restaurant and Sports Bar 3770 Hancock Street, Point Loma, 619-692-1410. The pleasures of the Brazilian table go beyond the orgies of skewered meats served at rodizios (e.g., Rei Do Gado). Here you can eat like a real carioca, sampling typical dishes of Bahia, Rio, and São Paulo. You can happily make a grazing meal of stuffed things—appetizers such as coxinhas, pasteles, croquetas, and kube (the Brazilian version of Lebanon's kibbe) — and don't miss the luxuriant fried-bananas Milanese, Ask for the house's Brazilian hot sauce, hotter and livelier than the Mexican bottled sauces on the tables. The main-course masterpiece is moqueca de peixe, fish in a curry-like coconut milk stew. Other good choices include *prato feito* (beef, fish, or chicken, sprinkled with lemon









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juice and served over a sea of red beans) or filet mignon with catupiry, a stroganoff-like concoction made with a rich Brazilian cheese of the same name. Weekends, there's feijoada, the Brazilian national dish, but it's a rather thin and soupy version. Good desserts, including passion-fruit mousse. Beer, wine, sakebased cocktails. Lunch and dinner daily. Reservations accepted but not needed. Moderate. — N. W.

Brockton Villa 1235 Coast Boulevard, La Iolla, 858-454-7393. Pretty and romantic, this sprawling cottage perches above La Jolla Cove and offers heated terraces as well as semi-enclosed tables indoors to admire the view. The culinary masterpiece is Coast Toast, served until noon — the French toast of your happiest dreams, puffy and airy with a lovely orange flavor. (And the coffee is excellent.) Lunchtime features sandwiches on flavorful Bread & Cie breads, while dinner runs to San Diego internationaleclectic cookery that can be hit-or-miss. Affordable wines and corkage. Steep stairs to all dining areas. All nearby pay parking is uphill in a garage under Trattoria Acqua or up on Prospect. Unisex restroom. Open three meals Tuesday through Sunday; breakfast/lunch Monday. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Clay's La Jolla 7955 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Iolla, 858-551-3620. In this oddly cozy penthouse with wide windows facing west, the curtains rise at sun-set to reveal a panorama stretching to the sea. It's comfortable, attractive, not too formal — casual-chic. Here, chefowner Clay Bordan cooks up a creative, sophisticated, seasonal California-fusion menu with international flavors seamlessly integrated, featuring organic vegetables, wild fish, naturally raised meats and fowl. With his discerning palate, his fare is unusually delicious. And it's healthful, low-carb enjoyment with interesting veggies, little starch, minimal cream. Wine list includes some high-end French bargains; good choices by the glass. Full bar. Free parking. Elevator-accessible restrooms same floor. Dietary restrictions accommodated. No kiddie menu, but child-size plates half-price from regular menu. Reservations recommended. Live local jazz in lounge most nights after 7 or 8 p.m.; big band Sunday nights. Can be noisy. Three meals daily. Expensive. — N.W.

Come On In 1030B Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, 858-551-1063, Clunky name but suave Euro-bistro feel with outside tables under trees. This is your escape to "Paree" anytime you can afford La Jolla. Actually, they keep the price of break-fasts — like two "plain and simple" steamed eggs with fresh fruit and toast, or the Popeye omelet, with spinach, Parmesan cheese, prosciutto ham, and diced tomato, fruit, and toast — down to a small roar. Of course, everybody in this neck of the woods is trying not to eat, so expect lots of fruit plates and healthy lunch sandwiches like roasted eggplant with zucchini, bell peppers, tomatoes, and mozzarella. Open daily until 9:30 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate; dinners a little more expensive. — E.B.

Isabel's Cantina 966 Felspar Street, Pacific Beach, 858-272-8400. This cheerful café instantly became a gathering spot for many PB-ites, including the forsaken population of adults. Chef-owner Isabel Cruz, who calls herself "Food Girl," has imported much of her Mission Café 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 coconut French toast. Competent Latinstyle dishes include tamales with airv 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. ensive to low moderate — N W



Calendar

Lamont Street Grill 4445 Lamont Street, Pacific Beach, 858-270-3060. PB's most romantic restaurant serves California comfort food, punctuated by bold and sometimes strange Mexi/Asian/Cajun flavors, in a rambling converted residence with several rooms and levels. Dinners come with soup or salad, and many entrées are served over marvelous house-made fresh pasta. Salmon over fettuccine in a delicate dill cream sauce is especially fine. The huge array of desserts is house-made, too, with something for every palate. The most desirable tables (available first come, first served) are on a lovely fireplace-heated patio. Wheelchair ramp and parking in small lot behind restaurant (call ahead and they'll save you a spot). Homey atmosphere; can get loud. Affordable wine list full bar. Open daily, dinner only. Moderate. — N. W.

Sky Room 1132 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-551-3744. The stunning ocean view offers three essentials for a memorable evening: privacy, intimacy, and the ability to talk without the interruption of noise. The food is a feast to the eyes as well as the palate. Best bets: abalone and scallop steak appetizer, the daily soup, diver scallops, and lobster. Dinner only, with two seatings on weekends. Very expensive. — *E.W.*

The Surfside 4527 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-273-2979. In the evenings, it's a "scene" here — for good reason. You'll find fresh sushi, sashimi, and California coastal cuisine, i.e., fun and flavorful fusion-y tapas, many of them going for half-price during weeknight happy hours. You can actually reserve for the sushi bar (it'll put you at the head of the line), where the chefs are unusually friendly. They shine on simple, pure Japanese sushi, although they make

the usual "party rolls" too. Most seafood is of fine quality (except the *toro*, which seems to have problems). For those preferring a tapas-style sit-down meal, there's a breezy, informal dining room with large windows looking out on the street, plus a small private dining room for parties. At least four Japanese beers and more than a dozen sakes available. Reservations urged for large groups. Parking is tight; just one handicapped slot in front lot. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W.*

BAJA

From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.

El Arrecife Calle Colima 2293, Baia. 664-200-2585. Think of it as a Mexican take on an American institution, the burger joint. In this settled, upper-middle-class neighborhood, Daniel Ludim Gómez Vaca set up a hip little spot ("The Reef") where he specializes in...octopus burgers. Actually, octopus, shrimp, beef, or chicken burgers. Or mixes. One of the best is octopus and shrimp with cheese and bacon. The children of Tijuana's elite come here to watch soccer, eat, and hang out, even though it's cramped and half underground. The menu has healthier alternatives, such as chicken salad or shrimp salad, but it's the octopus that has made him famous. Open noon to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

El Faro de Mazatlán Boulevard Sanchez Taboada #9542, Plaza Financiera, Baja, 664-684-8882. We're talking safe, reliable, middle-class fish-fare here. The "Lighthouse of Mazatlán" is bright, blue, and white with smart varnished wood furniture and delivers fish, lobster, oyster, squid, and shrimp dishes that are easy to like. Generous free appetizers include marlin ceviche, fried fish, and fish albóndigas soup. The interesting part is in trying dishes like the sea

snail salad. (After a few closed-eye bites, it's delicious — like eating a sliced clam. It's great in a Caesar.) Look for original ways with octopus, pez espada (swordfish) and others. One of the simplest, best dishes: the cabicucho (Mexican sea bass), charbroiled but moist and really better without its ranchero sauce. Vegetarian upon request. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — E.B.

La Fonda Baia Highway 1, km. 59, Baja, 646-155-0307. It's hard to imagine a better start to the day, in any sweeter ambience, than at La Fonda ("The Inn"), which offers Mexican and American breakfast dishes and a lavish Sunday brunch buffet with both. Arrive early for patio seating under a straw umbrella with a full-out ocean view. The bilingual menu is written on chalkboards and dinner choices change nightly, featuring American and Mexican seafood entrées and deluxe meats aged in-house. Vegetarian upon request. Most staffers speak some English. Full bar, including Baja wines. Open daily, three meals, starting about 9 a.m. Inexpensive to moderate.

Original Ortega's Calle Principal (next to Casa de la Langosta), Baja. In Puerto Nuevo, next to Casa de la Langosta, on the first street to your left (Calle Principal) after entering town through the entry gate. Open since 1952, this is the original Lobster Village restaurant, and not much has changed. Eventually, Ortega's grew into an octopus with multiple arms in Puerto Nuevo and Rosarito Beach, all pretty similar. The menu is longer than most, with numerous starters (including a tasty ceviche and an excellent tortilla soup), varied seafood entrées and antojitos, desserts, and even fancy coffees (including "Viagra," which features reputedly aphrodisiac Damiana herbal liqueur). The spiny lobsters (once local but now from who-knows-where) are first fried in lard, then finished off on the grill, and served with a greasy-tasting melted Kitchen Maid margarine blend, frijoles, rice, tortillas, and salsa. Vegetar

ian upon request. Full bar, English menu, staff marginally bilingual. Moderate to high, but with low-moderate specials. No reservations, cash only. — N.W.

Saverio's Restaurant Mediterra**neo** Boulevard Sánchez Taboada #3151 (at Escuadron 201 Street), Baja, 664-686-6442. Javier Plascencia Huerta wanted to open an Italian restaurant and says he eventually "got interested in what Baja California has to offer." The result: an Italian palazzo offering an interesting and changing fusion of Mediterranean-Baja food with dishes like roasted baby octopus, local oysters cooked on the mesquite grill, mesquite-grilled quail from Ense-nada's valley of Guadalupe, mussels cultivated in Baja farms, and a delicious rack of lamb raised in the local San Vicente Valley. The restaurant even grows its own herbs. Dish presentation is pure art. One of the tastiest: roast duck breast in a guava sauce with a little burrito of candied leg meat. Vegetarian upon request. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. —

CENTRAL

4.0 Deli 5844 Montezuma Road, College Area, 619-281-4040. This lowceilinged, dark, student sandwich hangout gets the frat-house crowd, luring them in with draft beers and big Buds that go for a song. Pitchers too, if you buy sandwiches with them, and the sandwiches are no dull lunch-counter fare. Try the Montezuma, a toasted sub with grilled chicken cutlets, chorizo, Monterey Jack, and a "kick-butt Southwestern dressing." Or Grilled Rivas, named after a much-loved Colombian who worked here: grilled turkey, Monterey Jack, grilled onions, and peppers. Check specials like the Buffalo Bleu, with grilled roast beef, bacon, red onions, bleu cheese, and Tabasco. The owners had a full-scale deli in New York, so this range is no surprise. Open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday to 7 p.m., Sunday to 5 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Antique Row Café 3002 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-9750. (Also in Lemon Grove and El Cajon.) Antique-land's favorite eatery is a serious exhibit in its own right, especially if you're into sports memorabilia. Look for signed photos of Mickey Mantle, Ted Williams, and Joe DiMaggio (all googlyeved with Marilyn) on the walls. The word for the food: generous. All-day breakfast dishes include The Works omelet, stuffed with bacon, sausage, ham, bell peppers, onions, tomatoes, and cheese bulging over a big oval plate along with skins-on breakfast potatoes, Philly Steak Heaven (you choose: steak, ham, or turkey) is one of the more popular lunchtime dishes. Normal Heights and El Cajon, breakfast and lunch daily; Lemon Grove, three meals daily. Inexpensive.

Avenue 5 2760 Fifth Avenue, Banker's Hill, 619-542-0394. Chef-owner Colin MacLaggan offers a short, tasty menu of creative, seasonal, French-influenced California cuisine in a chic, classy-casual neighborhood bistro. Be sure to ask about daily specials. Desserts are all house-made, including baked fromage blanc, a charming cheesecake. The adventurous international wine list is loaded with interesting bottles at low markups. Full bar. Extremely loud when crowded. Reservations urged. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. High moderate.

Blue Water Seafood Market and Grill 3667 India Street, Mission Hills, 619-497-0914. This bright, clean charmer a half-block south of El Indio has a double identity: First, it's a retail fish market; aside from Whole Foods, this is the only restaurant-quality fresh raw seafood south of I-8 and west of City Heights. If you love oysters, don't miss the big, buttery bivalves here. Second, it serves simple, terrific seafood to eat in or out. Plates are plastic, but don't look for

greasy fried stuff. Entrées are grilled gently until perfectly done, topped with your pick of flavors (the lemon-garlic butter is especially tasty) and come with rice and a huge salad with your choice of terrific house-made dressings. If indecisive, ask what's best that day. The overstuffed grilled fish tacos are messy and perfect, with just the right proportions of ingredients. Good choice of beers; a few affordable wines; \$5 corkage for BYOW. Reachable only by driving north on India. Metered street parking by day. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low-moderate. — N.W.

El Borrego Restaurant 4280 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 619-281-1355. This bright, über-cool eatery offers dishes from the state of Hidalgo, Mexico, where lamb eating is a tradition In dishes like the Lamb Special (lamb taco, quesadilla, cactus salad, rice), the rich taste of lamb cooked in maguey leaves comes through beautifully. Lamb mixiote (a spicier, smokier variation, with the lamb cooked inside the thin maguey skin) is also a "must eat." Or, just to get hooked on the whole lamb thing, slurp their luscious broth (with lamb, garbanzo beans, rice). If you're feeling adventurous, try lamb *pancita* (lamb's organs cooked inside its own sewn-up stomach). Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Closed Monday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Café Delight 4646 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-298-5248. He used to run one of Baghdad's most famous restaurants, the Ishtar, when Saddam was vice president. When the government asked him to spy on his customers, Sami and his wife Claudia left the country. You can tell from the cooking: this couple know what they're doing. They took over this little place (and little it is) from a Vietnamese-American couple, so the menu has echoes of Vietnam and the Middle East, as well as Italian dishes. Prices are very reasonable. Try the Vietnamese-style coconut milk soup









with veggies, with a sandwich, or lamb shank with red curry sauce and couscous. Don't miss the classy Greek coffee. Open daily from 10 a.m. to late; closes at 5 p.m. on Monday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

California Cuisine 1027 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-543-0790, Tod Atcheson is now the chef of this longlived neighborhood restaurant. Follow ing house tradition, the menu is printed daily and the dishes are chosen according to the harvest and catch of the moment. Still, you can usually count on finding a relatively authentic Caesar salad, a huge and exuberantly garnished bourbon-brined Neiman Ranch pork chop, and irresistible grilled Asian barbecued jumbo shrimp. A summertime special of fresh corn and mussel bisque shouldn't be missed if it's on the menu. There's some day-to-day inconsistency but a preponderance of deliciousness. Save room for outstanding, adventurous desserts. Comfortable atmosphere, but interior gets loud when busy. A heated

garden patio surrounding a fountain offers romantic alfresco feasting. Dinner nightly. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Candelas 416 Third Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-4455, Don't look for tacos here — chef Eduardo Baeza specializes in alta cocina, a luxurious, inventive combination of traditional Mexican fare and French techniques. In a handsome Spanish-style dining room (romantic but rather noisy) with gracious service, the menu emphasizes seafood, including a signature dish of luscious stuffed Maine lobster. Plenty for meat lovers, too, with fine Black Angus cuts inventively garnished. But the menu and ingredients have been somewhat compromised over the years to accommodate the "Dude where's my taco?" conventioneers. The choices are more Dude-friendly — that is, less venturesome than they might be, and execution can be uneven. In the lounge at 10 p.m. on weekends, the music cranks up and the scene goes disco (with a cover charge for non-diners; IDs

checked). Reservations advised, required on weekends; slightly dressy. Dinner nightly until 11 p.m. Interesting but expensive wine list; food expensive or higher — NW

China Too 916 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-4283. Don't blink or you'll miss this Gaslamp bargain. The menu claims "New York-Style Fine Chinese Cuisine." Would you settle for decent Brooklyn- or Bronx-style eatin/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 multiregional "chef specialties" (#90 to #107 on the menu). But what really makes this



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Calendar

a "New York-ish" spot will bring joy to hungry mouths all over the restaurant-starved stretch east and south of Balboa Park: free delivery from I-8 to Harbor Drive, from Pacific Highway to 805 or even farther. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; closed Saturday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Las Cuatro Milpas 1857 Logan Avenue, Logan Heights, 619-234-4460. This isn't a restaurant, it's a legend. The same Estudillo family has been serving oldfashioned Mexican food here for three generations — 70 years. Rice, beans, pork tacos (they don't serve beef), pork tamales, chorizo with eggs — that's about it. So how come they have lines outside every day? Blame a potent mix-ture of sentiment and the lard they refuse to abandon. Folks say that lard flavor is the real Mexico. Also famous: their Saturday menudo. Warning: go easy with their deep wine-colored hot sauce. It's room-rocker strength. The name? From a famous mariachi song, "The Four Cornfields." Open morning to mid-afternoon, Monday to Saturday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Downtown Johnny Brown's 1220 Third Avenue, 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: sportminded 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 fresh-cut vegetables. Also, salads: taco or southwest chicken. What's best: sitting outside and watching people — not traffic — bustle by. — *E.B.*

Ichiban 1449 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-299-7203. Is this Paris or Tokyo? At night, the café outside glows like a Van Gogh painting, except the customers are eating sushi and drinking green tea, not red wine. The best values are at lunch, with weekday specials like Bento combos (sushi rolls, crab, salmon, rice) and filling soups overflowing with veggies and thick udon noodles. Healthy? You betcha. The miso soup (with every dish) made from soy and seaweed is a great daily iodine fix. Number One — that's what "ichi-ban" means. Open daily until 9:30 p.m., lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Lightnin' Jacks BBQ 4705-H Clairemont Drive, Clairemont, 858-270-8227. Clean, cute, and a little self-conscious, this barbecue has black-and-white Western pictures on the walls and some seating on barstools with metal "saddles" (more comfortable than they look). The barbecue mechanism is a Texas-style pit smoker burning sweet hickory. The meats that emerge from it aren't the smokiest, but they're tasty enough. Pork ribs are tender and moist, and beef brisket carries enough smoke flavor to pass muster in Texas; other meat choices are less successful. The tomato sauce is pleasant but ordinary. A fried catfish

plate makes a flavorful alternative (but beware the cat sandwich, awash in hot sauce). Hush puppies and sweet potato fries are the most savory sides. Check your take-out bag to make sure you're getting what you ordered, as youthful staff is easily flustered. Kiddie plates available. Draft beer and wine available. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

Lou and Mickey's 224 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-237-4900. The onetime ornate Royale Brasserie across from the convention center finally had to bow to conventional tastes and simplify into a fifties-style steak-and-seafood house. King's Seafood is still the owner, so the fish quality remains fine. The fare is simple, with minimal sauce or garnish; yegetables cost extra, coming in large por tions but merely adequate preparations. Best dishes include BBQ Shrimp, Manales' Style, a buttery, spicy New Orleans extravaganza (available as starter or entrée), and the huge, juicy rib-eye Cowboy Steak. Valet parking at door. Wraparound heated dining patio. Noisy in dining room near bar; request "Nude Room' for quiet. For interesting wines at good prices, look into "Adventures" sections of the list. Dinner nightly, weekends until 11 p.m. Fish moderate, meats expensive. — N.W.

Lucky Buck's Patio Bar and Grill 1459 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-297-0660. If you've got a craving for the wickedest-lookin' burger since Hodad's, this might be it. The only question: which burger? The Buck'n' Bleu Ribbon Burger (with bleu cheese, bacon, onion strings, and chipotle sauce)? Buck's On Fire (pepper Jack, bacon, and jalapeño pep-

pers)? Buck's Lucky Mushroom? Or the Texas Longhorn Buck (Cheddar, hickory bacon, BBQ sauce, and fried onion rings tumbling out of the burger like a Rolling Stones' tongue). All come with garlicky waffle fries. This'll take care of your cholesterol fix for a month. Next time try their healthier veggie burritos and Chicken Buck 'n' Caesar salad. Daily 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (11 p.m. Friday and Saturday). Inexpensive. — E.B.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant 675 L Street (Omni Hotel), Downtown, 619-645-6545. Want to hang out with the baseball elite? They graze here, next to the ballpark. But what should really draw you is happy hour. It's an awesome deal where you get a halfpound burger and fries for under two bucks. Ditto steamed mussels, chicken satay, California rolls, fish cakes, cheese plate, more. Best beverage deal: Coke or (refillable) iced tea, and the staff is sporting about you ordering multiple eats and sitting on one drink. Feel guilty? Don't. This loss leader works: From one place, in Portland, Oregon, M&S has grown to 86 locations nationwide. Happy hour Monday through Friday, 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on game days). Inexpensive. — E.B.

Morton's of Chicago 285 J Street, Downtown, 619-696-3369. This famous Chicago steakhouse is swanky, in a manly way: dark, clubby, luxurious, and louche. You go to Morton's for great steak. Their Midwestern grain-fed beef is aged and meticulously grilled to your specifications. You can get a one-and-a-half or three-pound porterhouse, which will be juicy, marbled with flavorful fat. You can also get good fish at Morton's. The big, golden salmon fillet flakes to the fork and is moist, sweet, buttery. The pricey à la carte sides are either bad or mediocre. The Morton's Hot Chocolate Cake is exceptional. But go for the steak. Expensive. — M.N.

Ono Sushi and Pacific Spice 1236 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-298-0616. If you are searching for huge portions, fresh tasty food, and reasonable prices, don't overlook this colorful Japanese/Pacific Rim café. Excellent specialty rolls, entrées, appetizers. Very crowded weekends; lively young crowd. Dinners nightly; open for lunch Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.W.

Picasso Spanish Restaurant 3923 Fourth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-294-3065 are served in a small, modern, art-filled room that draws a casual neighborhood crowd. The regional style is Basque, from northern Spain, but these aren't the tiny pinxos of that area — in fact, these bites are larger than usual, sized generously for two eaters. Some top tapas include chicken-stuffed empanadillas, baby eels in garlic sauce, stuffed greenlip mussels, and an outstanding paella (available as both a tapa and entrée). Moderate. — N.W.

Po Pazzo 1917 India Street, 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-andwhite 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.

Pokéz Mexican Restaurant and Vegetarian Cuisine 947 E Street, Downtown, 619-702-7160. Rafael — his buddies call him Rafa—started this cool student/artist hangout years ago when he was 18. Lunchtime business people come here. Evenings, seems like it's all Rafa's friends: people from downtown, Golden Hill, City College. The food is mostly Mexican vegetarian (though he's got meaty things like chicken or steak ranchero or sautéed chicken fajitas). Tip well: the servers volunteer and share the take from the gravy pot. Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; weekends 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.— E.B.

Sevilla 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-5979. This site has three faces: a crowded but civilized tapas bar for spontaneous snacking, a romantic dining room with serious Spanish entrées, and a basement nightclub dishing out assembly-line paella. The best food is upstairs. You can get tapas in the restaurant and entrées at the bar, and in either case the choices are varied, interesting, and highly cosmopolitan, executed with wonderful consistency. Be sure to look for something that includes potatoes; the humble spud gets Cinderella treatment here. No reservations (or wheelchairs) at tapas bar; reservations strongly recommended for dining room. Dinner daily. Moderate. — N.W.

Super Cocina 3627 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-584-6244. If you're looking for authentic, rustic Mexican home cooking, this simple, bright cafeteria is the place. There's no chef; instead, local Mexican housewives from many regions prepare their specialties for the restaurant. They're mainly fascinating, complex meat or poultry stews, made without border compromises—if a dish should be spicy, it is spicy. The array of about a dozen entrées changes daily from a rotating repertory of about 100. The counter people will give you tastes of any entrée before you choose the two you want, which come in generous dollops with rice, lively ranchero beans, and tortillas. For breakfast, the chilaquiles are renowned. Free parking, family atmosphere, no alcohol, cash only.





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Van Hoa Vietnamese Restaurant 4016 54th Street, College Area, 619-582 2642. A great early-morning place, especially if you're interested in *pho*, that traditional beef soup the Vietnamese love so well. This family provides written instructions ("How to Eat Pho") to help newcomers get the maximum taste reward from this soup. They have 20 versions — *dac biet* ("special combo") is a good place to start. They have the usual array of rice and rice vermicelli plates and Vietnamese crêpes and spring rolls as well, but most morning customers stick with the hot rich pho. Open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. (till 7 p.m. Sundays). Inexpensive. — E.B.

NORTH INLAND

Bernard'O Restaurant 12457 Rancho Bernardo Road, Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-7171. Chef Patrick Ponsaty, a master of flavor, reigns in this unpretentious but beautiful high-ceilinged bistro. producing creative, classic-based French modern cuisine featuring fine seasonal ingredients. The food isn't merely creative, it tastes heavenly - the man's got a palate. You want to know what genuine (California-adapted) bouillabaisse should be? Or squab at its best? This is the place — and desserts are ravishing, too. Servers are mainly well-informed, enthusiastic fellow foodies who are right on the mark. Alluring wine list at all prices includes top French growths at near-bargain markups, plus full bar. One vegetarian entrée most seasons. Slightly dressy, reservations urged. Lunch Wednesday through Friday, dinner nightly. Expensive but not exorbitant. — *N.W.*

Bistro 221 221 East Grand Avenue Escondido, 760-737-7398. This genteel bistro - with comfortable chairs and linen-covered tables inside and a shaded

patio on the sidewalk — is especially tasty at lunch, with its sophisticated quesadillas and a classic burger and fries cooked your way. At dinner simple starters shine, including a Florida version of gumbo and Maryland crab cakes with minimal filler. The dinner entrées are also the best. — *N.W.*

Cavaillon 14701 Via Bettona, Suite 200. Rancho Santa Fe, 858-433-0483. Cavaillon is likely to become your favorite neighborhood French restaurant, no matter how far you live from its neighborhood—it's, as *Guide Michelin* would say, "worth a detour." Provence-born chef-owner Phillippe Verpiande (former chef de cuisine at Tapenade) offers seasonal, classic French dishes emphasizing his home region in a retro bistro setting. Don't miss the signature starter of panisse, a chick-pea cake with the texture of a marshmallow. Other great dishes include transcendent coq au vin, superb slow-baked salmon, and a dream version of crisp-skinned duck confit. Moderate-priced three-course prix fixe dinners (\$32) Monday through Thursday nights are as fine as the à la carte menu, although it's difficult to resist the siren songs of the alluring nightly spe-cials. International wine list at lowerthan-average markups, French "bargains" on the pricier reserve list, and merciful corkage fees to BYO special bot-tle. Dinner nightly, brunch weekends. Moderate to very expensive. — N.W.

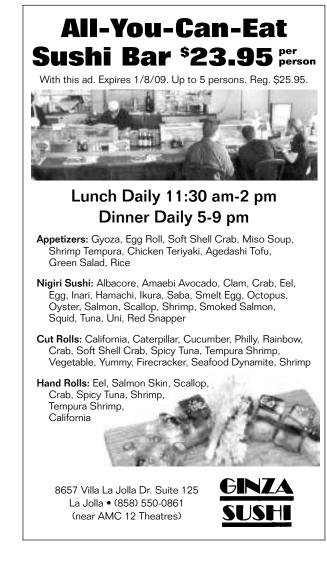
Dumpling Inn 4619 Convoy Street #F, Kearny Mesa, 858-268-9638. Hole-in-the-wall? Yes. But what a hole-in-thewall. For those who love the Far East and its food, finding the Dumpling Inn is a little revelation. It's located in the busy Jasmine/Korean Market Center among Oriental herbalists, man-size-vase shops even feng shui experts. The Inn itself is tiny but charming. Long hanging lanterns, decorative strings of scarletand-gold firecrackers, Chinese flutes, and even the odd conical straw hat. The food is serious but not expensive. Dishes like ten fish and green-chive dumplings, spicy













San Diego Reader

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stir-fried three-ingredient lo mein (thick noodles, jumbo shrimp, calamari, and chicken plus hot red peppers) are challenging and exciting, as is the Dumpling Dinner (including hot-and-sour soup, cold cuts, shredded pork bun, potstickers, shrimp and pork dumplings). Don't miss their divine jellyfish salad — crunchy-tender, bright and spicy (but not too) — you'd be hard-pressed to find its like outside of Hong Kong. Open 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., closed Monday. Inexpensive — E.B.

El Galeón 503 West Mission Avenue, Escondido, 760-746-5951. Mexican seafood, along with the usual dishes, is featured in a bright coffee-shop atmosphere with comfortable booths, big windows, a lunch counter, and a salad bar. Shrimp and langostino ("squat lobster," in fishermen's terms) are the house specialties and are well treated. Also consider an intense little marlin taco (squeeze some lime onto this rich, strong fish), or the savory albondigas soup (lime it up, too). Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive (standard dishes) to moderate (seafood). — N.W.

Hacienda de Vega 2608 South Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, 760-738-9805. This is a Mexican restaurant with a difference — or two. The setting is a gorgeous restored Old California-style hacienda set on two acres, including a verdant courtyard (complete with fountain) for fair-weather dining. The menu is also a leap upward from standard fare. Senora Vega offers authentic Mexican cuisine cooked in the sophisticated manner of Mexico City, her hometown — not border-food compromises. You'll

find an array of fresh and interesting appetizers along with a wide choice of serious entrées featuring complex, delicious sauces. Each dish is seasoned to the optimum spiciness for its overall flavor—this is not the land of the bland. The Sunday all-you-can-eat brunch offers a whole sampling of goodies brought to your table, with refills as desired. Five vegetarian entrées and a kiddie menu available; casual atmosphere. Full bar specializing in margaritas, of course. Open daily, lunch (or brunch) and dinner. — N.W.

San Tong Palace 4690 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-571-6837. This unassuming strip-mall restaurant is easy to overlook, but once found, impossible to resist. San Tong's hybrid Korean-Chinese menu draws from these regions' tastiest styles. The Rainbow Salad demonstrates this combination deliciously, and San Tong's dumplings are outstanding. The seafood dumplings are especially remarkable. For the adventurous, I recommend the jellyfish salad, a novel treat for westerners. At San Tong Palace, curious appetites are rewarded well. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — M.N.

WineSellar and Brasserie 9550 Waples Street #115, Sorrento Valley, 858 450-9557. This long-time favorite "splurge" restaurant, located in a soulless industrial park (there's no "there" there), sits atop a serious wine store, and your dinner quaffs, from an encyclopedic choice of bottlings, will cost just 20% over retail. The food is the comfortably upscale French cooking that San Diego cherishes - luxurious and modern, without a hint of exoticism. And many dishes would shine in any galaxy - e.g. foie gras with mango and tender pheas ant stuffed with foie gras, along with cured *hamachi* and yellowfin-tuna tartare. Dining room up staircase, no lift: accessible seating in first floor tasting room, with full facilities, (Call ahead to

arrange, and to arrange vegetarian meals.) Reservations usually necessary, as restaurant holds many sold-out special events. Ask for directions, too, as all the architecture for miles is identical. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday (closed between meals). Lunches highmoderate, dinners very expensive. — N.W.

NORTH COASTAL

101 Café 631 South Coast Highway, Oceanside, 760-722-5220. This is the oldest li'l eating establishment in Oceanside. Cooks have been flipping burgers here since 1928. The café is named after Route 101, the Pacific Highway. Old-timers remember when everyone from truck drivers to movie stars would stop for a bite before heading on to San Diego and Tijuana. Try the ABC (avocado, bacon, and cheese) Omelet, the 101 Original Cheeseburger with its "secret sauce," chicken-fried steaks with eggs and, of course, the Great Depression dish: biscuits with gravy and home fries. Open daily, three meals until midnight. Cash only, No alcohol, Inexpensive. — E.B.

Jamroc 101 Caribbean Grill 101 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-436-3162. At this former site of D.B. Hacker's, you can still get great fish-and-chips, mon. The shack by the tracks now sports bright tropical designs on its backpatio walls, and the fare is casual Jamaican (plus a couple of Cajun dishes). Check out the bargain-priced samplers, which include luscious soft-fried plantains and splendid patties (empanadas to you and me) with a choice of beef, curry chicken, or veggies. The spicing of the jerks and curry entrées are downtuned to suit tourist tastes, but the table bottle of Walkerswood Scotch Bonnet Hot Sauce can kick that right up. Don't

miss the fresh coconut water, served out of a young Thai coconut. Soca, ska, and (clean) reggae set the mood, and there's live steel pan weekend evenings. Beer, wine, Bigga soft drinks. Open weekday nights until 8 p.m. and weekend nights until 9:30 p.m. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Oceanside Café 1938 South Coast Highway, Oceanside, 760-722-7337. This little place does lunch, with good burgers, but breakfast's what a lot of folks come for, Dieter's Downfall, a three-egg omelet stuffed with ham, bacon, sausag tomato, Jack, and Cheddar, is wicked. Two other things to try: the Sausage of the Week is made next door at the Red and White Market (anything from bockwurst to French apple-chicken sausage). And the dieter's real downfall comes with their carrot cake or double chocolate cake - rich, moist, and fresh out of their oven every morning. Breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Pizza Port — Solana Beach 135 North Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-481-7332. "Tasty Grub & Grog," says the sign, and that's just what it is. You come here for three things: the pizzas, the beer, and the scene. The place is cavernous, but the tables are communal, with long wooden benches. Rub shoulders with surfers, students, yuppies, and locals. Pizza Port brews their own beer (try Sharkbite Red) and flings their own pizzas, New York style. Filling combos can be great, like the pesto, mesquite-grilled chicken, sun-dried tomatoes, artichoke hearts, and feta (Pizza Carlsbad), or shrimp, clams, onions, olives, bell peppers, and mushrooms (Pizza Solana). Inexpensive. — E.B.

Poseidon 1670 Coast Boulevard, Del Mar, 858-755-9345. The two dining rooms and bar here boast airy, stylish decor and ocean views, and the SRO um-

brella-shaded patio is right at water's edge. Lunches run to sandwiches, burgers, and fried seafood of ordinary competence and uneven preparation: wonderfully coconutty fried shrimp, for example, share a sampler plate with deadly-dry salmon croquettes. Dinner dishes are modern Cal cuisine—that is, a mix-and-match of Pacific Rim-Mediterranean-Mexican flavors, with some emphasis on seafood. But the view's the thing here. Full bar. Open daily, lunch and dinner; breakfast on weekends. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Savory 267 North El Camino Real, Encinitas, 760-634-5556. Chef-owner Pascal Vignau was executive chef of the Four Seasons Aviara when he decided he wanted his own little place. His casual strip-mall restaurant has been perpetually packed for dinner since opening day. Here he serves a monthly changing menu of southern French and Mediter ranean cooking spotlighting seasonal local produce. Highlights include an ultrarich macaroni-and-ham casserole. The adventurous mainly-Cal wine list is remarkably affordable, with many choices available by half-bottles and glasses (and modest corkage if you BYO). Dinner reservations urged; groups larger than ten accommodated with manager's approval. High tea Saturday afternoon. Lunch Tuesday through Saturday; dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. —

Sbicca American Bistro 215 Fifth Street, Del Mar, 858-481-1001. Chefowner Susan Sbicca creates pristine California Cuisine, highlighting fresh (and usually organic) local produce on a menu that changes with the seasons. The irresistible lobster-crabmeat croquettes and lobster-shrimp bisque are pure Del Mar deluxe. Some simpler dishes cleverly complete themselves as you eat them:

Salmon served with peas and mushrooms to one side and a creamy sauce on the other creates a whole new sauce when you broach the fillet. A lemon-pistachio cake, too, changes as you cut it, the pieces crumbling into a berry coulis. It's a fun way to eat, engaging the mind along with the palate. Family-friendly setting (only well-mannered kids come here) with handsome, airy dining rooms and charming patios. Wide-ranging wine list emphasizing California, plenty by the glass and even some half-bottles. On different weekday evenings they offer \$5 martinis, no corkage fee, and 50% off all bottles; call for specific days. Crowded during racing season. Reservations advisable. Lunch and dinner daily, bar menu ongoing. High moderate to expensive. — B.D.

When in Rome 1108 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-944-1771. This elegant restaurant offers three dining areas and a menu with outstanding appetizers and pasta dishes. There are many unusual preparations. Gorgeous presentation; warm, friendly service. A winner. Dressy-casual crowd. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive. —

SOUTH BAY

1500 Ocean 1500 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-522-8490. A lovely indoor-outdoor dining venue replaces the venerable walled-in Prince of Wales at the Del. Now the food is breezier, too — Chef Brian Sinott's savory California-Mediterranean cuisine is constructed with the beautiful luxury ingredients of each season. His skill with vegetables can turn even brussels sprouts into treats and



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Cafe Zia, College Area

Cafe Zia might intimidate you at first. You walk in and it looks like it is a half-finished restaurant, but it has looked that way since I first began eating there. For your \$6.99, you will get a Chipotle burrito—sized wrap that is plenty to share with a lunch partner. Their wraps come in a variety of flavors — using various chutneys, meats, and fillers, and their whole-wheat tortillas are the perfect wrapping for the gift inside!

By **lucaskr** 2:28 p.m., Dec. 18

Island Prime, Harbor Island

This is by far the best Cohn venture yet. Bravo to Chef-Owner Deborah Scott, who not only oversees the first-class kitchen but also works the dining room to ensure her guests are enjoying themselves. C Level, the all-day side of the operation offers incredible lunch and dinner selections (be sure to try the lobster macaroni and cheese!), while the Island Prime dining room fuses cutting edge, top-quality seafood, beef, lamb, and vegetarian works of art. Stop in for lunch, an unforgettable dinner, or happy hour with a panoramic view of the harbor. You can't lose! By **g_martinez** 8:38 a.m., Dec. 21

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celeriac into manna. There's everything to like, from the patio with a beach view to the comfortable atmosphere that's dressy but not stiff. The wine list is awesome — rather steep but no gouging, including reasonably mature top quaffs from France. Validated parking. Request assistance with handicapped access (stairs) when calling to reserve. Dinner nightly. Expensive. — N.W.

Anthony's Fish Grotto — Chula Vista 215 West Bay Boulevard, Chula Vista, 619-425-4200. If you don't want overcomplicated food, Anthony's obliges. Fish-and-chips are still the simplest and the best. Or Mama's Platter, cod combined with batter-fried calamari, shrimp, oysters, scallops, and clam strips. Anthony's has been up and running for six decades now, with the buying power to get the pick of the catch. The menu offers 18 different seasonal fish to choose from, plus — if you've got the bread — delicious lobster dishes (in season) like lobster thermidor with a creamy, winey sauce. No reservations. Open daily, lunch through dinner. Moderate. — E.B.

El Comal — Chula Vista 262 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, 619-420-3811. No border compromises here, just great home cooking from the mainland (Michoacan, Guerrero, Jalisco, Puebla, Oaxaca, and the Yucatan) in a pair of restaurants founded by by Luz Herrera Ibarra, a biology teacher from Acapulco. Stuffed tortilla dishes are back in their proper place as appetizers or lunches (don't expect numbered "combo plates"). A *botana* sampler plate that "serves two" (actually stuffs four) is a fun way to try a bunch of them, including outstanding pork-filled *sopes* that taste like somebody's loving mamacita made them. Also try a mulita, a soft, substantial, housemade tortilla folded over your choice of meat with melted cheese and guacamole, perfect for lunch. For entrées, look to the casseroles, with such exciting choices as Lengua en Salsa Verde (tongue in tomatillo sauce), Barbacoa de Chivo (tender goat in a lively red "barbecue" sauce), and an excellent Mole Poblano (tender chicken breast in sweet-spicy chocolate-based mole sauce). Fish are also well treated. Grilled meat choices, which include a full parrillada assortment ("serves two," feeds six), are cut thin and cooked well done Three meals, seven days. Inexpensive — N.W.

Crown Room 1500 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-6611. Let's face it, this is one of the grandest entrances you'll make anywhere, into the enormous, gloomy, vaulted timber dining room where presidents, princes and Marilyn Monroe have chowed down. It's only open for Sunday brunch these days. The gigantic eat-till-you're-beat buffet feast ranges from omelets to salmon, crab legs, prime rib, dizzying desserts, and even a chocolate fountain for large parties, available upon request. The downside? Monroe was here to shoot Some Like It Hot, but (apart from the chocolate) most food ain't. It's either cold (like the croissants, though

the chocolate chunk ones are delicious) or lukewarm (like prime rib and eggs Benedict — and those eggs could do with a lot more Benedict). But this is an Edwardian-scale social occasion — see and be seen. The food isn't great, but the atmosphere is grand. Open Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Expensive.— *E.B.*

Dakine's Plate Lunches 1635 Sweetwater Road, National City, 619-6477-8494. You go here for your Pacific Island fix — hundreds of Hawaiians do, every day. You'll find Hawaiian license plates and surfboards on the walls, "Aloha Maid" Guava Nectar, and island food. Although the kalua pig here isn't cooked in an *imu* — a hole in the ground — it sure tastes like the real thing and comes with cabbage, rice, macaroni salad, and kimchi. But beware of the *haupia* cake — it may cause serious addiction. Lunch and early dinner Tuesday through Sunday; closed Monday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Olive Oil Organic Café 600 Palm Avenue, Suite 109, Imperial Beach, 619-429-1779. There are a folks who believe the best two vegan sandwiches in the county can be found here — the Baby Greens sandwich (roasted eggplant, squash, sprouts, avocado on ciabatta or focaccia) and the Vegan Fusion (imitation meats - smoked turkey and salami — mozzarella cheese, greens, tomatoes, red onions, sprouts, "mayo," deli mustard, olive oil, balsamic vinegar on focaccia). But they're all good: the Appallonia panini (grilled apples, bacon, cheddar) or the Tango (spiced beef pastrami, Black Forest ham, provolone cheese on a ciabatta roll) or the Chicago Way (London broil roast beef with cheddar and horseradish) are all better than they have to be. Also pizzas, salads smoothies, and homemade soups, 9.30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday; closed Sunday. — *E.B.*

Point-Point Joint 916 East Eighth Street, National City, 619-474-2866. You're in Little Manila here, heartland of San Diego's Filipino community. So the food has to be authentic. Your problem's going to be choosing. Dozens of dishes with mysterious meats and veg-

gies. You can play safe and choose, say, chicken barbecue on a bamboo spit, chicken adobo, or longaniza sausage. But you should seek out less familiar choices, too. Kare-kare (yam, peanut butter sauce with beef and tripe) is delicious, and so is dinuguan, pork in pork blood, also known as "chocolate meat." Want healthy? There's monggo (mung beans) with bitter melon leaves, or point to a pile of split, deep-fried fish — daing na bangus, vinegar-soaked milk fish, said to be popular with old men with high blood pressure. Lunch, dinner seven days; breakfast Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Romesco 4346 Bonita Road, Bonita, 619-475-8627. Given the post-9/11 transit hassles, Romesco is a Tijuana restaurant family's way of bringing their fine food to this side of the border. This branch of the respected Casa Plasencia and Villa Saverios features seasonal "Baja Mediterranean" cuisine, a creative blending of southern European and Mexican flavors, highlighting inventive uses of Baja ingredients. Don't miss smoked marlin carpaccio, grilled duck breast, escolar. The whole menu is worth exploring, full of sur-prising treats. Wide-ranging international wine list includes Guadalupe Valbottlings. Ambience dressy-casual; reserve for dinners. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate to expensive.

EAST COUNTY

Alpine Inn 2225 Alpine Boulevard, Alpine, 619-445-5172. Beef lover's heaven. Also, try the house special, the Texas burger, ground in-house and served on a Kaiser roll with steak fries. Dark interior with large booths. Very crowded for dinner on Sunday. Lunch and dinner (with inexpensive earlybird dinner) Monday through Saturday; brunch and dinner Sunday. Moderate to expensive. — E.W.

La Casa del Zorro 3845 Yaqui Pass Road, Borrego Springs, 760-767-5323. La Casa Del Zorro is Borrego Springs' most renowned and ambitious restaurant, set in a deluxe resort five miles south of town. (Drive through the parking lots until you reach the fenced swimming pool; the restaurant's small, dimly marked door is just to the left.) The menu offers elaborate seafood appetizers (out here in the desert) and entrées with fine, subtle sauces, fresh veggies from nearer the coast, and rather mild-flavored, exquisitely tender meats, evidently chosen to be gentle to the dentures of the duffers. Desserts are few and very sweet. Full bar; great (but pricey) wine list. Reserve for weekend evenings. Open daily. Very expensive.

Downtown Café 182 East Main Street, El Cajon, 619-440-5687. Surprise! Not far from Magnolia and Main, a French-style sidewalk café. The successful "Por Favor" eateries' owner launched this as a kind of Mexican patio restaurant, but serving gringo food. And it works, maybe because of rea-

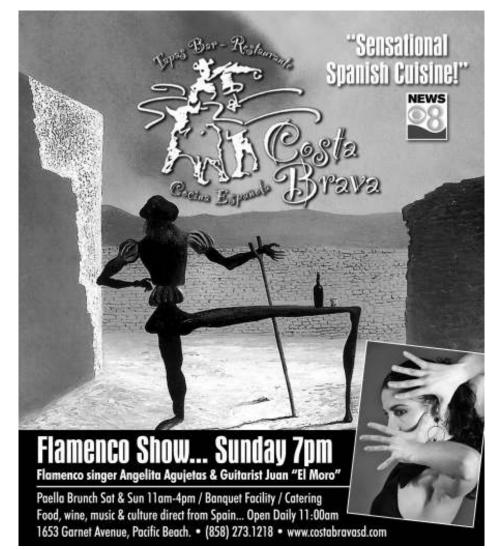
sonable prices for baby-back pork ribs, giant burritos, or Louisiana chicken strips. Or even the veggie burger. But it's partly where you dine: out on the patio. The place has lots of ancient doors and wrought-iron-and-wood window frames, laced with creepers. Inside is a beautiful long bar with a counter on the street and chess sets so you can play and watch the world go by. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate.

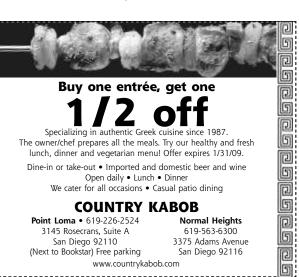
Geno's Barbecue 291 West Main Street, El Cajon, 619-444-3667. The original owner, Geno, was a real guy, a refugee from corporate America who turned this ex-Taco Bell joint into a surfing-themed BBQ place. He was a surfer, but serious. He'd won lots of prizes for his BBQ sauce, using a chili pepper he said nobody else had. Today, a new owner has continued the tradition. Try #5, pulled pork and slaw, or #9, shredded beef, melted Jack, and sautéed onions. Sides like dirty rice and corn-

bread are good, but if you're light of pocket go for the "Ripcurl" hot dog, the best deal on the menu. Open 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

The Kopper Kettle 12108 Woodside Avenue, Lakeside, 619-561-0628. "Early to bed, early to rise, sit at Kopper Kettle, tell big lies." The plaque says it all: the Kettle's Social Central for this part of Lakeside. But its other claim to fame is important, too: They broast. Think broiling and roasting. They pressure-cook their chicken and their potatoes in oil. The result is a tastier, crisper, and less greasy chunk of chicken and wedges of potato that are crusty with light insides — great for dipping in their homemade ranch sauce. The menu features many broasted items, plus dozens of big-plate breakfast and lunch items. Expect tons of friendliness, traditional fare, less for the nuts-and-twigs crowd. Open 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.











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Restaurants listed without coupon offers have only menus online. Restaurants with • have multiple locations. See online menu or coupon for all locations.

Finish Line

Nothing is more absurd about this tale than its length.

MOVIE

DUNCAN SHEPHERD

on't open before Christmas:

The Reader is the trite and true story of a once fat and sassy alternative free weekly, now struggling for survival amidst a plummeting economy, skyrocketing paper costs,

shrinking page size, increasing illiteracy and ebbing attention spans, epidemic employee alcoholism and eternal

internal disgruntlement, and above all the ever encroaching and engulfing Web, featuring Harrison Ford as the resolute publisher, Stanley Tucci the frantic ad exec, William Macy the glum film critic — no, wait. Wait. That was in my nightmares. Let me start over.

The Reader, I meant to say, is Stephen Daldry's tight and trim adaptation of the Bernhard Schlink best-seller on German war guilt and the filial estrangement of the postwar generation. (Daldry also handled the successful adaptation of The Hours some years back.) It begins in 1995 in the frigid colorless antiseptic Berlin apartment of Ralph Fiennes, lit by way of Vermeer, but soon it retreats to his adolescence in 1958, his incar-

nation in a very dissimilar young actor named David Kross, his scarlet fever, his torrid summer affair with an older streetcar attendant played by Kate Winslet, and his habit of reading to her in bed and bath: *The Odyssey, Huck*-

> leberry Finn, The Lady with the Little Dog, Lady Chatterley's Lover ("This is disgusting," huffs the naked lady beside him).

In school, his Lit. teacher has broached the universal theme of secrecy — a nudge to us viewers — and it's clear that the boy's secret is his older lover. But what's hers? Again it's clear, from the shaded and shifting emotions of the unfailingly fascinating Winslet, that there's a lot going on inside which we don't know about. And not because Winslet, as the torrid affair abundantly lays bare, is to any degree inhibited.

I would not be giving away too much if I revealed that several years later, when our protagonist has enrolled in law school, his advanced seminar attends for educational purposes a war-crimes trial in which his former lover is unmasked as an S.S. officer at Auschwitz.



The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

It's still clear even then, from all the shading and shifting, that she harbors secrets. The provocation of the protagonist to divulge his own secret and to interpose himself in the proceedings becomes quite urgent and suspenseful, although in both courtroom and classroom the film has now entered a polemical mode that can only be termed uncinematic. (It's a sign of discouragement that so

many of the leading candidates for the year-end awards have opted to hash out their issues in baldest verbalization: this one, *Frost/Nixon*, *Doubt*, *Milk.*) All the same, David Hare, the screenwriter, is a fastidious wordsmith; and even if the film drags on a bit once the time line catches up to Ralph Fiennes, drags on seemingly to justify his place on the payroll, it eventually

comes to a satisfying end in a highly charged sit-down between him and Lena Olin, a concentration-camp survivor. The clean clear color and the pinpoint focus (Chris Menges and Roger Deakins, co-credited as cinematographers) belie the moral muddinger

Bryan Singer's *Valkyrie* recounts the story of the last and most nearly



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Calendar

successful of the fifteen known plots to assassinate Hitler, not counting the fictitious one in Fritz Lang's *Man Hunt*, from the Geoffrey Household novel, *Rogue Male*. We know beforehand that the plot must fail, despite having Tom Cruise on board as Col. Claus von Stauffenberg. (Were you hoping he'd be playing Hitler?) What went wrong, when, why, and how, can nonetheless drum up sufficient curiosity and suspense. Rooting interest is another matter, held in check not simply by hopelessness but by dimming Star Power. Cruise, who no longer can get by on

his smile, starts out speaking Englishsubtitled German in voice-over, just to establish his Teutonic credentials, and then switches for the duration to his normal American-accented English, standing out from the British-accented English of his co-conspirators, Kenneth Branagh, Terence Stamp, Bill Nighy (wonderfully transformed through slicked-back hair and grandfatherish eyeglasses), Eddie Izzard, and, an unreliable fence-sitter in the conspiracy, Tom Wilkinson, to say nothing of the German-accented English of the really, really bad Nazis, Hitler and Goebbels. But that's not the only way Cruise seems not to belong. Even with eyepatch and digitalized arm stump, he comes across as something of a lightweight, no matter how hard he glares with his one operative eye: roughly as hard as a puerile comic-book addict who believes he can develop X-ray vision if only he practices. It's a distraction, as the plan falls apart, to be thinking to ourselves that the bomb ought to have been entrusted to an Englishman.

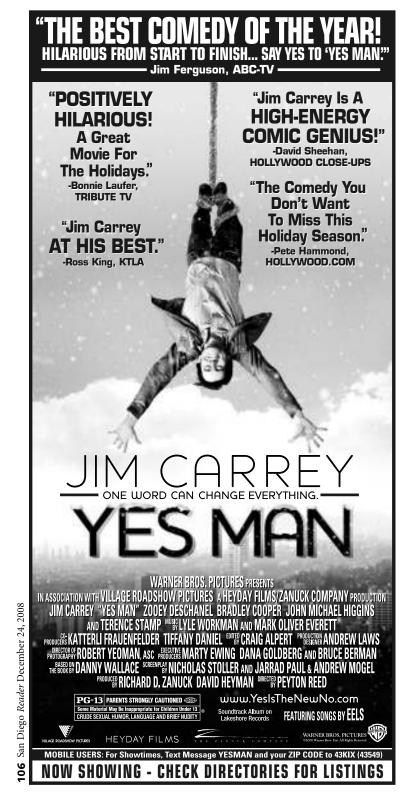
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button retains the central conceit and little else from an F. Scott Fitzgerald short story of the same name: a protagonist who ages in reverse. (The story of course was written and titled before the soundalike name of Benjamin Britten came to fame, and as long as they were changing everything else....) On the page, the character is born as a full-blown old man in possession of a lifetime's knowledge, a hurdle of illogic that immediately sets the seal of whimsy on the piece. With a script by Eric Roth, and with an historical scope and a "special" hero that often recall his script for Forrest Gump, the movie is at some pains to shore up the plausibility of the tale — a painful undertaking for sure — and to expunge the humor of it. The newborn now is only a somewhat more repulsively wrinkled baby than the average, and his condition is reasonably diagnosed as a lifeshortening abnormality, so that the reverse-aging process takes a long time even to be noticed: he's growing bigger at a normal rate, and his wrinkles understandably get smoothed away as he fills out. The heart of the tale, in every sense, turns out to be a Great Love between a couple who meet as an elderly man and young girl, have a babymaking affair when they reach approximately the same age, and then go their separate ways into infancy and senescence. (The story is told at the woman's deathbed in the path of Hurricane Katrina, largely through the slender diary of the protagonist, supplemented by a few memories of the old lady, and spiced with a bit of insight into the workings of fate to which neither the man nor the woman could possibly be privy.)

On screen, nothing is more absurd about this tale than its length, two and three-quarters hours, plenty long enough to read the Fitzgerald story five or six times over. And its wistful theme of transience frankly gains very little from the oppositedirections aging phenomenon, nowhere near as much as you'd want to gain from so mindbending a device. The theme, moreover, gains nothing at all from the movie's feeling of interminability. Director David Fincher, determined to show his softer side, softer than Zodiac and Panic Room and Fight Club and so on, manages first and foremost to show his technical side. The movie is replete with proficiencies of production (the periods are lavishly detailed, the brief tugboat battle with an enemy sub in WWII is dazzling, the duplex love nest is a splendid locale, etc.), and it serves as a virtual showcase for the art of makeup and/or art of digital touchup, digital airbrush, digital prestidigitation, whatever went into the various aging effects on Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett. (The movie allots far less time to the end than to the beginning of the protagonist's life, after Pitt bows out in favor of juvenile surrogates.) The seamless surgery by which the leading man's head has been grafted onto bodies of different sizes is used, in this instance, responsibly. But it raises unsettling possibilities for the evolutionary next leap in screen body doubles. What's to prevent another filmmaker from putting Brad Pitt's head, in service of vanity, on Michael Phelps's body? Cate Blanchett's on Giselle Bündchen's?

Bedtime Stories remains, as the saying goes, to be seen. Somehow I don't anticipate that an Adam Sandler comedy will weigh heavily on the year's scales.

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 SDReader.com.

Australia — Nearly three million square miles of tripe. A Ferber-esque epic of a "delicate English rose" who takes over her late husband's cattle ranch in rugged northern Australia on the eve of World War II, a Cimarron Down Under, with a sprinkle of Aboriginal magic, and a thick coat of highgloss lacquer. Baz Luhrmann, never mistaken as a man of taste, starts out treating it almost as a spoof, and ends up, after a series of grandiose climaxes, treating it as a solemnization, selecting Elgar's "Nimrod" variation as accompaniment to the little halfcaste narrator's departure on walkabout. This, and much else, might very well wrest a smile from your lips. Or a sneer. With Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, David Wenham, Bryan Brown, Jack Thompson, and Brandon Walters. 2008.

● (GASLAMP 15: MISSION VALLEY 20)

tasy starring Adam Sandler, Keri Russell, Guy Pearce, and Russell Brand, directed by Adam Shankman. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15: GROSSMONT CENTER: LA COSTA 6: LA JOLLA 12: MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6: SANTEE DRIVE IN: TOWN SOUARE 14: FROM 12/25)

Bedtime Stories — Family comedy-fan-

Bolt — TV series superdog escapes from the backlot under the impression his powers are real. (Shades of The Truman Show.) Even the vast possibilities of computer animation can't convince us of this particular possibility. Once the canine hero, about two-thirds of the way through, awakens to his limitations and discovers his inner dogginess, the film warms up. With the voices of John Travolta, Miley Cyrus, Susie Essman, and Mark Walton; directed by Bryan Howard and Chris Williams. 2008.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; FASH-ION VALLEY 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MIS-SION VALLEY 20: PALM PROMENADE 24: PLAZA BONITA 14: POWAY 10: SANTEE DRIVE IN)

Cadillac Records — The emergence of rock-and-roll, as seen from the catbird seat of Chess Records in Chicago: Muddy Waters, Little Walter, Howlin' Wolf, Chuck Berry, Etta James, et al. The golden music, the vintage cars, the period hairdos retain their glamour; the backstage clichés are just old. Adrien Brody, as producer Leonard Chess, and Jeffrey Wright as Waters outdo one another in unintelligible murmurs and mutters; Beyoncé Knowles sings up a firestorm as James; and Mos Def is an allaround delight as Berry. With Columbus Short, Gabrielle Union, Eamonn Walker, and Cedric the Entertainer; written and directed by Darnell Martin. 2008.

★ (GASLAMP 15: MISSION VALLEY 20)

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button - Reviewed this issue. With Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, Taraji P. Henson, Tilda Swinton, and Julia Ormond; directed by David Fincher.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15: GROSSMONT CENTER: LA COSTA 6: LA JOLLA 12: MISSION MARKETPLACE 13: MISSION VALLEY 7: MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 12/25)

The Day the Earth Stood Still — The 1951 s-f classic refashioned into a tolerable



The Reader

time-passer on a fast track to oblivion. The urgent mobilization of an ad hoc team of scientists and the descent of a UFO on Central Park get the movie off to a gripping

start, once past the prolonged opening credits and 1928 prologue. And the dissipation of the robot GORT (a military acronym for Genetically Organized Robotic Technology) into a deadly locust cloud is quite spectacular. He, or it, still can't hold a candle to his, or its, clunky archetypal namesake in the original. Most of the action, under director Scott Derrickson, is mere going-through-the-motions; and for all the bigger and splashier special effects, and all the dashing around the countryside, the remake somehow feels smaller in scope, narrower in vision. Meddlesome busybody aliens affronted by humans' mistreatment of the planet ("It's not your planet") seem a little petty alongside self-defensive aliens worried, post-WWII, about humans spreading their bellicosity throughout the universe. Jennifer Connelly, as a really hot astrobiologist and really warm interracial single stepmom, is convincingly hot and convincingly warm if not convincingly astrobiological. And Keanu Reeves, sad to say, as the expressionless human husk of an emotionless extraterrestrial, has never been better. With Jaden Smith, Kathy Bates, John Cleese, 2008.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER;

LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MIS-SION VALLEY 7: OTAY RANCH 12: PALM PROME-NADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TOWN SOUARE 14)

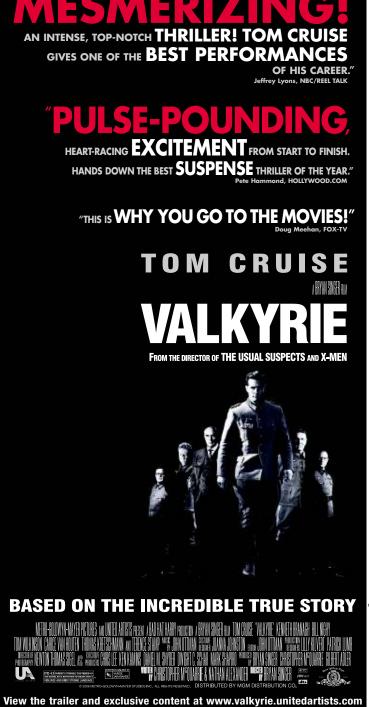
Doubt — From the prize-winning stage play by John Patrick Shanley, an ambiguous drama of possible priestly pedophilia at a Catholic school in the Bronx. The playwright, perhaps best known to moviegoers as the writer of Moonstruck and writerdirector of Joe versus the Volcano, handles the direction of his own work on screen, and the freedoms of the medium enable him to detail operations of the parish to almost anthropological ends: the nuns' rising and dressing in the A.M., the altar boys' preparations for Mass, the crosscutting contrast between the bloody-roast-beef and red-wine dinner table of the jovial priests as against the silent and austere table of the milk-fed nuns, the students' coed dance lesson to "Blame It on the Bossa Nova," and so on. (The time, as the aforesaid musical selection would suggest, is early Sixties, the time of the playwright's own Catholic boy-



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Diego

THE CONSPIRACY BEGINS DECEMBER 25TH

Calendar

hood in the Bronx, although the sermon on communal despair after the JFK assassination — one of three pithy sermons in the script — could easily have been recycled post-9/11.) The three principal characters

are types: the progressive priest who believes in a "friendlier" church that moves with the times, a friendliness that may or may not have gone too far in embracing the school's first black student, a vulnerable target; the hidebound and humorless old nun ("Penmanship is dying, all across this country") whose hawklike vigilance zeroes in on the priest; and the innocent and idealistic novice, young and pretty, who wants to believe the best of everyone. The clash of per-

sonalities, strictly limited by the play's title and tactical guideline, illuminates nothing so much as the players. Meryl Streep, overacting awesomely, is not only a holy terror as a nun but as a thespian, booby-trapping every scene with unforeseeable little diversions, inventions, stratagems, embellishments. Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams, no slouches themselves, appear to enjoy their one scene alone together in the courtyard, no one to steal it from them, no

one to show them up or slap them down. With Viola Davis and Joseph Foster, 2008. ** (ESCONDIDO 16; FLOWER HILL 4; HILL-CREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; RANCHO DEL REY 16: RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15: SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VIL

Four Christmases — A blissfully unmar-

ried couple (Reese Witherspoon, Vince Vaughn) make the rounds, one day over the holidays, to the four households of their respective divorced parents. Any truth in the humor is buried in crudeness. The classy supporting cast (Robert Duvall, Sissy Spacek, Mary Steenburgen, Jon Voight) proves to be an optical illusion. Directed by Seth Gordon, 2008.

• (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; FASH-ION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MIS-

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL

CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14

4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234) Bedtime Stories (PG); The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13); The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13); Marley and Me (PG); Seven Pounds (PG-13); Slumdog Millionaire (R); The Spirit (PG-13); The Tale of Despereaux (G); Valkyrie (PG-13); Yes Man

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15

701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400)
Australia (Not Rated); Bedtime Stories (PG); Cadillac Records (R); The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13); Four Christmases (PG-13); Marley and Me (PG); Rachel Getting Married (R); Seven Pounds (PG-13); Valkyrie (PG-13); Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG-13)

Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM) Call theater for program information

LA JOLLA

8657 Villa La Iolla Drive (858-558-2262) Bedtime Stories (PG); The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13): The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13); Doubt (PG-13); Four Christmases (PG-13): Frost/Nixon (R): Marley and Me (PG); Seven Pound (PG-13); The Spirit (PG-13); Valkyrie (PG-13); Yes Man (PG-13)

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236) Milk (R); The Reader (R); Slumdog Million-

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa 18

0733 Westview Parkway (800-326-3264) Call theater for program information

MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18

7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262) Australia (Not Rated); Bolt (PG); Cadillac Records (R); The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13); Four Christmases (PG-13); Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (PG); Nothing Like the Holidays (PG-13); Quantum of Solace (PG-13); Role Models (R); Seven Pounds (PG-13); The Tale of Despereaux (G); Twilight (PG-13); Yes Man (PG-13)

Mission Valley 7 7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)



Bedtime Stories (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; **Marley and Me** (PG) (10:30 1:30) 4:30 7:15 10:00; Will play at 10 am on Thu. 1/8; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; Valkyrie (PG-13) (10:45 1:45) 4:45 7:30 10:30; **Yes Man** (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; **Seven** Pounds (PG-13) (10:15 1:15) 4:15 7:15 10:15: The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:45: Please call theater for holiday hours

Mission Valley 20

1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262) Australia; Bedtime Stories; Bolt; Cadillac Records: The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; Four Christmases; Frost/Nixon; Marley and Me: Nothing Like the Holidays; Quantum of Solace; Role Models; Seven Pounds; The Spirit; The Tale of Despereaux; Twilight; Valkyrie; Yes Man

STATE UNIVERSITY

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236) Antarctica (Not Rated); How about You (Not

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas

3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236) Doubt (PG-13); Milk (R); The Reader (R); Slumdog Millionaire (R)

Museum of Photographic Arts

1649 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-7559) Call theater for program information

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233) Call theater for program information

San Diego Natural History Museum

1788 El Prado, Balhoa Park (619-232-3821) Ocean Oasis (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. 2:00, 4:00

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18 405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456) Call theater for program information

Grossmont Center 10

5500 Grossmont Center Drive (619-465-7100) Bedtime Stories (PG); The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13); The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13); Marley and Me (PG); Seven Pounds (PG-13); The Spirit (PG-13); The Tale of Despereaux (G); Valkyrie (PG-13); Yes Man (PG-13)

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Rancho San Diego 15

2951 Jamacha Road (800-326-3264) Call theater for program information

SANTEE

Santee Drive In

10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447) Bedtime Stories (PG) Fri.-Sun.; Bolt (PG) Fri.-Sun.: Four Christmases (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; Yes Man (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista 10

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)



Bedtime Stories (PG) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:00 7:30 9:45; **Marley and Me** (PG) (10:30 1:30) 4:15 7:00 10:00; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; Valkyrie (PG-13) (10:45 1:45) 4:30 7:45 10:45; The Spirit $(PG\text{-}13)\ (10\text{:}15\ 12\text{:}45\ 3\text{:}15)\ 5\text{:}45\ 8\text{:}15\ 10\text{:}45;$ The Tale of Desperaux (G)(10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:15 9:30; **Yes Man** (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30; Seven Pounds (PG-13) (10:15 1:00 4:00) 7:15 10:15; The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13) (10:00 12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) (1:15) 6:15 8:30 10:45; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (10:30 3:45) Please call theater for holiday hours.

Otay Ranch 12

Eastlake Parkway at Olympic (858-558-2262)
Bedtime Stories (PG); The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13); The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13); Doubt (PG-13); Four Christmases (PG-13); Marley and Me (PG); Seven Pounds (PG-13); The Spirit (PG-13); The Tale of Despereaux (G); Twilight (PG-13); Valkyrie (PG-13); Yes Man

Palm Promenade 24

770 Dennery Road (858-558-2262) Bedtime Stories (PG); Bolt (PG); The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13); The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13); Doubt (PG-13); Four Christmases (PG-13); Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (PG); Marley and Me (PG); Nothing Like the Holidays (PG-13); Quantum of Solace (PG-13); Role Models (R); Seven Pounds (PG-13); Slumdog Millionaire (R); The Spirit (PG-13); The Tale of Despereaux (G); Transporter 3 (PG-13); Twilight (PG-13); Valkyrie (PG-13);

Rancho Del Rey 16

East H Street (619-216-4707) Call theater for program information

IMPERIAL BEACH

South Bay Drive In

2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727) Call theater for program information



NATIONAL CITY

Plaza Bonita 14

3030 Plaza Bonita Road (858-558-2262) Bedtime Stories (PG); Bolt (PG); The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13); The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13); Four Christmases (PG-13); Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (PG); Marley and Me (PG); Nothing Like the Holidays (PG-13); Quantum of Solace (PG-13); Role Models (R); Seven Pounds (PG-13); The Spirit (PG-13); The Tale of Despereaux (G); Transporter 3 (PG-13); Twilight (PG-13); Valkyrie (PG-13); Yes Man (PG-13)

NORTH INLAND

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Carmel Mountain 14

11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770) Bedtime Stories (PG); Bolt (PG); The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13); The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13); Four Christmases (PG-13); Marley and Me (PG); Seven Pounds (PG-13); The Spirit (PG-13); The Tale of Despereaux (G); Valkyrie (PG-13); Yes Man (PG-13)

ESCONDIDO

Escondido 16

350 W. Valley Parkway (760-291-0119) Call theater for program information

FALLBROOK

River Village 6

5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)



Bedtime Stories (PG) (10:00 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:30 10:00; Marley and Me (PG) (10:30 1:30) (10:30 1:30) 4:30 7:15 10:15; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; The Tale of Despereaux (G) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:00 9:30; **Yes Man** (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45 Please call theater for holiday hours

POWAY

Poway 10

13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)



Bedtime Stories (PG) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:00 30 9:45; Will play at 10 am on Wed. 12/31; Marley and Me (PG) (10:30 1:30) 4:15 7:00 10:00; Will play at 10 am Wed. 1/7; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; **Valkyrie** (PG-13) (10:45 1:45) 4:30 7:45 10:45; **The Spirit** (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; **The** Tale of Despereaux (G) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:15 9:30; **Yes Man** (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30; **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) (10:00 1:00 4:00) 7:15 10:15; **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13) (10:00 12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) (1:15) 6:15 8:30 10:45; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (10:30

Please call theater for holiday hours.

SAN MARCOS

San Marcos 18

1180 West San Marcos Boulevard at Old California Walk (760-471-3711) Call theater for program information

VISTA

Vista Village

Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7469) Call theater for program information

NORTH COASTAL CARLSBAD

Plaza Camino Real

2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469) Bedtime Stories (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:45, 1:00, 3:15) 5:30, 7:45, 10:00; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00, 10:20; **Marley and Me** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:05, 4:40) 7:15, 9:45; **Yes Man** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:20, 5:00) 7:30, 9:50

DEL MAR

Del Mar Highlands 8

El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road (858-646-9420)



Bedtime Stories (PG) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:30 10:00; Will play at 10 am on Wed. 12/31; Marley and Me (PG) (10:30 1:30) 4:30 7:15

10:15; Will play at 10 am Wed. 1/7; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; Valkyrie (PG-13) (11:00 2:00) 5:00 7:45 10:45; **The Spirit** (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30; **The** Tale of Despereaux (G) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:00 9:30; Yes Man (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; Seven Pounds (PG-13) (10:30 1:15) 4:15 7:15 10:15 Please call theater for holiday hours.

Flower Hill 4

2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425)



Doubt (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; **Frost/Nixon** (R) (11:00 2:00) 5:00 8:00 10:45; **Milk** (R) (10:30 1:30 4:30) 7:30 10:30; Slumdog Millionaire (R) (10:00 1:00 4:00)

Please call theater for holiday hours.

ENCINITAS

La Paloma

471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-SHOW) Happy-Go-Lucky (R)

LA COSTA

La Costa 6

6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221)



Bedtime Stories (PG) (10:00 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:30 10:00; **Marley and Me** (PG) (10:15 1:15 4:15) 7:15 10:15; Will play at 10 am Wed. 1/7; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; Valkyrie (PG-13) (11:00 2:00) 5:00 7:45 10:45; Yes Man (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; **Seven** Pounds (PG-13) (10·30 1·30) 4·30 7·30 10·30 Please call theater for holiday hours.

OCEANSIDE

Mission Marketplace 13

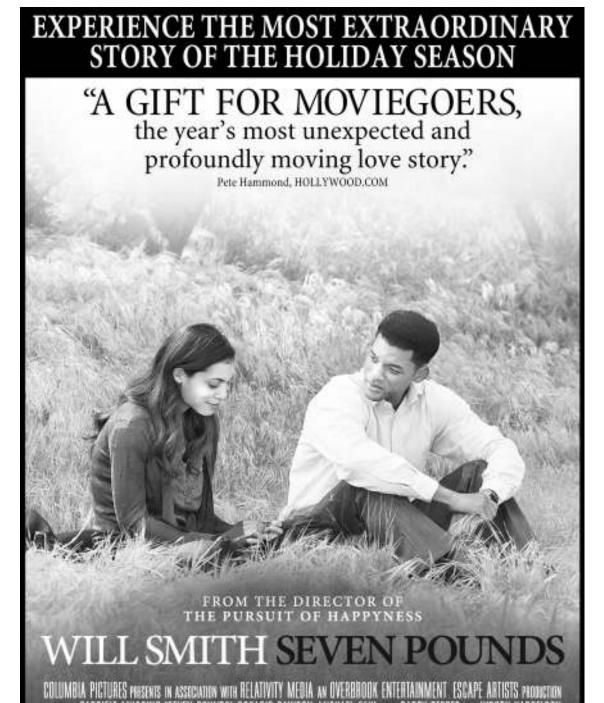
College Boulevard and (760-806-1790)



Bedtime Stories (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; **Marley and Me** (PG) (10:30 11:15 1:15 2:00 4:00) 5:00 7:15 8:15 10:00 10:00; Will play at 10 am Wed. 1/7: The Curious Case of **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) (11:00 12:00 2:30 3:30) 6:00 7:00 9:30 10:30; Valkyrie (PG-13) (10;45 1:30) 4:30 7:30 10:15; The Spirit (PG-13) (11:45 2:15) 5:00 7:45 10:15; The Tale of Despereaux (G) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:15 9:30; Yes Man (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 4:15 5:45 7:00 8:15 9:45 10:45; Seven Pounds (PG-13) (10:30 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30; The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30; Four Christmases (PG-13) (3:45) 6:15 8:30 10:45; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (10:30 1:00); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) (11:30 1:45) Please call theater for holiday hours.

Oceanside 16

401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733) Call theater for program information



NOW PLAYING

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Calendar

SION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14: POWAY 10: SANTEE DRIVE IN)

Frost/Nixon — Playwright Peter Morgan restages the 1977 "no holds barred" TV interview of Richard Nixon by British talkshow host David Frost, and the drum-beating buildup to it. A prizefight metaphor runs throughout, permitting director Ron Howard to slip comfortably into the underdog mode of his Cinderella Man, with Frost, as it were, failing to lay a glove on Nixon going into the final round, then at last pinning him in a corner and pummeling some semblance of a confession out of him. This spectacle may satisfy the undying urge to spit on the corpse of the 37th President, as well as supply a general-purpose stand-in for the still elusive and impenitent 43rd President. (The undying urge to spit, it must be pointed out, tends to contradict the film's premise that the interview in some way provided "closure.") As a job of stagecraft, however, or screencraft, it's a bit stunted, endlessly and explicitly talking out its points, and employing the unpardonable shortcut of pseudodocumentary interviews of various secondary characters, ostensibly

at a later date, to further analyze, comment on, and embroider the points made elsewhere. With Michael Sheen, Frank Langella, Kevin Bacon, Sam Rockwell, Oliver Platt, Matthew Macfadyen, and Rebecca Hall. 2008.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18: FLOWER HILL 4: LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20)

Happy-Go-Lucky — Character portrait of a singular person, a primary-school teacher called Poppy, almost dementedly upbeat, seeing it as her mission in life to spread sunshine and joy wherever she goes. A tipsy giggler, a babbling fount of inanities ("Here we go, gigolo"), a constant commenter ("Never been here before," she announces to no one in particular on her tour of a bookshop; "Don't want to go there," she reacts upon pulling The Road to Reality off the shelf), an avocational clown, a tireless self-amuser, she's the nearest thing to Peewee Herman you could ever hope to find in a realistic context. (Is it significant that her bicycle gets stolen right off the bat? Unlike Pee-wee, she sighingly lets it go — "I didn't even get a chance to say goodbye" — and signs up for driving lessons.) The context, however, demands that she once in a while drop the good cheer in order to handle crises with her ranting, racist, rigid driving instructor ("It's not easy being you, ay?"), a violent bully at school, and an addled tramp in the street. She's not a one-note



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Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa — The light-in-the-loafers cartoon lion, a self-professed "protégé of Fosse and Robbins," accidentally finds his way, along with the zebra

character. She can rise to the occasion, and

there is always, even at the best of times, an

who had worked with writer-director Mike

underpinning of thin ice. Sally Hawkins,

Leigh previously in Vera Drake and All or

Nothing, takes total possession of the role,

neo- or retro-Flower Child wardrobe, too

youthful by a decade, too loud by a hun-

dred decibels, of clashing colors and multi-

ple layers (a last layer, revealed on the chiro-

practor's table, of pink bra and orange panties beneath black fishnet hose), and a

full range of mirth from lopsided grin,

pulling to the right, to open-wide glee.

Leigh himself, you might have noticed, es-

mentioned above, is not the jolliest sort of

fellow, and it would be easy to imagine him

making a movie in which the central char-

instructor — the stalwart Eddie Marsan,

one of several supporting characters, a

who also appeared in Vera Drake — and in

which the bubbly driving student were only

movie, that is to say, more like his Naked, a

portrait of a negativist. Any viewer less ef-

fervescent than Poppy, in any event, will be

inclined to look at her as a kind of scientific

specimen, to be observed with curiosity and

wonder - along with unscientific amuse-

dinner - in a somewhat amorphous and

arbitrary succession of scenes, situations,

beautiful bright color, rather as if Leigh's

regular cameraman, Dick Pope, had emp-

the world. (Ah, we can see!) And please

don't propose that this is meant to be ex-

pressive of Poppy's Weltanschauung. Clear

bright colors ought not to be the exclusive

How about You — Christmas at a retire-

ment home, with Vanessa Redgrave, Imelda

Staunton, Brenda Fricker, Joss Ackland, and

Hayley Atwell, directed by Anthony Byrne.

privilege of the Pollyanna. 2008.

★★★★ (LA PALOMA)

(KEN, 12/26 THROUGH 1/1)

tied a bottle of Windex on our window on

circumstances. At all times the movie boasts

living next door or coming over for

ment and a silent prayer of thanks she's not

acter were the volcanic driving

pecially if you saw either of the samples

or vice versa, indelibly visualized in a

the hippo, and the giraffe, back to his ancestral home, where he proves to be an embar-rassment to his kingly father: "Lions don't dance." The not so subtle pleas for diversity (not just the nonviolent lion, but the forbidden love of giraffe for hippo) do not overwhelm the no less subtle jokes. With the voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith, and Sacha Baron Cohen; co-directed by Eric Darnell and Tom McGrath, 2008.

★ (MISSION MARKETPLACE 13: PALM PROME-NADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

Marley and Me — Let's not forget Jenny. Marley is the rambunctious Labrador "the world's worst dog" - meant to tide Jenny over till she and Me (real-life newspaper columnist John Grogan) can make some babies. As it turns out, we follow the dog through the arrival of three children and a move from Florida to Pennsylvania. Most of the journey — despite some tensions of career and marriage - is pretty innocuous until the extended tearjerking as Marley winds down. (Parents, be warned.) Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston are the humans, well matched for suntans, though the former fades badly whenever things get serious. With Eric Dane, Alan Arkin, and, in an unflattering cameo as a dog trainer, Kathleen Turner; directed by David Frankel.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15: GROSSMONT CENTER: LA COSTA 6: LA JOLLA 12: MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 12/25)

Milk — Gus Van Sant's celebratory biopic on Harvey Milk, the gay-rights activist and San Francisco City Supervisor martyred by assassination in 1978. However useful as pep rally or memorial service, the film comes up short as drama, relying altogether too much on Position Statements, Slogans, Bromides, primarily through the protagonist's stump speeches and a serialized inthe-event-of-my-death tape recording that ties the narrative together. (Screenplay by Dustin Lance Black.) What nonetheless humanizes all this plain talk is the transformational performance of Sean Penn, a totally new and different Sean Penn, almost birdlike in his lightness and tightness, very vulnerable in his worries and very touching in his joys, unshy about the kissy-face with James Franco and Diego Luna, bravely not avoiding homosexual stereotype yet nicely avoiding caricature. It immediately takes its place alongside the performances of Mystic River, Dead Man Walking, Casualties of War, maybe one or two others, in the actor's best-of portfolio, With Josh Brolin, Emile Hirsch, Alison Pill, Victor Garber. 2008. ★★ (FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; SAN

Nothing Like the Holidays — Puerto Rican family gathering in snowy Chicago at Christmastime. Mechanical gear-shifting between comedy and drama, but a congenial environment for the Hispanic cast: Alfred Molina, Elizabeth Peña, John Leguizamo, Vanessa Ferlito, Luis Guzman, Jay Hernandez, Melonie Diaz, and the excruciatingly likable Freddy Rodriguez (plus, as an Anglo in-law, Debra Messing). Directed by Alfredo de Villa. 2008. ★ (MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

MARCOS 18: VISTA VILLAGE)

Quantum of Solace — The first true sequel in the twenty-odd entries of the James Bond series, picking up our Blond Bond (Daniel Craig) on the trail of vengeance after the death of his ladylove. Vesper, at the end of Casino Royale. (This was a trail closed off to the newly widowed Bond at the end of On Her Majesty's Secret Service, when poor George Lazenby, the only onetimer in the series, got booted out the door as if he never should have happened.) The film fails, however, to solidify, much less build upon, the promise of the fresh start in its forerunner. It perhaps meets the fundamental requirements of action and pace, hurtling forward with only the briefest of pauses and coming in at a tidy hour and three-quarters, the shortest Bond film in the entire series. As a likely result of that, it can seldom make time for the preparation that would give the action scenes sense and import. They are little more than turbulence. And the underlying split personality still remains: Why bother to infuse the

Bond character with a greater air of reality

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The Tale of Despereaux

if he's going to continue to be allowed the acrobatics of a Jackie Chan? Surely our rougher and tougher superspy wouldn't want us snorting in derision, or even chortling in delight, when he's busy exacting payment for the snuffed-out life of his beloved. James Bond appears to be turning little by little into Jason Bourne. It's not a step up. With Mathieu Amalric, Olga Kurylenko, Judi Dench, Jeffrey Wright, and Giancarlo Giannini; directed by Marc Forster. 2008.

★ (MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

Rachel Getting Married — A sort of Rainbow Coalition wedding weekend: the father of the Jewish bride had remarried a black, the bride too is marrying a black (it might be noted that Sidney Lumet, the father of first-time scriptwriter Jenny Lumet, had remarried a black himself), and the theme of the wedding is inexplicably Indian. Director Jonathan Demme, striving for an improvisational feel, stages the goings-on with an almost Danish dishevelment: a hand-held camera in the grasp of an arm-weary cameraman. Anne Hathaway, as the bride's just-out-of-rehab sister, a constant and tiresome threat of disruption ("She needs a lot of acknowledgment"), proves to be too actressy for the style; but Rosemarie DeWitt makes a fine impression as her well-behaved sister, and the conviviality of the gathering, with heavy representation from the cool cats of the music industry, is by and large believable and admirable. With Mather Zickel, Bill Irwin, Anna Deavere Smith, Tunde Adebimpe, and Debra Winger. 2008.

★ (GASLAMP 15)

The Reader — Reviewed this issue. With David Kross, Kate Winslet, Ralph Fiennes, Lena Olin, and Bruno Ganz; directed by Stephen Daldry.

★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; FROM 12/25)

Role Models — Court-ordered community service for two full-grown screwups. Overplayed by everybody but sourpuss Paul Rudd (who co-wrote), and yet a couple of prime comic targets retain their ripeness: the rehabilitated rah-rah directress of a mentoring charity called Sturdy Wings, and a nerdy role-playing club of would-be dwellers in Middle Earth. With Seann William Scott, Elizabeth Banks, Jane Lynch, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, and Bobb'e J. Thompson; directed by David Wain. 2008. ★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

Seven Pounds — Will Smith, in his more sensitive, tormented, teary, and Oscar-hungry persona, takes his crinkled brow in tight closeups on a cryptic personal mission

("We have a plan. Do what you promised me"), flashing an IRS identity card to gain access to total strangers so as to judge whether or not they are "good," "worthy,"



"deserving." (The nursing-home administrator may require a bone-marrow transplant for survival, but in spite of his deep debt to Uncle Sam he has splurged on a Beemer: not good.) The aim and outcome of his mission are, for review purposes, Top Secret, but suffice to say that the film combines the bleeding heart of *The Pursuit of Happyness*— not to mention the director of it, Gabriele Muccino— with the galloping ego of *I Am Legend*. Rosario Dawson, Woody Harrelson, Michael Ealy, Barry Pepper. 2008.

• (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION WARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Slumdog Millionaire — Feverish daydream, partly amorous, partly avaricious, around an unschooled Bombay teenager

who, hoping to reconnect with his child-hood sweetheart, climbs toward the top prize on the Indian *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* It breaks down into three time zones, shuffled together in a jumble: the game show itself, the torture and third degree of the contestant by police who presume he's cheating, and the flashbacks to the life experiences that explain how he could answer the questions. Much squalor and brutality, but filmed by Danny Boyle with a heedless, almost uncaring, exuberance and exhibitionism. Dev Patel, Freida Pinto, Irfan Khan. 2008.

★ (FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Spirit — Indestructible masked superhero versus (ho hum) indestructible archvillain, in Central City, U.S.A. Comicbook artist Frank Miller, honorary codirector of the screen treatment of his *Sin*



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FILM4

City comic, now flies solo in the treatment of the Will Eisner comic: same drained color, same minor exceptions (reds, yellows, blue eyes), same self-conscious jokiness, same parodistic dialogue ("I'm gonna kill you all kinds of dead"), even less élan vital. With Gabriel Macht, Samuel L. Jackson, Eva Mendes, Scarlett Johansson, Sarah Paulson, Dan Lauria, and Paz Vega. 2008.

• (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; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARK-WAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18: TOWN SOUARE 14: VISTA VIL-LAGE; FROM 12/25)

The Tale of Despereaux — Charmingly sincere fairy tale of forgiveness, revolving around a kingdom known for its soup, the dark days that befall it, and its truthful, fearless, chivalrous deliverer, an undersized mouse with oversized ears and ego. A magnificent cast if you could see them, if, that is, they weren't hidden behind stiff and wooden computer animation: Matthew Broderick, Dustin Hoffman, Sigourney Weaver, Emma Watson, Tracey Ullman, Kevin Kline, Frank Langella, William H. Macy, Stanley Tucci, Ciarán Hinds, Robbie Coltrane, Frances Conroy, Richard Jenkins. Based on a book by Kate DiCamillo; co-



Valkyrie

directed by Sam Fell and Rob Stevenhagen.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8: FASHION VALLEY 18: GROSS-MONT CENTER: MISSION MARKETPI ACE 13: MIS-SION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROME-NADE 24: PLAZA BONITA 14: POWAY 10: RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Transporter 3 — The glorified delivery man has been coerced into chauffeuring a freckled Ukrainian redhead to Budapest and beyond, strapped with an irremovable bracelet that will explode if he strays seventy-five feet from his Audi. Jason Statham offers himself up as an alternative to the rougher James Bond of Daniel Craig, together with a rougher production and

rougher photography in the bargain. All the foolishness; less finesse. With Natalya Rudakova, Robert Knepper, François Berléand, and Jeroen Krabbé; directed by Olivier Megaton, 2008

• (PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14) **Twilight** — Teen vampire romance from

the popular series of girls' books by Stephenie Meyer, a sort of Nancy Drew - Vampire Lover. It merits a modicum of credit for attempting to bring some virgin blood to a tired old genre: the nonnuclear vampire family, having settled in the rural Northwest for maximum privacy and cloud cover, strive to fit in and stay straight, fancying themselves "vegetarian" for dining only on animal blood instead of human. Because the narrative point of view is that of an ordinary flesh-and-blood high-school girl, we don't witness the gory details of their daily diet. (Exsanguination of deer and rabbit, to say nothing of pet dog and cat, could tend to alienate the audience.) What we mainly witness is the cultivated aura of mystery and danger around the eternal seventeenyear-old adopted son of the family. And the business of being a bloodsucker in the 21st Century takes a distant backseat to the business of campus courtship: the classic pattern of Good Girl meets Bad Boy. He flatteringly lusts after her ("You're like my own personal brand of heroin"), but even more flatteringly he respects her ("I can't ever lose control with you"); a parent's least nightmare, and little wonder that the hearts of schoolgirlish readers, and now moviegoers, might go pitty-pat. Given the general level of innocuousness and salubriousness, we don't expect the frustrated teen sweethearts now or in future installments to explore the engorgement option in Theodore Sturgeon's novella Some of Your Blood, namely menses. (Eeuuww!) But given the fixation on the girl's "scent" and given the old-fashioned proscription against Going Too Far or indeed Going All the Way, that option insistently comes to mind. Kristen Stewart, a cashew head on a pipe-cleaner body, to all appearances unsullied by vanity, does very well with things like adolescent insecurity, crippling self-consciousness, unvoiced feelings, and the scariness of sex; and on those counts Catherine Hardwicke is a sympathetic director. She is less sympathetic in shooting everyone in the cast, human and vampire alike, with a deathly bluish pallor. Robert Pattinson as the bloodthirsting heartthrob, meanwhile, achieves little more than Cornball Cool and requires a lot of slow-motion and a lot of hair gel to help him with it. 2008. ★ (FASHION VALLEY 18: MISSION VALLEY 20

OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA

Valkyrie — Reviewed this issue. With Tom Cruise, Tom Wilkinson, Kenneth Branagh, Bill Nighy, Terence Stamp, and Carice van Houten; directed by Bryan Singer. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15: GROSSMONT CENTER: LA COSTA 6: LA JOLLA 12: MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 12/25)

Vicky Cristina Barcelona — You can't

claim that Woody Allen's rapid rate of production doesn't show. Even the title of this one sounds more like brainstorming for a title than like a final decision: three names off the chalkboard of keywords. Vicky and Cristina, two separate people, are dissimilar American friends, the first pragmatic and steady, the second capricious and restless, together visiting Barcelona for the summer. (Allen's British sojourn seems to be over, though he's not ready to come home.) The young women are picked up in tandem by a brooding Catalan artist with a legendarily tempestuous love life, flown off to Oviedo, seduced in sequence, separated by choice. Then the artist's ex-wife re-enters the scene after her attempted suicide, setting up a ménage. The film is almost more a sketch than a fully filled-in picture, a skeleton thin on flesh. (If Allen tends to hurry his ideas, it may be because he always has new ones waiting to join the queue. More than he can get to in a lifetime.) The dialogue, much of it in the writer's laziest declarative vein -I'm this, you're that, he or she's the other has not been polished anywhere near his brightest sparkle. And the dryasdust omniscient narrator spares him a heap of expository labor: "One evening Mark and Judy took them to the opening of a friend's art gallery." The half-baked aspect has its upside. In consequence of the cut corners and rushed development, a lot happens in only ninety minutes, and Allen can lay out on a broad canvas his vision of human discontentment and self-ignorance. He can lay it out as a pattern, not as an isolated instance. The complicating appearance of Penelope Cruz as the ex-wife, shrewdly put off till just past the halfway point, is a potent pickme-up in a flagging narrative, a powerfully physical, sensual, passionate presence that deliciously shows up the callow blankness of Scarlett Johansson and Rebecca Hall. With Javier Bardem, Patricia Clarkson, Kevin Dunn, Chris Messina. 2008.

★★ (GASLAMP 15)

SQUARE 14)

Yes Man — Measurement of the loss of elasticity in rubber man Jim Carrey, now showing the effects of age and experience on his creased, rumpled, baggy face. (The Number 23 can't be easy to bounce back from. Ever.) He nevertheless strives to recover his antic former self in the role of a gray-souled, nay-saying loan officer who attends a self-empowerment seminar that compels him to answer every question in the affirmative. Hollywood tastemakers take it from there. A business loan for a baker of unrecognizable celebrity-lookalike cakes? Yes! A blow job from the white-haired toothless old lady next door? Yes! For the moviegoer, the response should be obvious. Just say no. With Zooey Deschanel, Bradley Cooper, John Michael Higgins, and Terence Stamp; directed by Peyton Reed, 2008. • (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSS-MONT CENTER: LA COSTA 6: LA JOLLA 12: MIS-SION MARKETPI ACE 13: MISSION VALLEY 7: MIS-SION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6: SANTEE DRIVE IN: TOWN

User Reviews — MOVIES

Best user comments from Reader website

The Day the Earth Stood Still 2008

Admittedly, I have not seen the original in its entirety but have certainly seen clips of GORT throughout the years and my primary reason for wanting to see this remake was to see how the movie makers of today put the high-tech spin on an old classic. I was not disappointed. Of course, as a female, I was not disappointed by Keanu Reeves in the primary role. I felt the movie had a mysterious beauty to it...the "spaceships" or spheres as they were in this film were translucent spinning balls of light. At one point one of these spheres was seen containing octopus and squid floating inside so it was like looking into a fancy aquarium. Our old friend GORT was in the flick as well but a far cry from the original. This time he was Eiffel Tower tall, made of some weird polymer and indestructible. If this movie were to spin off into action figures...GORT would be a favorite. The gist of this movie, as in the original...was a message to earth. However, unlike the original, the message this time is unfortunately right on target. We are destroying our planet. I will refrain from preaching to "save our planet," but I will recommend this movie. At the very least it is worth it to see today's technology redo the corny black and white version. Sorry NY/NJ Giants fans! (Go see the film and find out why.)

By **robnly** 7:47 p.m., Dec. 19, 2008

Rock School 2005

Any fan of documentaries, Frank Zappa, or kids needs to see this unjustly overlooked gem. It takes the viewer through the rigors of training in the Paul Green School of Music (the real-life School of Rock) as precocious rock stars learn how to write, perform, and stage a rock concert. But not just any rock concert. The whiz kids, with enough practice, master some of the toughest, most complex pop music ever waxed: mid-'70s Zappa, and to the astonishment of Zappa's old band members themselves. You'll want to stand up and cheer along with the audience at their performance in the Zappa music festival at the movie's climax. You'll also be reminded, in case you've forgotten, how much music meant to you as a teenager. By **buttcrust** 6:28 a.m., Dec. 21, 2008

Cadillac Records 2008

From the moment the first, blues-y bass notes ring out at the beginning of Cadillac Records, it is clear the audience is in for a treat. A bawdy re-telling of the story of Chess Records, the first white-owned label to bring "race music" to the masses, the movie shimmers with humor, lust, great performances, and amazing music. Anyone who has yet to acknowledge the depth of Beyonce's talent need only see her (playing blues singer Etta James) rip into "At Last" with equal parts vocal prowess, acting chops, and mesmerizing beauty to know that this woman is the real deal. And she doesn't even show up until the last third of the film! Jeffrey Wright as Muddy Waters, Mos Def as Chuck Berry, and Eamonn Walker as Howlin' Wolf, all relative unknowns to the average filmgoer, are equally astonishing. There will be a number of more heavily-promoted movies to see this holiday season, but I doubt there will be many with a more interesting story to tell. By joankurland 11:04 a.m., Dec. 22, 2008

Two free UltraStar movie passes awarded to best three user reviews each week. To write a User Review, visit SDReader.com, go to Movies pull-down, and click on Over 7000 Movie Reviews. Find the movie you want to review and post a comment. Deadline for user reviews is 12 noon Monday.

Quaint Past

"Champagne to our real friends, and real pain to our sham friends."

ach holiday season, Lamb's Players presents an annual Christmas show at its resident theater and a three-hour extravaganza, An American Christmas, at the Hotel del Coronado. Set 100 years ago, the program for

American Christmas includes music, dance, recitals, and a fivecourse meal (the entrée: filet mignon and prawns). The festive event promotes cheer and banishes negative thoughts. Since it

isn't a drama, and since many readers would be unable to afford the tickets, I decided to report, rather than review, the evening: a living time capsule of America a century ago.

From the air, Coronado in 1908 looked like a pair of beige-tinted glasses, the right lens larger and more pointed at the bottom than the left. Coronado was two islands, linked by a slender isthmus. In between was Spanish Bight, a shallow bay brimming with sand sharks. North Island was mostly sage and scrub (the first plane wouldn't take off until January 23, 1910). Guests of the Hotel del rode a bridal path or hunted quail and rabbit.

The southern island was growing fast. The Coronado Country Club, at the west end of Sixth

Avenue, had a polo field, one-mile track, stables, and a golf course (where L. Frank Baum played nine holes after writing his Oz books all morning). John D. Spreckels built his "villa," now the Glorietta Bay Inn, on a bluff across from the Ho-

> tel del. His architect, Harrison Albright, later designed Coronado's city library, the distinctive, wedgelike Coronado Bank Building, the Spreckels theater building, and Balboa Park's Organ Pavilion.

In the "story" for the Lamb's event, the Marshall family has a reunion every Christmas at the Hotel del. Members are as diverse as the country. They greet you in the Grand Ballroom. Six huge, oval chandeliers, their teardrop crystals dangling like wind chimes, loom over 40 tables. Above the conical-shaped roof sits the hotel's trademark pergola and flag. It takes no effort to go back in time. Combine the round, spacious ballroom with Jeanne Reith's array of period costumes, and you're already there.

Deborah Gilmour Smyth, her hair done up à la 1908 (with curls drooping like the crystals overhead), plays Willa Ray Marshall, the party's gracious, ebullient hostess. Smyth's real-life husband Robert, who wrote and directed the show,



Nathan Peirson, Michael Lamendola, Deborah Gilmour Smyth, Nicki Elledge, Doren Elias, Danica Russel, Fernando Vega in An American Christmas

An American Christmas, by Robert Smyth

Lamb's Players Theatre, Hotel del Coronado ballroom, 1500 Orange Avenue, Coronado

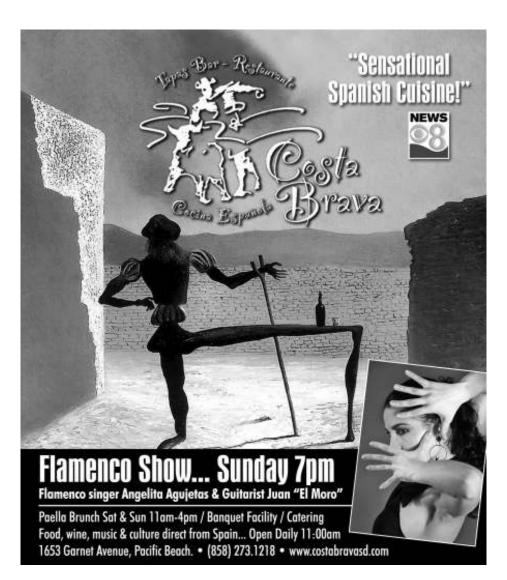
Directed by Robert Smyth; scenic design, Jane Lamott, Evelyn Peirson; costumes, Jeanne Reith; lighting, Chris Givens; musical director, Charlie Reuter; choreographer, Colleen Kollar Smith

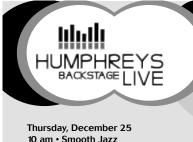
Playing through December 28; nightly (except Christmas) at 6:30 p.m. 619-437-0600.

plays Ian O'Casey, the host and one-man vaudeville routine as eager to tell a joke as find a match for his daughter Fiona (Erika Beth Phillips). At one point, Ian proposes a toast: "Champagne to our real friends, and real pain to our sham friends."

The Smyths head a cast of 30. Compared to most local theater, American Christmas has de

Mille-like proportions, and yet it's always intimate and personal. In a way, this is the exact opposite of watching a performance on a proscenium stage. In the ballroom, it's theater-inthe-surround: the audience sits in the center, and the cast performs on the perimeter, along with waiting tables and interacting with patrons. Of-





Aubrey Fay

with **DJ John Phillips**

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Javier Batiz & Jose **Molina Serrano**



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ten the songs and live musicians create a stereophonic effect, near and far, and on several sides of you. (It's a treat to have singers at your shoulder, rather than hearing them miked, say, 15 rows away.)

To acquaint us with the year, performers announce significant events of 1908 like newspaper headlines: the invention of the paper cup, a Model T Ford costing \$850, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid killed in Bolivia. For

sports fans, the Chicago Cubs won their second straight World Series — "a sign of many more to come," says a newspaper account. (Later in the program, cast members sing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," written in 1908.) In the more-thingschange department: the stock market had a serious slump in 1908, resulting in a financial crisis that makes the Marshall family wary.

The family doesn't linger long over that news, however (they have 364 other days to do that). Instead, after the entrée, the production turns up the theatricality. The cast does a

barn dance, a waltz (to Juventino Rosas's "Sobre las Olas"), and even swings to Scott Joplin's "Lily Queen Rag," which would have been an eyebrowraising, risqué choice in those days.

A 25-person choir and barbershop quartet sing traditional songs from the period ("Harvest Moon,""Cuddle Up a Little Closer") and Christmas carols. The Water Glass Orchestra plays an ethereal "We Three Kings" by rubbing wet fingers on the rims of large wine glasses filled with varying amounts of liquid. Framed by baskets of poinsettias, Dina Valdez and

Chanlon Jay Kaufman sing the beautiful "La Flor de Noche Buena," a song from Mexican folklore about a handful of weeds, picked by a little girl on her way to Bethlehem, that transform into poinsettias at

By the end of the spirited production, you feel as if you've spent the evening inside a cornucopia of historical detail: here is how people dressed, danced, sang, and felt 100 years ago. Comparisons to today are inevitable, and the past often seems quaint, the problems smaller, in hindsight. But just as one begins to feel older and wiser, the question arises: What headlines will the Marshalls report, come Christmas 2108?

FIELD NOTES: For more on architect Harrison Albright, see Cynthia B. Malinick, "Classicism and Concrete: Harrison Albright's Architectural Contributions to Coronado," Journal of San Diego History, spring 1997, vol. 43, number two (online at sdhistory.org/journal); Wikipedia also has an entry. ■

THEATER

LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are

nated perplexity at least ten times). But the performances overall are quite good, as are Meads's direction and the four-piece backup band. You won't learn why the pump don't work or how good brown sugar can taste, but if you're of a certain era, Boomers will time-machine you back in a lively manner. 619-437-0600.

express the same Owsley-mari-

Worth a try.

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 4 AND 8 P.M. SAT-URDAYS, 4 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH FEB-RUARY 22

A Christmas Carol

Stage versions of Charles Dickens's story come in large and small packages. The North Coast Rep's chamber piece, adapted by Jacqueline Goldfinger, may rank among the swiftest, clocking in around 85 minutes. Although it often has a White Rabbit "late for an important date" feel, the Stephen Eltondirected production has the virtue of being more accessible than most for young attention spans. Another virtue: Ron Choularton plays the lead. His white-haired, crotchety Scrooge is a clear, deceptively simple creation. The pace allows for an unimpeded arc from the railer against Christmas, to the threeghost intervention/rehab, to the ioyous "Founder of the Feast." The intimate NCRT stage lets the actor build from within: no melodramatic excesses, just a life-sized curmudgeon opening a frozen heart to his greatest fear: living in the moment. In supporting roles, Von Schauer is a truly tormented Jacob Marley and a Henry VIII-sized Ghost of Christmas present. Wellspoken Rachael Van Wormer, plus Brian Mackey, Geno Carr, and Susan Denaker also contribute. Marty Burnett's flexible set includes a turntable, a mobile four-poster and, on the rear wall, a Thames-eve view of London through a fog.

Worth a try. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH, 858-481-1055, THURSDAYS, 7 AND 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 7 AND 8 P.M. SAT-URDAYS, 2, 6, AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 27.

Every Painting Tells a Story

The Vivo at Ciao Bella hosts the world premiere of Jill Costanzo's "comedic drama" about a crazy monk (Romeo and Juliet's, Friar Lawrence) in a prison pit in Verona. Costanzo directed. Special dinner-theater packages are available, 619-337-0238. CIAO BELLA CAFFE BAR E RISTORANTE, 5263 BALTIMORE DRIVE, LA MESA. FRI-DAY, 8 P.M. SATURDAY, 8 P.M.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

The Green Meanie's heart's at least two sizes too small. And he wants to shrink Whoville's glad tidings down as well: steal their presents, their feast-food, and, most of all, stop them from making that infernal vuletide cheer. In a - for him — nightmare vision of same, pearshaped Who kids whirl around him like a Maypole, singing, tooting kazoos, and he shouts at the audience, "I want to stop it, and you wonder why?" Will the Grinch have a change of heart (or, as t'were, an expansion?). Can Cindy-Lou Who

THEATER DIRECTORY

Actors Alliance Of San Diego

Liberty Station (619) 224-3600 www.actorsalliance.com

American Rose Theatre 858-243-4349

www.americanrosetheatre.com

28 Horton Plaza, Downtown (619) 497-5000 ww.sandiegoperforms.com

Asian American Repertory Theatre (888) 568-2278

Beacon Theatre (760) 724-8218

Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center

590 Palm Canyon Dr., Borrego Springs (760) 767-4275 www.bspac.us

The Broadway Theatre 340 East Brodway, Vista

340 East Brodway, Vista (760) 806-7905 www.premiereforkids.com

California Center For The Arts 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido (760) 839-4100 www.artcenter.org

Carlsbad Village Theatre 2822 State St., Carlsbad

2822 State St., Carisbau (760) 729-0089 www.carlsbadvillagetheatre.com

Center Stage Players

Centro Cultural De La Raza

2004 Park Blvd Balboa Parl (619) 235-6135 www.centroraza.com

CCT Musical Theater

(619) 588-0206 eicaltha

Civic Theatre

(858) 570-1100 www.sdcivic.org

Clairemont Community Players

4902 Mt. Ararat, Clairemont (858) 560-5114

Community Actors Theatre

2957 54th St., State College (619) 264-3391 nitvactorstheatre.com

Compass Theatre 3704 6th Ave., Hillcrest

(619) 688-9210 www.sixthatpenn.com

Copley Symphony Hall

(619) 235-0804 ww.sandiegosymphony.com

Coronado Playhouse

(619) 435-4856 oronadoplayhouse.com

CYT Theater For Kids

1545 Pioneer Way, El Cajon (619) 588-0206 www.cyt.com **Cygnet Theatre Company** 6663 El Cajon Blvd., Ste. N, College Area

(619) 337-1525 www.cvgnettheatre.com

Diversionary Theatre4545 Park Blvd., Normal Heights
(619) 220-0097 www.diversionary.org

East County Performing Arts Center

210 E. Main St., El Cajon (619) 440-2277 www.ecpac.com

(619) 527-5256

Eveoke Dance Theatre

wmown www.eveoke.org (619) 238-1153

The Fault Line Theatre

(619) 692-3382 www.faultlineprod.com

Fern Street Circus (619) 235-9756 www.fernstreetcircus.org

(619) 233-7505 ...

The Fritz Theatre
(610) 233-7505 www.fritztheatre.com

Grossmont College Stagehouse Theatre, El Cajon (619) 644-7234

ont.gcccd.cc.ca.us/

The Hispanic Arts Theatre Of San Diego

H.I.T. Productions Dinner Theater Shirley's Kitchen, 7868 El Cajon Blvd. La Mesa (619) 561-8673 (619) 561-8673 www.dinnertheater.net

Horton Grand Theatre

(619) 234-9583

Inner Mission Productions

ww.innermissionproductions.org

Ion Theatre (619) 374-6894 www.iontheatre.com

Iris Theater

4580-B Alvarado Canyon Rd. (619) 271-4144 www.iristheater.org

Laguna Playhouse 606 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach 606 Laguna Car (949) 497-2787

La Jolla Playhouse Mandell Weiss ((858) 550-1010

w.lajollaplayhouse.org

La Jolla Stage Company
7887 Herschel Ave.
(858) 459-7773 www.thelajollastageco

Lamb's Players Theatre

Paul and Ione Harter Stage 1142 Orange Ave., Coronado (619) 437-0600 www.lambsplayers.org

Lamplighters Community Theatre 8053 University Ave., La Mesa (619) 464-4598

www.lamplighterstheatre.org

Lyric Opera San Diego Stephen & Mary Birch North Park Theatre

2891 University Ave (619) 239-8836 ndiego.org

Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater Balboa Park (619) 685-5990

Mesa College Theatre Company 7250 Mesa College Dr., Clairemont

(858) 627-2621 MiraCosta College Theatre

One Barnard Dr., Oceanside (760) 795-6815 www.miracosta.edu

Mira Mesa Theatre Guild

Moonlight Stage Productions 651 E. Vista Way, Vista (760) 724-2110 www.moonlightstage.com

The Muse Theatre

505 Kalmia St., Hillcrest (619) 544-1664 www.mysterycafe.net

National Comedy Theatre 3717 India St., Mission Hills (619) 295-4999

New Village Arts Theatre 2787 B State St., Carlsbad (760) 433-3245 www.NewVillageArts.org

North Coast Repertory Theatre 987-D Lomas Santa Fe Dr., Solana Beach (858) 481-1055 www.northcoastrep.org

North Park Vaudeville

2031 El Cajon Blvd., North Park (619) 647-4958

The Old Globe Theatre Cassius Carter Centre Stage Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, Balboa Park (619) 23-GLOBE (234-5623)

Old Town Theatre 1040 Twiggs St., Old Town (619) 688-2494

w.theatreinoldtown.com

Onstage Playhouse 291 Third Ave., Chula Vista (619) 422-7787 www.onstage.itgo.com

Palomar College Theatre 1140 W. Mission Rd., San Marcos

(760) 744-1150 x2453 www.palomar.edu

Patio Playhouse 201 E. Grand Ave., Escondido

(760) 746-6669 www.patioplavhouse.com Pine Hills Lodge 2960 La Posada Way, Julian

(760) 765-1100 www.pinehillslodge.com

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3900 Lomaland Dr., Point LC (619) 849-2433 www.ptlon **Poway Center For The Performing Arts** 15498 Espola Rd., Poway (858) 748-0505 www.powa

PowPAC, Poway's Community Theater 13250 Poway Rd., Poway (858) 679-8085 www.po

Ramona MainStage Theatre 626 Main St., Ramona (760) 789-7008

The Rehearsal Room 1159 6th Ave., Downtown (619) 589-9963

San Diego Actors Theatre P O Box 880285 92168 (858) 268-4494 www.sdactorstheatre.net

San Diego City College Theater Saville Theatre 14th and C streets, Downtown (619) 230-2676 www.sdcity.edu

San Diego Junior Theatre
Casa Del Prado Theatre, Balboa Park
(619) 239-8355 www.juniortheatre.

San Diego Musical Theatre (858) 560-5740 www.SDMT.org

San Diego Opera 1200 Third Ave., Downtown (619) 232-7636 www.sdopera.com

San Diego Repertory Theatre (619) 544-1000 www.sandiegorep.com

S.D. School Of Creative & Performing Arts 2425 Dusk Dr., Paradise Hills

(619) 470-0555 www.scpa.sandi.net

San Diego State University Don Powell Theatre and Experimental Theater (619) 594-6884 http://theatre.sdsu.edu/

San Diego Theatresports
1531 Tyler Ave., Hillcrest
(619) 465-7469 www.improvise.net

Scripps Ranch Theatre omerado Rd., Scripps Ranch (858) 578-7728

ww.scrippsranchtheatre.org San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre (619) 280-5650

Sledgehammer Theatre (619) 544-1484 www.sledgehamr

Southwestern College 900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista (619) 482-6367 www.swc.cc.ca.us The Spreckels Theatre

(619) 235-9500 Star Theatre

102 North Coast Highway, Oceanside (760) 721-9983 www.startheater.org Starlight Musical Theatre

(619) 544-7827

Sullivan Players

Sushi Performance & Visual Art 320 Eleventh Ave., Downtown (619) 235-8466 www.sushiart.org

Teatro Máscara Mágica (619) 231-3586

www.sandiegoreps.com

155 East Grand Ave., Escondido (760) 735-2491 www.theatrx.8m.com

Tonic Productions (619) 246-4853 www.tonicproductions.org Truax Performing Arts Center

400 Rancho Del Oro, Oceanside (760) 967-7918 University Of California San Diego

UCSD Theater, Studio

Mandell Weiss Center (858) 534-4574 w-theatre.ucsd.edu **University Of San Diego**

5998 Alcala Park, San Diego (619) 260-7934 www.sandiego.edu Vantage Theatre (619) 262-6162 http://home.san.rr.com/vantagetheatre

Welk Resort Theatre 8860 Lawrence Welk Dr., Escondido (888) 802-7469 www.welkresort.com/sandiego

The Wild Parrot Players

Community Theatre
Point Loma United Methodist Church
1984 Sunset Cliffs, Ocean Beach
(619) 269-6946

Women's Repertory Theatre (619) 282-3277 mensrep.org

by Jeff Smith. Information is accu rate 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. **An American Christmas** Lamb's Players and the Hotel del Coronado take audiences back to Christmas 1908. The Marshall family presents an evening of music, dance, song, and a five-course yule-

tide meal in the Grand Ballroom.

HOTEL DEL CORONADO, 1500 ORANGE

AVENUE, CORONADO. 619-435-6611.

THURSDAYS, 6:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 6:30

P.M. SATURDAYS, 6:30 P.M. SUNDAYS,

Lamb's Players Theatre reprises one

6:30 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

Boomers

of its most popular shows. In this salute to the Baby Boom generation, when a guy sings a snippet from "Big Girls Don't Cry" a woman counters with "It's My Party and I'll Cry If I Want To," as if Lesley Gore wrote the song in response to the Four Seasons. Now in its fourth - fifth? - version, Boomers has grown a great deal since it premiered in 1993. It's added social dimensions (the original was mostly about middle-class whites), more period details, and a much better understanding of one's later years (gained from experience: authors Kerry Meads and Vanda Eggington are now 15 years older). Ostensibly the piece is a lecture about the generation from 1946 to 1964. A deliberately, sometimes annoyingly, crotchety Jim Chovik recalls major events and provides statistics, from IFK to Kent State (but leaves out Jackson State!), from hippies to yuppies, marriage to divorce, and beyond. Themes from TV commercials and shows zip past, medleys of parts of songs cluster around a theme (Vietnam, relationships), and the evening unfolds like a game of "name that tune" in fast-forward. Boomers in the audience gulp "oh's" of recognition when a musical fragment triggers memories. One could wish that, at least once or twice, the company would do a whole song (let Anise Ritchie's Aretha-strong voice do all of "Respect" or Keith Jefferson all of "I Heard It Through the Grapevine"). One could also wish that the characters weren't so

one-note (Bill Doyle's hippie must

24, San Diego Reader December 4

melt him, and us, in only 85 minutes? Bet on it (especially when Issadora Tulalian beams her natural charm). The Old Globe's 11th annual Christmas show has polish and spirit in abundance. John Lee Beaty's flats wheel on and off like kaleidoscopic snowdrifts; Grinch veterans, led by Melinda Gilb, Steve Gunderson, and Eileen Bowman provide valuable support as always, and John DeLuca and Bob Richard's choreography energizes the house. Martin Van Treuren's Old Max narrates the story with a kind of gentle wisdom. And Kevin Bailey's Grinch amazes. His voice climbs up and down (way down, like basso profundo down) octaves with astonishing ease. And, if the three children sitting in front of me are an indication, Bailey's just scary enough. By the time he changes, they were hoping he would. Worth a try.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. THURSDAYS, 7 P.M. FRIDAYS, 7 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2:30 AND 7 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2:30 AND 7 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

It's a Wonderful Life

In Cygnet Theatre's annual holiday show, you not only watch the familiar story of George Bailey, you also watch how it's made in a 1947 radio studio: announcers, actors reading their lines, flashing applause signs, even a commercial for Lux soap. The story's still a grabber: what would life be like without George, whose selfless generosity abandoned his dreams for others? The radio frames the familiar parts. Then a change happens toward the end. The fiction trumps the fact. As George undergoes an existential identity crisis, the actors — and the radio studio - fall away and the characters emerge. The story leaps forward, and how it's being made disappears. Along the way, the show's a treat, especially Scott Paulson's ingenious sounds, made from unlikely objects. Marybeth Bielawski-DeLeo, who made an impressive local debut by directing Terra Nova at Compass Theatre this vear, directed.

Worth a try.

CYGNET THEATRE — ROLANDO, 6663

EL CAJON BOULEVARD, SUITE N, COL-LEGE AREA. 619-337-1525. THURS-DAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATUR-DAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

Lamb's Festival of Christmas: Angel's Arms

Lamb's Players stages one of its more popular Christmas shows. It's 1860, and novelist Jeffrey Scott has writer's block. A picturesque, deserted inn, the Angel's Arms, may revive his inspiration.

LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 OR-ANGE AVENUE, CORONADO. 619-437-

DAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 28. National Comedy Theatre

0600. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS,

8 PM SATURDAYS 4 AND 8 PM SUN-

Improvisational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it'd be more exciting if done competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling ("where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests while grannies waved their handbags"). National Comedy Theatre, an offshoot of Johnstone's TheatreSports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like "rugby and American football"), resembles an athletic event more than an improv. Teams wear uniforms and compete on ActroTurf. Using suggestions from the audience, they play "Emotional Sympathy," "Blind Line," and "Freeze Tag," with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klunkers and groaners get booed; quick wit rewarded (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledge failure, abundantly, then forget it). It makes for a lively, often funny evening. And Gary Kramer is one talented comedian.

Worth a try.

MARQUIS THEATER, 3717 INDIA STREET, MISSION HILLS. 619-295-4999. FRI-DAYS, 7:30 AND 9:45 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 AND 9:45 P.M. OPEN-ENDED RUN.

National Comedy Theatre: New Year's Eve Spectacular

The National Comedy Theatre presents its annual New Year's Eve show, which includes a regular performance, catered food, and an af-

ter-show party with the cast in a countdown to the New Year. NATIONAL COMEDY THEATRE, 3717 IN-DIA STREET, MISSION HILLS. 619-295-4999. WEDNESDAY, 9:30 P.M.

Plaid Tidings

For its Christmas show, Welk Resorts Theatre presents a yuletide sequel to the popular musical *Forever Plaid*, in which the Plaids come back to earth "to stage a nostalgic holiday extravaganza for worldweary mortals."

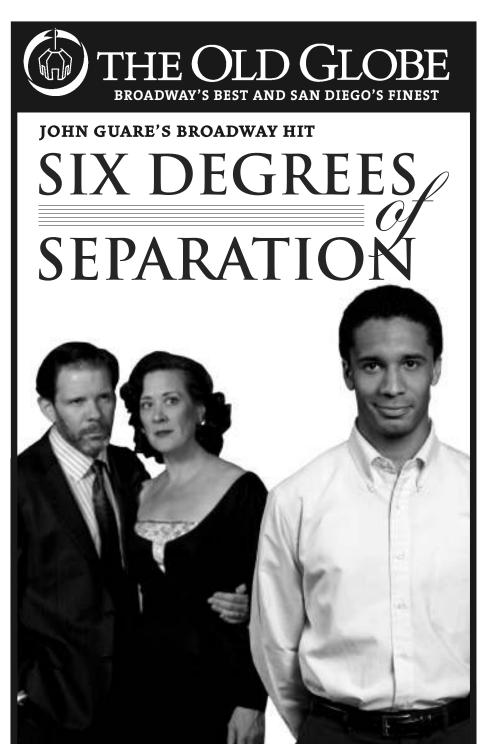
WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DRIVE, ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. THURSDAYS, 1:45 AND 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 1:45 AND 8 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

A Tuna Christmas

Hooo-boy! Christmas is just around the corner, yet the residents of Tuna, the third-smallest town in Texas (even counting "greater" Tuna) are so low on holiday cheer it won't wet the dipstick. As in their immensely popular Greater Tuna, Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard's yuletide sequel combines woe with meanness and somehow generates laughter. Williams and Sears have performed the roles so memorably, for so long, they're almost an impossible act to follow. In Compass Theatre's current rendition, however, Fred Harlow and Don Loper come pretty darn close. Born to play the Tuna series – bring on Red, White, and Tuna and Tuna Does Vegas! — Harlow shows his impressive range as dog-hating Pearl Burrus, as flamboyant theater director Joe Bob Lipsey, and as chain-smoking Didi Snavely's amorphous husband, R.R., through whose booze-marinated brain dance visions of UFOs. Though he could make more vocal differentiations among his characters, Loper scores as Didi — whose used weapons store is having a "Peace on Earth" sale — and as poor Petey Fish, human society saint, and the loneliest star in the Lone Star state. Worth a try.

COMPASS THEATER, 3704 SIXTH AV-ENUE, HILLCREST. 619-688-9210. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH DECEM BER 27.





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Beatitude 40% off acne treatment packages

Beauty & Body Lounge \$30 Brazilian wax

Brazilia Skin Care La Jolla Brazilian bikini wax \$35

Carole & Debi Hairstylists Free designer haircut (\$45 value)

Center for Age Management \$50 off any service

Cosmetic Laser & Skin Rejuvenation Botox \$9 per unit

enigma. professional piercing \$5 off body piercing

Extreme Smile Makeover \$1000 off Invisalign

Face Beautiful \$500 off Rhinoplasty

Family Dentistry Free teeth whitening

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<u>procedure</u>

Gentle Dentistry Free whitening for life

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Urban Skin Care Brazilian wax \$30

Vein & Liposculpture Center Laser hair removal \$49

VIP Salon & Day Spa **Two 1-hour massages \$109**

Viva Wellness Med. Groups **Botox \$59**

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West Coast Eyecare Complete optometric exam \$39

Won's Acupressure 10% off acupressure

World Spa 3 spa treatments \$149

HELP WANTED

MISCELLANEOUS

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling day through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tues-

CUSTOMER SERVICE/DISPATCHER
ARS of San Diego is activity ARS of San Diego is seeking a motivated multitasker with good communication and leadership skills for a fast-paced environment. Must be a team player with a minimum of 2 years Dispatcher experience. Fax resume: 858-677-5479; or apply in person: 9895 Olson Drive, Suite A, San Diego 92121. Drug- free work environment. License #791820.

DANCE INSTRUCTOR. All types. Mind Body and Soul Dance Studio conveniently located. Prime-time space available. 2971 India Street, San Diego 92103. Call Denise, 619-992-9005.

ARS of San Diego is seeking a motivated mulitiasker with good communication and leadership skills for a fast-paced environment. Must be a team player with a minimum of 2 years Dispatcher experience. Fax: 858-677-5479; or apply in person: 9895 Olson Drive, Suite A, San Diego 92121. Drugfree work environment. License #791820.

you 14 to 21, low income, need high school diploma or GED and work expe-rience? Turning the Hearts Center, 619-

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS! Laundromat Personnel. Busy laundromat in Escondido seeking bilingual (English/Spanish) individuals. Full time, three shifts available. Some experience preferred. Competitive pay. Call/leave message: 619-562-3812.

Classified ads: \$8 a week Special: 4 weeks for \$19!

All ads include free online classified listing at SDReader.com!

Place your garage sale, music equipment/instruments, for sale, stage notes, automotive, sports, pet ads and more!

DEADLINE: 5 pm TUESDAY

PHONE: 619 235 8200 WALK-IN: 1703 India Street (at Date), Little Italy

Rate applies to private parties. Other rates for roommates, rentals, employment and paid services.

FREE PRIVATE PARTY CLASSIFIED ADS: Available only to private parties and non-profit organizations. No businesses, home businesses, paid services or functions, rentals, or profit-making enterprises. Ads must be printed clearly on 3x5 cards or postcards and are limited to 25 words. Additional words cost 60¢ each. Ads must arrive at our P.O. Box by 7 am Monday. Mail all ads to Reader Free Classifieds, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186. Free ads are not accepted over the phone or in person at our office.

MOVIE EXTRAS NEEDED!! All looks and ages wanted. No experience necessary. Work part- time, \$150-\$250/day. Opportunity for bigger projects. Call now! 1-888-268-5460 x307.

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7946.

TRAVEL USA Sales. Publication sales company hiring 18 sharp, enthusiastic individuals to travel the U.S. Travel, training, lodging, and transportation provided. Visit: www.lsimags.com. 1-

VOLUNTEER TRAIL GUIDES wanted. Mission Trails Regional Park. Join us for 11-week training course beginning 1/

10/09. Guest speakers will highlight plants, wildlife, history, ecology, geol-ogy, Kumeyaay culture and more of this fascinating open-space park. No expe-rience required. There is a \$25 material als fee due at Orientation. For more information, call 619-668-3279.

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SALES REP. Inside Sales. Make \$100k a year plus! 401K. Medica' \$100k a year plus! 401K. Medical and Dental. Paid vacations and holidays. Paid training. Great work environment. Convenient location. If you are disciplined, coachable and looking to join a great team with an easy to sell product that? bigh integrity. to sell product that's high integrity. Call us today! Media All- Stars, 8525 Gibbs Drive, 92123. Ask for Leah, 619-225-0249. www.MediaAllStars.

SALES. State- of -the -art call center in Mira Mesa needs entry- level and experienced Telemarketers. Application: www.expresspros.com. \$\$9-\$10/hr, commission. Resume: savolainen@expresspros.com, subject "Time Warner".

TELEPHONE INTERVIEWERS. Friendly, outgoing. No sales! Bilingual Spanish a plus. Hourly plus bonuses. Paid training parking, medical benefits. www. Juthresearch.com. Apply: Luth Research. 1365 Fourth Avenue, downtown. Job Hot-line: 619-243-8045.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

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CUSTOMER SERVICE/DISPATCHER.

National plumbing and drain com-pany in search of self- motivated Customer Service/Dispatch Repre-sentative able to work without supervision. Basic computer skills a must. Minimum 3 years experience. Various shifts. Must be able to work nights, weekends and holidays. Fax resume: 619-702-6067.

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- · Convenient location



9620 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 108 San Diego, CA 92123-1369

Call for an interview: 858-496-2100



Careers in **Probation**



Deputy Probation Officer

Minimum Qualifications

- 21 years old Good physical condition No illicit drug usage
 - U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen
- No felony convictions Bachelor's degree with experience Salary - New: \$52,520-\$63,835 annually

Safety Retirement-Sworn Officers 3% at age 50. Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply.

Test date: January 31, 2009

Qualified applicants will be notified by mail of the date, time and location of the test. All applications must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to the exam date. Applications received after the 15th day will be scheduled for the following exam. Applications can be accessed on-line from the Job/Current Recruitments section of the County website at:

> http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov Jobline: 858-514-8558









FIELD RESEARCH JOB FAIRDEC 29 & 30, 10-1:30AM Call Center Telephone Interviewing position. Job Fair, Monday-Tuesday. Downtown, 1470 7th Avenue, 92101. Part- time, with a chance of working longer hours. Requires High Schoo

Diploma or GED, able to type at least 30 words per minute, excellent phone manners. Pay rate: English speaking \$8.25/hour; bilingual pay \$8.75/hour. No phone calls, please

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by callin 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

CAREGIVER/ATTENDANT. Male quad needs personal care, part time. Requires experience, California Driver's License, some college, cell phone. Nonsmoker. Del Cerro area. Leave message, 619-582-4569.

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DRIVERS/CDL CAREER TRAINING with

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DRIVERS. Teams earn top dollar plus great benefits. Solo drivers also needed for Western regional. Werner Enterprises,800-346-2818 x123.

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✓ Will assist with Guard Card

✓ No experience required

✓ FREE uniforms

Or apply 8 am-5 pm Mon.-Fri. SAN DIEGO (92120) • 619-641-0049 • 6160 Mission Gorge Rd., Ste. 100

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Must be customer service oriented, computer literate and

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MIRA MESA 9242 Miramar Road 858-578-9205

MISSION VALLEY 2109 Fenton Parkway #1 619-563-1940

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2907 Shelter Island Drive 619-223-1900

Management applicants, fax résumé to: 619-688-9291

EDUCATION

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GROUP FITNESS INSTRUCTORS: Corne rate and Luxury Residential locations all over San Diego. All classes, all days and times. SPIN. Water and Pilates Instructors encouraged strongly to apply. Certifica-tion and experience required. Fax: 858-715-8681. Call 858-715-8611. www. fitxsandiego.com.

HEALTH CARE

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by ca 19-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Mon-lay through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tues-ay.

AIDE WANTED to assist with disabled

CAREGIVER, LIVE-IN/HOUSEKEEPER. 6 bed Residential Care Facility Elderly (RCFE). Assist with showers, etc. Room and board plus salary. 619-460-2272.

CAREGIVERS needed immediately. 1 year experience. All shifts available. Hourly and live in. Call Assertive Homecare Services, 3774 Grove Street, Suite L-1, Lemon Grove. 619-466-6890.

CAREGIVERS: LIVE-INS, 2, 3, 4 or 5 days/week, \$120/day including sleep and meal periods. Weekends and hourly: 4-hour, 8-hour and 12-hour shifts, 8M/PM. Top pay, flexible shifts 24/7, 401(k), production bonus, rewards for good work. Requires valid driver's license, vehicle/insurance, registration, one year of paid eleccarce/pubm experience, elicibility to surance, registration, one year or paid evader caregiving experience, eligibility to work in the United States. \$150 hiring bonus for employees accepting North County assignments (after 90 days of employment). Comfort Keepers, 2006 Workplace Excellence Medallion Award SDSHRM, San Diego: 619-795-6036. San Marcos: 760-598-3400.

Marcos: 760-598-3400.

CAREGIVERS. Home Instead Senior Care needs cheerful, dependable people to help seniors stay at home with our non-medical home care services. Competitive pay/training. Flexible hours. Great benefits. Central/East Jobline: 619-433-6200. South Bay/Coasta!: 858-277-3722.

CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Home care agency has immediate openings for compassionate and experienced Caregivers in the El Cajon, Lakeside, Granite Hills, Bostonia and Rancho San Diego ar-eas. Must have 1 year experience, valid CA driver's license and reliable trans-portation. Background check required. Visiting Angels, 619-401-2040. CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Minimum

1 year experience non-medical home care for seniors. Valid California Driver's License. Serving Santee/La Mesa/Del Cerro/San Carlos. Maureen, Visiting An-gels, 619-749-7525

CAREGIVERS/HOMEMAKERS. HHAS CNAs, and Personal Assistants. Competitive/weekly pay, flexible hours, training opportunities. Call today! Right at Home, 858-451-5762, 858-277-5900; Apply: www.rahencinitas.com, www.ralajolla.

Com.

CAREGIVERS/CNAs/HHAs. Immediate openings. Hourly, Live-in, Nights. Cheerful Caregivers needed to assist seniors inhome. Minimum 1- year experience. Premium pay/bonuses/benefits, 24-hour office support. Age Advantage, 619-660-8881, 760-720-7272.

CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Homecare agency is looking for compassionate and experienced Caregivers to start immediately in the Coronado, Point Loma and Downtown San Diego area. Must have valid CA driver's license and reliable transportation. Background check required. Please call 760-294-8070.

CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Visiting Angels, America's Choice in Homecare. Now hiring compassionate, caring Caregivers/Companions. Requires minimum 1 givers/Companions. Hequires minimum 1 year experience in non-medical home care for seniors and valid CA driver's license. Serving Poway, Rancho Penasquitos, Scripps Ranch and Mira Mesa areas. Call for an immediate interview: 858-775-1176.

CAREGIVERS/RESIDENTIAL FACILITA-

CAREGIVERS/RESIDENTIAL FACILITA-TORS. Provide quality care for children with developmental disabilities at our Encinitas home care facility. Minimum 12 months' experience in a similar environ-ment and high school diploma/GED re-quired. Must have valid CA driver's license and clean DMV. Background checked. All shifts available, full time and part time \$13 per hour. Benefits for full time. Interviews held 8:30am-3:30pm at Home of Guiding Hands, 1125 Gillespie Way, Suite 200, El Cajon, CA 92020. Fax resume: 619-938-3056. resume: 619-938-3056.

resume: 619-938-3056.

CNA/CHHA. Beginners, experienced. Family Caregivers, Childcare, Home Care Aides, Drivers. Great pay! New-hire bonus! Nonmedical in-home help for seniors, children, disabled. 12- and 24-hour shifts! Training. Flexible schedules, benefits, retirement, childcare. At Your Home Familycare. E-mail: homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com. Toll free: 1-877-903_IORS.

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HOME CARE AIDES. Beginners, experienced. CNA/CHHAs, Family Caregivers, Childcare and Drivers. New-hire bonus Great pay! Nonmedical, in- home help for seniors, children, disabled. 12- and 24-hour shifts! Training. Flexible schedules, benefits, retirement, childcare. At Your Home Familycare. E-mail: homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare. com. Toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS

IN-HOME CARE. Caregivers and Companions. Minimum 1 year experience non-medical home care for seniors. Valid California Driver's License. Serving Santee/La Mesa/Del Cerro/San Carlos. Mau-

tee/La Mesa/Del Cerro/San Carlos. Mau-reen, Visiting Angels, 619-749-7525 JOB COACHES. Community-oriented Center for Independent Achievement is seeking dependable individuals in East County. 1:4 group ratio maximum. \$8.50-\$9.50/hour. Annual raises. Bonuses for exceptional performance. Benefits full-time. pficareeryahoo.com. Fax 619-440-6864. 619-440-6802.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST for skilled nursing facility. Sign- on bonus! Benefits. Call for more information. 7760Parkway Drive, La Mesa. Call 619-469-0124 x12.

RESPITE CARE for children and teens with developmental disabilities. Critical need, Countywide! Great pay! New-hire bonus! Nonmedical, in-home help. Caring heart more important than experience. Training. 12- and 24-hour shifts. Flexible schedules, benefits, retirement, childcare. Visit homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com. At Your Home Familycare. Call toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS. RESPITE CARE for children and teens

SOCIAL SERVICES. Instructors needed for day training program in Lakeside and Oceanside for adults with developmental disabilities. Excellent benefits, no nights/ weekends, start \$10.25-\$10.75/hour. Enty-level also available in Lakeside, \$9.00/ hour. Unyeway, Inc.: 619-562-6330.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Promising Futures, Inc., is hiring reliable, caring individuals to work with the developmentally disabled in East County and Ramona. Part- and full-time positions. \$8-\$10/hour plus benefits. Overtime opportunities available pficareer@yahoo.com. Fax resume: 619-440-6864. Call 619-440-6802

JOBS WANTED

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UNEMPLOYED HOMELESS VETERANS.

You may be eligible: job search/resume preparation, placement assistance, support services, job-related clothing/tools, housing referrals. VA benefits referrals. Appointment: 619-449-5513.

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ADMINISTRATIVE /CLERICAL Volt Services Group. Temporary, Temporary- to-Direct Hire, Direct Placement. Competi-tive wages, paid weekly. Paid holidays, vacation. Medical, dental, training, career tive wages, paid weekly, Paid holidays, vacation. Medical, dental, training, career management. www.jobs.volt.com. EOE. San Diego: 858-576-3140; e-mail: clairemont@volt.com. Carlsbad: 760-729-8916; email carlsbad@volt.com. El Cajon: 619-401-1524; email elcajon@volt.com. San Marcos: 760-471-0800; email sanmarcos@volt.com. Scripps Ranch: 858-578-0920; email scrippsranch@volt.com.

DATABASE EDITOR Work with manufacturer catalogs and price lists to maintain/ update both product and price data for electrical/plumbing distributors. High-level detail orientation/strong computer skills required. Carmel Mountain Ranch area. Approximately \$12.50/hour. Fullime temporary position Renly with retime temporary position. Reply with re-sume: Shirley_VaughnTradeService.com.

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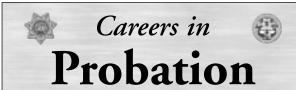
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Correctional Deputy Probation Officer I

Minimum Qualifications

21 years old • Good physical condition • No illicit drug usage
 U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen
 • No felony convictions • High school diploma or GED

Salary:

New: \$36,275-\$46,300 annually Safety Retirement~Sworn Officers 3% at age 50. Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply.

Test date: January 10, 2009 • 8 am

Montgomery Middle School 2470 Ulric Street • San Diego, CA 92111

Note Application Process:

Prior to taking the written examination, applicants must complete the following: Complete and submit the online application form and provide correct and complete responses to the Supplemental Questions. Applicants will be invited to the written exam by written notice that will be sent either by e-mail or U.S. mail per applicant's request. You must be sure to complete the online application before you appear for the written examination.

For additional information, contact the department's

Jobline: 858-514-8558

www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation



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day.

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employee meals. Paid vacation. Apply in
person. Mira Mesa: 9242 Miramar Road;
858-578-9205. Mission Valley: 2109 Fenton Parkway #1; 619-563-1940. Point
Loma: 2907 Shelter Island Drive; 619223-1900. Management applicants, fax
resume to 619-688-9291.

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AGENTS WANTED! Real Estate Agents!
Now's the time to get your Real Estate License. 2.5 week fast-track program with 1-on-1 coaching/free video cram.
\$100K+ potential. Prudential Dunn, Susan: 858-245-7880/800-319-1031.

CANVASSINGI \$2K-\$4K/month part time. Setting appointments for home makeovers! We train. Base plus commission. Start immediately. Call Jake to schedule interview, 858-278-5605.

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sage (or tax) 24 nours: 877-286-5339. FUNDRAISING for national charities and the Democratic Party. Over 20 years in business. \$9/hour. Paid training. Performance bonuses. Medical, dental, 401(k). Full and part time. Convenient location. Apply at Gordon & Schwenkmeyer: 9620 Chesapeake Drive, San Diego 92123-1369. Call for interview. 858-496-2100.

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Call Center

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Or apply in person 12-3 pm Monday-Thursday: 2851 Camino del Rio South, Suite 300, San Diego, CA 92108

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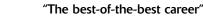
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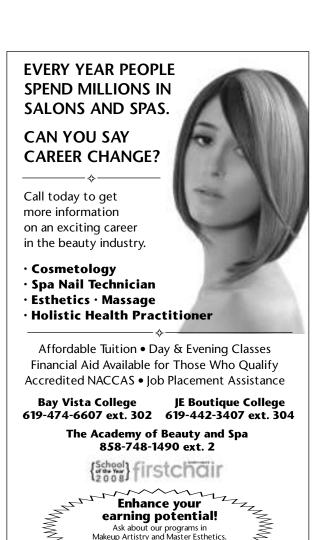
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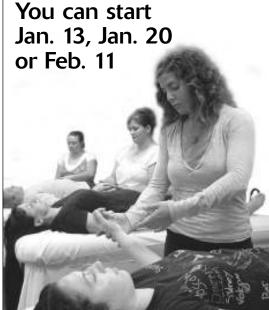
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day.

ADOPTABLE DOGS! The Baja Animal Sanctuary is a no-kill shelter. Our dogs live in foster care in San Diego until they are adopted. Check out www. bajaanimalsanctuary.org to see all of our adoptable faces. Dogs and cats are spayed/neutered and up to date on shots.

ADOPTION EVENT every Saturday of the month from noon-6pm at PetSmart in Chula Vista, 1840 Main Street. Call Jim from the Baja Animal Sanctuary for more information, 619-341-3145.

ANIMALS HAVE NO NATIONALITY! Volunteer for Humane Society de Tijuana monthly spay/neuter clinics in poorer neighborhoods of TJ. Help end the suffering. Contact michellefriendsofhstj.org.

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CHIHUAHUAS Baja Animal Sanctuary has

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DOG LOVER? Baja Animal Sanctuary is looking for volunteers who are willing to foster dogs. We provide food, supplies, etc. All you need to provide is love. If you reside in North County pleas contact Patricia, 858-254-8733 or Judy, 858-538-350. If you reside south of La Jolla, please contact Alisa, 858-270-4056.

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LOOKING FOR A COMPANION? Check home of adoptable pets and adoption groups. Search by breed, age, sex, and

LOST PARROT, in El Cajon/East County area. Arthur is grey with a red tail, 14 years old. Please if you see him, call 619-938-2223.

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PUPPIES, PUPPIES, PUPPIES! If you are looking for a new companion, contact Baja Animal Sanctuary at 619-231-6960.

Baja Anima Sanctuary at 619-231-0900.

S.N.A.P. (Spay Neuter Action Project) is looking for foster homes to take care of some of our small dogs until they find forever families. If you're interested please contact Dorell at 760-815-0945.

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SMALL DOGS. If you have been looking for that special small, furry 4- legged friend, contact us! 619-231-6960.

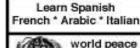
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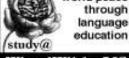
WANT A DOG for just the weekend? We have weekend foster opportunities for small or big dogs, puppies, adults, or seniors depending on what suits you. Contact the Baja Animal Sanctuary for more information, 619-231-6960 or 858-270-

WEIMARANER PUPPIES. Beautiful Weimarner puppies. 3 months. Registered, family raised, tails docked, dew claws removed, shots. \$500. 858-784-9069.

YOUNG DOGS. We have quite a few 3.5-4 months old looking for forever homes. They are all mutts but mostly shepherd or Labrador mixes with gorgeous markings if you're interested in adopting a new companion, contact the Baja Animal Sanctuary for more information, 619-231-6960.

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INSTRUCTION



San Diego Reader December 24, 2008 127

Astound your friends & become famous!

THE READER PUZZLE:

RULES OF THE GAME

1) Each week we're printing a list of EVERYONE who submits the correct answers to the previous week's puzzle. See this week's contenders below.

2) When you successfully complete a puzzle, we'll also print a brief (10 words or less) message that you've written. This is optional, but it's a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly.

3) We're keeping track of how many puzzles you successfully complete. But your information will only be printed when you successfully com-plete a puzzle AND get it to us by

7:00 a.m., Monday.
4) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-**0489 or 619-233-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803 or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to: puzzles@sdreader.com 5) <u>10 Reader T-shirts</u> are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly! And now for the really small print:

1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.

3) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.4) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

Across

- 1. Police action
- 5. Rhythm's partner
- 10. Org. that publishes American Hunter
- 13. Many a NASA worker: Abbr.
- 14. Hall of Fame pitcher nick named "Knucksie"
- 15. Brit. lexicon
- 16. Dark red
- 18. Co. that employs 17,000 pharmacists nationwide
- 19. It can be fragile
- 20. Both: Prefix
- 21. Guevara who wrote the 1961 book "Guerrilla Warfare^e

- 22. Decides a fish isn't big enough for keeping, say
- 28. ____ cell research
- 29. Where a lot of shooting takes place
- 30. Manual communication syst.
- 33 Breakfast brand
- 34. Nav. rank
- 35. Tell others ... or what the circles do in 16-, 22-. 48- and 57-Across
- 40. "In the Valley of _ (2007 film)
- 41. One may trip on it
- 42. Bad marks
- 44. Ramada rival 48. Sandwich option
- 53. Prefix with logical
- 54.CCCI + CCCI
- 55. "That's more than I need to know! " in Internet-speak
- 56. Actor Vigoda
- 57. Like some mountaintops
- 61. OB-
- 62. Pitches a gem against
- 63. She played Donna on "90210"
- 64. Legal conclusion?
- 65. Detroit footballers
- 66.#2: Abbr.

Down

- 1. Dampens anew
- 2. Make ____ of it
- 3. Cold-shoulder
- 4. "____ Day" (1993 rap hit)
- 5. First name in "The Hobbit"
- 6. Pope before Benedict III
- 7. It's east of Pol.

- 8. Byronian "before"
- 9. Turf
- 10. Bar request
- 11. Al Sharpton, for one
- 14. Jules et Jim, e.g.
- 17. Raven's cry
- 21. Dot-
- 23. Actor Epps
- 24. Quartet before I
- 25. Star in Orion
- 26. Completely bungles
- 27. Souse's woe
- 31. Teacher's request
- 32. NBC drama that aired after "Night Court"
- 33. Somalia neighbor: Abbr.
- 35. Its New York Stock Exchange symbol is BID
- 36. Epoch from two to five million years ago
- 37. Scurry
- 38. Landfill feature
- 39. Vane dir.
- 43. Mop & _ (cleaning brand) 45. Subway systems
- 46. Ones pointing fingers
- 47. "Yay for me!" 49. Dickens' Drood
- 50. Bank holdings: Abbr.
- 51. Hombres en la familia 52. '90s R&B trio Bel _
- DeVoe
- 57. Where to see Tina Fey as
- 58. "____ certainly do not!"
- 59. "Well, looky here!" 60. JFK posting

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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS:

indicates T-shirt winner. Number indicates successful entries.

Julie Osburn, North Park, 27. "This is getting exciting, get you camera, here I come. D. Faulkner, University

Heights, 26. "Ride your bike Pamela Swain, College Area, 26. "And the rain sure came

Lil Wagner, Clairemont, 26.

George Jackson, Oceanside, 25. "Don't blame me. I voted for none of the above." Anna McCutcheon, Down-

puzzle people! Susan Morfey, Little Italy, 24. "Merry Christmas and a better 2009. Love you guys!"

town, 25. "Happy Holidays, gentle

Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 24. "Brian Giles - Man of the Yea Vince Cuseo, Vista, 24. "Made it, Ma! Top of the world!" Peter Kronfeld, Normal Heights, 24.

Don Reckles, Carmel Valley, 24. "Reese and Spencer love their Nana, Papa, and Houston kinfolk. Clinton Smith, La Mesa, 24. "Merry Christmas Daphne, Erk, Schuyler, Gleni. Welcome home

Paul Stanton, Canyon Hills, 24. "Adopt a homeless cat or dog today and spay/neuter." Carolyn Dalton, Escondido,

23. "Congratulations to the will ners. Merry Xmas and Happy New

Dale Duffala, La Jolla, 23.

you Carol!" Íggie Guerrero, Bay Ho, 23. "Reina's mustache of blood is

because she is a vampire. Bob Maxwell, Coronado, 23. Jim Odell, Vista, 23. "...so who

Janie Redmond, Cardiff, 23. "Happy Birthday JC - then me

Stephen Wilder, Rancho Bernardo, 23. "Easter is the reason we have a season. Merry

Charlotte Brown, Clairemont,

Betsy Cory, Chula Vista, 22. "Robert Burn Supper, Jan. 24, St. Marks, www.stmarks-cityheights.org Frank Kuzniar, Carlsbad, 22. "Merry Christmas everyone!

We're wiping the slate clean!

Our final issue of the year, published Wednesday, December 31, will be the last one considered for our current tally of puzzle winners. On Thursday, January 8, we'll recognize the person(s) with the most correct entries in 2008 and the count will begin again! Sharpen your pencils!

Thomas McVeagh, Lakeside, 22. "Merry Christmas to all: Ron Meyer, Santee, 22. "Happy

Holidays to all and the Reader staff." Jay Newington, Balboa Park, 22. "Janis - all I want for Christmas

is you, my love. Danny Wilson, Mira Mesa, 22. "Continue the race to the top at

nokleenslate@amail.com Norman Kenney, Carlsbad, 21. "Hi Kiera! Hi Bodo! Onward! Ho ho

C. J. Muellner, Spring Valley, 21. "Ooh-ho-ho! Happy Holidays Puzzle people and Reader readers! Barry Newman, Escondido, 21. Tom Seaman, Alpine, 21. Jeff Smith, University City, 21. Clemencia Angus, Linda Vista, 20. "Pepe, had fun on your birth-

Mary Arana, Encinitas, 20. "Joyful Holidays, everyone!"

Martha Awdziewicz, Claire-

Donna Cresta, Chula Vista, 20. "My lucky number is 20.

Gerard Dermody, Encinitas, 20. "Palindromes are superfluous." Richard Hutchings, Santee, 20. Jim Koziol, UTC, 20. "Watch out for Darth, Lukie

Lisa Torrescano, Spring Valley, Leslie Chase, Campo, 19.

"Happy New Year! 52 in 2009!" Sheilah Doyle, Santee, 19. Barney Firks, Ocean Beach,

Bud Fisher, Mira Mesa, 19. "Happy Everything San Diego! Ken Hanson, Clairemont, 19. Michael McGriffin, Bay Park, 19. "bljatlh 'e' ylmev! Heahlu'meH

THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS CONTINUED:

indicates T-shirt winner

Cindy Pellett, University Heights, 19. "Happy New Year, San Diego!'

Rich Sewell, Ocean Beach, 19. "Happy Holidays, go Chargers! Adele West, Rancho Bernardo, 19. Steve Wilson, Spring Valley,

Sheila Agahan-Price, Oceanside, 18. "Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat."

Don Austin, Laguna Beach, 18. Kurt Dornbusch, Mission Valley, 18. "Dear Santa: Need new Reader t-shirt."

Anne Hinton, Point Loma, 18. The Pod People live in Santee Michael Lodahl, Mission Valley, 18. "Happy Hannukah, Happy Hannukah, as the Temple light keeps burning...

Nathan Petty, Santee, 18. Dave Small, San Carlos, 18. "Ow! That one made my head

Eddie Spaghettio, Coronado, **18.** "143UNIT15! Recherche! Maybe next year, mon petite fleur...CIUM21"

Elenore Stephens, Potrero, 18. "P-town 4 life

Marie Turock, North Park, 18. Ivan Yanev, Santee, 18. Doretha Albee, Santee, 17. Bud Anderson, Santee, 17. Neal Brown, Santee, 17. Margaret Buckner, Santee, 17. John Bullock, Santee, 17. Maria Coda, Oceanside, 17. "Hi

Laura Conshafter, Santee, 17. Mike Downey, Santee, 17. John L. Drehner, North Park, 17. "The mafia killed Albert Einstein. He knew too much."

Ed Edwards, Santee, 17. Eduardo Emett, Santee, 17. Ward Harrington, Santee, 17. L.D. Hartpence, Santee, 17. Gary Kuske, Santee, 17. Rick Marin, Santee, 17. Kevin McNearney, Santee, 17. Heber Moore, Santee, 17. Eugene Padua, Santee, 17. Jim Piburn, Point Loma, 17. Derek Rasmussen, Santee, 17. Jean D. Smickle, Santee, 17. Tom Somich, Clairemont, 17. "Merry Xmas to all, and to all a good night!"

Bob Vollmar, La Jolla, 17. Dave Washington, La Jolla, 17. "Merry Christmas!

Rick Austin, Santee, 16. "I hope it's a winner."

Rolan Bloomfield, Santee, 16. Marvin A. Brown, Clairemont, 16.

Dave Capehart, Santee, 16. Doug Coffin, Santee, 16. Mike D'Asaro, Santee, 16. Matt Dene, Santee, 16. Dave Descoteaux, Santee, 16. J. DeWitt, Santee, 16. Byron Ellsworth, Santee, 16. Harry Engel, La Jolla, 16, "Liza, you're the greatest! Emma Friemuth, Santee, 16. Mike Gross, Santee, 16.

Hugh Hagues, Santee, 16. Sondra Hartpence, Santee, 16. Larry Hartpence, Santee, 16. LeRoy Hemingway, Santee,

Eric Jesperson, Santee, 16. M. Jordan, Santee, 16. Bill Love, Santee, 16. Eben Maat, Santee, 16. Ken Milne, Santee, 16. Kevin Moreau, Santee, 16. Donnie Nelson, Santee, 16. Richard Rose, Santee, 16. Nathan Squire, Santee, 16. Matt Taylor, Santee, 16. Laurie Teemsma, Santee, 16. Stacy Tool, Santee, 16. Woody Weaver, Santee, 16. Ann Winder, Hillcrest, 16.

"Merry Christmas, Tim, and a Happy New Year." Mary Woodbury, Santee, 16. Stuart Aunger, Chula Vista, 15. "You choose - bankruptcy of purse or bankruptcy of life. Live!"

Roy Bailey, Santee, 15. Bruce Barshop, La Jolla, 15. "Put the mas back in Christmas." Dennis Beabout, Temecula, 15. "Merry Christmas everyone. Jesus is the reason for the season! Bruce R. Bell, South Park,

15. Carl Bennett, Escondido, 15. Derek Besand, Santee, 15. Wally Chapman, Chula Vista,

15. Jill Dickens, Santee, 15. Kathleene Evans, Santee, 15. Steve Fagerwold, Santee, 15. Rand Feura, Santee, 15. "Bolts have leait shot at playoffs? Unbe-

lievable!' Tim Glover, Santee, 15. Marie Grace, College Area,

E.M. Hutchings, Santee, 15. Steve Jenks, Santee, 15.

Sara Khwaja, Poway, 15. "Rain,

Donald Millsberg, Santee, 15. Barbara Neill, Santee, 15. Bill Pischke, Ramona, 15. "Winter solstice sunset is also orange. Don Prince, Serra Mesa, 15.

"Hooray for the gut with the shoes! Loved clue 27-Across."

J. Schwendinger, Santee, 15. Ron Shields, Santee, 15. Randy Sjoblom, Santee, 15. Sue Worthen, Santee, 15. Steven Young, Santee, 15. Dan Abernathy, Santee, 14. Don Albee, Santee, 14. Rick Braithwaite, Santee, 14. J. Breckenridge, Santee, 14. Andre Desilets, Downtown, 14. "Happy Holidays San Diego. **Howard Donnelly, Mission** Valley, 14. "On a football field. Merry Christmas.

Mark Franc, Santee, 14. Jim Hutchings, Santee, 14. Wayne Mathieu, Clairemont,

Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 14. "Happy 2009! Good luck Obama! Linda Millsberg, Santee, 14. Ken Naibert, Mira Mesa, 14. "Hey Bacon, I'm on to you! Unask-

Elizabeth Noll, Alpine, 14. "Happy Holidays! Robert Ott, Mira Mesa, 14. "Merry Christmas NLO, RSO,

ingly truthful."

David Papworth, Santee, 14. Jeff Smith, Santee, 14. Mike Adkins, Santee, 13. Brian Beach, Santee, 13. Shirley E. Bolden, College Area, 13. "Merry Christmas,

evervone! Bryan Breckenridge, Santee,

Sue Coffey, Southwest SD, 13. "They don't call it The Windy City for the wind "

Andy Harrison, Santee, 13. Paula Henderson, La Jolla, 13.

Jon Hutchens, Encinitas, 13. "Lucky 13."

Mary Hutchings, City Heights, 13. Dennis Lamboy, Santee, 13.

Rumir Miravalles, San Diego, 13. "Mahamungauaon nga bagong twg sa tanan!"

Elizabeth Rainbolt, Mission Valley, 13. "Merry Christmas." John Stead, Santee, 13. Andrea Vollmer, Vista, 13. Warren Winters, Santee, 13. H.J. Broadhurst, Hillcrest, 12. "Finishing the year w/ a flourish."

Jan Dawson, North Harbor, 12. "Merry Christmas - Handy Jan

jansenterprises@yahoo.com" Billy Horton, Santee, 12. Diane Hutchings, Santee, 12. Angie Longoria, Santee, 12. Aaron Lundblade, Santee, 12. John Prince, Serra Mesa, 12. "Saddam Hussein, George Bush two wrongs don't make a right."

Lee Woodbury, Santee, 12. Manny Espino, Santee, 11. Monty Landy, Santee, 11. Kathy Law, La Mesa, 11. "Love to Bill. Happy New Year to all. Erin Marin, Santee, 11. Marge Nelson, El Caion, 11. "Heartland Lions, We Serve." James C Nelson, El Caion, 11. Randy Schimpf, Santee, 11. M. Sherritt, Santee, 11. Sam Spaeth, El Cajon, 11. Gavle Squire, Santee, 11. Gerry Austin, Chula Vista, 10. Loren Broadstone, Santee, 10.

Susan De Masi, Fallbrook, 10. Mike Deliman, Santee, 10. "Rename Santee Need a Life Puzzle King Town,"

Marilyn Contreras, El Caion,

Tim Dene, Santee, 10. Heather Ellsworth, Santee, 10. Gina Glover, Santee, 10. Bob Harper, Lakeside, 10. Denis Rees, Alpine, 10. "Merry Christmas to all!

Sal Vitale, Pacific Beach, 10. "Ho! Ho! Ho!"

 Mark Wilde, Spring Valley, 10. "Merry Christmas G. Doyle, Santee, 9. Marilynn Harrington, Santee, 9. Carol Kuske, Santee, 9. Flo Abena, Rancho Penasquitos, 8. "Happy Birthday Jesus. Gunnar Eklof, Oceanside, 8. I.C. Garcia, Golden Hill, 8.

"Happy solstice everyone, at least it's a real event " Sandra Groves, Bonita, 8.

"Merry Christmas to all! Ricky Hartpence, Santee, 8. Ernie Hsu, San Diego, 8. "Klingon? Seriously? You've got to be kiddina mel"

G.R. Morse, San Diego, 8. Connie Rittichier, Poway, 8. Felina Thom, Lemon Grove,

R. Blue, San Diego, 7. "Good show. Thomas Diehl, Escondido, 7. "Who said. Eves that roll around in

vain find ho dawn..." D. Tarantino, Hillcrest, 7. "I'm back to wreck more havoc."

Eddie and Andrea Schroder, Carlsbad, 7. "There has only been one Christmas, the rest are anniversaries."

Estevan Soto, Chula Vista, 7. "Mr. Starmaker says, Ain't so bad, all in your head."

Steve and Dawn, North Park, 6. "Happy New Year. Kelly Whitson, Carlsbad, 6. "Happy Birthday Mom." Jackie Austin, Chula Vista, 5. G. Barker, Santee, 5. Terri Beach, Santee, 5. Mike Broadhead, El Cajon, 5. Mike Crowley, Ramona, 5. Glenda Feilen, El Caion, 5. Mike Hartpence, El Cajon, 5. Benvicky Javier, San Diego, 5. "Justin, Giselle, Jonathan, Gervy, Jordan, you're the best!

Thomas E. Woolf, La Jolla, 5. Vickie Austin, Santee, 4. Jeff Battles, Serra Mesa, 4. "Official Surf Team member since 12/18/08. Joel and Ataraxis thanks!

Wendy Besand, Santee, 4. Heather Bloomfield, Santee, 4. Carrie Collins, Santee, 4. Craig Curtis, Escondido, 4. "Happy retirement to Harvey

Adrian. 20 yrs. at Palomar College. Doug Fuller, Bonita, 4. "ZPG! Jamming good with Britt and Anna

Dennis Howey, La Verne, 4. Craig Martin, Serra Mesa, 4. Irving Metzger, San Diego, 4. Chis Oliveira, Santee, 4. Will Rogers, Santee, 4. Ted Scafidi, Hillcrest, 4. "Hvena sexuality: no laughing matter

to mate after battle Linda Adsit, San Diego, 3. Thomas Baggot, Carlsbad, 3. Sally Lukes, Serra Mesa, 3. Kevin Schimpf, Santee, 3. Barbara Varga, San Diego, 3. "Happy Holidays to all my peeps!

3. "Today is a good day to die. John Bogren, El Caion, 2. "Happy New Year Gerdi. Love Wade

2. "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Lauren De los Santos, San Mike I love vou!"

Allen L. Edwards, Coronado, 2. "The first year of W - 2001: A

Jeff Fotheringham, Santee, 2. JoAnne Gibilisco, Lemon

Russell Hill, Lake Forest, 4. Capn Skarz, Encinitas, 4. "I like

Joel Wolfberg, Point Loma,

Rosa Rita Cabal, Chula Vista,

Diego, 2. "Yay first one! Thanks

Space Cadet Odvssev'

Grove, 2. "Mom Power!

Andrew and Jessica Hanusch, Point Loma, 2. "What stupid mistake did I make this time?

Diane Hartpence, Santee, 2. "Hard puzzle Diana Holt, Hillcrest, 2. "Marriot Marina Engineering rocks!" **Greg J Hurst, Huntington** Beach, 2. "I am Jahmok!

ou to enjoy." Billy Josen, Santee, 2. Cornelia Lewis, Alpine, 2. "Life in balance

gregmhurst@hotmail.com invites

Pam Mecklenberg, Pacific Beach, 2. "Go Navy: Lillie Nelson, Santee, 2. Lisa Overton, Spring Valley, 2. "Rain rocks!"

John Pertle, Santee, 2. "John 20:31

Candy Sadleir, Santee, 2. Sam Spaeth Jr. El Caion, 2. Jeff Zyskind, Spring Valley, 2. "Never confuse motion for

action. Susan Arnold, Santee, 1. Heather Bee, Franklinville, 1. YouTube: New Waveland Cafe

Hippies in Disasterland!" Kave Benton, San Diego, 1. "Happy New Year, hope '09 is bet-

Jav Berkowitz, La Jolla, 1. "Go Chargers.

Mike Bullock, Rancho Bernardo, 1. Tom Haley, East Village, 1. "/t was too easy.'

Jessie Hansen, Oceanside, 1. "Last and only one of the year. Hooray!

W.L. Johns, University City, 1. See Tamara for waxing Lisa M Kraus, San Diego, 1. "/ love puzzles!"

Willie McGee, San Diego, 1. "Good luck all!"

De Anna Morrison, Spring Valley, 1. "Love ya Mom! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Abra Nasinnyk, Pacific Beach, 1. "I miss you Greg, Love to the

Ealv's on Christmas. Javier Ortega, Mission Valley, 1. "Finally! Stay classy San Diego. Matt Ronson, La Mesa, 1.

"Which Santee solver submits solutions for unsuspecting friends and family?"

Paul Srephens, San Diego, 1. "Drinks at my pied-a-terre tonight."

Dena Torres, San Marcos, 1. "Dena could be Lena."

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San Diego Reader December 24, , 2008 129

SurfDIFGO

Name: Brian Solis Age: 30

Surfing: Imperial Beach Occupation: Graphic designer Pre-Surf Music: Hawaiian reggae Favorite Surf Movie: North Shore

Brian Solis is teaching his five-year old daughter Lilo how to surf.

"I take her out and surf tandem with her," says Brian. "It's very scary as a parent because you don't want your child to get hurt. I'm getting her confident in the water and she swims great in a pool, so I think in maybe two or three years she will be good enough to go by herself. She loves it and was really sad that she didn't get to surf with me when I traveled to Hawaii [last] summer."

During that trip, Brian encountered a Portuguese man o' war.

"My cousin and I were surfing...and he pointed out this huge shape in the water, about the size of a shoebox. I looked and saw that it was a baby Portuguese man o' war. We immediately took off about five yards south to avoid it. They are very dangerous because they wrap around you and keep sting-



ing - not like a regular jellyfish that will just sting you once and move on."

Brian was stung last summer while surfing in Imperial Beach

"There was this weird swell from Australia, and it brought all of these strange white iellyfish that looked like grocery bags. I was in

the line-up, and I felt this burning on my leg; I knew that I had been stung. My cousin refused to pee on it [a fabled jellyfish-sting remedy], so I had to go into the lifeguard station."

In addition to standup surfing, Brian is an accomplished bodyboarder.

"An old man once told

me, 'A wave is a canvas Decide what you want to paint with.'... I've noticed that there are other surfers that will say hi to me when I show up with my board but will ignore me if I'm bodyboarding. It's so disrespectful!"

For more stories by this author, go to sdreader.com. Appointments 7am-9pm. ASA. HHP-0442. 760-390-4772. 619-749-9967.

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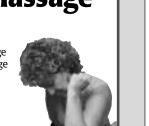
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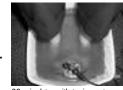
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Reader Pop Quiz

This week's questions

- 1. The then-14- and 13-year-old Anna and Lindsey Troy began performing as what act and signed with what record label?
- 2. Naomi Wise's flirtatious waiter at Olivetto Cafe and Wine Bar becomes the first cute male to play with her hair during dinner since whom?
- 3. What rock star recently autographed wine bottles at Whole Foods from his own vineyard?
- 4. The first priority of the party crasher is
- 5. "The pride and presence of a professional football team is far more important than __ libraries," sez former pro-football-team owner Art Modell.
- 6. What record takes the top slot on Barnaby Monk's ranking of 2008's best albums?
- 7. Where did John Brizzolara's friend suffer a stroke? (Store and neighborhood, please.)
- 8. In 1908, says Jeff Smith, Coronado from the air looked like a pair of beige-tinted what?
- 9. What marathon act did Barbarella's husband perform that allowed him his first glimpse into her life?
- 10. From December $\underline{}$ to January $\underline{}$, there will be 16 drop-off locations for recycling Christmas trees in the city of San Diego.

Last Week's Answers

- 1. Didi's Used Weapons (p. 121)
- 2. "Bad sea urchin roe." (p. 101)
- 3. The Pretty Things. (p. 72)
- 4. "Good looks and a great ass." (p. 86)
- 5. Paying for Brizz's coffee. (p. 18)
- 6. Ziggy Shuffledust and the Spiders from Mars. (p. 76)
- 7. Carnauba. (p. 14)
- 8. Modern Space. (p. 7)
- 9. The turkey burger. (p. 103)
- 10. Whole Foods. (p. 20)

Last Week's Winners:

Dana Collins, Robert John McEvilly, Jr., Louise Guarnotta, Brian Albers, Michelenne Crab.

Rules Pop Quiz answers must include page numbers from the Reader print edition on which the answers are found. First five entrants to deliver correct sets of answers win Reader T-shirts or \$25 (indicate preference). Answers must be submitted by Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question. Only one winner per household or email address per month. Multiple entries will be disregarded. Mail answers to: Reader Pop Quiz, SD Reader, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186; or fax to 619-231-0489; or email to Quiz@sdreader.com; or deliver to 1703 India Street in Little Italy (we have an after-hours mail slot).

NOTICES

San Diego Reader December 24, 2008

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL works for hu man rights. Meetings: 7pm, 2nd and 4th Thursdays. First Unitarian Church. 4190 Front (opposite UCSD Medical Center). Information: 619-283-1637. ATTENTION MEN: Have you lost weight naturally, kept it off at least 2 years? May qualify for research project. Confidential. Alliant International University. Shannon 619-795-9827.

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writters wanted. The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Leurens The 0.8 Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The 8-week program (June 21- August 16, 2009) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in alt- weekly style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit http://altjournal-ism.org/ You may e-mail us at altecademy. ism.org. You may e-mail us at altacademy northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by February 13, 2009. North-western University is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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CARDIFF 4 bedroom, 3 bath house. 2 car garage. large yard. Fireplace, laundry hookups. Near San Diego Academy. \$2895. Year lease. No pets. 775 Mackinnon. 760-753-4101.

non. 760-753-4101.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$1098. Super house. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Front yard. No back-yard. No garage. On-site laundry. 2 park-ing. No smoking. No pets. \$900 deposit. 4159-61 42nd Street. 619-251-0030.

CLAIREMONT 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 2-story home, \$2200/month. 2- car garage. 2 fire-places, refrigerator, stove/oven, dishwasher, washer/dryer, large backyard. Available now. Near all! 2410 Burgener, San Diego 92110. Agent, 619-471-2201. COLLEGE AREA/ROLANDO, 2 bedroom

1 bath house. Large fenced backyard. Laundry hook- ups. Quiet. Pets welcome. \$1625/month. \$1625 deposit. 6515 Acorn Street 610.813.3019

COLLEGE AREA/ROLANDO. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Pet friendly, Gardner in-

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COLLEGE. 3- bedroom, 2- bath house, bonus room, huge outdoor living area, pool, 2 fireplaces, 2- car garage, RV parking, \$2800. Available 1/1. Pets OK. 858-735-8593 5-8593.

DEL CERRO. \$2300. Large, lovely 4 bedroom, 2 bath, double garage, fenced yard, close to all. 6- month lease. Available now.6219 Chrismark Avenue. 619-

EL CAJON 3- bedroom, 2- bath house in cul-de-sac. Beautiful home. Nice neighborhood. 2- car garage. Large backyard. \$1695/month. Call 619-807-7662.

KENSINGTON. 2 bedroom, 1 bath with hardwood floors, newly remodeled kitchen with island and new appliances, washer/dryer hookups, 1 car garage, private yard with cabana and outdoor eating area. Close to all. Beautifully landscaped, includes gardener. Small pet OK. Available now. 4237 Meade Avenue. \$1795. 619-683-9274 619-683-9274.

619-683-92/4.

LA MESA. 2- bedroom, -1 bath house, blinds, stove, refrigerator, fan, furnace, washer/dryer, carport. Near SDSU, Alvarado Hospital. 7137 Amherst. No pets. Pat. 619-462-5525

LA MESA/MT HELIX. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1850 square foot, lovely one- story ranch home with large kitchen, upgraded appli-

ances, breakfast nook, pantry and built-in buffet. Living room has French doors out to private backyard with beautiful, mature trees. Dual brick fireplace in living room. 2- car finished garage, walk through to house, horseshoe driveway washer/dryer. Includes gardener weekly. \$2295. 4545 Calavo Drive. 619-683-9274.

MIRA MESA/SCRIPPS RANCH Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Close to Scripps Ranch, University Town Center, beautiful landscaping, gardener included. No pets. Gas stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer/dryer, fireplace. 1300 square feet, 2- car garage. Tile and carpet. \$1995. 10076 Baffin Street. 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyroporties.com

MISSION BEACH. \$2700/month. 2 bedroom plus small den. 2- car garage with remotes. Deck. Small yard. Laundry hookups. Bay and ocean views. steps to Boardwalk and beach. One- year lease and then month/month. Cat OK. 714 Rockaway Court. Agent, 858-866-5636

MISSION HILLS, \$3300, 3 bedroom MISSION HILLS. \$3300. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Hardwood floors. Fire-place. 2- car garage. Located in Spruce Canyon. Large patio. Drive by and view with appointment, 3350 Horton Avenue. Agent Paula Keenan, 619-871-8915.

SERVICES

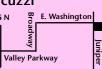


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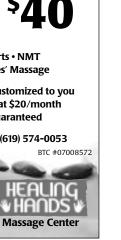
















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San Diego *Reader* December 24, , 2008

NORTH PARK \$2100. 5 bedroom, 2 bath home on cul-de-sac. View. No pets! Small yard. No garage. 2125 Jacot Lane, near Juniper dip. 619-607-2665, 619-701-

1490.

NORTH PARK. \$1050. 1 bedroom. 1 bath house. Washer/dryer hookups. New carpet and paint. New windows, stove and refrigerator. Clean. Guiet. Secure. If you can find one better... rent it! 3691 Grim Avenue. Call Rachael at 619-804-1044 or Jeff at 619-713-1044.

NORTH PARK. \$795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath house. Parking. Laundry. New carpet with

yard. Available now. 3124 University Avenue. www.amgsd.com. 619-295-1165.

NORTH PARK. \$950. Cottage. Wood floors. Built-in china cabinet. Gated complex. Laundry on site. Available now. 4058 Hamilton Street. www. stevenleeproperties.com. 619-295-1161.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off first! \$995. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage plus den. Large kitchen, appliances, plenty of storage. aundry. Parking. 3141 Boundary Street. 619-804-3325.

OCEAN BEACH. Dogs allowed. 2 bed-room, 1 bath house. Perfect SeaWorld fireworks view. Large fenced backyard/

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PACIFIC BEACH \$1675. 2 bedroom 1 bath front house. Yard. Pets considered. No parking. Washer/dryer. Available now. 1947 Missouri Street. Agent 858-514-8201

PACIFIC BEACH 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, large fenced yard. Quiet street. Laundry hookups, hardwood floors, garage. \$1950/month. 1351 Missouri. Call 858-273-4812.

888-273-4812.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1325. 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. 1- car garage. Yard. All appliances, includes water. 1453 Thomas Avenue. Available January 1. Alta Vista Properties, 858-274-3600. www. altavistamanagement.com

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1850. 3 bedroom 2 bath house. North Pacific Beach- La Jolla. Patio. Off- street parking. No pets. One-year lease desired. Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2695. Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath plus den in Crown Point. Hardwood floors and carpeting. Private, fenced patio. 2 parking, laundry. Shore Management, 858-274-3500

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. Dogs allowed. 2 bedroom lower duplex house, dishwasher. 3 blocks to bay. Parking. Save money with fifty- cent laundry and pay only 1/3 utilities. Tropical yard/patio. \$1395-\$1695/make best offer. 619-822-

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Upgrades. Oak/tile floors, fireplace, garage. No pets. Available 1/1/09. \$2100. 3434 Yosemite Street. 760-

747-2190.

POINT LOMA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, \$3200. Washer/dryer, 2- car garage, personal spa/Jacuzzi, deck, patio, centralair, heat. great views! 3280 Trumbill Street. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.

SANTEE. \$1900. Beautiful. Remodeled. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2- car garage. Large fenced/gated yard. 1800 square feet. Large family/dining. Must see! 619-203-5247, 619-302-1856.

SOUTH PARK. \$2695. Craftsman style 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom home with studio, wood floors, fireplace, dining room, washer and dryer. Appliances. Pets negotiable. 3004 Kalmia drive. 619-384-0219.

SPRING VALLEY. \$1395. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2.25 bath plus den, all new ceramic floors, carpet and paint, all appliances, air conditioning, yard. 715 Pecos Street. 619-384-9219.

Street. 619-384-9219.

TALMADGE \$850\\$2250\, 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, hardwood floors, fireplace, wood deck off master bedroom. Gated fenced yard. Washer/dryer. 4518 Euclid Avenue. \$850. Back studio unit, share laundry, shared yard, pets on approval. Tenant pays 1/3 electricity. Water included. 4518 #A Euclid Avenue. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

RENTALS COMMERCIAL

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

GARAGE FOR RENT. Chula Vista. \$250 double 400 square feet. For dry storage only. Gated, 24/7 access. 619-425-6511. GASLAMP ART SPACE! \$1507 up. High ceilings, tall windows. Gallery venue for shows. Uniquely affordable. 100-600 square feet. 402 Market. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103. www. Hughes Management.net.

MISSION BAY/OFFICE SUITE. 413 square feet at \$1.10. Next to I-5. Easy access. free parking. Near shopping center. 2445 Morena Boulevard, #205. Juno, 619-275-3455.

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mission Hills Small retail center, 2 spaces. Available now. From \$900/ month. See manager in #11 at 930 West Washington Street. www.centrecity.net. Call 619-296-6699.

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Available now. From \$90 spaces. Available now. From 3 month. See manager in #11 at 930 Washington Street. www.centrecit Call 619-296-6699.

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NATIONAL CITY RETAIL SPACE. Near base. 1725 square feet. \$1.25 per square foot. Triple net lease for 1 year. Parking available. 3280 Main Street. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103. Hughes

PACIFIC BEACH \$1.50/square foot gross. Nice professional building, 640-1100 square feet available. Elevator, common restrooms, parking. Utilities included except phone and Internet. 2180 Garnet Avenue. Agent, 619-231-2727 x233

POINT LOMA/MIDWAY \$1.10/square foot gross. Great street frontage at this high-traffic location. 500-3000 square feet available. Improvements planned. Lock in your low rate now! 3333 Midway Drive. Agent, 619-231-2727 x233

RENTALS APARTMENTS / CONDOS

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ALLIED GARDENS \$1138. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. On- site laundry and pool. Move- in special! One month free rent! 4550 Vandever Avenue. Call manager, 619-282-8000.

ALLIED GARDENS. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, \$1295. Air conditioning. Pool. New paint, cabinets. Granite countertops. Near restau-rants, trolley, shopping. 5360 Adobe Falls. 619-265-1645.

ALPINE 2 bedrooms, \$1205. Newly remodeled. Private garages, fireplaces, vaulted ceilings. Resort- size pool and spa. Alpine Woods, 1829 Arnold Way. 619-445-1341.

ALPINE 55 and up. Spacious luxury living. 1 bedrooms, \$795. 2 bedrooms, \$1105. Creekside Meadows, 1750 Arnold Way.

Call 619-445-2480.

BALBOA PARK 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Historical "3200 Sixth Avenue" building. Completely renovated, 2 underground parking. Ground level, pool. No pets/smoking. \$2000. 858-829-9317.

BALBOA PARK, \$1195. Charming 1- bed BALBOA PARK. \$1195. Charming 1- bed-room apartment with excellent view of Bal-boa Park. New flooring throughout. Crown molding. Gated entry. 2820 6th Avenue #10. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www. sunsetpacificreally.com. BANKER'S HILL \$750. Studio apartments.

\$200 off first month's rent! Nice unit. View. Laundry. Close to all. 2027 Front Street, #1 and #3. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

BANKER'S HILL \$875. Studio apartment. \$200 off first month's rent! Completely re-modeled and upgraded. Hardwood floors, laundry. View, must see. 2027 Front Street, #12. AMI Property Management 619-697-6214

BANKER'S HILL. \$2100/month. Furnished 2- bedroom, 2- bath condo, 1400 square feet. View of Maple canyon. Quiet area. Pets OK. Ask for Kathy, 619-987-3764.

BANKER'S HILL \$750. Large remodeled 5th- floor studio in quiet well-kept classic building designed by Gill. Some downtown view. Appliances, gas included, laundry facilities. Near bus. No pets. 619-236-0452.

BANKER'S HILL. \$895. Cozy studio apart ment. Utilities paid. Parking. On- site laundry. 1820 4th Avenue. Call for appointment 619-300-1365 or 619-588-4106.

BANKER'S HILL. \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath Spanish-cottage style, gated, stove, fridge, patio, laundry, near all. Cat OK. 1934 3rd Avenue. 619-804-3325.

BANKER'S HILL. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, \$1600. Central air/heat, balcony, water/ sewer/trash included, underground park-ing, 1054 square feet. 3266 1st Avenue

#39. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

BANKER'S HILL. Studio Apartment. Gated community, laundry, parking. Also 1- bedroom, 1- bath, \$990. 1818 6th Avenue. Call Mike, 619-640-8834. kandrproperties.com

bedroom townhouse. Very private. Spa-cious. Hardwood floors. Laundry. Patio. Free parking. Pets OK. Available Januray 1. Call Steve, 619-696-7500. BANKER'S HILL/DOWNTOWN \$1295. 1

BAY PARK. \$1150 includes utilities. 2 bed-room, 1 bath upstairs apartment. 1 parking. Laundry facilities. Pets under 12 pounds with additional deposit. Near Bay Park Ele-mentary. Westwind Apartments, 619-275-

BAY PARK. \$1195 moves you in! 1 bedroom, 1 bath starling at \$975. 2 bedrooms starting at \$1150. Bay Park's best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. No pets. 2520 Chicago Street. TPPM, 619-405-7200. www.debonairapts.com.

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Morena. 858-459-1544.

BAY PARK. Duplex. \$1275. Holiday special- 1/2 month off rentl Fresh 2 bedroom, 1 bath with new carpet. Garage, washer/dryer. Great location, near all. Open house Saturday, 1-2pm. 3158 Clairemont Drive. TPPM, 858-699-

BAY PARK/FASHION VALLEY. \$1050. Re-modeled 2- bedroom, 1- bath apartment. Off- street parking. No pets. Near trolley/ USD. Available immediately. Credit check. 619-325-9108, 619-260-9062

BAY PARK/CLAIREMONT SOUTH. \$1595. Quiet 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath 2-story condo, granite countertops, pool, deck, spectacu-lar canyon view. Carport, washer/dryer. Dog OK. No smoking. 619-405-1823.

CARLSBAD \$795. Small studio cottage in village. Complete separate kitchen/bath. Approximately 400 square feet. Funky with uneven floors. Parking. No pets. Lease. 760-505-7736.

CARLSBAD \$925. 1 bedroom. Small complex with off-street parking. Remodeled. Laundry. Quiet street. No pets. 3366 Roosevelt Street. Agent, 760-434-7721.

seven street. Agent, 760-434-7721.

CARLSBAD Beautiful 1 and 2 bedrooms, some with fantastic views! Pool, community laundry. Gated parking. Barbecue areas. Spacious floorplans. Walk to the beach! No pets. 2303 Ocean Street. Agent 760-434-7721.

CARLSBAD, \$1325, 2 bedroom, 2 bath partment, parking included, refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, balcony, fireplace, 850 square feet. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

CARLSBAD. \$1700. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. Fireplace, garage, all appliances, some ocean view. Community pool/spa.901C Caminito Madrigal. Leasing Unlimited, 760-436-7273.

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. \$1495. \$1299 moves you in! Prestigious 2 bedroom, 2 bath with all the amenities in regal development above La Costa Golf Course. Fire-place, washer/dryer, air conditioning, poly spa/sauna. Alicante Views. Open daily. 2391 Caringa Way. TPPM, 760-431-7575.

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. \$1650. \$1299 moves you in! Prestigious 3 bedroom, 2 bath with all the amenities in regal development above La Costa Golf Course. Fireplace, washer/dryer, air conditioning, pool/spa/sauna. Alicante Views. Open daily. 2391 Caringa Way. TPPM, 760-431-7575. www.alicanteviews.com.

CARMEL VALLEY. \$400 off first month! 2 bedrooms. 6 month lease by 12/20/08. Near beaches, shoppiong, freeway access, quiet neighborhood. Free tennis, swimming lessons! Washer/dryer. Parking. Fitness center. Pool. No pes. The Club Torrey Pines, 12646 Torrey Bluff Drive. 1-866-354-2096.

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San Diego Reader December 24, 2008

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CHULA VISTA. \$1090. 2 bedroom 2 bath

CHULA VISTA. \$1090. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Spacious unit in small complex. Amenities. Walk-in closet. Covered parking. Gated community. Near all. 363 Moss Street. Manager, 619-426-7476.

CHULA VISTA. \$1495. Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhome. Garage, new appliances and carpet, vaulted ceiling, patio, back yard, pool, spa. 1628 Oro Vista #190. 619-804-3325.

CHULA VISTA. \$775/month. Low \$150 deposit. 1 bedroom, fully furnished. 2 blocks from Chula Vista Center and trolley. Offstreet parking. Laundry room. \$21 Park Way. Office open daily (near Fifth and G). 619-420-5084.

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CHULA VISTA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home Newly remodeled. Granite countertops. Jacuzzi tub. Fireplace. Off I-805/L. Cats OK. \$2100/month. \$2000 deposit. Section 8. 619-

CHULA VISTA. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Gated, central air/heat, dishwasher, patios, laundry, off-street parking. No pets. \$1150. Deposit \$800. 619-425.

CHULA VISTA/EASTLAKE. \$1595. Upgraded unit, newer appliances. Air conditioning, fireplace, washer/dryer. Large balcony, Walk-in closet. Community pool/spa. Walk to lake, parksl, restaurants and more, www. utopiamanagement.com, 858-598-1111 x193.

X193.
CITY HEIGHTS \$550/\$650. Studio and 1 bedroom. Senior complex, 62+, gated complex, laundry on site, wheelchair access, edvator. 4226 41st Street #16. 619-280-3083; 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

CITY HEIGHTS \$795. 1 bedroom. Gated. _aundry. Parking. No pets. Available now. 4153 42nd Street, #7. Agent, 858-514-8201. CITY HEIGHTS. \$975 rent, \$800 deposit. OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Parking space, laundry. No pets, at 4377 Marlborough Street #4, 619-299-8515.

CITY HEIGHTS. 4-plex remodeled, 2 bed-room, \$1050. New kitchen, bath, window. 3737 Marlborough Avenue, 619-885-8301.

CLAIREMONT \$1165 plus deposit; 2 bed-room, 2 bath. Fresh paint, new carpet. Gated entry. Indoor kitten OK. Wood burning fire-place, icemaker. Laundry room. Call 858-337-8054 or 858-206-2566.

CLAIREMONT. \$1250. Nice 2 bedroom, bath duplex. Remodeled! Small yard, garage. Walk to park and shopping. Cat OK. 4429 Manitou Way. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

CLAIREMONT. \$1265. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. One-car garage. No pets. 2 parking. Carpet. New paint. Clean. Fenced yard/porch. 4416 Clairemont Drive. Juno, 619-275-3455.

CLAIREMONT. \$2250. Large 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhome. Located on canyon in the desirable Fox Run Trails. Two car garage. Private patio. Dishwasher, mi-crowave. Shore Management, 858-274-

CLAIREMONT. \$300 off first month's rent. \$875. 1 bedroom. Pool. Laundry. Off- street parking. 7322 Mesa College Drive. 858-560-

6204. CLAIREMONT. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$995. With parking. Pool on site. Laundry. On very nice, quiet street. 5150 Balboa Arms Drive. Call Tia, 858-571-0104. kandproperties.com CLAIREMONT. 1/2 off first month's rent! \$1295. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. 1 parking space. Upper unit. Swimming pool. Jacuzzi. Mount Alifan Place. Great setting. Call agent, 619-692-4121. 619-692-4121.

CLAIREMONT. Free daily continental CLAIREMONT. Free daily continental breakfast, HBO, concierge service, maid/linen service! \$895, 6 month lease. Furnished studios from \$300 + tax/week; \$1195/month! Corporate housing available. Utilities included. Microwave. Mini-refrigerator. Laundry. Pool, spa. Central location. Garden surroundings. Parking. No pets. Callifornia Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. 888-475-7147. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2035.

CLAIREMONT. Move-in special! From \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Large, sunny townhomes. Pool. Parking. No pets. The Gardens, 5544 Balboa Arms Drive. Call 858-278-5862.

CLAIREMONT/KEARNY MESA. Wexford Manor. Large 1 and 2 bec rooms in beautiful complex with poo spa, laundry, air conditioning, dish washer. Sorry, no pets. \$1050-\$1376 Photos at www.wexfordliving.com 7870 Stalmer Street. 858-277-4843.

COLLEGE \$695. Studio, all utilities paid, laundry and parking. 7232 El Cajon Boulevard #4. 619-698-6911. www. nagement.com.

college AREA From \$795. 1 bedroom in nice community. Pool, laundry, barbecue. Close to SDSU and all conveniences. No pets. 4333 College Avenue. 619-287-8380.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1195-\$1395. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condos. Hardwood floor. New carpet/file. Balcony/ patto. Gas stove, microwave. Central air/ heat. Dishwasher. Washer/dryer hookups. Gated. 2 miles to SDSU. Near all/golf course. Pets upon approval. 5170 Orange Avenue, 92115. 619-285-3822.

STORY MINUTE

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COLLEGE AREA. \$1250. 2 bedroom. Fire-place. Central heat/air. Microwave, dish-washer. Balcony. Gated. Intercom entry. 4828 Art Street. Agent, 619-298-7724.

4828 Art Street. Agent, 619-298-7724.

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COLLEGE AREA. \$200 off first month!

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COLLEGE AREA. \$650 rent, \$700 deposit COLLEGE AREA. 3000 rein, 30 arking, OAC. 1 bedroom. New carpet. Parking, laundry. No pets, at 6735 El Cajon Boulevard #A-3, 619-299-8515.

COLLEGE AREA, \$750, 1 bedroom 1 bath apartment, parking included, on-site laundry, air conditioner, 500sf, paid water/trash. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-

COLLEGE AREA. \$775-795. 1 bed-

pets. 6769 El Cajon Boulevard. Apart-ments in rear courtyard. 619-464-0901.

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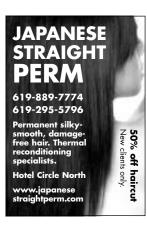
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COLLEGE AREA. \$895. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, cat OK, 1-car parking, pool, near transportation/freeways, paid water/trash. Fee. Free search at paid water/trasn. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-

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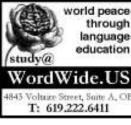
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Typo Patrol Results

Issue of December 18, 2008

Event listings

p.60 Sugarplum Fairy should be Sugar Plum Fairy

Clyde Christie (Coronado) \$10

Breaking News

p.6 Inc.)." should be Inc.).

What the Chef Eats

p.110 diner should be dinner

Sheep and Goats

p.157 Burst for should be Burst forth

Remote Control King

p.158 Argentinean should be Argentina

Armin Moths (San Diego) \$40

Bike with No Brakes story

p.36 who I met should be whom I met

New Virus story

p.44 zoo's Center of Research for Endangered Species should be zoo's Conservation and Research for Endangered Species

New Virus story

p.49 ruminates should be ruminants

T.G.I.F.

p.18 new on me should be new one on me

Linda Cox (San Diego) \$40

Dining Review

p.102 Kensinton should be Kensington

Restaurant listings

p.107 Downtown should be Hillcrest

Karen Guarnotta (San Diego) \$20

Restaurant listings

p.108 This menu should be The menu

p.105 Alambre's should be Alambres

p.105 Point's Loma's should be Point Loma's

p.105 "red spinach" should be "red spinach,"

p.72 Debarge should be DeBarge

Event listings

p.65 offers guided walks offered should be offers guided walks

p.68 1929.", should be 1929."

Your Week and Welcome to It

p.59 page 123 should be page 124

TGIE

p.18 Dawn should be Dawn.

Dining Review

p.102 happyhour should be happy hour

Mtume Salaam (San Diego) \$100

You must send in a copy of the printed error — either the actual page or a copy (including page number). Ads, blogs, user reviews, and letters to the editor exempt from consideration. Typo exceptions: errors in direct quotations, slang, colloquialisms, house/writer style idiosyncrasies. Reference sources: The Chicago Manual of Style (14th edition), any/all English-language dictionaries. Submissions accepted until Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question. Only one award per error — first identification of error wins \$10 or a Reader Typo Patrol Tshirt (indicate preference). Mail to: Typo Patrol, SD Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186; or fax to 619-231-0489; or deliver to 1703 India Street in Little Italy (we have an after-hours mail slot).

COLLEGE AREA. 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom Loft. All upgrades, granite countertops, stone flooring, and carpet. All appliances-new lighting, balcony, coin laundry on-site. 1 - car off-street parking. Close to shopping and SDSU. \$1175. 6036 Estelle Street #4. 619-683-9274.

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1995 & older, \$15 for evap test. Vans, trucks & European cars extra. Cash only. Must present DMV renewal notice. *All prices plus tax. With this ad. Exp. 1/26/09.

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altavistamanagement.com. DOWNTOWN Brand new rooms near City College. Single rooms with kitchenettes from \$140/week plus deposit (long-term). Includes utilities/cable. Quiet, secure. Shared bath/laundry. Hotel Mediterranean. 619-231-8656. www.hotelmed-sd.com.

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DOWNTOWN. \$2238. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, dog OK, hardwood floors, 900sf, 2-car parking, pool, fitness, bay, city views. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN, \$675, Studio, 1 bath apart ment, great views, all utilities paid, near Petco Park, controlled access building. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals. com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, cat OK with deposit, hardwood floors, paid water/trash/gas. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com.

DOWNTOWN. Attractive rooms. Shared rooms. Shared barns. Onlines includes. Near City College. \$450-\$595/month. Weekly rates from \$125. 719 14th Street. Villa Victoria. Hughes Management. 619-231-2385. www.HughesManagement.net.

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DOWNTOWN. San Diego's first hip hostel hotel. From \$39/night. Weekly rates from \$37.14 per night. Free wireless Internet. Near bus/trolley. Flat screen TVs. European-style detached bathrooms. Shared eat-in kitchen. Restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. 500 West Hotel, 500 West Broadway. Toll free: 1-888-895-0875. www.500WestHotel.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2114. sdreader.com/news/rent2114.

DOWNTOWN. Studios with kitchen and bath, \$625-\$700. Single room with private bathroom, \$550\$595. Nonsmoking. No pets. 10th and E Street. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103. www. HughesManagement.net.

DOWNTOWN/ LITTLE ITALY Columbia Lofts. Large 1 bedrooms, windows, \$1650-\$1750. Open floor plans, track lighting. City, harbor views, 17- foot ceilings, gated parking, www.sdurbanliving.com, 619-255-0526.

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DOWNTOWN/NORTH. \$850. 1 bedroom, downstairs. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry. Cat okay with additional \$300 deposit. Convenient location. Available 1/1/09. 101 West Fir. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolam.com

DOWNTOWN/SHERMAN HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom Victorian charmer. Must see! Large, recently renovated apartment with hardwood floors, fireplace. On-site laundry. 408 21st Street. \$1350/month. 619-992-3495.

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DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP Las Flores Ho tel. Small, quiet. \$125/week and up. Fourweek minimum. Color TV with basic cable. Refrigerator in most rooms. Secure

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY Corner studio, \$895. Hardwood floors, 9' ceilings. Two large closets. . Secure, quiet build-ing with laundry. 1534 Front, near Beech Street. 619-233-7428. EAST SAN DIEGO. \$695. Furnished stu-

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street parking. Low \$300 deposit. 619-

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EL CAJON. Gated community park. Trail ers for rent, different sizes. From \$550-\$850. Plus utilities/deposit. Conveniently located, close to trolley, bus, shopping. No pets. 619-334-0591.

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EL CAJON. \$900/up. 2 bedroom, 1 and 2 stories. Amenities Pool, park- like grounds, parking. Near town, shops, bus. 743 South Magnolia Avenue. Call 619-579-0174, 619-464-1818.

EL CAJON. 1 bedroom starting at \$725. \$975 moves you in! Beautifully maintained apartments with sparkling pool. No pets. 234 West Park Avenue. TPPM, 619-850-9722. www.palmtowers.com.

EL CAJON. 1 bedroom, \$725. 2 bedroom, 1 bath at \$875. \$995 moves you in! Beautiful property with sparkling pool. Walk to courthouse and Main Street shopping. No pets. 163 Ballantyne Street. TPPM, 619-579-6248. www.tradewindsapts.info

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northwindapts.com. **EL CAJON.** 1 bedrooms, \$750+. Appliances, on-site laundry, air conditioning, pool, off-street parking. Lushly land-scaped. Near restaurants, theater, shopping. No pets. 619-334-7934.

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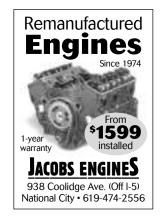
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ESCONDIDO Move- in special: \$100 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom, \$795. Pool, parking, laundry, clubhouse. 704 North Fig Street. Call 760-7967-7965.

ESCONDIDO. \$825.\$795 moves you in! Huge 1 bedroom with balcony/patio and quiet open space between units. Gated en-trance. Air conditioning. Fireplace. Pool, spa. Small pet OK. Se habla Espanol. 720 E Mission. TPPM, 760-815-6210.

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Grazia. Alta Vista Properties, 858-2/4-3600. www.altavistamanagement.com. FASHION VALLEY, West. \$1200/month. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. All appli-ances. Near USD. No pets. 1266 Benicia Street. 619-985-8488.

FASHION VALLEY, \$1100. Large 2- bedroom, 1- bath apartment. Huge walk- in closet. Dishwasher. On- site parking. Balcony. No pets. 5720 Gaines Street. 619-299-3477.

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Fexis street #1, #11 or #39, 619-298-5820.

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FASHION VALLEY/USD \$875 rent \$800 deposit. OAC. 1 bedroom. Laundry. Near USD. No pets. At 1330 Eureka Street #30. Agent, 619-298-5820.

FASHION VALLEY/USD. \$1250 rent, \$800 deposit Large 2- bedroom 2- bath 2- level deposit. Large 2- bedroom, 2- bath, 2- level townhouse with tandem parking for 2 cars. Laundry. No pets. At 5550 Mildred Street

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GOLDEN HILL/SHERMAN HEIGHTS

Wonderful studio, location. Block from bus

Wollderful studies, location, location for the blocks from trolley. Walk to ballpark, downtown in 20 minutes. Covered parking. Well-maintained modern building. 2020 Island Avenue, manager apt. #1. 619-237-

GOLDEN HILL/SHERMAN HEIGHTS. Stu-

dio, \$645. Deposit: \$395. Free utilities Street upgraded. Upper, quiet, gated unit 532 21st Street #6. SDCPM, 619-540-

3009. vesdcm.net.

GOLDEN HILLS. \$795. 1 bedroom. Clean, quiet, secure. Ready nowl All utilities included. If you can find one better, rent it. 623 19th Street. Call Rachael, 619-804-1044 or Elvia (Espanol) 619-531-1194.

HILLOREST \$1015. 1 bedroom, charming, downstairs in quiet 4 plex, wood floors, stove, refrigerator. Coin laundry. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Great location. Available 1/13/09. 3943 Centre. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com

upstairs units. Close to the Zoo. Wood floors. Formal dining room. Detached small garage. On the park. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 12/05/08 and 12/10/08. 1632 Upas Street. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com

HILLCREST \$1550. 2 bedroom, 2 bath and \$800 studio apartment. Rec room, pool, laundry. Close to all. 4201 Sixth Avenue. Sleepy Hollow Apartments. Cori, 619-298-1059.

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HILLCREST. \$775. 1/2 off first! Large studio, hardwood floors, fridge, stove, spacious closet, lots of storage! Cat OK. 415 June Street. 619-804-3325.

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549-8994. **KENSINGTON** \$1785. 3 master bedrooms, 3 bath, large townhouse. 2- car garage/ 2carports. Washer/dryer hookups. Fire-place. No dog. Available mid- January. 4458 Marlborough Avenue, #A. 619-286-3939.

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LA COSTA/CARLSBAD. First month free with 12 month lease. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. \$700 deposit. Quiet. Vaulted ceiling. Assigned covered parking. Indoor cat OK. 7552 Gibraltar Street. Hot tub. On- site laundry. Great neighborhood. Off La Costa Avenue, near golf course. 760-940-7590. 760-402-8325.

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2228.

LA JOLLA. \$1950/month. Upgraded 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Granite counters. 2 parking spaces. All appliances, Close to UCSD. Fresh paint. Available immediately. Small pets OK. 3137 Via Alicante. Alta Vista Properties, 858-274-3600. www.altavistamanagement.com.

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LA JOLLA. \$2950. 3- bedroom, 2- 1/2- bath, 2- story townhome with ocean views. Beautiful wood floors, designer paint. Available now. 5443 La Jolla Boulevard. Alta Vista Properties, 858-274-3600. www. altavistamanagement.com.

LA JOLLA. 1 bedroom condo, \$2400. Views to the ocean. Gorgeous building and unit. Highly upgraded. Balcony. Stainless steel appliances. Granite counters. Lovely hardwood floors. No pets. Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

LA JOLLA/SIRD ROCK \$995.1 bedroom. Small, charming upstairs. Stove, refrigerator. Coin laundry. Nice shared courtyard. Great location. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 1/20/09. 415 Collina. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com

LA JOLLA/UTC. \$1000. Studio. Granite counters, newer appliances, covered parking. Location, location. If you can find one better, rent it! 3136 Alicante #C. Call Rachel to view, 619-804-1044.

LA MESA \$1200. Move in now! 2- bed-LA MESA \$1200. MOVE IN NOW! 2- Bed-room, 2- bath, 1100- square- foot apart-ment with large kitchen, dining area, pool, laundry and parking. No pets. 8600 Lemon Avenue, #4 and #14. Call Leigh at 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

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LA MESA Huge apartment homes in LA MESA Huge apartment homes in great La Mesa neighborhood. Storage space. Near shopping and public transportation. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$925. bedroom, 2 bath, \$1275-\$1395. 2 bedroom townhouse, \$1295. Community pool, laundry, covered parking. 619-697-3285. For photo, floor plans, map and directions, see website:www.sdreader.com/paws/kept1135. com/news/rent1035.-

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Pool. 5436 Vincetta Court. Call 619-417-496.4 kandpropperties.com

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bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, fridge, air conditioning, laundry, parking. Near SDSU and
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LA MESA. 1/2 off first month. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New paint, carpet, vinyl, Deuroorn, 1 bath. New paint, carpet, viryl, laundry, parking. Near all. Cat OK. Section 8 OK. 4325 Lowell Street, #6. 619-460-1074.

LA MESA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, hardwood floors, washer/dryer, park-like setting, gated, private, tranquil. Move-in special. \$1140. 3886 American Avenue. Call 619-698-3262, 619-980-6076.

LA MESA. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath apartment. Pool. On-site laundry. No pets. Available now. 7632 Sturgess Avenue. \$1350. Lucy, 619-980-0019.

Lucy, 613-930-0019.

LA MESA, Mellamanor Apartments. \$920/ up, 1 bedroom. \$1220/up, 2 bedroom. Across Grossmont Center, trolley, Costco. Quiet spacious units. Pools. 8750 Mellmanor Drive, 619-461-1940.

LA MESA. Villa Morocco. 2 bedroom townhome, \$1200. 3 bedroom, 2 bath \$1425. Spacious. Near Grossmont Cen-ter. Great neighborhood. Near all! 5545 Morro Way. 619-589-8854.

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LA MESA/COLLEGE AREA. \$950 with lease. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Clean, quiet, secure. Laundry on site with new carpet, paint. Completely remodeled! If you can find one better, rent it. 7240 El Cajon Boulevard. Call Rachael 619-804-1044, 619-713-1044.

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LEMON GROVE/NORTH, \$950, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Clean, quiet, secure. On-site laundry and parking. Call Rachael at 619-804-10445 or Jeff at 619-713-1044.

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LINDA VISTA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, \$1400. Washer/dryer included, 1138 square feet. Pet OK. 2065 Burton Street #74. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

LINDA VISTA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo, \$2100. 2 story, near USD, washer/dryer, 1- car garage, 1221 square feet, balcony.

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LINDA VISTA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo, \$2100. 2 story, near USD, washer/dryer, 1- car garage, 1221 square feet, balcony. 6283 Caminito Luisito. People Helping Others PropertyManagement, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

MIRA MESA \$1600. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo at luxurious Monarch Scripps Ranch. Fireplace, washer/dryer, garage, gated. 10832 Scripps Ranch Boulevard, #303. www.centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

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332b.

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MISSION BEACH Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, new carpet, \$1750/month. Steps to ocean! Laundry facilities, parking. Near shopping, Available now till 6/15/09. Water/trash paid. Call 619-234-7572.

MISSION BEACH, SOUTH, \$1550, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Stove, refrigerator. New car-pet. Close to beach and bay. Cat OK with \$300 deposit. No Parking. Available 1/1/ 09. 725 Ensenada Court. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker,

MISSION BEACH, SOUTH. \$995. 1 bed-room. Stove, refrigerator. Close to beach and bay. Cat OK with \$300 deposit. No parking. Available 1/20/09. 731 Ensenada parking. Available 1/20/09. 731 Ensenaga Court. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com

MISSION BEACH. \$1795. Modern 2- bed-room, 2- bath apartment. Steps to Bay. Garage. Dishwasher, microwave, washer/ dryer. 833 Santa Barbara Place. Shore Management, 858-274-3500

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MISSION BEACH. \$1395. Upstairs 1 bedroom 1 bath. Parking. Steps to beach. No pets. No smoking. 807 Venice Court. Available now. More Property Management, 858-514-8201

MISSION BEACH. \$1595. Spacious, large bedroom. 1 bathroom. Block to beach. Parking. Fantastic bargain! Large patio. No pets. Available. 809 Island Court. 858-

459-7391. MISSION BEACH. \$1875. Classic 2 bed-room. Ocean view. Steps to beach. Hard-wood floors. Parking. All appliances. Laundry facility, 712 Santa Rita Place. Owner, 858-272-9547.

MISSION BEACH. \$750. Studio. Steps to Bay! Includes some utilities. Excellent condition. No pets. 3264 Bayside Lane. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

Store wanagement, 858-274-3500.

MISSION BEACH. \$795. Upper studio.
Steps to Bay! Includes some utilities. Full kitchen. Excellent condition. Parking space. No pets. 3264.5 Bayside Lane. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

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BOAT, REINELL, 17-1/2' inboard/out-board. Light and dark blue. Outdrive

needs new impeller. \$2000. 619-261-

**FOOSBALL/SOCCER TABLE Harvard. 35"H x 36"W x 56"L. Well constructed. Very nice condition. Dark wood, 3 man Goalie, Reduced \$125. May Deliver. El Cajon, 619-

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Jan Juego Salling Center, 858-488-0651. Wisit our website, www.kayaksd.com.

PATIO TABLE, concrete, seats 6, high grade, your choice of tile installed, all weather, \$300. Credit cards accepted. 760-250-7055.

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SNOWBOARD GEAR WANTED We pay cash for snowboards, bindings, boots and clothing. We also buy surf-boards, wetsuits, baseball gloves, skateboards, golf equipment, lots more. You can trade the gear towards other stuff for even more value. Three convenient locations. Play It Again Sports, 858-490-0222. www.playitagainsd.com.

SOFTBALL LEAGUE. Needs a team in nday night, men's slow

SOFTBALL TEAM. needs three players. ch. 619-517-5791

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SURFBOARDS. 9'6" longboard, 8'5" triffin noserider. Cell, 619-296-4065.

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Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego 92123. Call 858-573-0411.

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\$85

Value

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Plus \$8.25 cert. and \$2 transmittal fee. Free retest when we do the repairs.

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Sports Arena/Pt. Loma



For more specials visit: Precisiontune.com 3425 Midway Dr. (Behind Shell station)

Precision =Tune= 'Auto Care'

1-888-486-9153 Coupons must be presented at time of service. Not valid with any other offer or discount or for prior service. See manager for details. All coupons expire 1/8/09

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\$26⁷⁵ plus \$8.25 certificate & \$2 transfer fee. Trucks, vans & SUVs \$10 extra. EVAP testing included. We now do European cars for same low price.

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\$5 extra for vehicles from 1976-1995.

SMOG CLINIC

7535 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite ((Next to Kearny Mesa Bowl & Sears) 858-292-7903 Mon.-Fri. 8 am-6 pm • Sat. 8 am-3 pm Visa • MasterCard • Coupon expires 1/8/09. Must present coupon at time of service.



LEAD STORY

 In October, the Brazilian designer Lucia Lorio introduced lingerie that contains a global positioning device to enable the wearer to be tracked by satellite. The creator said the password-protected lace bodice would make it easier for kidnapped women to be located and rescued. Critics called it a virtual chastity belt, primarily of service to insecure males curious to know where their women are. However, the wearer can manually turn the device off.

Government in Action!

 Facing a state budget crisis in July, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger fired about 10,000 temporary and part-time workers and ordered the 200,000 permanent employees to be paid only the minimum wage of \$6.55 an hour until the legislature passed a crisis-solving budget. However, a week later, State Controller John Chiang pointed out that state payroll records could not be changed to accommodate the cut because they were written in the antiquated COBOL computer language, and virtually the only state employees who knew the code were some of the part-timers Schwarzenegger had just fired.

— Last summer, Barbara Wagner of Oregon was informed that the universal medical care available to everyone in the state (but with certain service restrictions) would not pay for her lungcancer drug because her five-year survival likelihood was poor. But Wagner was told that the state would pay for any necessary drugs under its Death with Dignity Law (i.e., suicide).

Things You Thought Didn't Happen These Days

— (1) A restaurant owner in Rutino, Italy (near Salerno), told police in November that as he was negotiating over the building's lease with his landlords, one hit him in the head with a chair and two others kicked him repeatedly in the stomach. The landlords were a priest and two nuns from the local Catholic order that owns the building. (2) In the village of Pumaorcco, Peru, in September, a bus containing 14 British sightseers on holiday was held hostage for five hours by 50 natives wielding pickaxes and metal bars; they had mistaken the tourists for personnel from a mining company that they believed were exploiting their land. The Peruvian guide negotiated the tourists' freedom but had to call for

another bus, since the villagers had completely destroyed the first one.

Just Couldn't Stop Himself

- Bridgeport, Conn., police arrested Michael Smith, 47, in October for breaking into Holy Ghost Deliverance Church. Smith explained that he was passing the church, spotted a drum set through a window, and could not restrain himself from trying it out. According to a Boston Globe report, officers found Smith "in a spirited solo after the church's alarm system went off."

Least Competent People

- Merle Sorenson, 48, had to be rescued from the Columbia River near Quincy, Wash., in October, where he nearly drowned after driving his Humvee off of a boat launch. He told the rescuers that he was trying to clean his tires and wanted to see how far he could drive the vehicle into the water but still be able to back out.

Women Under Arrest

(1) The September mug shot of Michelle Allen of Middletown, Ohio, was possibly the Internet's most-circulated news photo of 2008,

since she was dressed in a full-body cow suit (with rubber teats) as she was allegedly disorderly in chasing children and interfering with traffic. Alcohol may have been involved. (2) Shopper Amber Dibartolomeo, 23, was arrested in a Wal-Mart in North Bay, Ontario, in July and charged with selling crack cocaine inside the store. Police said they found \$2217 in cash on her, along with a can of pepper spray and 27 grams of cocaine.

Oops!

(1) In October in Vancouver, Wash., a 74year-old man succeeded in his mission to unclog, with his hands, the garbage chute from his tenth floor apartment, but then he pushed too far. When rescue workers arrived, only the man's feet and lower legs were visible, with his wife holding on for dear life. (2) In August, a 78-yearold woman misread the signs at Arlanda airport in Stockholm, Sweden, and placed herself on a baggage belt, which led to a chute, but she was only slightly injured and did not miss her flight.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

agnostics. 619-941-1809; cell, 619-607-

BICYCLES

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tues-

GRAND COURSE SR 23"/58cm. Black with detailing. Shamino 600. 2 rear clusters, 18-28 and 18-34, 27" Araya rims, exceptional condition. \$300. 858-484-2253.

INTENSE MOUNTAIN BIKE. Paid \$4500, XTR components, super high end, Haves AIH components, super high end. Hayes disc brakes. Need cash \$1000. John, 760-685-0901.

WANTED /TRADE

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling day through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tues-

CARDBOARD SHOTGUN and rifle shell boxes, pre-1960, duck and game calls, hunting & fishing badges, pre-1940, and paper licenses, pre-1930. 858-565-1756. **CARPENTER WANTED** in exchange for furnished room and utility. Please call 619-479-4212.

CASH FOR JAZZ, SOUL, ROCK, punk metal. We buy collections and CDs. Record City, 3757 Sixth Avenue, Hill-crest. Call 619-291-5313.

crest. Call 619-291-5313.

FISHING TACKLE Collector wants for personal collection wooden lures, reels, and miscellaneous by Heddon, Pflueger, Creek Chub, South Bend, Shakespeare, to name a few. 619-972-3488.

FREE BOOKS NEEDED, text/reading. I'll come to you and pickup any college books you have. All reading books, VHS tapes, CDs, records welcomed, 619-804-

HISTORIC MEMORABILIA from McDini's Irish Restaurant in National City. (cur-

rently McDinii's Sports Bar). 619-501-

INDIAN ARROWHEADS/ARTIFACTS.

MILITARY ITEMS. Many old military medals are worth hundreds of dollars. I have \$3000 cash to spend. Other items also wanted. 280-8089. Especially

WALT DISNEY ITEMS. Cash for Walt Disney autographs, vintage Disney items, book, papers, early Disneyland original animation and comic art, and type of comics before 1970. 619-465-3090.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

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collectibles, household furniture, appliances, TVs, home electronics, pianos. Prompt service. Local buyers. Licensed/bonded. Serving San Diego since 1971. 619-233-3148; 1-888-722-2002.

APPLIANCES

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APPLIANCES Refrigerator, frost-free energy saver. Stove, washer/dryer, \$149/ each. Year warranty. Leon's Appliances, pick up and delivery. Repairs. Can deliver free. 619-702-3270.

SEARS POWER WASHER. Brand new Hardly any usage at all, starts right up First \$300 sells, 760-809-8642.

SEWING MACHINES, 2. Industrial, with tables. One is a US blind stitch, model

5184. The other is a Singer serger model 842U. \$250/each/best. 619-471-4422.

TV, 52- INCH SUPER WIDE, Flat screen Magnavox. Paid \$2800, 4 years ago. In fantastic condition, must sell, \$400/best,

WASHERS AND DRYERS Guaranteed **ASHENS AND DRYERS GUARANTEES.
**\$100-\$195 each. Over 200 to choose from. In- shop/in- home service and we sell parts. Stoves, refrigerators, dishwashers, too. Can deliver. Calwest Appliance Exchange, 619-723-1545.

ELECTRONICS

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TV, color, 27", with remote, like new, excellent picture, \$99. 619-461-4805.

FURNITURE

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The Furniture Warehouse is now open to the public. We sell warehouse direct. Come see our large showroom. We have over 70 sets in stock from \$89! 995 Bay Boulevard, Chula Vista, 91911. Open 11am-7pm daily. Closed Monday. Credit cards

BED \$169 A BARGAIN. A Ortho Pillowtop Queen, new in plastic with warranty, mattress/box. All sizes. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490. **BED, MEDICAL TYPE.** 2 motors, raises at head and foot. Excellent condition. \$400, 619-444-4624.

BED: DISCOUNT FURNITURE and Matress. Bed sets, dinettes, sofas, sectionals, mattresses and more! 30%-70% below retail every day! Free layaway, free Delow retail every day. Free a gayway, live financing, 12 months no interestino payments. Fast delivery. Open Monday-Frady, 10am-7pm, Saturday/Sunday, 11am-5pm. Factory warranties included. 858-495-3325. Address: 4810 Mercury Street, San Diego, 92111. www. realdealfurniture.com. BUFFET BLACK slate top with mating server \$350. Oak roll top desk \$150. Cor-ner fire place, portable \$40. 760-599

0249.

CABINET ONLY For sewing machine,

FURNITURE Save 40% or more! Order from manufacturers' catalogues and save. Factory direct store. Solid cherry, maple, oak or pine, American made Vermaple, oak of pine, American made ver-mont craftsmanship or imported. San Diego's best home furnishings source since 1960. Member of the Better Busi-ness Bureau. Al Davis Furniture, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. www.davisworld. com or email to info@davisworld.com. Call 619-296-1221

MATTRESS \$150. Orthopedic mattress, plush, queen, new with war-ranty. Must sell. Can deliver. Twin, full and king also available. 619-929-5244. 4810 Mercury Street, 92111. www.realdealfurniture.com.

MATTRESS BOX PILLOWTOP SET. New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$1.50. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. Call 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

BED \$100 ABSOLUTE BARGAIN!

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code translation, and repair recommendation

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battery test, inspect fluid condition, tire rotation, 60-pt. inspection.

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Free retest with our repairs. Most cars. Plus \$8.25 certificate fee and \$2 transfer fee. Call for appt.

24,000-MILE

San Diego Reader December 24,

, 2008

145



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Gas saver performance package \$4998

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Most vehicles. Improves gas mileage and engine performance. Chemically clean. 14-point safety inspection

inspection. Waste fee included.

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We also do 30K/60K/90K service and other major repairs

WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANY COMPETITOR'S COUPONS

RAIN MADE A CLOWN OUT OF ME. Not one of those funny clowns, if there ever was such a thing, but rather a sad-faced, hobo clown who forever looks as if his coffee is cold, his zipper won't stay up, and his dog peed on

Oh, I was a pathetic sight.

Being a complete idiot, I chose the rainiest day in three decades to buy a new remote control. In my head it all works out. It was raining, which meant I was mostly stuck indoors and my remote control worked about as well as a noodle works as a drill bit. I thought if I braved the weather for 20 minutes, I'd have three days of couch and remote-control bliss. Let it rain, I thought. I'll be snug, and the TV will leap about at my commanding touch.

The extent of my rain gear consists of tennis shoes and a sweatshirt. This is what I'd donned to battle the elements. Thirteen seconds after I'd left my apartment, the sweatshirt was reduced to a sopping rag across my shoulders, and the tennis shoes were about as dry and warm as tubs of yogurt. I was 20 feet from my house, shivering like a chihuahua in the vegetable drawer of your refrigerator, and swathed in heavy, drenched cotton.

As a means of compensation for my crippling stupidity, I possess bullheaded determination; I forged on. I made it to the hardware store and a nice clerk followed me around with a mop, soaking up my footprints and directing me to the universal remote control shelf.

As I fished out my wallet at the counter, the clerk asked me if I wanted to buy an umbrella. I nearly kissed him. He pointed to the selection of umbrellas: pink with teddy bears and hearts or blue with little yellow flowers. Opting for the most masculine choice (and I'm really bending the definition of "masculine" in this instance), I took down a blue one with the little flowers.

With the universal remote box tucked under my arm and my new umbrella popped out over my head, I once again braved the elements. At the corner, a gust of wind turned my umbrella into a flowery blue joke — all inside out, bent and irreparable. I stepped from the curb, sank both feet into a puddle up to my ankles, and just stood there, embracing pitiful.

THIS WEEK WE'RE EXPLOR-ING THINGS I'VE FOUND **BEHIND MY COUCH AND** CORRESPONDING SHOWS.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 WALT DISNEY WORLD CHRISTMAS DAY PARADE

ABC 9:00 A.M.

I'm not kidding — there was a mouse under here. This reminds me that I need to get to work on a project I'm going to build and drop off at Disnevland. Let's see... First, I'll need planks of plywood, truck coil springs, a bed frame, and a big damn wheel of cheese. Oh, what a big beautiful "snap!" that'll make. You can't resist the cheese, can you, Devil Mouse?

CSI: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION CBS 9:00 P.M.

Now here's a mystery. There's enough

food behind this couch to feed a village of mice for three weeks, but how the hell did it all get here? I've never bought Wheat Thins ever, and this is obviously half of one. Why is there a slab of lunch meat? That's a serious question. What events led up to the unfortunate placement of an entire slice of ham behind my couch? This is a sad day for couches and sadder still for pork products.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

ELECTRONICS CONNECTION

Let's see... Here's a DC adapter to something electronic. I'm standing here wondering what small piece of equipment I own that the next time I pick up will be completely out of battery power. Great. I'm the owner of an electronic reverse booby trap,

MATTRESSES. Save 40% or more! Mattress World in Hillcrest sells new beds at warehouse pricing lower than regular stores. Student specials. Legitimate warranties. Fast delivery or pickup. Name brands. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Authorized Sealy, Simmons, Spring Air, Aireloom dealer. Also Latex, chemical-free and Swedish style Visco-Memory! Mattress World, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. www.sandiegobeds.com or

email to: info@davisworld.com. Call: 619-

260-8000.

MOVING SALE Downsizing, selling as much furniture as possible. Desk, bookcases, beds, dressers night stands, patio furniture. David 858-569-8884, dsmoynihan@hotmail.com. 6321 Caminito Luisito, 92111.

PATIO SET - TALL Table — white with glass. 36" round top; two 40" tall directorstyle chairs. 30", swivel, dark green web-

bing. Heavy. Can e-mail picture. \$50. 760-941-0541

RETRO STEEL TANKER DESK \$800/best. "Steel of a deal!" file drawer, box drawer, pen drawer that locks all drawers. Refinished gun powder gray, roberry82@mac.

TABLE Glass top, 36"x50", \$35. Desk, oak finish, \$25. TV stand with drawers below, \$25. 858-277-7197.

TABLE Solid jade, on a pedestal, 20 inches tall, 20 inches round. Heavy design similar to Aztec Sun Calendar. Good condition, \$500 cash. Sharon, 858-613-

VARIOUS ITEMS Table with 2 chairs, \$30. Bar chair, swivel, solid wood, \$15. Bar stool, \$10. 3 plastic patio chairs, \$5/all. 760-522-8199.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

BARBECUE CHARBROIL QUICKSET Dou-

New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Cardeliver. 800-464-6420. North County. 800-464-6490.

com. Natural incense, imported oils, eco-friendly hemp. Fast service. Inventory up-dated daily! 10% discount code: SDR (expires 12/31). 800-428-0473.

Save with Auto Coupons at SDReader.com

Here's a small sample to get your motor running!

Oil change \$9.99



Most cars. Includes EPA disposal fee. "Check engine" light on? Free diagnostic (reg. \$34.99). Offer expires December 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

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\$149.95 installed plus tax. Most automobiles. Offer expires December 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

West Coast Auto Glass

5803 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, 1-866-656-8718

Reader Coupons 619-235-3000

A+A Japanese Car Specialists Oil change \$9.99 Acme Tinting \$10 off window tinting Adams Import **Smog check \$19.85** Advanced Auto Tech Catalytic converter \$95 ATEK **Tune-up \$24.95**

Audio Sport Tint 3 rear windows \$50 Brake Stop & Auto Repair Brake service 20% off California Motor Works & Tires **Smog check \$13.95**

Chris's Auto Repair **Smog check \$15.75**

Cliff Brown Automotive **\$10 off any service over \$50**

Earl Scheib Auto paint sale: any color \$299.99

Econo Lube N' Tune & Brakes Lube, oil & filter \$9.98

Factory Tire Automotive Service & Sales **Premium oil change \$19.95**

Five Star Customs Window tint \$199 General Auto Repair **Smog Check \$14.95** International Auto Service **Brake service \$48 plus parts** JPX Jesse's Mufflers & Brakes 20% off custom exhaust

Kearny Mesa Acura & Honda **Timing belt \$99**

Kleer-Vu \$20 off any windshield repair

Lutz Tire & Auto Repair Free bumper-to-bumper diagnostic

Kearny Mesa Smog Check \$7 off smog check Line-X **\$35 off spray-on truck bedliner** Mossy Ford Buy 3 tires, get 1 free Oasis Trade Window Tint 10% off window tinting Precision Motors Air conditioning service from \$12.95 Precision Tune Auto Care \$16.95 oil change

Ray Frey Auto Center, Inc. Free car wash

San Diego Smog & Auto Repair \$10 off any service

San Diego Smog Test Only **\$10 off smog check**

Sea Sides Classic Tinting Window Tint \$59

Smog Clinic **\$26.75 Test Only smog special**

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Thao Automotive **Smog check \$16.75**

Value Transmission \$75 off clutch special

Welltech Auto Service **Smog check \$15.75**

West Coast Auto Glass **\$149.95 windshield replacement**

ready to unleash its disappointment and inactivity.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

DINOSAUR KING

CW 10:00 A.M.

Sweet! A tiny plastic Tyrannosaurus! Well, actually, now that I've found it I'm a little displeased. I mean, it couldn't even scare off a mouse. That's pathetic. This Tyrannosaurus is underperforming in every possible manner. Your teeth and claws clearly underwhelm me, the mouse, and everyone else involved, sir. I'm not mad, just embarrassed for you.

STARGATE ATLANTIS KUSI 9:00 P.M.

Ah, yes. I've found a pill. Is it aspirin or ecstasy? Is it Vicodin or herpes medicine? Will my heartburn temporarily subside, or will I travel through time, present Abraham Lincoln with a Mexican wrestler mask, and then wake up eating birthday candles in a tub full of mashed potatoes?

Only one way to find out. LET'S START THE SHOW!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

HOUSE

USA 9:00 P.M.

Son of a...it was herpes medicine. I looked it up online. Oh, well, at least my mouth will be free of open sores for the next couple days; but, damn, I really wanted to take the rainbow bus to the corner of Unicorn Street and Weird Avenue.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES

Here's a dismal little discovery: a

matchbook with a phone number for "party line" personals. Who is so sad that they would call voice mailboxes to arrange for a date without ever seeing the person? That's like driving blindfolded to the first place you crash into and demanding to be fed whatever's in the closest cupboard. Peas? Sure. Tiny hotdogs? I'll take 'em. Cat food? Well, I experimented with it in college, so, yes.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30 90210

CW 8:00 P.M.

Whoa! There's a spider. I'm gonna be tough and manly and smack it with my flip-flop. I only hope it didn't develop super strength on a diet of forgotten ham and herpes meds. Wait. Now I'm just being silly. That would never promote muscular development. I mean, really, look at Tori Spelling.

WEDNESDAY. **DECEMBER 31**

DICK CLARK'S PRIMETIME NEW YEAR'S

ROCKIN' EVE WITH RYAN SEACREST

Dust is about half human skin cells. Let's be reasonable. Rvan Seacrest is no Dick Clark, and ol' Dick won't be around forever. We better start collecting all of our dust in preparation to energize it with Dick Clark's



Walt Disney World Christmas Day Parade

essence — cloning him so we won't have to watch Seacrest. Down with Seacrest! Up with skin-cell Clark!

THURSDAY. **JANUARY 1, 2009**

SMOKING GUN PRESENTS: WORLD'S DUMBEST

TRU 9:00 P.M.

An inordinate amount of fuzz exists behind this couch. There's more fuzz back here than I have clothes. I could easily double my wardrobe if I ever figure out how to sew this stuff. Because I don't have a tiny sewing machine but I do have glue, maybe I'll just glue it together and make the world's ugliest rabbit. Too bad Christmas is over; handmade gifts really are the best.

For more stories by this author, go to sdreader.com.

CHILDS RESTRAINT SEAT, \$25. 858-277-

FERRAGAMO PURSE Original, authentic with tags. Was \$1200, asking \$800 Hurry! 619-449-1104.

KNIFE COLLECTION. old kershaws, schrade IXL's, marbles. 619-260-8482. **LAWNMOWERS.** Reel type, no longer need: Tru-Cut front throw, the best! \$225; Cooper Klipper rear throw, older, high quality, \$125. Both in top condition. 760-732-1315.

MASTER PHOTOS Entire team from 1995 san Diego Chargers, 24 in each set. \$200. 619-449-1104.

MAT CUTTER, Logan Model 650, unused, still in box. \$250. 619-295-0960.

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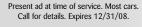
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